Julie Ransdell – Distinguished Service Award

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Julie Ransdell does not like the spotlight. But that’s exactly where she found herself at last week’s Summit awards when she received a prestigious honor. Amy Bingham talks with the wife of WKU President Gary Ransdell in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s been a nostalgic time for Gary and Julie Ransdell as he prepares to end his reign as WKU President in 2017. It’s also the perfect time to sit down with Julie to find out what her life on the hill has been like these last 19 years.

It’s a year of lasts for Gary and Julie Ransdell.

“We’ve put our heart and soul into this university.”

But this year’s Summit Awards marked a first as Julie was the one behind the microphone after receiving the Distinguished Service Medal.

“The last thing she wants is recognition- ahh no big deal, well, she’s been a big deal to this university.”

Still this university president’s wife is more than happy to fly under the radar.

“You. Know I’m a backseat girl, you know that. I’d rather be in a back row, the back seat, I don’t like to be front and center.”

Behind the scene work has been a huge part of Julie’s role as the President’s wife.

“How many tables do you order, what size tablecloths?. How much food for 120 people?. That has been my job and it’s a big job and I’ve enjoyed every single minute and after twenty years I’m pretty good at it.”

One of Julie Ransdell’s biggest passions is the WKU Sisterhood.

“It’s by far my favorite group on campus to be involved with in fundraisers.”. She’s also very close to WKU’s student ambassadors.

“Spirit masters picked us up from the airport when we came in for our interview, so spirit masters are near and dear to my heart.”

Of course she cherished her time as a baseball parent.

“When the boys played baseball here it was a special eight years of a second baseman.”

She’s also traveled the world.

“Our two favorites would be Africa and the Galopogas Islands.”

Julie Ransdell knows what she will miss…

“Our interaction with the students, that’s why we’re all here to begin with…”

And what she won’t…

“I won’t miss the every night scheduling, we have something almost every night of the week.”

And when reflecting on what led these college sweethearts to this milestone at the Summit Awards, Julie shared a childhood song. “The bear went over the mountain to see what he could see.”

“I married that bear.”

Julie went on to say that she and her husband have spent the past nineteen years climbing mountains for WKU. A Presidential Search is currently underway as Gary Ransdell is planning to retire at the end of the spring semester. With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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