Center for Gifted Studies – 30th Anniversary

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America wasn’t the only birthday being celebrated last weekend….it was also the 30th year for the Center for Gifted Studies at WKU.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks at how far the center has come in the past three decades.

Super Saturdays, summer camps, workshops, maybe even high school. Chances are, you or someone you know has passed through the halls of the Center for Gifted Studies. And after thirty years, it’s time to celebrate!

You couldn’t have asked for a brighter day at the 30th anniversary celebration of the Center for Gifted Studies.

Even the entertainment had ties to the program’s history.

 “I still have so many great memories of the camp here and the trip to England. It’s been wonderful.”

Jon Crosby is one of thousands of alumni of the Center for Gifted Studies. They were all invited back to celebrate the thirty year milestone.

 “Thirty years come far quicker than anyone would ever suspect.”

The Center’s Executive Director Julia Roberts has been here since the beginning.

 “ Probably been an advantage to the center that there’s been continuity from then until now.”

She says it all started in 1981 with a meeting between herself, former College of Education Dean J. T. Sandefur and a group of people interested in gifted studies.

 “Out of that came the need to offer graduate classes, graduate classes led to a practicum which was a summer program and things have just snowballed over the years.”

Because the practicum required young people for teachers to teach, SCATS, also known as The Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle Schoolers was born in 1982 followed by Vampy (Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth) in 1983.

 “Here at the camp, they’re able to partner in labs and groups, and you could see how excited they were to be around other kids just as excited about studies as they were.”

The Center also provided the perfect setting for the Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Math and Science in Kentucky, recently named to Newsweek magazine’s list of top five high schools in the nation.

 “We’re happy to provide services for gifted children, for educators and their parents.”

During the celebration last weekend, a group of VAMPY alumni announced they were initiating a fund to raise  $500 thousand dollars over a five year period to support The Center for Gifted Studies.
 With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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