View From The Hill   
(03/04/10)   
  
**Hospice/Colloquium**

Hospice of Southern Kentucky has found a way to partner with WKU in order to train future hospice volunteers.  
  
Amy Bingham has details in this week’s “View from the Hill.”  
  
Touring a funeral home probably isn’t the way most of us would choose to spend an afternoon.   But for a class discussing life and death, it’s just part of the curriculum.  
  
Students in Dana Bradley’s Colloquium class on life and death never expected to be looking at caskets…  
   
“I’ve never really thought about dying, myself dying…”  
  
Or learning how a body is embalmed….  
  
But a tour of Johnson Vaughn Phelps Funeral Home isl part of hospice training for these honors students.  
   
”When you come in to funerals you have so many questions but it’s not the time to ask those questions so it was interesting for me to come into a funeral home, not under those circumstances you know and learn behind the scenes and how it all goes.”  
   
“By the time we train a student to be able to volunteer with us, their time is up.”  
  
Hospice Community Development Coordinator Julie Pride says training this colloquium class is an investment in students truly interested in the topic.  
   
“What we did was modify the volunteer training just a little bit so we could fit into their class schedule so by the time they are done with spring semester, they will have been trained as hospice volunteers.”  
  
Junior Natalie Peak agrees it’s a wonderful opportunity.  
   
“It’s become so much more than any other class cause we get to do hands on and actually have a future invested in hospice volunteering.”  
While it’s far from a typical classroom setting, the discussion goes a long way toward bringing awareness to a normally taboo topic.  
  
“We dispelled some of their beliefs that they had about working with people who are dying.”  
  
From the funeral home, the students headed over to hospice to tour their facility and see first hand what volunteers do.  
  
With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.