

top of the hill

rebooted: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Since 1877, the West Liberty University Alumni Association has been dedicated to promoting the interests of WLU and fostering support among its graduates and friends. Today, we represent more than 22,000 alumni across the country and around the world.

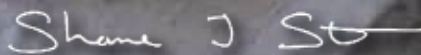
Just how do we engage our alumni in the best possible way? Through the new **Forever HILLTOPPER** program!

We welcome all 22,000 alumni and 3,500 students as lifelong members of the Alumni Association and discontinue all membership dues. Becoming a lifelong member begins the first time you set foot on campus and continues through graduation and your professional career.

The new no-dues membership is our response to a popular belief that the Alumni Association mattered only to dues-paying members. By being inclusive, the **Forever HILLTOPPER** program will build better relationships between students and alumni, create stronger professional and social networks, and develop a culture of giving within our campus community.

Four cornerstones support **Forever HILLTOPPER**: recruiting, mentoring, networking and fundraising. Existing programs such as Topper2Topper networking will support these pillars, while new programs are in the works.

To keep you informed in a timely manner, alumni are now receiving the *Top of the Hill* newsletter on a quarterly basis. We hope you are inspired to visit more often, take part in activities and reconnect with old friends!



Shane T. Stack
Director of Alumni Relations

save the date: ALUMNI EVENTS

OCT. 12 - 13 | Silver Bears Reunion

OCT. 13 | Homecoming

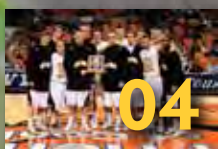


Shane is shown with his favorite mode of transportation, his Harley-Davidson Nightster.

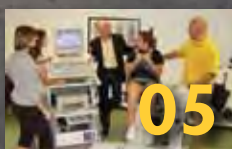
inside... HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION



Campbell Hall & PA Program



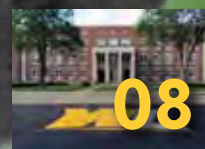
Men's Basketball



Athletic Training



Great Gala & Kelly Theatre



Topper Spotlight

groundbreaking:

CAMPBELL HALL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



LEFT: From left, Nello Construction President George Leasure, building architect Alan Weiskopf, Dean of the College of Sciences Dr. Robert Kreisberg, President Robin C. Capehart, President Emeritus Dr. Clyde Campbell, Board of Governors Chair Richard Carter and Foundation Vice President Les DeFelice.

CENTER: Dr. Clyde Campbell

RIGHT: Rendering of the Campbell Hall of Health Sciences by Perfido, Weiskopf, Wagstaff and Goettel of Pittsburgh.

West Liberty University (WLU) celebrated the groundbreaking for its state-of-the-art Campbell Hall of Health Sciences on Monday, July 2, 2012. The \$23 million building is expected to be completed by November 2013. It will house six programs of study: chemistry, dental hygiene, medical laboratory sciences, nursing, speech pathology/audiology and the newest WLU health science program, physician assistant studies.

and current Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, for their support.

"On July 2, 2007, we began a journey – a journey focused on transforming the institution from a good college to a great university," Capehart said. "We began this journey knowing that we were only stewards of this institution and the heirs of a great tradition. We promised to take advantage of any

The four-story administrative and classroom structure, located on Faculty Drive below Shaw Hall, has been designed using neoclassical architectural elements, consistent with the overall look of the university. Architect for the project is Perfido, Weiskopf, Wagstaff and Goettel of Pittsburgh. Nello Construction of Canonsburg, Pa. is the builder.

WLU is seeking additional funding for the construction of the building. The state of West Virginia has committed \$12.75 million of the total budget, the University has invested additional funds and several private donors have stepped forward. Currently, the Office of Institutional Advancement is seeking support from alumni, friends of the institution, corporations and foundations to meet the remaining \$6 million fundraising goal.

"Today, we take a significant step forward in our journey to become a great university..."

The new hall is named in honor of Dr. Clyde Campbell, who graduated from WLU in 1953 and later served as president of the institution from 1984 – 1995. Campbell also taught at the University for many years as a professor of chemistry and was a patented research scientist in the field of biological chemistry and plastics.

President Robin C. Capehart, now concluding his fifth year of leadership at WLU, began his remarks by thanking the former West Virginia Chancellor of Higher Education Brian Noland and current Chancellor Dr. Paul Hill, for their support of the building project from its inception. He also thanked Senator Joe Manchin, who was West Virginia governor at the time,

opportunities that came before us; to pursue success, not just survival; and to strive for excellence, not just existence."

Capehart continued by stating, "great universities prepare students to contribute to an evolving and contemporary society. Today classes began in our graduate program for physician assistants. Forbes Magazine recently ranked the Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies as the best opportunity in the country in terms of getting a job following graduation."

The inaugural class of physician assistants began their first day of studies, just after the groundbreaking ceremony.

Capehart concluded, "Today, we take a significant step forward in our journey to become a great university – as we break ground on Campbell Hall – and commemorate the beginning of the construction of a state-of-the-art health science building, that will be without peer and second to none in terms of providing our students and our faculty with a rich and robust learning environment."

accredited:

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES



President Robin C. Capehart announced on March 30, 2012, that the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree program was fully approved and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The inaugural class of 18 physician assistants began their studies this past July and were welcomed to campus as the first class of PAs. The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies is the first terminal graduate degree offered at WLU.

The accreditation process involved a lengthy study and evaluation that began last September 2011 when the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA), granted provisional accreditation to the program. The ARC-PA establishes and maintains standards of quality for educational programs. An evaluation team of the HLC then recommended approval in December and the final step, approval by the full HLC, was taken on March 22.

"The Physician Assistant program will join our other outstanding health science programs, including nursing and dental hygiene, in offering even greater opportunities for students to pursue careers in healthcare fields," Capehart said. "This new program adds to WLU's long history of excellence in science education."



Dr. Robert Kreisberg, dean of the WLU College of Sciences, noted, "This will be the only state-supported physician assistant program in the state of West Virginia."

Forbes magazine recently ranked physician assistant studies as the top master's degree in the country for long-term employment and reported that employment opportunities are expected to grow by 30 percent by the year 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(Forbes.com 6/08/2012)

Dr. Allan M. Bedashi is the director of the PA program. Bedashi said the program was created in an effort to meet the need for physician assistants for local medical facilities. He said there will be shortages in the near future when many older physicians in the area retire and these positions will need to be filled.

"Because of the local needs, the university thought it was important to establish this program. We had a conference with physicians in the local area, and many of them stated the fact that they weren't able to find physician assistants to fill the positions that were available," Bedashi said. "One of our goals is to provide trained students to fulfill this need."

Other faculty members include Dr. Howard Shackleford, medical director; Regina Jones; David Blowers; Rebecca Fahey and Dr. Derrick Latos.

Physician assistants practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. The profession has experienced rapid and substantial job growth in recent years, reflecting the expansion of healthcare industries and an emphasis on cost containment.

support...

CAMPBELL HALL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Please consider a charitable gift to support construction of the Campbell Hall of Health Sciences.

If you are interested in speaking to someone or would like to request a meeting to discuss the project in greater detail please call:

ANGELA ZAMBITO HILL
Director of Major Gifts
304.336.8490





basketball:

HILLTOPPERS MAKE ANOTHER RUN TO THE ELITE EIGHT

Coming off a record-shattering 2011 season that culminated with the first Atlantic Region title and NCAA Division II Elite Eight trip in school history, most experts saw 2012 as a rebuilding year for Coach Jim Crutchfield and his high-flying Hilltoppers.

After all, Crutchfield had to replace four 1,000-point scorers who had picked up their diplomas after posting the school's first 30-win season (33-1), averaging a West Virginia Conference record 113.1 points per game and becoming the first NCAA Division II squad to make more than 500 3-point field goals in a season.

As they've done so many times during Crutchfield's dazzling eight-year tenure, the Hilltoppers proved the experts wrong.

With junior guard Alex Falk – the only returning starter – leading the way, West Liberty rolled to its third straight WVIAC championship and second consecutive WVIAC Tournament title. Hosting the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Tournament for the third straight year, the No. 3-ranked Hilltoppers rocked the ASRC with three consecutive double-figure wins to earn a return trip to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight tournament, this time in Highland Heights, Ky.

Upstart Stonehill (Mass.) shocked the Black and Gold, 91-90, in the national quarterfinals but the upset loss did little to dim the glow of yet another stellar basketball season on the hilltop.

Despite the heavy graduation losses from 2011, the 2012 Hilltoppers picked up right where they had left off with a 32-3 (.914) record – including a nation's-best 23-game winning streak.

Crutchfield's eighth straight 20-win season upped his career record to 207-43 (.828) – tops among all NCAA basketball coaches. He picked up his third straight WVIAC Coach of the Year Award, repeated as the West Virginia College Coach of the Year in voting by the state sportswriter and was a finalist for two national Coach of the Year Awards.

Falk became the 40th West Liberty player to pass the 1,000-point career milestone and was a second-team NCAA Division II All-America selection by Basketball Times. He also earned first-team All-Atlantic Region and All-WVIAC honors and was MVP of the WVIAC Tournament.

Sophomore guard Cedric Harris joined Falk as a first-team All-WVIAC honoree and was voted MVP of the Atlantic Region Tournament.

West Liberty led the nation in scoring for the sixth time in the past seven years, averaging 102.4 ppg. to become the first NCAA Division II team to top the century mark in three consecutive seasons since Central Oklahoma reeled off four straight from 1993-96.

Along with the national scoring title, the Hilltoppers ranked No. 1 in four other statistical categories and No. 2 nationally in three others.

The best news of all for West Liberty fans, however, is that Crutchfield's crowd-pleasing share-the-wealth offense produced six players who averaged more than 11 points a game during the 2012 season – all of whom will return for another run at the top in 2013.



2011-12 Men's Basketball Team wins the third straight WVIAC Championship and second consecutive WVIAC Tournament title.



approved: ATHLETIC TRAINING MAJOR

Dr. David Hanna

Dr. David Hanna '93 has been selected to lead the new athletic training major at West Liberty University and assumed his duties on Aug. 1, 2012. Hanna formerly led the athletic training department at Wheeling Jesuit for five years.

"I'm pleased to have an opportunity to develop and oversee the athletic training education program at WLU. As my alma mater, it is a special place and it feels great to be back home," said Hanna, whose father, Bill Hanna, was an English professor at West Liberty for more than 30 years.

"I remember growing up on this campus as a child. Attending the athletic events and meeting the athletes are some of my fondest childhood memories. Then I attended WLU and worked as an athletic training student, which helped me decide my career path. Being able to return now as a professional and develop athletic training into an academic major is icing on the cake. I look forward to building a very successful and respected program."

Hanna earned a bachelor of communications degree at West Liberty, a master's in athletic training at West Virginia University and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Wheeling Jesuit University. He served as assistant athletic trainer for one year at West Liberty and then accepted the position of head athletic trainer at West Virginia University Institute of Technology for two years, before moving to South Dakota, where he worked as an athletic trainer for Sioux Valley Hospital, Elk Point Jefferson High School and the University of South Dakota. He then returned to the Ohio Valley to assume the dual position of head athletic trainer for the Wheeling Nailers (East Coast Hockey League) and the Ohio Valley

Greyhounds (Indoor Football League).

"With program director David Hanna now on board, the department is excited to welcome our first class this fall. The new athletic training degree is a high quality program adding to the excellence of our department and West Liberty University," said Dr. Rhonda Noble, chair of the department of health and human performance. Noble led the two-year effort for the major that was approved by the West Virginia Higher Learning Policy Commission this past February.

West Liberty University's athletic training major will broaden the degree offerings of the department of health and human performance

“ I attended WLU and worked as an athletic training student, which helped me decide my career path. ”

and offers students the option of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Education and/or Physical Education, a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Physiology, or a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training.

"We are thrilled to have this new major," said Dr. Keely Camden, dean of the college of education. "The approval of the proposal, and the excitement it has generated, speaks volumes for the quality of the faculty and staff in the college of education and the advantages this major holds for students."

The goal of the program is to reflect those of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) as well as the Commission on

Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), while providing students with a solid foundation in factual and conceptual mastery of the study of sports medicine.

The curriculum is designed to promote critical thinking skills, effective writing, clear articulation and presentation, and analytical skills that transcend the subject matter. Students are also encouraged to participate in, and learn to appreciate the application of scientific research to real world problems for the benefit of the community, with consideration of the moral and ethical issues involved.

Students will be equipped with the skills

necessary to succeed in graduate school and professional fields of study, including the national certification exam. The curriculum consists of 120 credit hours and is designed for completion in approximately four academic years.

In cooperation with physicians and other allied health personnel, the athletic trainer, as described by CAATE, is an integral member of the athletic health-care team in secondary schools, colleges and universities, sports medicine clinics, professional sports programs and other health-care settings.



great gala:

SUPPORTING KELLY THEATRE IN STYLE



2012 Great Gala Donors

TITLE SPONSOR

- The Ryan Ferns Healthplex

THE CHARLIE CHAPLIN CLUB \$10,000

- Stratford Springs Steak & Seafood
- WTRF, Fox Ohio Valley & ABC Ohio Valley

THE ABBOTT & COSTELLO COMEDIANS \$5,000

- Barnes & Noble College Booksellers

THE BURNS & ALLEN ACT \$2,500

- Eagle Manufacturing Co.
- Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel
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THE RAGTIME DOLLS \$1,000

- Mr. Jack C. Adams
- Dr. & Mrs. Hugo J. Andreini, Jr.
- Costanzo & Associates, PLLC
- Em-Media
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- Wheeling Renal Care, LLC

THE HOUDINI MAGICIANS \$500

- Mr. & Mrs. George G. Couch
- Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Joseph
- Lynn Buch Interiors
- Riesbeck's Food Markets, Inc.
- Tennant Law Offices
- TJ's Sports Garden Restaurant
- WesBanco
- Ye Olde Alpha



It was an evening of glamour, entertainment and fun as West Liberty University enjoyed the support of alumni, donors and friends at its second annual Great Gala fundraiser. Held at the Pine Room in Oglebay Resort and Conference Center, the evening included cocktails, dinner and a bit of old vaudeville, starring administrators, faculty, students and a surprise performance by University President Robin C. Capehart.

The April 28 evening sold out for the second straight year and was supported by local businesses as well as the entire Wheeling community.

"The Great Gala has quickly become the premiere event of the Wheeling social calendar. It's a wonderful evening and an opportunity to get together in style. We are grateful for everyone's support, especially our title sponsor, the Ryan Ferns Healthplex," said Angela Zambito Hill, director of major gifts.

Zambito Hill added that all Gala money raised in 2012 supports the Kelly Theatre Encore Campaign, which will fund much-needed renovations to Kelly Theatre, located in the Hall of Fine Arts. Home to the WLU performing arts since 1967, the theatre was named in honor of Dr. Helen M.T. Kelly, a beloved professor in the speech and theater department from 1964-1976.

After a delicious meal, a professional jazz band delighted Gala guests as Davina and The Vagabonds entertained and offered a chance for guests to kick up their heels.

"The Great Gala is a perfect example of WLU's advancement team joining with so many others, to support President Capehart's goal of moving West Liberty from a good college to a great university," Zambito Hill added. "We thank everyone for getting involved and encourage alumni and friends to circle the date now for next year's Gala. I can promise you it will be a night to remember."

The 2013 Great Gala will be held on Friday, April 19, at Oglebay's Glessner Auditorium. For more information, please contact Zambito Hill at 304-336-8490 or via email at azambito@westliberty.edu.



get involved: BLACK & GOLD TOUCHDOWN CLUB



Hilltopper Football Season 2012 kicks off on Sept. 1, 2012 with a home opener against Catawba College! Are you a fan of spending Saturday afternoons during the gorgeous West Virginia fall season cheering on the Hilltoppers?

If you are and would like to get more involved, please consider a gift to the Zach Amedro Scholarship Fund this year. Support of this fund has a tremendous impact on the WLU students who you enjoy watching on the field, since the fund provides scholarship support to deserving football players in good academic standing.

- Gifts of any amount help this effort and will be acknowledged with a special WLU Hilltopper baseball cap.
- Gifts of \$500 or more qualify for membership for two in the Black & Gold Touchdown Club. As a member of this club you will be welcomed by President Capehart and the First Lady into the Hilltopper Hospitality Tent at all home games. Members also will be invited to a special appreciation brunch at the President's Home before the home opener at 11 a.m.
- Gifts of \$1,000 or more also qualify for inclusion in the President's Circle. As a member of President's Circle, you can anticipate a number of benefits, including personal communications from President Capehart and invitations to exclusive events.

As an added bonus, each dollar you contribute will be matched, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Gary West '58!

Please consider a gift to the Zach Amedro Scholarship Fund today by including a check made payable to the WLU Foundation in the envelope provided and checking the appropriate box.

Thank you for your continued support!
Go-o-o Toppers!



topper: SPOTLIGHT



JAKE FEINLER '54

In 2012, American information scientist Elizabeth Jocelyn "Jake" Feinler was named a member of the inaugural group of inductees to the Internet Society's Hall of Fame. From 1972 until 1989 Jake was director of the Network Information Systems Center at the Stanford Research Institute. This West Virginia native and WLU alumna was at the forefront of the development of the Internet and was part of the group that developed the top-level domain-naming scheme of .com, .edu, .gov, .mil, .org, and .net, still in use today.



WLTV-14 STUDENTS

In October 2011, the WLTV crew rolled into basketball season with its new WLTV production truck, generously provided by Swisher International. "Bella", as she is known, is a key teaching tool for the students. The production truck, nearly 20 feet in length, allows WLU students to work in a real life remote television environment while dealing with story lines, game management and action situations.



ZACHARY LOUGHMAN '02

Work performed by Dr. Zachary Loughman and his students has resulted in the description of a new species of crayfish, the publication of a book on crayfishes living along the Ohio River flood plain, publication of the largest edited volume dedicated to crayfish conservation in North America, and publication of more than 10 peer reviewed articles.