A Top Value Among Christian Colleges
KCU: A Top Value Among Christian Colleges

“If you are in the search for a top value Christian university, Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Kentucky deserves a serious look.” Pippa Porter Rex, writing for Private Colleges and Universities magazine says, “Choosing a college is an important decision because that decision will not only affect the next four years of your life, but in terms of the people you’ll meet, the personal and career goals you’ll set, and the experiences you’ll have – it will affect the rest of your life as well.”

There are nearly 5,000 colleges across the country, an almost unlimited variety. Each one will offer experiences very different from the others. Making a college choice based on the values that are most important to you will ensure that you and your future college are a good match. This issue of KCU’s university magazine has been especially designed to help you in the selection process. We want you to know the heart and soul of this University and the unique opportunities that KCU has to offer. In this issue you will read the personal testimonies of current students and recent graduates, and there are several helpful articles that will help you to think carefully about making a college choice that is right for you.

Kentucky Christian University is recognized as a top value among Christian colleges for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the success of its graduates. The people they met and the personal and career goals they set during their college years, combined with the experiences that enriched their lives along the way, have proven to provide a foundation for personal and professional achievement.

As you explore the contents of this issue of The Voice, be sure to take a good look at the many display ads describing the variety of academic programs available at KCU. The University consists of seven undergraduate schools and each one offers several different degree programs. You may be among the 80% of students that arrive on college campuses in the U.S. undecided about an academic major. Relax, you are in good company. KCU is a great place to discover a career path that fits you best. You will even be assigned a personal faculty advisor to help assist you along the way.

Of course college isn’t just about academics. We expect you to have a good time and to enjoy that part of the college experience that happens outside the classroom. The friendships you cultivate during your college years will be with you for the rest of your life and will be among the most important and valued aspects of your college experience. Nothing will enrich your life more than the lifelong friendships you will make with other students and with faculty. These bonds of friendship are enriched by the fact that KCU is a community of faith where mutual support for one another is a common virtue.

Someone has described KCU as a small college with a big college feel. You will experience the personal attention of a small college, while at the same time enjoying the electric atmosphere of a Saturday afternoon tailgate party and football game. KCU offers some of the most exciting intercollegiate sports competition in the country. While its NAIA football program is just getting off the ground, its men’s and women’s basketball programs have winning traditions that go back 20 years. 18 national championship banners hang on the walls of the Donald R. “Dick” Damron Hall of Champions. Even if you are not an athlete, your blood will run hot with fan fever as you get caught up in the excitement of KCU Knight and Lady Knight athletic competition. There are a variety of other intercollegiate sports opportunities, including a strong women’s volleyball program, men’s and women’s soccer, and cross country for both men and women.

Students who have an interest in the musical arts will want to consider auditioning for the University Concert Choir, Jazz Band, or other vocal and instrumental ensembles. Opportunities to perform internationally and at venues like Carnegie Hall have enriched the experience of hundreds of current and former students and have helped inspire and launch more than a few musical careers.

If you are reading this issue of The Voice as the parent of a college bound son or daughter, it is important for you to know that KCU takes seriously the trust you place in this University. We will deliver on the promise to provide the value and quality parents have come to expect for the money they invest. We will work with you to make a Christian higher education opportunity not only...
We want you to have all the information website or call to arrange a campus visit.

Kentucky Christian University is first and foremost a Christian university. The University was founded to propagate the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world. We are committed to the integration of faith and learning and regard everything we do in the classroom and out as preparation to fulfill the calling of the body of Christ to carry out the Great Commission, i.e. to take the message of salvation to every corner of the earth. We believe that every vocational and professional calling is intended by God to be used as a conduit for sharing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ. For that reason the spiritual formation and development of the students placed in our trust is our first concern.

KCU’s long history of regional and professional accreditation, though a strong indicator of the importance the University places on quality education, can not ensure an on-going commitment to Christ-centered higher education. Over the years, the University has been led by a governing board whose first priority is to ensure faithfulness to the historic mission of our distinctive Christian heritage – to unite believers from all the sects based on a return to the teachings of Scripture alone.

KCU is non-sectarian and non-denominational and embraces the Bible as the only sufficient guide for faith and practice. The University by its bylaws employs only those faculty who are uniquely qualified in their teaching disciplines and faithful to the teachings of Christ and His apostles. In this way the integrity of our high calling within the higher education community is both nurtured and preserved.

While this issue of The Voice is developed intentionally with prospective students and their families in mind, we could not cover everything you need to know about the University. Please visit the University website or call to arrange a campus visit. We want you to have all the information you need to make KCU your college choice.

The Presidential Search Committee is meeting and its work is progressing in keeping with the search timeline. The candidate pool has been narrowed from 14 to 4, and the second phase of the search process has begun. Referencing is underway, with initial interviews anticipated by the end of June. In addition to the applicants being considered, the Search Committee is approaching persons of interest who are known to be qualified and whose reputation and experience are aligned with the Board’s profile of presidential leadership.

When the Committee has narrowed its search to those candidates that appear to be a nearly equal match with the preferred qualifications, a final round of interviews will be scheduled with the full Board. While the search timeline has these final interviews scheduled for early September, specific dates are less important than making wise choices. The University has a reputation for long tenured presidencies and administrative stability. That is a tradition the Board wants to continue.

The Board of Trustees is committed to conducting a careful and thorough nationwide search and will not rush this important decision. We are grateful to Dr. Keeran for his willingness to remain in position as President of the University until a successor is appointed and ready to assume full responsibility for the presidential office.

It is anticipated that a successor to President Keeran may not be prepared to assume office immediately. Should that be the case, the successor will be named President-Elect until the transitional period is complete.

On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank everyone who has made suggestions and offered recommendations. Everyone who was recommended by an alumnus or friend of the University was informed that their name had been submitted.

The Presidential Search Committee fully realizes the very serious nature of their task and asks alumni and friends of the University to make the search for a president a matter of earnest prayer.
With a Worship Arts degree graduates can lead the music program in a church (86% of church music/worship arts degree grads lead worship in mega congregations)

With a Music Education degree graduates can teach in a public/private classroom in instrumental or choral music in grades P-12. Many also serve as part-time worship ministers.

With a Music Performance degree graduates can continue their education at the Master's level and then teach on the collegiate level, operate their own studio, or perform professionally.

With a Music Business degree graduates are able to work in the various fields of the industry – composing, engineering live sound, back stage operations, etc.

Performance opportunities include:
- Concert Choir
- Chorale
- Knight-Time Jazz Ensemble
- Concert Band
- Ars Nova
- Destiny

Concert Choir has:
- Performed in Carnegie Hall six times (most recent performance was April 2008)
- Performed with the Louisville Orchestra and the West Virginia Symphony
- Performed at Kentucky, Texas and Ohio Music Educators Assoc. Conferences
- Performed at the International Choral Festival in Havana, Cuba in 2004
- Performed at the Gaither Homecoming in Rupp Arena, Lexington, KY
- Recorded 13 projects in Nashville
- Recorded a video for Christian Network
- Received a Dove Award Nomination for recording, “Called to Praise”

For more information contact Dr. Mark Deakins, Dean • 606-474-3290 • mdeakins@kcu.edu
When choosing a college, it is wise to get the impressions of current students and recent graduates. In this article, Brandon Shinault shares candidly about his experience at Kentucky Christian University.

When I enrolled at KCU nearly five years ago, it was an experience that was very different for me. I had never been away from home for more than a week or two, but from the moment I stepped on this campus it felt like home. Throughout my years at KCU there have been many factors that have contributed to my intellectual growth and spiritual development. When you are learning and growing, the experience is not only enjoyable, it makes your college years go by unbelievably fast. Yes, there were many challenges along the way and more than a few late nights, but it was definitely worth all the hard work. I am leaving KCU with degree in hand, fully persuaded that I am adequately prepared to provide effective leadership in my chosen field of ministry.

Atmosphere

One of the first and most influential factors that made my experience at KCU so enjoyable was the atmosphere on campus. Kentucky Christian is not a super large campus and the vast majority of students are actual campus residents. The great thing about this is that you know almost everyone. I have been on other, larger campuses where the atmosphere was not as friendly and lacked the feel of a close knit college community. On those other campuses you were just another face in the crowd. At KCU we are like family, which we honestly are. We care about each other. Relationships

Something else that has really enhanced my time here at KCU has been the relationships that I have built with the professors, as well as other staff and members of the administration. Again, this is a benefit made possible because of the size of our campus. Every one of my professors knows me by name, and I have personal conversations with several of them on a regular basis. These conversations don’t just relate to class assignments. The faculty and staff at KCU are genuinely interested in students and are constantly opening their doors to talk with us about any kind of problem or anything else of interest. They will even pray with us. This is something that has been very encouraging to me. My field of study was Christian ministry and those of us who are entering into ministry careers have been blessed by professors who were always willing to talk with us about any subjects or answer questions that we may have relating to ministry or our personal development. I know that the professors in other schools within the University are great at this as well. Throughout the years, the faculty and staff have been a great source of personal encouragement to me. I have grown in my faith, as well as my ministry abilities because of them.

Opportunities to Serve

Some of the really indispensable experiences that contributed significantly to my education were opportunities to serve in weekend ministry and to enroll in a ministry internship. This past summer I was able to intern at Gallipolis Christian Church in Ohio. While there I was able to work in many different aspects of youth ministry. That internship really helped me define who I am as a youth minister. I have grown tremendously from these practical field experiences where lessons learned in class were put to the test in real life situations. Internships are extremely valuable because you have the benefit of working alongside an experienced professional in the real life environment of a local congregation or other workplace. You come face to face with everyday situations and challenges and discover the importance of being a solution provider. That’s what leadership is all about. One of the distinctive features of KCU is the prevalence of required internships, practicums, and clinicals in its degree programs. It is a real plus to be able to show on a résumé that you already have experience in a career field, and some internships lead directly into employment after graduation.

I Would Do It Again!

Now I’m beginning to write a new chapter in my life. With graduation, marriage, and a new job just around the corner, I can honestly say that I am ready. My many different experiences here at KCU have prepared me not only for ministry, but for life. I don’t know where the years have gone, but I do know that if I could start over, I would make the same college choice. I would do it again!  

Brandon Shinault is a 2008 graduate of KCU’s Sack School of Bible and Ministry. His academic majors in Biblical Studies, and Youth and Family Ministry, combined with a minor in Preaching have prepared him well. Brandon has recently accepted a position as Minister to Youth at the Dry Run Church of Christ in Portsmouth, Ohio.
When your kids were young you wouldn’t let them play outside without keeping an eye on them. You went to their soccer practices, stayed in touch with their teachers, checked on their grades, and called their friends’ parents when they wanted to spend the night. You made them clean their rooms, go to church, and brush their teeth. But in August of their 18th year you will cut them loose and send them off to college. What will you be sending them to?

This coming August I’ll be looking at freshman classes full of kids born in 1990. Some high school seniors have already made their college choices while others won’t make them until the first day of classes! Now is when many are taking their first serious looks at where they want to go to school next year. This article is for them and their parents. The question is simple: are you choosing for the right reasons?

Most students and their parents will look at a school’s prestige and degree programs when making decisions about where to go to college. It makes sense: go to the best school you can find to learn about the career that interests you most. But will you also be going to a school where some teachers oppose your religion, some students oppose your morals, and statistics say you are likely to lose your faith?

**The Teachers You’ll Face**

I teach at a traditional Christian university, but this is no recruitment pitch. The statistics I’ve seen show that young people raised in the church who drift away from God are most likely to do so in their college years. This often begins subtly – late Saturday nights having fun with friends and no encouragement to get up for Sunday morning services. More frightening than this statistic, however, are the statistics regarding the hostility Christian students will face on college campuses, chiefly from their teachers. In a recent scientific survey, the Institute for Jewish and Community Research attempted to find out how widespread anti-Semitism is in American universities. The results were shocking. Only three percent of college faculty were hostile toward Jews. The surprise was that 53% of college and university teachers admitted to having negative feelings toward evangelical Christians (twice that of almost any other religious group). And while intolerance against other groups and minorities would not be tolerated in a university setting, prejudice against committed Christians is not only ignored but sometimes rationalized as appropriate behavior.

**Schools That Persecute**

It gets worse. Not only will Christian students face persecution from their teachers, they may face prosecution from their schools as well. A group called the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) defends Christian kids who are brought up on charges of violating school policy or who are failed in a class because of their beliefs. Recent cases involving the ADF include a lawsuit against Georgia Tech for enforcing speech codes that forbid students to make negative comments about homosexual behavior, and a case at Missouri State where a social work major was told she would not be allowed to graduate if she continued to have beliefs that discriminated against homosexuals. These are only a few instances of prejudice against Bible believing Christians in American universities. Apart from the ADF, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) claims to be overwhelmed with its monitoring of college and university attacks on the beliefs of Christian students.

**The Lifestyle You Can’t Avoid**

And of course these are only the attacks that will come from official channels. In the dorms Christian students may face open drug use, open sexual behavior, coed living quarters (even coed bathrooms in some instances), and they will certainly face wild, alcoholic parties and binge drinking. They may be forced to be roommates with students who claim to be bi- or homosexual (and prosecuted if they request different roommates or dorm rooms). Although desperately in need of Christian influences, secular universities will challenge young people’s faith more than any other experience they’ve had – and their parents won’t be there to support them.

You parents were careful about raising your kids, especially in their spiritual training; don’t stop now by turning them over to institutions bent on teaching them to walk away from their faith. Don’t send your kids to a school until you know what they’re getting into – and you can bet no student recruiter is going to tell you what “really goes on” in college dorms and classrooms.
Students and parents must take inventory. Will you keep the faith in these places? Are you strong enough? Christian groups on campuses all around the country are fighting to bring the light to a spiritually bankrupt and hostile people. They need your help, but they don’t need people who come in only to fall and make the work more difficult with a failed witness.

### The Obstacles

Let’s start with the reasons a conservative Christian college or university may not be inviting to you. One reason is accreditation. Students who graduate from schools that are not accredited may have a hard time getting classes transferred to other schools or getting into graduate school. This is a legitimate concern and, if you look at a Christian college, you should ask about the school’s accreditation. The majority of Christian colleges and universities are accredited through some association and several are regionally accredited, which is the best guarantee of a transfer of credits or graduate school entrance.

The second reason you or your high school senior might not be interested in a Christian college or university is that it may not offer the degree program you’re looking for. Many Christian colleges have specific purposes: to train students who want to go into traditional ministries like preaching, youth ministry, music ministry, and missions. However many Christian colleges have changed or are changing in this area, recognizing that Christians need to be trained for ministry in all walks of life, as well as for traditional church ministries. Our Christian universities and some of our colleges now offer multiple degree programs in careers like education, business, nursing, TV and radio, and the humanities. Search the Web, request catalogs, and find out what degree programs the schools you are interested in offer.

### The Benefits

So, why the Christian college and university alternative?

Reason one: disciplined bible study with experts in the field. We all know we’re supposed to read and study the Bible, and we probably feel like we never do enough. What I enjoyed about attending a Christian college was having Bible classes that forced me into the discipline of Bible study. Because I had to study for class, I read and studied more Bible in four years than many Christians do in their entire lives. Yes we’re supposed to want to study the Bible without the motivation of a grade or the fear of failure, but we often don’t. Thirty or more semester hours of Bible in college gives us a reason to “make time” to study, learn, and grow. Having highly educated professors who can help you understand what you’re reading and teach you how to better read the Bible on your own doesn’t hurt either.

I recommend that when you look into Christian schools, you look for schools that require Bible and theology classes with every degree program. Some Christian schools only require a few token Bible classes. Look at the colleges that require every student to major in Bible or theology whether his career major is ministry or business, missions or education.

Reason two: an environment of spirituality and moral expectations. Christian colleges are no holy towers where students polish their halos. There is sin on a Christian college campus because there are sinners there. If a campus has certain expectations its students will try to live up to those expectations. Our students aren’t perfect, but they know there is a higher standard and they strive to reach it. At a Christian college there are also many opportunities (in addition to regular church attendance and participation) for formal and informal spiritual encounter: chapel services, devotion groups, dorm gatherings, and lots of late night conversations among like-minded Christians kids who don’t have to feel embarrassed because they’re sitting in a dorm room or lounge talking about their personal pursuit of God.

Reason three: God has no grandchildren. I think a major reason young adults face the danger of leaving the faith is because they are no longer children. For 18 years our kids believe the faith of their parents; but as they enter adulthood, they come across a major spiritual challenge – making their faith their own. This is not just a problem for kids who go to secular schools. Many good Christian kids seriously committed to Christ finally start doing what they’ve never done before: having doubts, asking questions, wanting answers. This is not because they lack faith (though they often wonder if that is the case). Instead it is because they are finally making their own spiritual way. They cannot live on their parents’ faith anymore – they have to make their relationship with God their own. This happens often during the college years. And if Christian college students struggle with it, how much more will Christian kids struggle on a secular campus without spiritual mentors to help them?

Simply put, a Christian college or university can help Christian young people live lives in Christ. That’s career training for eternity.
No one is looked upon with more admiration and respect than biblical studies professor, Dr. Jim Girdwood. His enthusiasm for the Old Testament and his ability to show its importance to interpreting and understanding the New Testament keeps the students in his classes interested and often on the edge of their seats. He has the ability to make even obscure passages of Scripture come alive with meaning and his down-home approach to communicating drives home important life lessons that translate into changed lives.

For his scholarly achievements and exemplary career, Dr. Girdwood was recently selected to receive his alma mater's highest honor. Jim Girdwood is a graduate of Great Lakes Christian College and was the Michigan school's first alumnus to earn a doctoral degree. Though humbled by this gesture of appreciation, his commitment to staying on schedule in his classes prevented him from making the 400 mile trip to Lansing for the award presentation. Not to be denied, Great Lakes Christian College came to him.

Before a packed auditorium of cheering KCU fans, Mr. Phil Beavers, GLCC's Vice President for Institutional Advancement presented the school's favorite son with its highest honor. The Divine Servant Award is given in memory of Dr. Brant Lee Doty, a long time professor, academic dean, and chancellor at Great Lakes. KCU faculty and students celebrated Dr. Girdwood's achievement with two well deserved standing ovations. Dr. Girdwood has been on the KCU faculty since 1987.

The University community is pleased to welcome three new faculty for the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Jeanne Widener will join the Yancey School of Nursing and Dr. Brian Baldwin and Dr. Ralph Hawkins have accepted positions with the Sack School of Bible and Ministry.

Dr. Jeanne Widener joins the faculty as an Associate Professor of Nursing. She holds a Ph.D. in Nursing from The Ohio State University, a Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from East Tennessee State University. Dr. Widener brings to the position a wide range of professional experience, both as a practitioner and as an instructor in nursing education. Dr. Widener joins her husband, Dr. Gregory Widener, who was added to the University's Preaching and Communications faculty one year ago. The Wideners' son, Kevan, is a KCU student.

Dr. Brian Baldwin joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Youth and Family Ministry. He holds Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity degrees from Emmanuel School of Religion and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Baldwin has successful experience in youth ministry and for the past twelve years has provided senior leadership as Campus Minister for Murray Christian Fellowship on the campus of Murray State University in western Kentucky.

Dr. Ralph Hawkins comes to KCU as an Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology. He holds a Ph.D. from Andrews University in Old Testament History and Archaeology, a Doctor of Ministry from the University of the South, and other degrees from David Lipscomb University. Dr. Hawkins has written extensively in his discipline and has served churches in Tennessee. He and his wife Kathy have four children.

President Keith P. Keeran has announced that KCU’s Yancey School of Nursing will move to its new campus location over the summer. Construction will be complete in July and a formal dedication of the new facility is planned for September 5 at the time of the University’s annual Fall Homecoming.

The School will occupy the 11,500 square foot second floor of the King’s Daughters Medical Specialties building on the University campus. The $1.4 million dollar expansion was made possible by a gift from the Robert E. and Nina M. Yancey Family Fund, and a grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation.

Dr. Keeran said, “The new state-of-the-art facility will triple the space of the current nursing building and further enhance the partnership between the University and King’s Daughters Medical Center.” KDMC occupied the ground floor of the building last summer and offers a wide range of medical services to the campus and to area residents. KDMC is the largest health care provider in the tri-state region and is ranked among the top 100 hospitals in the U.S.
Learn Nursing as a Ministry of...  

...Compassion
- Care for the whole person—body, soul, and spirit
- Develop caring–healing relationships
- Address needs with creative caring
- Express cultural sensitivity

...Competence
- Develop Christ-centered servant/leadership skills
- Apply knowledge in a variety of clinical environments
- Utilize nursing research for evidence–based practice
- Develop a foundation for lifelong learning and advanced education

...Comprehensive Care
- Earn degrees in Bible and Nursing concurrently
- Focus on the individual, family, community, and global village
- Empower clients through teaching and wellness promotion
- Fulfill certain clinical requirements with mission experiences

Kentucky Christian University  
Yancey School of Nursing
- Rigorous in Scholarship
- Excellence in Professional Practice
- Christ-Centered Education

For more information contact:  
Yancey School of Nursing  
606-474-3255
nursing@kcu.edu

Now accepting applications for Fall 2008
The Voice

Sandra Deakins, Vice President of Enrollment Management has made a career of helping families find ways to send their sons and daughters to college. In this article she addresses the financial challenges facing many families today and provides realistic and practical solutions. -Editor

Working in Christian higher education for twenty-five years has proven to be a challenging, but very fulfilling experience. Some of the most challenging times come when working with families as they consider the cost of sending their son or daughter off to college.

There is a common misconception among families of first time college students. When looking for a college one of the first things they look at is price. What will it cost? Many families assume they will be responsible for the “full cost” as an out of pocket expense, but nothing could be further from the truth when you are working with Kentucky Christian University.

One of the most important services provided by KCU’s Enrollment Management team is the individualized attention your family will receive when working through the financial aid process. You will be assigned a specific Enrollment Counselor who will guide you through each step. Your counselor will provide you with important information, respond quickly to your questions, and assist you in making wise decisions throughout the enrollment process.

At Kentucky Christian University, we are blessed to have a wide variety of individuals, churches and organizations that support KCU’s mission and provide financial assistance to the University. This allows us to keep costs well below the national average for a private college education. In addition, every student who attends KCU receives financial assistance in the form of institutional scholarships or grants.

Add to these institutional scholarships and grants the availability of federal, state and local funding programs and you are well on your way to a financial aid package that can make college costs manageable and affordable for your son or daughter!

Another important strategy to consider is the student loan. It is common practice among college students and their families to...
apply for these low interest loans. Student loans may be acquired by the student, the parents, or a combination of both. The idea of taking out a student loan is where it begins to get interesting when working with some families. They often feel that their child should not have to incur any debt during their college years. Statistics show that a student who is at least partially responsible for the cost of their education is more likely to be serious about their education. Conversely, the student who has little or no financial investment or accountability for the costs involved is not as likely to take their studies seriously. Learning financial accountability and personal responsibility is an important part of the educational process.

There are also educational loans for parents to assist with the remainder of costs after financial aid has been applied. For those parents who do not like the idea of borrowing in order to provide an education for their son or daughter, I ask them to consider the following. We typically do not give much thought to borrowing money to purchase a car for our children. We take out these loans knowing that by the time the car is paid for it will be worth very little. In contrast, borrowing money for an education for your son or daughter is an investment with lifetime benefits. In fact, the money invested in an education multiplies in significant financial gains. Not only do graduates with a bachelor’s degree earn a million dollars more on average during their lifetime than those who have only a high school diploma, there are other even more important values to consider.

While the education available to students at KCU is nationally recognized for its quality, the University is known throughout the world for the moral, biblical and ethical foundations that are woven into the fabric of its educational programs. These values are so critical to shaping Christian leaders, responsible citizens, and solid families that they are worth far more than money. It is difficult to understand the reluctance of borrowing in order to invest in the future of young people who hold the future of our homes, churches, schools, and communities in their hands. It goes without saying that borrowing should always be done wisely and with full consideration to the amount of debt being incurred. KCU’s Enrollment Counselors can be helpful as you work through the process of determining how to manage the costs of an education for your son or daughter.

Earlier in this article, I said that working in Christian higher education has been both challenging and fulfilling. I have addressed some of the challenges I face every day as I work with families to resolve financial issues. Helping families find solutions to funding a college education is extremely satisfying, but there is something that is even more fulfilling than that!

God has blessed me with the privilege of seeing thousands of young people come through these doors as wide-eyed freshmen. They have the world by the tail – or so it seems! After four years of working on their degrees and being loved, taught and mentored by KCU’s faculty and staff, I see those once wide-eyed freshmen transformed into young adults eager to make an imprint on the world. I see young leaders who are ready to leave this campus prepared to take the message of Christ wherever they go. Whether it is into the schools, churches, hospitals, concert halls or the corporate business world, these new graduates are equipped to meet the world head on with the love of Christ and the support of a campus community that will continue to encourage them as alumni of one of the finest universities in the country.

I have been blessed to be a part of the KCU community for 19 years and the fall of 2007 was important to me on a very personal level. My husband and I have one son who has grown up on this campus and this year marked the beginning of his freshmen year at KCU. Now, I have the opportunity to watch as he too blossoms into a young leader with the love and support of a campus community that truly is on a mission to make a difference in the lives of young people.

So when I talk about the investment of a lifetime – these are not empty words. I am entrusting one of the most important things in my life to the care and nurturing of Kentucky Christian University.

If you have questions or concerns about your son or daughter attending KCU in the near future, don’t hesitate to contact me at sdeakins@kcu.edu. I would love the opportunity to talk with you personally or to introduce you to one of our Enrollment Counselors or Financial Aid personnel who can help you make sense out of college costs and assist you with finding financial solutions. Kentucky Christian University wants to be your preferred choice in Christian higher education. I promise to make it worth your time!
The KCU School of Business empowers students to grow in CHRIST, develop Godly CHARACTER, and prepare for a meaningful CAREER.

GETTING to the bottom line means:
Wise decisions must ALWAYS consider the financial costs and benefits.

Going BEYOND the bottom line means:
Wise decisions are based on MORE than JUST financial costs and benefits.

KCU students are taught how to get to the bottom line... AND BEYOND!

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Accounting and Management (with emphasis options)
- Minors are available in both Business and Management

School of Business students may choose to pursue an emphasis in either Management or Accounting.

The KCU School of Business prepares...

- Ambassadors for Christ to enter the world of business.
- Experts in business to serve in faith-based organizations.
- Missionaries equipped to provide business and economic assistance in countries around the globe.

WHAT DO THESE DEGREES PREPARE ME FOR?

- A KCU business degree prepares you for a broad range of positions in industries such as banking, insurance, retail marketing, sales and entry level management positions in corporate and faith-based organizations ranging from small business to multinational corporations.
- Starting your own business venture.
- Administrative positions in churches and church organizations such as camps, schools and colleges.
- Completion of the Accounting emphasis will have met the requirements for accounting courses needed to take the CPA exam.

WHAT HAVE OUR GRADUATES DONE?

- Chief Financial Officer of California private school
- Industrial Quality Control Manager in Ohio
- Regional Manager of industrial equipment sales firm
- Insurance Agents/Claims Analysts
- Intern for U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell
- Bank Administrator; Bank Examiner
- Corporate Account Manager for GTE in Texas
- General Manager of National Restaurant Franchise
- Director of Programming for national convention
- Accountants in Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina
- Directors of Development for Christian Colleges
- Cost Analyst at telecommunication company in Ohio
- Sales Rep. for national pharmaceutical company
- Product Specialist for marketing company in Ohio
- Church Administrator in Kentucky
- Manager of Christian camp

For more information contact
Dr. Tim Nischan, Dean • 606-474-3283 • drtim@kcu.edu
My name is Amanda Speakes and I am currently a sophomore Counseling Psychology Major at Kentucky Christian University. I am pleased to have an opportunity to share what KCU means to me and why I choose to remain a student at this great school.

At KCU I do not feel like just another student in a classroom. Professors take the necessary time to work with each student. In larger universities, classes can contain hundreds of students, but the student/teacher ratio at KCU averages 20 to 1. This results in an environment of higher quality teaching which leads to greater student comprehension. It is clear to me that my professors consider teaching to be more than just a job, it is their passion. While at KCU I am continuing to grow and develop academically.

In addition to being a school of high academic performance, KCU has a history of excelling in sports. For the last two years I have been a proud member of the Lady Knights volleyball team. I remember how hard it was for me when I joined the team as a freshman, and I’ll never forget how supportive and encouraging my teammates were. The kindness they showed me helped me adjust and feel wanted.

Today I not only consider the other girls to be my teammates, I count them as members of my family. No matter what challenges come my way I know they are going to be there for me. As a team we all work hard to succeed, but there is always room for a little fun. Through it all we are constantly reminded that more important than winning games is being individuals of high moral and Christian character. Through the wins and losses, long trips and hard times, we are learning the things in life that really matter. Life is hard, and so is college! The members of my team encourage each other to keep on keeping on. I think these are important lessons to learn.

The past two years at KCU have positively impacted my life in so many ways. I truly believe that I am attending one of the best schools in this great nation: spiritually, academically and athletically. I would not change a thing about my college career and I look forward to graduating from KCU. 🏏

“Amanda “Speakes” Out About Her KCU Experience

It is clear to me that my professors consider teaching to be more than just a job, it is their passion!”

“The Voice
12
Coach Loran Dace Honored as “First Knight”

There are certain events in the history of colleges and schools that are defining moments. These easily go unnoticed because at the time of their occurrence they are not regarded as historically significant. It is only when we look back that we notice these events and realize that there were people who made decisions years ago that continue to impact our lives today. It is important to acknowledge such people and to celebrate the contribution they have made in the life of the University.

One such person is Loran A. Dace. On February 8, 2008 the KCU family honored Coach Dace with the distinctive and solitary title of “First Knight.” Here is his story and a bit of KCU history that may be new to some of our readers.

When Loran Dace took over the head coaching position in men’s basketball back in 1960, KCU was KCC and the basketball team was known as the Rockets. The “cold war” was heating up and the entire country was increasingly concerned about winning the space race. The Soviets had launched the world’s first orbiting satellite called Sputnik and in schools and colleges all across America there was a push among educators in the fields of math and science which continues to this day.

In a lot of backyards, amateur rocketeers launched small and dangerously instable devices into the air and dreamed of exploring the furthest reaches of the cosmos. And on a small college campus in eastern Kentucky it was decided to name the basketball team the Rockets.

No one considered the Rocket mascot anything unusual. It had become a popular name for athletic teams and KCC sports enthusiasts were comfortable with the label. Then one day in the spring of 1963 a new concept emerged innocently from the theme of a sports banquet. The cheerleaders were responsible for planning the annual event and selected a theme based on the school’s initials, “Knights of Christian Character.”

The theme captured the imagination of several people on campus, but none more than Coach Loran Dace. He saw many parallels between the requirements for knighthood and particular passages of Scripture describing the essential adornments of faithful and courageous servants of Christ; the shield of faith, sword of the Spirit, helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, and feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

The idea of preparing students for a spiritual conquest of faith and service in behalf of the King of Glory was inspirational and motivating. It wasn’t long after that Coach Dace recommended to President J. Lowell Lusby that the official mascot no longer be the Rockets, but that we be known as Knights. The President embraced the recommendation and the change in mascots was official.

Coach Dace continued to lead the Knights until 1970. During his ten year run as head coach, many young men came to the College to play basketball under Coach Dace, but they received much more than instruction in the game. They learned the rules for personal success as a servant of Christ.

Many graduated and went on to preach the gospel of peace, furnished with the discipline and skills learned through team sports from a coach we call the “First Knight.”

Today, Coach Dace lives in Caldwell, Ohio with “Cokie” his wife of 60 years. At the age of 82, he continues to be active in the preaching ministry. Every Sunday morning he drives to the Flushing Christian Church to deliver a message from the Word of God.

During the week he works with the local high school girl’s basketball team where he is in his third year as an assistant coach.

A Footnote on Knight History: The Coat-of-Arms

Soon after the Knight mascot was adopted, a coat-of-arms was commissioned and an amateur artist within the small student population was asked to develop a design. In the fall of 1963, a concept drawing was presented to President Lusby who officially approved the design, though it was never used. Only a photo of the formal presentation survives. It shows President J. Lowell Lusby on the right, holding the painting with Coach Loran Dace. The student artist, standing on the far left, is current President Keith P. Keeran, who at the time was only a sophomore.
Because KCU's Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a BSW graduate from KCU is eligible to take the Social Work license exam in Kentucky or any state where licensing at the bachelor's level is available. Also, because of our CSWE accreditation, KCU Social Work graduates may be eligible for advanced standing in Master of Social Work (MSW) programs which could allow the student to graduate with the MSW in a shorter time.

Graduates report employment in secular and Christian human service agencies including children's homes, child protection, foster care, adoption, agencies working with children, domestic violence shelters, hospital and hospice settings, residential facilities, nursing homes, corrections, and agencies working with developmentally or physically disabled people. Our graduates even work internationally.

**Bachelor of Social Work**

**Our Grads Say it Best...**

"I am so grateful for the education I received at KCU. Receiving a BSW from KCU has allowed me to use my faith in my current position, working as an advocate for sexually abused children. We hear heartbreaking stories of abuse every day, but my Christ-centered social work education taught me about the Biblical response to suffering and God’s heart for the oppressed. This knowledge has equipped me to assist my clients in the midst of tragedy."

With a Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling Psychology, graduates are eligible to apply for many entry-level positions in human service agencies, Christian social service agencies, home based services, psychiatric hospitals and community agencies. This major is very appropriate for graduates who intend to enter graduate programs in Christian Counseling, Clinical or Counseling Psychology, or Marriage and Family Therapy. Graduates report employment as caseworkers in a variety of settings including child protection, drug treatment programs and children's homes.

**Bachelor of Science in Counseling Psychology**

**Our Grads Say it Best...**

"I was gratified that my supervisor in my internship was impressed that I had been exposed to so many different professional experiences. The classes in my program interlocked with each other and supported one another. Thus, I feel ready to go on to advanced educational experiences."

For more information about the School of Social Work and Human Services, please contact Margaret McLaughlin, Dean • 606-474-3287 • mclaughlin@kcu.edu
In Memory of:

Steve Bliffen  
By: Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bliffen

Charles Burris  
By: Burris Consulting  
Margaret Hazen  
Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran

Richard and Geneva Burton  
By: Drs. Kall & Rosalyn Ruffner

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Tim Bussey, Scott Haulter, &  
Pete Kunkle  
By: Dr. & Mrs. Keith C. Jones

C. Billy Essick Family  
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Ruby Maggard  
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Dr. & Mrs. Jack L. Dyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Trenton Merricks  
Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Metcalf  
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Nash  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry M. Taylor

Bequest Society Gifts:

Maude & W. Brown Memorial Trust  
Estate of William & Frances Kindeleberger

Please Note: We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information. Should you discover an error, please accept our sincere apology and bring it to our attention so that we can correct our records.

Contributions can be accepted online at www.kcu.edu

Support KCU  
with the new KCU Rewards Visa Credit Card

Earn points everywhere you shop  
• 1 point per $1 in net retail purchases with no limit  
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• Points don’t expire (as long as your account is open and you use your credit card every 24 months)

Save money immediately  
► 0% FIXED APR on retail purchases and balance transfers for the first six full months  
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Supporting KCU
An Investment in Students

In order to achieve the mission of Kentucky Christian University – to educate students for Christian leadership and service in the Church and in professions throughout the world – KCU relies on committed partners who invest their time, talent, and/or treasure to advance our ability to deliver superb academic programs. These programs challenge the heart, soul, and mind of the students while nurturing cognitive development, spiritual growth, and character formation.

Charitable contributions are the life blood of a privately owned, independent university. When properly planned, gifts to KCU offer donors the personal satisfaction of knowing they have made a difference in the University’s future while also providing charitable giving tax and financial benefits. The following are just a few examples of programs designed to assist donors in the development of a planned giving strategy.

Matching Gift Program
The Matching Gift Program is an opportunity to double your giving impact without increasing your gift amount. Over 8,000 companies provide matching gift dollars to charities their employees support. Contact your employer’s Human Resources Department to see if they have a matching gift program.

KCU President’s Circle
The President’s Circle is the core support system of people who value Christ-centered education and recognize the unique ministry that KCU provides. Through their contributions to the Annual Fund, each President’s Circle member plays a critical role in helping equip students for successful careers while training them to function as personal ambassadors of God’s Kingdom. As a result, the whole world is impacted through graduates that touch thousands of lives in businesses, schools, and churches. President’s Circle Members receive many special benefits including a beautifully crafted pin bearing the KCU initials and the Knight shield.

Endowed Scholarships
Endowed Named Scholarships are disbursed according to a donor’s wishes and may be established for gifts of $10,000 or more. Endowed Scholarships may be used to support students in a specific academic area, such as preaching, teaching or nursing. Endowed scholarships provide funds to KCU students through interest generated annually on the principal amount.

Gift of Annuity
A gift annuity is an agreement between an individual and KCU whereby the donor transfers assets to KCU and receives fixed payments for the rest of his or her lifetime and/or the lifetime of another person, if desired. A Gift Annuity allows the donor full control over the assets, tax savings, favorable treatment of capital gains and lifetime of payments.

In the foothills of the Bluegrass State, Like a lighthouse shining bright...

Office of Development Launches New Web Site

One of the main functions of the Office of Development is to provide information and assistance to prospective donors who have decided to take the important step of acting on their desire to support KCU by developing a planned giving strategy. With this in mind we have launched a new Development section on the University’s website.

Visitors to this new site will find helpful information regarding a variety of giving options presented in a format that is appealing, inspirational, easily understood and simple to execute. Each page of the site is characterized by a header depicting the beautiful foothills of eastern Kentucky, the region that is home to KCU. Blazed across this header are the first two lines of the cherished KCU Alma Mater.

Visit “Support KCU” at www.kcu.edu today and explore the many ways you can make a difference by investing in KCU students.
President Keeran has announced the establishment of the Maxine Charlton Institute for World Mission. The University has recently received two major unrestricted gift commitments totaling $350,000. These commitments, which will be distributed to the University in installments beginning this August, are conditioned on the establishment of an Institute for World Mission. In its meeting on May 9, 2008 the KCU Board of Trustees unanimously approved the establishment of the Institute which shall be named for its primary donor, Maxine Charlton.

During the final chapel service of the ‘07–’08 academic year faculty and students had opportunity to hear Mrs. Charlton as she encouraged and prayed for our students. At age 92, this remarkable woman continues to be an inspiration. Unbelievably, at the age of 75 she began a worldwide mission endeavor that touched four continents!

At a time when her friends were drinking ice tea under palm trees in retirement villages, Maxine Charlton was delivering Bibles to church leaders, teaching children about Christ, working in orphanages, and encouraging the downtrodden in places like Guatemala, Indonesia, Africa, Korea, India, China and the Philippines. Now her heart for world mission has prompted a generous personal gift of $250,000 to keep her legacy alive.

Impressed by the work of the University in establishing a successful international beachhead for Christian higher education in the former Soviet Union and driven by her personal desire to strengthen Christian higher education world wide, she envisioned an Institute that would support this effort while at the same time encouraging hundreds of young students to use their training in diverse professions to make a spiritual imprint on the world.

Convinced that KCU is the place most experienced and best equipped to accomplish this combined undertaking, she and a number of her close personal friends are directing their support to the University. Collective gifts of at least $100,000 have also been committed in support of Maxine Charlton’s vision and legacy. These gifts are intentionally unrestricted in order to enable the University to make quality improvements in its educational programs and student services, thus enriching the Great Commission focus for which the University is known.

The Maxine Charlton Institute for World Mission will offer no academic programs. The mission of the Institute is to support the integration of global awareness and the development of intercultural competencies within the existing academic disciplines of the University by providing coordination for international travel-study, study abroad, service-learning, internships, conferences, and faculty exchanges with partner institutions worldwide; and to work with partner institutions in other countries to enrich academic offerings and strengthen educational legitimacy.

The Institute, a wholly owned non-profit subsidiary of the University will collaborate with other U.S. based institutions and agencies, and will seek independent funding for specific projects under the governance of the International Outreach Committee – a standing committee of the KCU Board of Trustees – which shall serve as the Board of Directors for the Institute.

Under the conditions of the gift, the Institute for World Mission will be led initially by Dr. Keith P. Keeran who will assume leadership responsibilities in connection with his forthcoming position as Chancellor of the University. The Institute is expected to be fully operational within one year of Dr. Keeran’s retirement from the presidency.
Would you like to be an educator who positively impacts the lives of children, youth, schools, families and communities?

If God is calling you to be a teacher, why not consider preparing for that calling at Kentucky Christian University. Please contact the Keeran School of Education for more information about how we can assist you in becoming the best educator you can be.

The Keeran School of Education is additionally accredited by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board.
Bachelor of Social Work
Mindi Boring
Crystal Hall
Rachel Priest
Tyler Reid
Jennifer Swann

Bachelor of Science
Laura Aspden
Seth Baker
Melissa Balch
Matthew Bennett
Kelsey Bias
Micah Binegar
Christopher Bradbury
Andrea Bramel
Dorey Callaway
Alison Chapman
Kristine Charlton
Brian Clark
Adrienne Clarke
Emily Cluff
Darcie Coxson

Kerrie Davis
Toni Davis
Michael DePalma
Keith Doyle
Leah Duncan
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Holding Fenelus
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Kari Grindstaff
Amanda Hall
Tara Hall
Shanna Hamm
Megan Hanshaw
Michael Hedges
Cassandra Holmes
Tammy Hulbert
Kelli Isaacs
Darren Jackson
Melissa Jewell
Phillip Johnson

Tyler Jones
Jeffrey Kimble
Christina Kline
Joshua Krieg
Robert Lans
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Danny Murphy
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Jill Ober
Erin Owney
Amber Parker
Christina Pantoja
Samantha Price
Jenna Reke
Megan Riggs
Benjamin Ruprecht
Kentucky Christian University

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

What Can You Do With A Degree in…

Humanities

Graduates of the Humanities program are working in the film production industry, photography, museums, business, sports, missions, event planning, youth ministry, Christian education, music, politics, computer graphics, fashion, broadcast journalism and more. A major in Humanities, with a concentration in English, provides an excellent foundation for a variety of career fields.

History/Pre-Law

Graduates of the History/Pre-Law program have gone on to law school and have become attorneys and judges. Others have completed graduate degrees and are now serving important roles as teachers, college professors, business and civic leaders, ministers and more. Popular minors include Legal Studies, Archeological Studies, and Near Eastern Studies.

Math and Science

The School of Arts and Sciences provides the general education core for all academic programs at the University and offers students an opportunity to enrich their baccalaureate education with minors in math and science, or elect a special interest course like Introduction to Astronomy.

Students in the Arts and Sciences:

• Minor in any field of their choosing.
• Choose from a wide selection of professional internships.
• Experience a variety of extracurricular opportunities.

Majors in the Arts and Sciences are prepared to see more, to think more broadly and to respond more creatively to the challenges they will face in the work place.

An Alumnus Writes:

"I never felt more in tune with God's Will than when I joined the Humanities Dept. There I found the resources, personnel, and opportunities that would help transform what were once wildest dreams into obtainable realities."

– Jon Recher, 2004 Graduate

Jon is currently serving as an assistant director in Hollywood and has worked on such projects as Memoirs of a Geisha, and Spiderman 3.

Our goal is the SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION – Christians prepared to be “salt and light” in a secular world.

For more information about Arts & Sciences contact Dr. Fawn Knight, Dean 606-474-3219 fknight@kcu.edu
Every month of the 2008 – 2009 school year, the Sack School of Bible & Ministry at Kentucky Christian University will bring prominent ministry leaders onto the KCU campus for several days of teaching and sharing. These men will teach classes, preach in chapel, speak at luncheons and special sessions, and invest their time and experience in helping to grow the ministries of KCU ministry students and other interested church leaders. All sessions are open to the public.

**THE BRIDGE is a series of classes and conversations with the most prominent ministry leaders of our time.**

### John Hampton
Sept. 2-4, 2008
- TurnAround Churches
- Leading Through Change
- New Dreams and Visions

### Ben Merold
Sept. 16-18, 2008
- Marks of Leadership
- Principles of Evangelism
- Overcoming Barriers to Church Growth

### Barry Cameron
Sept. 23-25, 2008
- The ABC’s of Financial Freedom
- Preaching for Change
- Avenues to Growth

### Dale Holzbauer
- Breaking Through Plateaus
- Expository Preaching in the New Millennium
- Mobilizing Your Church Family to Re-Engage Ministry

### Bob Russell
Oct. 28, 2008
- Cultivating the Heart of the Leader
- Preaching That Builds Disciples in the Church
- A Veteran Looks at the Future

### Russell Johnson
Oct. 29-30, 2008
- Evangelism in the Age of Skepticism
- Firm Foundations
- Right by Reflex

### Geoff Faull
Nov. 11-13, 2008
- Building Bridges in the Brotherhood
- Home Improvement Minister’s Edition
- Healing Hurting Churches

### Pete Kunkle
Jan. 27-29, 2009
- Healthy Transitions
- Effectively Communicating Timeless Truths
- Creative Resources for Ministry

### Vince Antonucci
Feb. 10-12, 2009
- Jumping Into Chaos
- Ministering to the Un-Churched, De-Churched, and Anti-Churched
- Spiritual Passion

### Robin Hart
Mar. 17-19, 2009
- The Sacred Trust
- Becoming a Mission-Minded Church
- Overcoming Objections to Taking the Next Step

### Steve Reeves
Mar. 24-26, 2009
- Relevant Messages
- Stress, But Don't Fracture
- Sermon Preparation

### Jeff Hugus
Apr. 14-16, 2009
- Fulfilling the Great Commission
- Team Leadership
- Ministry Storms

### David Welsh
Apr. 21-23, 2009
- Developing Themes
- New Leaders
- Preparing to Move

### Willie Bolden
Mar. 10-12, 2009
- The Restoration Movement
- Breaking Down Barriers
- Cultivating Fellowship

The Sack School of Bible and Ministry invites you to share in this exciting time of learning and engaging the future. Contact us at 606-474-3274 or thebridge@kcu.edu.
Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

Core Courses: (18 hours)
- World Christianity
- Ethical Foundations of Christian Leadership
- Old Testament Research
- New Testament Research
- Bible/Theology Elective
- History of Christian Thought

Program Emphases: (18 hours, select one program)
- Preaching (NEW)
- Theological Studies
- Pastoral Care (Counseling)
- Christian Ministry
- Leadership Studies

*Students without sufficient Bible or ministry coursework at the undergraduate level may be required to take six additional hours of Bible/Theology.

Graduate Degrees In:
- New Testament
- Theological Studies
- Christian Ministry
- Pastoral Care
- Leadership Studies

Presented in Three Convenient Methods:
- Modular Courses
- On-Line Courses
- Traditional Courses

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Master of Arts in New Testament

Core Courses: (21 hours)
- New Testament Research
- Intertestamental History
- Ethical Foundations for Christian Leadership
- History of Christian Thought
- Old Testament Research
- Hebrew Language

Program Emphases: (15 hours, select one program)
- Greek Exegesis
- Biblical Backgrounds (NEW)

Introducing the M.A. in Christian Leadership with a Concentration in Preaching

This program offering is designed specifically to support the vision and busy lifestyle of today’s church leaders and paraprofessionals. All of the classes offered will be taught either in a one week modular format or online. You do not need to move to complete your degree!

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KCU Space Observatory is Popular Attraction

“What’s that?” can often be heard as campus visitors pass to the north side of the McKenzie Student Life Center and notice the oddly shaped building with the white domed roof. “That” is an observatory built to give science students a close-up view of the cosmos. Dr. Brendan Haynie, Associate Professor of Science, led an effort to finance the observatory, securing all of the funding from private sources.

Inside the observatory is an impressive computer controlled 10-inch reflector telescope. “The observatory is important for our students,” says Haynie, “but serves as a resource to the community as well. We hold KCU SkyKnights once a month and invite community residents to participate.” The next time you visit the campus be sure to stop by the only space observatory within 70 miles and ask Dr. Haynie for a peak at the planets.

Emergency Air Transport Certification Programs Add Value to Nursing Credentials

Helicopter service to be permanently located on KCU campus

President Keeran has announced an agreement between Air Methods Transport Services, Kings Daughters Medical Center, and the University to develop an Air Medical Orientation Program for students of the Yancey School of Nursing. The orientation program will address air transport safety and life support issues, and provide ride-along opportunities. AMTS Regional Director, Ron Walter, says the program will include two Heart Association Certifications for interested students.

Nursing students will have opportunity to enhance their credentials by adding certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Pediatric Life Support. The arrangement with Air Methods Transport Services will greatly benefit residents in our region while providing emergency services and added value to the University.

Bill Bondurant, Vice President of Finance at KCU said that under terms of the agreement a helipad will be permanently installed on the University campus and the air ambulance crew will reside in rented campus facilities. Under a contract with Kings Daughters Medical Center, AMTS provides ambulatory air transport for cardiac patients to the hospital’s state-of-the-art cardiac care center on its main campus in Ashland, Kentucky.

Faculty Promotions

Three members of the University faculty have been awarded promotions under the rank and promotion process implemented by the University in 2004. Dr. David Fiensy, Dr. Leonard Knight, and Dr. Charlie Starr each completed the rigorous promotion process in December 2007 and were recognized for their achievements and approved for promotion to the rank of Professor in February 2008. While the University has long valued excellence in teaching, faculty members are now required to demonstrate outstanding performance in the classroom as well as excellence in other areas such as scholarly productivity and the systematic use of assessment results to make quality improvements in their educational programs.

KCU Knights 2008 Football Schedule

August 28 • 8:00 pm
vs. University of Virginia - Wise

September 6 • 1:30 pm
vs. Kentucky Wesleyan College

September 13 • 1:30 pm
@ Bethany College

September 25 • 8:00 pm
vs. Pikeville College

October 9 • 7:30 pm
@ Georgetown College

October 18 • 1:30 pm
vs. Trinity Bible College

October 25 • 1:30 pm
vs. Faulkner University

November 1 • 1:30 pm
@ Southern Virginia University

November 8 • 1:30 pm
@ Cumberland University

November 15 • 1:30 pm
vs. Tri-State University
Passionate About Ministry?

Here’s your chance to move beyond good intentions!

Kentucky Christian University Sack School of Bible & Ministry

Academic Excellence
• Bible and Ministry faculty possess more than 150 accumulated years of ministry experience, and 90% hold a doctoral degree in their field, providing direct access to expertise and quality teaching.
• Bible and Ministry classes are academically rigorous and designed to equip students for the practice of ministry as well as the development of personal spiritual discipline. Professors invite students to enter into deep intellectual and spiritual dialogue with great thinkers and effective ministry practitioners.

Additional Program Benefits
• Programs in Bible and Ministry are interdisciplinary, so that students take classes in a broad variety of subjects. All degree programs allow for a minor outside of Bible and Ministry, allowing students to study subjects and develop skills that will further their ministries. A KCU graduate going into preaching ministry can also study business and management; another can study childhood development or counseling as part of preparation for youth ministry. Thus our graduates are better prepared for the diverse challenges they will face in ministry.
• KCU's Youth and Family Ministry Program is the largest of its kind among colleges sponsored by Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.
• All Bible and Ministry classes are taught in state-of-the-art smart classrooms. Our programs integrate instruction with unique internships in churches and para-church organizations throughout the world.

NEW!
The most exciting ministry program in America is coming to KCU this fall. Please see page 22 for complete information.

For more information about the Sack School of Bible & Ministry contact
Dr. Perry L. Stepp, Dean • 606-474-3119 • plstepp@kcu.edu
My name is Todd Maynard and I am a junior at Kentucky Christian University. I decided to attend KCU in the summer of 2006 as a result of being recruited to play football.

In the fall of my first semester I was not taking my studies as seriously as I should have been. Head Coach Damron called me into his office and told me that at KCU I had to “win in the classroom and on the field.” He also told me that his prayer for me and the other players was for us to develop a spiritual relationship with Christ, something I was not at all used to hearing.

I did not grow up in a Christian home. My mother and father died of substance abuse and my siblings and I lived in foster homes. I had a pretty rough time growing up. For me, playing college football was a dream that had become reality. It was my chance to excel in life. Talk of Christ and having a spiritual relationship with Him was new to me.

One of the guys in my dorm had asked me on several occasions to attend a devotion group he led but I never went. One night I decided to go, mainly because I hoped it would make him stop asking. That night something happened that I can't totally explain. I began to see clearly the condition of my life and that I needed help. Most importantly I realized I needed Christ. That night I accepted Jesus as my Savior. It seemed the entire campus came out to witness my baptism. It was about 11:00 pm! This is when I began to realize just how special KCU really is.

After my baptism and everyone cleared out I looked up and saw Coach Damron in the back of the room waiting on me. He gave me a hug, said he was proud of me and that his prayer for me to receive Christ had been answered.

My life changed dramatically. I had a new vision of what I wanted to do with my life and it included getting serious in the classroom. I was a different person. One of my favorite verses of scripture is II Corinthians 5:17 because it so accurately describes my new life in Christ. Paul writes, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation the old has gone, the new has come.”

With my life on track and a community of friends supporting me, a desire burned in me to get custody of my brother and sister. Because of the stability KCU had brought to my life and the help I received from my friends and teachers, I was able to meet the requirements necessary to get legal custody of Chad (17) and Kayla (13). We have been reunited as a family, living in the KCU apartments right in the heart of campus.

I have been so blessed by God and I am seeing a part of His plan for my life. I truly believe that I wouldn't have accomplished all that I have were it not for a small Kentucky university deciding to start a football program. Football is what drew me to KCU. There I met great Christian people I needed in my life. I found a place where I can get a quality education. KCU helped me get my brother and sister back. Most important it is where I met Jesus Christ.

Todd Maynard is currently a University Studies and Preaching major at KCU with plans to one day become a youth minister.
KCU: A Top Value in Intercollegiate Athletics

18 National Championships in 20 Years is Only a Small Part of the Story

by Rick Cooper

If there is one school in the country that knows the value of athletics, it is KCU. In the last 20 years, the school has celebrated 18 national championships in men's and women's basketball. The addition of NAIA football with a full varsity schedule this fall is providing another tremendous opportunity to shape lives and to develop "Champions of Character." The athletic program at KCU isn't just about creating excitement on campus and hanging championship banners in the gym. It's first and foremost about using athletics to teach valuable lessons that will impact the lives of students after their college years are over.

Coach Dick Damron used to say that the best ministers he knew were former student athletes. Whether you agree or not, there is no question that athletics can play an important role in molding us into the men and women God wants us to be. I know this is true, because I was a student who was changed because of the focus and philosophy of KCU's athletic program. Here are some of the ways my experience as a KCU student-athlete shaped my life.

KCU's athletic program taught me to pursue excellence. The goals for the men's basketball team were ambitious by design and included a 20-win season, a perfect record against other Christian college teams in our conference, a regional championship, and a national championship. I don't think there was another Christian college in the country that had expectations as high as we did, and that's probably why there are national championship banners hanging all over the walls of the KCU gymnasium – which is appropriately named the Donald R. "Dick" Damron Hall of Champions. Dick Damron and Eric Sudlow were my college basketball coaches. Both communicated a commitment to Christ and that meant a commitment to excellence. We as players bought into that commitment. They made it crystal-clear that being good wasn't good enough. They expected us to stay focused and would accept nothing but a 100% effort.

In the end it wasn't about winning at all. It was all about giving your best effort to what you did, leaving it all on the court, and walking out of the gym with your head held high because you had given everything you had to give. If that isn't a formula for success in life, I don't know what is.

Josh Piatt, a college teammate of mine said, "From the first day of conditioning, Coach Damron instilled in us the desire to play at a different level than all those other teams. I also learned the pursuit for excellence from the example of my older teammates."

That commitment to excellence paid off for Piatt. He became a three-time All-American, a member of three national championship teams, a national player of the year finalist, and he is still KCU's all-time leading scorer. It is thrilling to think of the number of former KCU athletes that are excellent in their marriages, their jobs, and their relationships with Jesus because they had coaches that instilled in them the importance of pursuing excellence beyond basketball, in all of life's greatest commitments.

Basketball also was an incredible way to learn sacrifice and the importance of setting priorities. Someone once said, "Sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love more." Some sports seasons last only a few months, but the basketball season at KCU was seven months long. It started with conditioning on Labor Day and went all the way into March. We didn't enjoy long holiday breaks like the average KCU student. There was no week off at Thanksgiving, or month off at Christmas. We spent that time training and practicing for the national tournament that was still months away.

I will never forget the two or three weeks of conditioning that started our season. I remember the excruciating pain that I felt in my legs while I did wall-sits against the side of Lusby Center. I remember the fatigue I felt from running the circuit, a rigorous running exercise that extended from one end of the campus to the other.

The Donald R. "Dick" Damron Hall of Champions

The Voice

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I also vividly remember my off-season sacrifices. During the summer of 1995, I trained every day for my senior season of KCU basketball while at the same time working three jobs. Those were sacrifices we all made because we loved basketball, and because we were determined to win. Playing basketball at KCU demanded sacrifice.

Looking back I am grateful for being forced to make choices between what is good and what is best. Choosing what is best often means you have to put on hold those things that will prevent you from reaching your goals. I have seen students arrive on campus determined to get their degree, only to become sidetracked by an unanticipated relationship. They found themselves distracted, lose their focus, and their goals fade because they were unwilling to sacrifice and stay the course.

Resilience

Playing college basketball taught me resilience and the importance of persistence. I was cut from the basketball team during my freshman and sophomore years. I thought about quitting school. I even called another college in the region about the possibility of transferring to play for them. But instead of taking the easy way out, I decided to work harder and to get better. To this day, the idea of quitting anything tears me up. The resilience that I learned through college basketball has bled over into almost every facet of my life.

Character

I believe character is learned and reinforced through KCUs athletic programs. I recognize that all of us as Christians have a responsibility to be “salt and light” in the world. But, as a former player, I also know what it’s like to ride in a bus that has enormous letters on the side that say “Kentucky Christian University.” I know what it’s like to have the word “Christian” all over your jersey, your travel bag, and your warm-up outfit. There is no greater platform to show Jesus than on the stage that we call athletics.

Ty Barnes is considered by many (including me) to be the best player in the history of KCU men’s basketball. What led Ty Barnes to KCU wasn’t the chance to play for a national championship or anything of the sort. Ty Barnes chose to give up a basketball scholarship at Shawnee State University to play at KCU because of the character he saw in the KCU squad.

During Ty’s freshman year at Shawnee State, the SSU Bears were running KCU right off the floor. What sold Ty on KCU was the character the Knights exhibited in that blow-out defeat. They didn’t lose their poise or their Christianity. They continued to give 100% and they continued to play as a team. The character that KCU displayed that night in defeat led the greatest player in KCU history to enroll the following year.

There is no way to measure the number of lives that have been touched by the character formation that comes through KCU’s sports programs. It blows me away to think that there are KCU grads all over the world that are exhibiting Christ-like character every day of their lives because they were challenged to maintain that character as a student-athlete.

Playing basketball at KCU has also taught me what matters most. Christy Wolber played on three national championship basketball teams in 1996, 1997, and 1998. She was also voted the 1999 National Player Of The Year. Wolber, now a successful coach and math teacher near Philadelphia, told me of a time at the end of her junior year when she had a teammate that was diagnosed with a brain tumor. “I saw how the body of Christ, as represented in our basketball team, pulled together and prayed for our sister in Christ,” Wolber said. “Basketball teams from all over the nation prayed for her and our team. It was obvious that basketball could not help with this tumor, but God could - and He did. Kathy was able to play one more season before going home to be with the Lord.”

I value the championship rings and the plaques that I have as reminders of our success, and I’m sure Christy Wolber does as well. But what we will always value more are the times that God used athletics to open doors for us to do ministry. I will never forget the chance to baptize a teammate during my senior year. I thank God for the opportunity to be used by Him when several of my teammates faced adversity after we left KCU. And, I thank God for the challenging times in my life when my teammates have been there as a support for me.

Don’t get me wrong. Athletic programs are not in themselves a total solution to life’s greatest challenges. The newspapers are full of stories about college and professional athletes who make terrible choices that ruin careers and destroy lives, but these tragic examples are not the standard by which sports programs should be judged. In the right hands, college sports are a wonderful tool that is being used successfully to teach important life skills.

The apostle Paul may have summed up the value of athletics best. “Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever” (I Timothy 4:8 in The Message) Praise God that the value of athletics doesn’t end when the workout ends in the gymnasium. Praise God that athletics shape us not only for today, but for our entire journey through life.

Rick Cooper is the Athletic Director and Campus Minister at KCU. Cooper played on back-to-back national championship teams in 1995 and 1996. He is also entering his seventeenth season as the play-by-play broadcast announcer for KCU athletics.
The KCU Lady Knights have done it again! The #1 seeded Lady Knights knocked off #3 Hillsdale Bible College (Moore, OK) 76-68 in overtime to win their fifth national championship in the last six years and their 11th title in school history.

Senior Jennifer Swann (Catlettsburg, KY), the 2008 National Player Of The Year, hit a 27-foot 3-pointer at the end of regulation to tie the game at 63. The shot seemed to rattle the resilient Lady Saints, who were outscored 13-5 in the overtime period.

The Lady Knights led comfortably after one half by the score of 33-22. KCU Head Coach Ron Arnett described his squad's play in the first half as “almost flawless,” but Hillsdale simply would not quit. The Lady Saints scored 24 points off of 27 KCU turnovers. Della Kimble led Hillsdale with 22 points and four assists.

Jenn Swann, the lone senior on the KCU squad, did what she does best—step up at crunch time! The Boyd County (KY) product led the Lady Knights in scoring in national championship game wins in 2005 and 2007. In last year's title game, she was a perfect 6/6 from the field, including 5 of 5 from beyond the arc.

Sophomore Christen Daniels (Russell, KY) and Swann were the only Lady Knights to score double digits in this year's contest, with 23 and 19 respectively. Daniels averaged 23.7 points and 8.3 rebounds in the national tournament en route to being named the tourney MVP. “Christen had possibly the best national tournament of any player I have ever coached,” Arnett said. “She could end up being the best post player we have ever had.”

Maybe the most exciting part of this year's victory was that it took place within the confines of the Dick Damron Hall Of Champions. “It was truly special,” Arnett said. “In another gym, it would have been exciting. To win it at home was truly an amazing opportunity for us all.”

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Jennifer Swann
NCCAA II National Player of the Year

Christen Daniels
NCCAA II National Tournament MVP

NCCAA II Awards:
1st Team All-Mideast Region .......... Christen Daniels, Jennifer Swann
2nd Team All-Mideast Region ........... Kelsie Thrasher, Ali Wyckoff
All-Mideast Region Most Valuable Player .......... Jennifer Swann
1st Team All-American ............... Christen Daniels, Jennifer Swann
National Player of the Year ............. Jennifer Swann
Scholar Athlete ......................... Caitlyn Brown, Kelsie Thrasher
All-Tournament Team MVP ............. Christen Daniels
The #5 seeded Knights opened tournament play with a convincing 100-81 win over #12 Crown College (MN). KCU shot a blistering 54% (20/37) from beyond the arc. The Knights postseason success continued in the national quarterfinals with a 73-72 win over #4 Central Bible College, the host school. Freshman Casey Jones capped a 13-2 KCU run with his only made field goal of the game (1/7 FG), a baseline three-pointer at the buzzer that punched the Knights’ ticket into the national semi’s.

Senior Matt Hackenberg was a huge factor in the win as well. Hackenberg, the nation’s assist leader at better than seven a game, scored 10 consecutive points down the stretch before Jones hit the game-winner. He finished with 33 points.

For the second straight year, KCU squared off with #9 Southwestern Christian University (Bethany, OK) in the national semi-finals. The Knights led by seven with four minutes left, but a 10-2 Southwestern run down the stretch proved to be the difference, as the Eagles knocked off KCU 64-61.

The Knights finished post-season play by knocking off #2 Valley Forge Christian College 83-79 in the consolation game on Saturday night.

“We are climbing the mountain again to gain another national championship,” said Coach Shouse. We continue to set the bar to go higher. My first year we felt fortunate to finish third. This year, there was a sense of frustration with the third place finish. My returning players stop in my office everyday to talk about getting back to nationals next year and taking care of unfinished business.”

The 2008 season concludes the careers of five seniors: Matt Hackenberg, Akeem Scott, Seth Baker, Bradley Walker, and Demarius Gulley. In just three seasons, Akeem Scott scored 2,100 points which puts him fourth on KCU’s all-time scoring list. He was a three-time All-American and a Maravich Award Finalist. Hackenberg finished fifth on the all-time scoring list with 2,098 points. He is #1 all-time at Kentucky Christian University with over 1,000 assists.
In January 2008 President Keith Keeran appointed a special taskforce to evaluate all aspects of the Alumni Relations function of the University. The Taskforce was charged with presenting recommendations to the President that would strengthen relations and enhance connectivity between KCU and its Alumni.

The Taskforce has completed its report and one recommendation garnering enthusiastic support is to change the date of the Alumni and Friends Banquet previously held in conjunction with spring graduation so that it coincides with a fall homecoming event. As a result we are pleased to announce the first annual KCU Fall Homecoming. Our theme will be “One Body.”

Alumni & Friends Banquet
On Friday, September 5 at 6:00 pm, Alumni & Friends will gather in the Dick Damron Hall of Champions for an unforgettable evening. There will be special recognition of outgoing President Dr. Keith Keeran as well as tentative plans to introduce the University’s next President by the Board of Trustees.

Dick Damron Memorial Golf Classic
On Friday, September 5 at 8:30 am we will host the Dick Damron Memorial Golf Classic at beautiful Hidden Cove Golf Course at Grayson Lake, ranked #4 nationally by “Golf Digest” Magazine. Proceeds from the Golf Classic will help fund scholarships for KCU students.

Yancey School of Nursing Dedication
On Friday, September 5 at 3:30 pm, there will be a dedication of the new Yancey School of Nursing facility.

Home Football Game & Tailgate Party
The KCU Knights will play the first home football game in the University’s history against Kentucky Wesleyan College on Saturday, September 6. Game time is at 1:30 pm and will be played at a local stadium. Watch our website for more information. You will want to join us for a fun-packed tailgate party at the stadium preceeding the game.

Mark your calendar NOW! This is one event you will not want to miss. Information regarding event registration and more details about the KCU Fall Homecoming will appear on the KCU website.
1940s

William “Bill” Sleasman (’49), in his retirement, just started his tenth year as Interim Minister with First Christian Church in Peoria. 3442 Wolf Creek Rd., Narrows, VA 24124. wj44sleasman@gva.net.

1960s

Ed (’69) and Cleat (Miller) (attd: ’65-68) Burns have two children, Heidi (34) and Joel (deceased at age 25). Ed is the Facilities Manager at Kern Regional Center. 210 Bedford Way, Bakersfield, PA 93308. edburns93308@sbcglobal.net.

Bob Lee (attd: ’62-65) and Marsha Grider five children, Kathy Wikoff (48), Connie McCullough (46), Kim Campbell (43), Robert Grider, Jr. (41) and Chris Grider (36), 414 N. Virginia St., Rockville, IN 47872.

Ken (’69) and Carolyn Mulpas have a new address. 15732 Power Dam Rd., Defiance, OH 43512. Ken is a Minister for Defiance Christian Church. kmulpas@defiancechristian.org.

James (’69) and Connie Barber (attd: ’67-68) Phelps celebrate James’ certification by the Association of Professional Chaplains in March 2008. James is the Chaplain at the St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis. 910 Bull Run W. Dr., Greenwood, IN 46143.

1970s

Jack (’77) and Georgia Crowe (Crowe) (attd: ’74-75) Bowman have two children, Troy and Eric. Jack is the Sr. Minister at Unity Christian Church. 40 Simmons St., Rockville, IN 47872.

Ned (’76) and Autum Griggs (attd: ’74-75) Byers have two children, Brett (23) and Summer (19). 5675 Sulphur Well Rd., Lexington, KY 40509. nebyers@windstream.net.

Alicia (Dick) (attd: ’76-77) and Teddy Carpenter have two children, Benjamin (15) and Rachel (12). Alicia is an ICU Nurse at the University of Kentucky Hospital. 128 Carolyn Ln., Nicholsville, KY 40356. alicia.carpenter@insightbhb.com.

1980s

Rod (’83) and Donna (Wall) (attd: ’81-82) Calloway have two children, Shayne (32) and Mandi (29). John is the new Executive Director and American Team Leader for the Christian Holy Land Foundation. 18725 Long Walk Ln., Noblesville, IN 46060. jsam@chlf.org.

Beatrice (Cool) Smith (’75) is a Human Resource Consultant for Marathon Oil Corporation. 710 Bellefonte Princess Rd., Ashland, KY 41101. beacool53@aol.com.

Gary W. Templeton, Sr. (’73) and Dr. and his wife Chelly have three children, Gary, Jr. (31), Jonathan (28), and Natalie (25). Gary is the Vice President of Programs for The GEO Group, Inc. 5154 Monterey Ln., Delray Beach, FL 33484. gtempleton@thegroupinc.com.

Mindri (Rieder) (attd: ’78) and Raymond Thora. Mindri is a Client Service Manager for Derrmann & Smith Personal Wealth Management. 2351 Mundys Landing, Versailles, KY 40383. mindri2913@peoplepc.com.

Debbie (Barr) (’75) and Ken Wilson have one child, Matthew (21). Debbie is an Academic Advising Coordinator for Shawnee State University. 1144 Iroquois Ave., Wheelerersburg, OH 45694. dwatson@shawnee.edu.

Keith (’72) and Sharon (Kourim) Wise (’71) have three children, Adam (32), Aaron (30), and Amber (28). Keith is the Minister at the St. Louis Church of Christ. Sharon received a MA degree in Elementary Education and is the Director of the Michigan School Readiness Program for the St. Louis School System. 426 Butternut St., St. Louis, MI 48880. kwj549@ispmgt.com.

Robert (’86) and Lise Kae Crouch have two children, Douglass (20) and Teri (15). Robert is a Captain at the Wayne Township Fire Department. P.O. Box 33, Livonia, IN 46149. robert_crouch@waynefire.org.

Kathy (Hawke) Dowdy (’89) is a teacher for the Lewis County School System. 13390 E. KY 8, Quincy, KY 41166. pkdowdy@alitel.net.

Faron Franklin (attd: ’85-89) is a Minister at the Allegheny West Christian Church. 220 W. Lincoln Ave., McDonald, PA 15057. FaronFranklin@hotmail.com.

Steven (’86) and Kayleen (Waugh) (attd: ’84-86) Holbrook have three children, Steven Cody (20), Lindsey Mae (18), and Sean Calder (15). Steven is a Middle School Intervention Specialist for the Upper Scioto Valley Middle School. Kayleen is a computer operator. 207 West St., P.O. Box 203, McGuffey, OH 45859. steven_holbrook@yahoo.com.

David (’87) and Julia (Rash) (’89) Hopkins have eight children, JD (17), Chad (15), Sarah (13), Jenna (12), Felicia (9), Macy (8), Celia (8), and Christian (3).
David is a Hearing Instrument Specialist and Julia is a home school teacher. 3980 S. St. Hwy, 7, North Vernon, IN 47265, dhopkins@christian.net.

Ric (85) and Diana Manns have one child, Michelle (25) and one new grandchild, Brooklyn Marie, born July 2007. Ric is a History Teacher at Scottsboro Middle School, 241 Greenway Dr., Scottsboro, IN 47170. rmanns241@insightbb.com.

Mike ('82) and Mary Lou (Retzer) ('82) Surgenor have two children, Bethany (20) and Jonathan (18). Mike is the Sr. Minister at Springfield Church of Christ and Mary Lou is an Endo Technician. 2402 Beatrice St., Springfield, OH 45503. mjsurgenor07@yahoo.com.

Launue (Aughinbaugh) ('83) and James Tate have two children, Brooke (20) and Spencer (16). 12524 Brownsferry Rd., Athens, AL 35611. launue1961@hotmail.com.

Rich ('87) and Kimberly (Brooks) ('87) McKinley have three children, Tyler, Travis, and Cody. Rich is Minister of Discipleship at Miamiusburg Christian Church. Kim is an Administrative Asistant at Springboro Baptist Church. Kim is an Administrative Assistant at Miamisburg Christian Church. Kim is an Administrative Assistant at Springboro Baptist Church.

Katie (13). Edward is a Fabricator for Windhausen Steel Services. 139 Hilltop Dr., Somerset, KY 40729. edwardwindhausen@gmail.com.

KCU Bus Goes Down For Major Engine Rebuild

Were bus trips a part of your life here at KCU? Think of the countless hours of trying to study (NOT), trying to catch a few winks (NOT), and just plain having fun on board the KCU bus!

The bus recently went down for a whopping $15,000 in repairs. This expense was totally unexpected and definitely not in the budget!

You can make a donation on-line or send a check to the business office. Be sure to indicate "Bus Repairs" in the memo section of your check or in the "Special Projects" area of the On-line Contribution Form located at "Support KCU" on the KCU website.

1990s

Lisa (Icenhowe) Abbott ('90) and her husband have a new address. 11208 Bybee St., Silver Spring, MD 20902. lisa.abbott@att.net.

Healey Apted ('97) is the Principal of Capstone Christian Academy which she founded in 2006. P.O. Box 3074, Butte, MT 59702. h_apted@yahoo.com.

Jeffrey S. ('83) and Tina Robinson have four children, Michael (19), Samuel (16), Cara (14), and Jacoby (11). Jeffrey is the Lead Pastor for the First Christian Church in Olive Hill. 109 Spring Hill Dr., Grayson, KY 41143. rtwaggoner@windstream.net.

Robert Timothy and Robin Waggoner ('89). Tim is the Senior Minister at the First Christian Church in Olive Hill. 109 Spring Hill Dr., Grayson, KY 41143. rtwaggoner@windstream.net.

Edward ('89) and Jennifer (Kennedy) ('89) Windhausen have three children, Christy (16), Robert (14), and Katie (13). Edward is a Fabricator for Guardian Industries and Jennifer is a Medical Secretary. 7 White St., Seneca Falls, NY 13148. edandjen4him@yahoo.com.

Tracy ('85) and Sandra (Bullock) ('85) Valentine. Tracy is a Social Services Clinician for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. 139 Hilltop Dr., Somerset, KY 42503.

Elaine (Banks) ('97) and Ron Bailey announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Grace in December 2007. Elaine is an Administrative Assistant for Clarion West Medical Center. 755 Daybreak Dr., Avon, IN 46123. enb31@hotmail.com.

Kye (attd: '91-92) and Andrea Bartlett have two children, Emma (3) and Ellie (2) and are expecting their third in June 2008. Kyle is a laborer for the Rogers Group. 471 Triton Pk., Bedford, IN 47421. timewizard@hotmail.com.

Tony ('97) and Karen (Bloemker) ('98) Clay have a new address. 1125 S. North St., Washington Court House, OH 43160. TheClays2002@msn.com.

Ric ('96) and Lynn (Hoover) ('97) Cooper announce the birth of Ty Carver in May, 2008. He joins brothers Ricky (6) and Price (4). rcooperr@kcu.edu.

Solomon ('96) and Alicia (Buteau) ('96) have three children, Shelby (7), Isabel (5), and Seth (1). Solomon is Sr. Minister at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ and Alicia is a stay-at-home mom. 730 N. 200 W., Wabash, IN 46992. aliciaedavid@hotmail.com.

Matthew ('97) and Jamie (Morford) ('97) have a new address. 1035 N. Jacksonburg Rd., Cambridge City, IN 47327.

Clarissa (Blevins) ('95) and Brian Drouin have three children, Bradley (19), Rachelle (18), and Jules Henri (5). Clarissa is a Teacher at the Quincy School District. 420 S. Lyle Ave., East Wenatchee, WA 98802. clarissadrouin@hotmail.com.

Donny ('92) and Angela (Nash) ('92) Gergely have three children, Faith (14), Alex (11), and Vima (11). Donny is the Worship Leader at the Terrace Church of Christ in Zanesville and Angie is a home school teacher and a Writing Coach for Write At Home. 329 Sandhurst Dr., Zanesville, OH 43701. gergelyangie@gmail.com.

Matt ('attd: '93-96) and Jen Gingerich announce the birth of their son, Jakob Eliot, born January 2008. 409 Terry Place, Hermitage, TN 37036.

Stacey (Wethington) ('attd: '99-00) and Tom Hansell have a new address. 2021 Summerfield Cir., Conover, NC 27613. staceyhansell@gmail.com.

Patricia (Lauders) ('attd: '90-92) and Cliff Hoagland have three children, Craig (13), Luke (9), and Sean (7). Patricia is an Assistant Property Manager for Hills Communities. 412 High St.,
New Richmond, OH 45157.
pattyhoagland@yahoo.com.

William “Bill” (‘91) and Lynne (Quisenberry) (‘86) Hobstetter have two children, Michal Beth (11) and Audrey (6). Bill is a Family Driven Evaluation Coordinator for Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children. Lynne is a Special Education Teacher. 817 Heavenly Ln., Cincinnati, OH 45238. hobstetter@fuse.net.

Homer (‘97) and Erin (Goodlin) (‘98) Holsted have two children, Claire (4) and Kate (1). Homer is an Associate Minister of Family and Youth at Bethlem Church of Christ. Erin is a Clinical Social Worker for HealthSource of Ohio. P.O. Box 275, Russellville, OH 45168.

Julianne (Talbot) (‘99) and Robert Jackson have one child, Brendan (4). 121 Hibiscus Ln., Winchester, KY 40391. rjackson00@yahoo.com.

Angela (Keeran) (‘98) and Todd Keane have two children, Moriah Faith (3) and Joshua Todd (1). 1608 Boxwood Ridge Ct., Simpsonville, KY 40067. akenean@insightbb.com.

Bret (‘99) and Ginger (Nagle) (attd: ‘95-99) Koontz have a new address. 1773 Hazelnut Ln., Aurora, IL 60504. bretkoontz@gmail.com.

Mollee (Cyders) (attd: ‘95) and Curtis Markins have seven children, Andria (16), Jesseca (14), Quinn (12), Emmalee (8), Alyssa (6), Garrison (5), and Jorgan (4). Mollee is currently a nursing student. 23236 Main St., Minerva, OH 44657. CMMarkins@aol.com.

Jennifer (Hall) (attd: ‘94-95) and Matt Morrison have three children, Logan (11), Laine (9), and Lilly (4). 501 Gainsesway Dr., Grayson, KY 41143. morrisonclan2005@yahoo.com.

Roy (‘90) and Diane (‘90) Moulden have a new address. 14671 NC Highway 87, Eden, NC 27288. rmoulden@triad.rr.com.

Shannon (Stacy) (‘96) and Robert Nedds have two children, Chloe (7) and Gabe (5) and are expecting their third in July. Shannon is a Teacher with the Okemos Public Schools. 994 Onondaga Rd., Holt, MI 48842. shannon.nedds@okemos.schools.net.

David Michael Page (attd: ‘89-92) and his wife have three children, Ruth (4), Naomi (2), and Benjamin (1). David is an Anesthesia Technician at The Children’s Hospital of Denver. 744 Mockingbird St., #302, Brighton, CO 80126. daviddpage@msn.com.

Barry (attd: ‘93-97) and Elizabeth (Church) (‘03) Pettit have one child, Jocelyn (1). Barry is the Senior Minister at East River Park Christian Church and Elizabeth is a Music Teacher. 523 Sabine St., Elizabethtown, KY 37643. barryspettit@gmail.com.

Dean (‘92) and Jennifer (Sutton) (attd: ‘91-91) Rase have two children, Jonathan (10) and Nathaniel (7). Dean is a Sales Manager for Lincoln Financial and Jennifer is a Teacher. 154 Valdez Cir., Georgetown, KY 40324. pdeanrase@roadrunner.com.

Liesl (Lambert) (‘99) and James Rice have one child, Melanie (12). Liesl is a First Grade Teacher at Green Elementary. 294 Wood St., Logan, OH 43038.

Rob (‘96) and Cindy (Mitchell) (‘96) Schoaff have four children, Samuel (9), Abigail (8), Andrew (6), and Grace (2). Rob is a Senior Minister at the Little Prairie Christian Church. Cindy is a Title One Aid at Albion Grade School. RR 1 Box 256, Albion, IL 62806. lpcppearach@yahoo.com.

Wes (‘93) and Marlena Sewell have three children, Abigail (9), Wyatt (7), and Jack (1). Wes is the Associate Minister at the Legacy Christian Church.

3750 Deborah Dr., Lakeland, FL 33810. wessewell@tampabay.rr.com.

Dr. Kari (Ruffner) (‘90) and Chris Shields announce the birth of their son, Konnor Meredith, born June 2007. Kari is a Family Practice Physician at the Bellefonte Outreach Center. 437 Riverwood Dr., Grayson, KY 41143.

Joe (attd: ‘89-91) and Heather Snyder have two children, Whitley (8) and Wyatt (2). Joe is a Senior Financial Analyst with Abbott Nutrition. 5777 Winshire Dr., Canal Winchester, OH 43110. Joseph.Snyder@Abbott.com.

Allison (Hall) (attd: ‘90-91) and David Steineker have four children, Madelyn (5), Mason (4), Micah (2), and Melody (1). 3913 Meadowland Dr., Prospect, KY 40059. steinekerfamily@insightbb.com.


Jason (‘92) and Tisha (Nolen) (attd: ‘90-92) Van Curen have two children, Callie (6) and Caleb (2). Jason is a Guidance Counselor for Kingsway Christian School. Tisha is a Speech-Language Pathologist for Brownsburg School Corp. 10452 Dark Star Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46234. jtvancuren@mac.com.

Melissa (VanHooste) (attd: ‘90-91) and Christopher Wagner have two children, Emilee (13) and Kaya (12). Melissa is a Teacher with the Falcon 49 School District. 11192 Tottenham Ct., Falcon, CO 80831. wagnermk@comcast.net.

Darren (‘95) and Amanda (Blair) (‘98) Walter. Darren is Sr. Minister at Grace Christian Church. 811 Osprey Pass, Katy, TX 77494. thewalters@thewalters.com.

Don (‘96) and Julia (Strange) (‘95) Watts. Don is the Minister at Fairview Christian Church and serves on the board for Remember the Children. Julia teaches Kindergarten at Austin Elementary. 2124 W. Fairview Rd., Underwood, IN 47177. wattsbuzz@ AOL.com.

Brian (‘95) and Deanna White have two children, Tyler (9) and Jade (6). Brian is the Youth Minister at the Batavia Church of Christ. 4236 Pleasant Acres Dr., Batavia, OH 45103. shirsa516@fuse.net.

William “BC” (‘97) and Beth (Richardson) (‘98) Wyatt have two children, William Current, III (5) and Phillip Andrew (1). BC is a Project Manager for Johnson Controls Inc., and Beth is a Kindergarten Teacher for the Beginning Christians Day School. 161 Ruddles Mills Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41031. bcwyatt@peoplepc.com.

2000s

Christopher Dale Bany (‘05) is an Account Executive with Relevant Media Group. 946 Fern Ave., #102, Orlando, FL 32814. cbany@hotmail.com.

Jodi (Wise) (attd: ‘99-02) and Joseph Barnett have one child, Shelby Grace (2). Jodi is an Elementary Pastor at White River Christian Church. 5490 Hill Crest Dr., Noblesville, IN 46062. jjsbarnett@hotmail.com.

Heather (Hill) (‘01) wed Matthew Bartlett. Heather is an Eighth Grade Teacher for the Rockwood School District. 5406 Knollwood Parkway Ct., Apt. K, Hazelwood, MO 63042. heyahill@yahoo.com.

Andrew (‘05) and Mandi (Wallis) (‘05) Bloemker. Andrew is a Student Minister for Christ’s Church and Mandi is a Pre-School Teacher. 712 E Gordon Ave.,


Effingham, IL 62401. andrewbloemker@hotmail.com.

Chelsea Britton ('06) is engaged to be married in September 2008. 2950 W. Winn Rd., Niles, MI 49120. kelseya@hotmail.com.

Crystal (Hart) Brown ('03) has a new address. 2697 E. Cottonwood Trl., Morristown, IN 46161.

Stephen ('05) and Bethany (Searle) ('04) Boring announce the birth of their son, Joshua Paul, born January 2007. Bethany is an Elementary Minister at The Cornerstone Christian Church. 116 Clinton Hill Dr., Swansea, IL 62226. bethanyboring@cornerstone-ch.org.

Jenni Button ('07) is the new Youth Director at Keeler General Baptist Church in Decatur. 6068 Mountain Rd., Coloma, MI 49038. jennibutton@gmail.com.

Ryan ('02) and Lanell Cadwell have two children, Danika (9) and Kadin (7). 288 Broadmoor Bend, Pittsboro, IN 46167. rscadwell@gmail.com.

Heather Caldwell ('00) is a Compliance Officer for St. Mary's Medical Center. 2660 4th Ave., Huntington, WV 25702. hcald0@hotmail.com.

Patrick ('04) and Sarah (Nelson) ('04) Cannon announce the birth of their son, Micah, born December 2007. Patrick is a Student Minister and Sarah is a Financial Analyst for Heidelberg USA. 351 Spring Ridge Dr., Dallas, GA 30157. patrickcannon23@yahoo.com.

Sean (attd: ’99-00) and Mary (Galde) ('03) Cockrell have two children, Isaac Christian (3) and Seth Christopher (2). Sean is an Art Teacher and Mary is a Special Education Teacher for Covington Independent Schools. 3060 Summit Dr, Independence, KY 41015. maryc413@yahoo.com.

Timothy Crowe ('04) is serving as a First Lieutenant with the United States Army in Iraq.

Dan ('04) and Alisha (attd: ’02-04) Davis have one child, Ethan (3). Dan is a Family Specialist with Whites Family Services. Alisha recently graduated from CCU and is a Supervised Family Visit Provider. 6735 Towering Ridge Way, Apt 168, Cincinnati, OH 45247. dand78@yahoo.com.

Justin ('06) and Amber (Whitacre) ('06) Davis. Justin is the Children's Minister at Boones Creek Christian Church and Amber teaches 6th grade at Gray Elementary School. 126 Rosewood Ln., Gray, TN 37615. onesong12@hotmail.com.

Gary Eavers, Jr. ('05) is the Owner of The Cheese Shop. 38 Shady Pond Ln., Stuarts Draft, VA 24447. eaversgl@gmail.com.

Shawn (attd: ’01) and Angela (White) ('03) Emerson have one child, Mikey (3). Shawn is in sales and Angela is an Optometric Tech with OnSight Eye Care. 1592 Hillcrest Ave., Columbus, OH 43207. angelae@onsighteyecare.net.

Christie (Johnson) Eting (attd: ’06) and her husband Christopher have a new address. 237 S Paint St., Chillicothe, OH 45601. dew1298@gmail.com.

Jared (attd: ’96-00) and Amanda (Munz) ('00) Ferguson have one child, Cadence Hope. Jared works at a Toyota Dealership and Amanda is a Case Manager. 88 Boyd St., Pikeville, KY 41501. jfmusician@yahoo.com.

Jessica (Sheroan) ('02) and Donnie Frye have one child, Jacob (2). Jessica is an Incident Manager for Bluegrass Regional MH/MR Board. 1100 Ashford Ln., Lexington, KY 40515. mrsfrye@hotmail.com.

Zachary ('07) and Joy (Misel) ('08) Griebenstreeh. Zach is the Sr. High Ministry Assistant and Joy is a Music Intern at Crossroads Christian Church. 4377 Epworth Rd., Newburgh, IN 47630. joyinthemorning3@hotmail.com.

Matt ('05) and Emily (Gagle) (attd: ’03-06) Hafer announce the birth of their daughter, Gretchen Mae, born June 2007. Matt is the Minister of Involvement at the South Side Church of Christ and Emily is a Collections Coordinator. 642 Belle-Aire Pl., Washington Court House, OH 43160. hafe4osu@yahoo.com.

Daniel ('06) and Christa (Salvagni) ('03-06) Hamon announce the birth of their son, Vitoria Daniel, born November 2007. Daniel is a supervisor at Starbucks and a TA at Fowler High School. 202 Gillis Ave., Syracuse, NY 13209. christandaniel@gmail.com.

Benjamin ('02) and Julia (Simpson) ('03) Hargis have one child, Addison Noel (1). Benjamin is a Mail Carrier for the USPS and Julia is a Middle School Music Teacher. 65 Outlook Dr., Owingsville, KY 40360. bennhargis@yahoo.com.

Joshua ('03) and Melony (Smith) ('01) Harman have two children, Anna Lynn (6) and Jacob (1). Joshua is a Church Advisor for The Lampo Group and Melony is a Musician. 211 Cooks Ct., Brentwood, TN 37027. josh.harman@daveramsey.com.

Nicholas ('03) and Heather (Updegrove) ('04) Hatch have one child, Lily (1). Nicholas is a Youth Minister for Eastland Christian Church and Heather stays at home with Lily. 6246 Lowridge Dr., Apt. A, Canal Winchester, OH 43110. eastlandchristianick@yahoo.com.

Jesse (attd: ’00-06) and Adam ('09-01) Harsen have one child, Jackson (3) and another on the way. Jesse is a Music Director at First Christian Church of Zeigler. info@gospelfortheroma.com.

Leanne (Bolton) ('01) and James Hitt. Leanne is a Teacher at the Learning Time Preschool. 766 Lake Nora South Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46240. leannahitt2003@yahoo.com.

Darrell ('02) and Danielle Hoots. Darrell is a Sales Manager for Pepsi Bottling Ventures. 1900 Skycrest Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27127. darrellhoots@yahoo.com.

JR ('07) and Heather (Rose) ('07) Horn. JR is a Student Minister at First Christian Church of Kenosha and Heather is an Elementary Teacher. 3816 40th St., Kenosha, WI 53144 horn@kenoshafcc.com.

Barry ('01) and Dana (Robinson) ('97-99) Jenkins have three children, Noah (8), Lucy (7), and Sophia (5). Barry is a Banker at JP Morgan Chase Bank and Dana is a Homemaker. 350 Springfield Cir., Greenwood, IN 46143. barry.j.jackson@jpmbchase.com.

William ('07) and Sarah (Pulliam) ('95-96) Jennings have two children, Kason (8) and Abigail (6). They are planting a church in Middlesboro, KY. Bill is a Case Manager for Benchmark Family Services. Sarah is a Loan Officer for ARH Federal Credit Union. Rt. 7 Box 994, Pineville, KY 40977. kasonabby@yahoo.com.

Anne-Marie (Begley) Johnson ('05) Anne-Marie is expecting her first child in October 2008. 113 Sidney Dr., Mt. Sterling, KY 40353. anne-marie.johnson@pathways-ky.org.

Michael Johnson ('06) is employed by Creative Artists Agency. 408 Brentwood Oaks Dr., Nashville, TN 37211. michaelajohnson815@gmail.com.

Travis ('01) and Emilie (Dunham) ('02) Jones have one child, Melilla (2). Travis and Emilie have joined New Missions Systems International and are serving the Gypsy people in Bulgaria. P.O. Box 547, Fort Myers, FL 33902. info@gospelfortheroma.com.

Jeffrey Kimberly ('07) is a minister at the First Christian Church of Zeigler. 110 W. Maryland St., Zeigler, IL 62999. jpkimberly@att.net.

Matthew David ('05) and Melissa (McKinley) (attd: ’04-05) Kuttler.
Matthew is the Senior Minister at New Alexander Christian Church and Day Manager at Chick-fil-A. Melissa is the Student and Activities Director at Kent State University. 861 Washington St., Salem, OH 44460. mdkutletter@att.net.

**Robert** (’08) and **Robyn (Ragsdale)** (’05) **Lansdale** have a new address. 1259 Swann Beatty Rd., Camden, OH 45311. fikkid11@gmail.com.

**Nathan** (’05) and **Heather Lawless** have three children, Alex (10), Victoria (5), and Jacob (4). Nathan is the Youth Minister at Chrisl Hope Ministries and Church. 5319 Stonehedge Blvd., Apt 6, Fort Wayne, IN 46835. nathanl@chmas.org.

**Patricia Leathers** (’06) is a First Grade Teacher at Sunny Heights Elementary. 6627 Heron Neck Dr., Apt G, Indianapolis, IN 46217. triciad7@hotmail.com.

**Kevin** (’02) and **Jeffrey (Malernee)** (’03) and **Jon Recher** (’00) and **Kim (Ragsdale)** (’05) **Trybush** announce the birth of their son, Preston Reid in October 2007.

**Heather** (’03) and **Cory Mounce** announce the birth of their son, Preston Reid in October 2007.

**Heather** is an Eighth Grade Math Teacher for North Middle School. 7551 Chatham Cir., Knoxville, TN 37909. heathermm@knology.net.

**Andrew J.** (’05) and **Aimee Mullholland.** Andrew is an Associate/Youth Minister at the Elizaville Christian Church. 280 Asbury Rd., Flemingsburg, KY 41041. aimeemullholland@hotmail.com.

**Brian** (’10) and **Amy (Love)** (’94) **Murphy** have two children, Madeleine (9) and Mason (5). Brian is a US Army Chaplain and Amy is a School Base Therapist for Centerstone. 135 Overlook Rd., Dover, TN 37058. amy.murphybsw@yahoo.com.

**Elizabeth (Shirey)** (’00) and **Robert** (’05) **Watford** have one child, Noah (1). Chris is the Youth Minister at Georgetown Christian Church. 481 Yenowine Ln., Georgetown, IN 47122. ctanner@chmas.org.

**Cameron** (’03) and **Elizabeth (Shirey)** (’01) **Watford** have one child, Abigail Carolina (1) and expecting their second child in October 2008. Cameron is the Worship Arts Pastor at The Christian Church at Cogan Station. Libby is the Student Ministry Director there as well. 194 Northway Rd., Williamsport, PA 17744. cameron.watford@coganstationchurch.org.

**Timothy** (’03) and **Katie Yankey** have two children, Aly (3) and Eli (1). Tim is the Executive Director for Howell’s Mill Christian Assembly. Rt. 2, Box 118, Ona, WV 25545. timyankey@howellsmill.org.

**Jon** (’01) and **Laura (Lehman)** (’02) **Smith** have two children, Hannah Grace (3) and Hillary Faith (2). Jon and Laura are Children’s Ministers at Hazelwood Christian Church.com. 5676 Yorktown Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168. Jon@minister2kids.com.

**Tommy** (’05) and **Megan (Oliver)** (’07) **Swart** were married in the Summer of 2007. 101 Sturbridge Ln., Winchester, KY 40391. meg54101@aol.com.

**John Christopher** (’02) and **Andrea Tamer, Jr.** have one child, Noah (1). Chris is the Youth Minister at Georgetown Christian Church. 481 Yenowine Ln., Georgetown, IN 47122. ctanner@georgetownchristian.org.

**Jon Recher** (’00) and **Laura (Lehman)** (’02) **Smith** have two children, Hannah Grace (3) and Hillary Faith (2). Jon and Laura are Children’s Ministers at Hazelwood Christian Church.com. 5676 Yorktown Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168. jon@minister2kids.com.

**Tommy** (’05) and **Megan (Oliver)** (’07) **Swart** were married in the Summer of 2007. 101 Sturbridge Ln., Winchester, KY 40391. meg54101@aol.com.

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**In Loving Memory**

**Virgil Carico** (’92) died December 16, 2007

**Brian David Reid** (’92) died May 1, 2008

**Jennifer Christin (Spence) Reid** (’02) died May 1, 2008

**Dr. Lewis “Lee” Snyder** (’70) died March 27, 2008

**Rodney L. Stinger** (’87) died April 1, 2008

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**Alumni Help Ease the “Weight” of Equipment Cost!**

Thanks to all Alumni who generously contributed to the cost of the new weight room equipment recently installed in the KCU Athletic Field House. Your contributions are so much appreciated!
An effective college or university presidency requires many things, not the least of which is an involved First Lady. In this “Alumni Spotlight”, KCU alumnus Tammy Nischan gives you an inside look into the life of Topsy Keeran (KCU Class of 1964), the First Lady of Kentucky Christian University.

Proverbs 31
29 Many women are capable, but you surpass them all!
30 Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised.
31 Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

When you hear the phrase “First Lady,” what comes to your mind? I once imagined someone who “lived a life of leisure because of her husband’s position.” After 19 years of knowing KCU’s First Lady, however, my perception of this role has been totally transformed! Topsy Keeran has shown me time and time again that a true Christian “First Lady” places herself anywhere but first. Topsy’s passion for Christ ranks number one on her list followed by her love and service to family and friends.

In July of 1989 my husband and I, along with our two-year old son Erich, arrived in Grayson, Kentucky, to become part of the KCU family and the Grayson community. Knowing very little about this wonderful little town, fear and uncertainty mixed quite heavily with feelings of excitement and wonder. However, a very special lady who at the time I only knew as “Topsy” greeted us and brought her teenage daughter to play with Erich while she helped me unpack box after box of dishes and household items. I suddenly felt welcomed and loved.

Through the years, I have been blessed to become Topsy’s friend. Watching her humbly interact with college students and wives of faculty and staff has been nothing less than inspiring. On few occasions her home has been limited to only her family. New residents have moved in and out of the Keeran home over the years forming bonds that have become life-long friendships. When someone is in need, Topsy is in touch. Whether it’s cleaning bathrooms, sewing on buttons, hemming pants, cooking meals, or driving someone to and from the hospital, Topsy is truly a “phone call away.”

As I thought about what you should know about this amazing woman (who would have protested this article had she known it was being written), I thought about the significance of her name. She came into this world as “Nancy Lee Fleischman,” but her father gave her the nickname “Topsy” based on a character in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin. This special name stuck with everyone and, like Topsy, is unique and sets her apart from all of us with normal names like Tammy, Jane, Lisa, etc. Topsy is Topsy, and there is no other Topsy! I have often heard the phrase, “Everyone needs a Topsy!”

So I looked at her special name and felt that it stands alone as a representation of her life.

T-Trustworthy
I Timothy 3:11, “In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.”

If Topsy says she will be there for you, you can count on it. Her ability to remember tiny obligations like coming to sit at your house with a sleeping baby while you run other kids to school simply amazes me. Her calendar is concise and organized. She is diligent to keep her word! As the First Lady of KCU, Topsy has truly been a woman “worthy of respect.”

O-Opportunity Maker
Colossians 4:5, “…make the most of every opportunity.”

Regardless of the occasion, Topsy finds a way to be used. Whether it is planning a large event
or doing a thoughtful deed, Topsy does not allow an opportunity for service to pass her by. When our daughter died of SIDS in 1992, Topsy prepared daily devotions and invited me to her home every morning for weeks as I worked through my grief. When our son Nick was in the hospital going through chemo, Topsy helped me plan meals, keep up with my laundry, and survive the day-to-day “mother moments” that my other children were missing. I have witnessed her being there for many others just like she is for me. If you could interview anyone who has been blessed to share life with Topsy, you would hear the same thing over and over again…Topsy truly makes the most of every opportunity to love, serve, and share.

P-Productive

Hebrews 6:10-11, “God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.”

Topsy rarely has a day where she gets nothing accomplished. If she is not busy helping others, she is busy at home – cooking, cleaning, taking care of her grandkids, or driving to West Virginia to care for her ailing parents. At an age when most women “retire” and begin “living for themselves,” Topsy enjoys being the sponsor for the KCU Cheerleading Squad and traveling to every football and basketball game that she possibly can! She volunteers in the bookstore during pre-registration in order to help with the excessive traffic. For years, she organized and orchestrated a women’s group on campus called “Priscillas” for non-traditional female students. Ladies’ Day was an event that Topsy helped coordinate and lead throughout her time as KCU’s First Lady. The list goes on and on. Topsy could be listed as a definition of “productive” in the Webster’s Dictionary, and anyone who knows her would agree! She sets an amazing example of someone who is committed to being “diligent to the very end!” Thank you, Topsy.

Y-Yes!

Proverbs 31:27, “She watches over the activities of her household and is never idle.”

Are you in need? Are you hurting? Are you lonely? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then I pray for you a “Topsy!” Topsy exemplifies “yes.” I have never found her to be “too busy or too tired” to help anyone. As a wife, she keeps her husband’s home impeccable, his clothes spotless, and his meals tailored to his dietary needs. As a mom, she offers counsel, childcare, and love consistently and selflessly. As a daughter, she gives tirelessly of her time and energy every chance she can. As a friend, she inspires, encourages, and motivates.

I used to read Proverbs 31 and feel bewildered. I felt that the ability to become this type of woman was an allusive dream. However, after 19 years of sharing life with Topsy, I can truly say that I have met the true “Proverbs 31 woman!” She has inspired me to be a better wife, mother, daughter, and friend. She has taught me how to be organized, hospitable, resourceful, and creative. She has taught me how to love unconditionally.

God says, “The first shall be last and the last shall be first.” Topsy has taken her role as “First Lady” and achieved the goal of keeping herself anywhere but first. May her humble service remind us daily that our rewards are not here on earth but in a higher and eternal place. KCU has been wonderfully blessed by Topsy Keeran. She has won a place in our hearts and we celebrate her life in this Alumni Spotlight.

S-Servant

1 Peter 4:9-11, “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Topsy has mastered the ability of using her gifts to serve others. Her heart beats to the drum of selfless service. Her energy comes from helping others. Being there for people in times of crisis is a gift of Topsy’s that she uses to “faithfully administer God’s grace.” Knowing how much Topsy loves the Lord helps me understand how she is able to do all that she does, because I truly believe she uses the “strength God provides.” Doing so, she allows God to receive the “praise through Jesus Christ.”

Tammy Nischan (KCU class of 1999) is a homemak,
For nearly 90 years Kentucky Christian University has served as a leading force in the training of Christian leaders throughout the world. Now, through KCU Training Seminars, we are bringing KCU right into your church.

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