I am pleased to present to you Western Kentucky University’s 2009-10 Annual Report – “The Spirit of WKU” This is an opportunity to share with you a summary of what our students, faculty and staff accomplished during the 2009-10 academic year and to provide a preview of where we are headed in the year to come. In the face of continued economic challenges, we made the decision last year to re-evaluate and scale back our 2007-12 Challenging the Spirit Strategic Plan. Much of that plan was based on economic conditions that changed significantly in the wake of a regional, national and global recession, so we revisited our plan and crafted a more realistic, nonetheless challenging, Strategic Guide for 2010-2012. The new plan is one that I believe those in the WKU family are prepared to pour their hearts and souls into achieving. It includes three broad priority categories to which we will devote our limited resources, time and effort: Academic Quality, Efficiency and Sustainability, and Physical Plant Improvement.

Academic Quality is at the heart of everything we do. Impressive gains in academic quality are the recruitment and retention of the best faculty and students; elevating admission standards for students; supporting college preparedness at the secondary level; encouraging students in pursuit of degree completion; and providing a quality educational experience for our students and position ourselves to respond to the economic needs of our region of Kentucky.

Graduating students who are prepared to compete in a global economy is another measure of academic quality. This past year we established two very prestigious programs that extend our international reach into China. In 2010 WKU became the home of Kentucky’s first Confucius Institute which is a Chinese language and cultural outreach program funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education. We also announced establishment of the Chinese Language Flagship at WKU, a U.S. Department of Defense initiative designed to accelerate Chinese language proficiency and provide students with opportunities to work and study in China.

I am perhaps most pleased that our friends and alumni have continued to support our capital campaign, “A New Century of Spirit” throughout this economic downturn. Most of these gifts support endowed faculty positions and student scholarships—essential elements that have lasting impact and strengthen academic quality at our institution. The $200 million campaign began in 2007 and is projected to exceed the $200 million goal by 2012.

A second category to which we have and will continue to devote resources and effort are Sustainability and Efficiency. Our students, faculty and staff want WKU to be a model for environmental stewardship in conserving our limited natural resources, and indeed, WKU is a national model in this regard. Another compelling and perhaps more pragmatic reason that these items have risen on our priority list is that fortunately, good sustainable practices help us save money. While we cannot absorb all budget reductions through efficiencies, the savings we have created through these efficiencies have indeed been used to minimize the impact on student services, course offerings and faculty and staff positions.

One initiative we have taken in the Sustainability and Efficiency category is our commitment to building standards that exceed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria in all renovations and new construction. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary consensus-based national rating system for developing high performance, sustainable buildings. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

Our third priority category, Physical Plant Improvement, has been a major focus for me since I came to WKU 13 years ago. Many of our buildings and particularly the campus infrastructure are more than 40 years old, and our continued enrollment growth demands more space, better technology and an inviting campus environment. Since 2007, we have completed $187,000,000 in new capital construction and major building renovations at WKU. Two construction projects that I am delighted to mention were completed over the last year include the Chandler Chapel and the renovation of Van Meter Hall, which was originally constructed a century ago. Three additional construction projects are scheduled for completion over the next two years.

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Finally, I want to express my personal appreciation to the WKU Board of Regents, not only for their leadership but also for their kindness in naming the new building that will be home to our College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in honor of my tenure as WKU President. While I have many years of service to WKU ahead of me, Julie and I are deeply grateful for this ultimate recognition on the campus we hold so dear.

Certainly we will continue to face challenges, but I remain energized and excited for what is to come in the year ahead. I invite you to be a part of the unique spirit that is the driving force behind everything we do at WKU.

The Spirit Makes the Master.
Dr. Robert Owen
joined WKU in Fall 2009 as Vice President for Information Technology (IT). Dr. Owen has 23 years of management experience in small, medium, and large educational organizations, including university central system offices, university campuses, community colleges, and K-12 public education systems; 15 of those years were spent in senior leadership positions. Dr. Owen has extensive experience in strategic planning, capital and operational budgeting, contract negotiation, and administration; facilities construction; crises management; and team building and employee development. Dr. Owen is known for his dedication to excellence, honesty, and integrity.

Dr. Gordon Emslie
joined WKU in Summer 2010 as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Emslie was born in Hamilton, Scotland, and attended the University of Glasgow, earning bachelor’s and doctoral degrees in astrophysics. He was a Research Assistant at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and a Research Associate at the Institute for Plasma Research at Stanford University. He then served as a faculty member at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he became Chair of the Department of Physics and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, and most recently held the position of Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College at Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Emslie has earned master’s degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Atmospheric Science, and Materials Science, and a Bachelor of Arts in French, all from The University of Alabama in Huntsville. His research interests are in high-energy solar astrophysics, and he is a co-investigator on the NASA Ramaty High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (RHESSI) mission. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer.

Dr. Kathryn Costello
joined WKU in Spring 2011 as Vice President for Research and Development. Ms. Costello has more than 30 years of experience in development, strategic planning, and management. She has been Vice President at four universities, including Southern Methodist University, Maryland, Rice and Georgia. Ms. Costello joined WKU from the University at Buffalo, where she served as Vice President for Development since 2006. She was a partner of Alexander Haas Martin and Partners in Atlanta, where she provided clients a wide range of services, including strategic planning, board and leadership development and philanthropy. She has held other university leadership positions at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Vanderbilt University.

Her professional accomplishments include planning and implementing capital campaigns totaling more than $1 billion. A native of Georgia, Costello received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Kentucky. She serves as a trustee of the International Board of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and has served as a board member on nonprofit organizations in several cities.

Mr. Ross Bjork
returned to WKU in Spring 2010 as the Director of Athletics. Mr. Bjork had worked the previous five seasons as the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development and External Relations at UCLA. He has 18 years of intercollegiate athletics experience as an administrator and student-athlete, having also worked on the senior staffs at the University of Miami and the University of Missouri. He also served as Assistant Development Coordinator at WKU in 1996-97. Bjork, 38, is the youngest Athletics Director among the 120 members of the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Dr. Gordon C. Baylis
joined WKU in Summer 2010 as Vice President for Research and President of the WKU Research Foundation. Dr. Baylis will lead the growth of research, creative activity, and economic development for WKU. Dr. Baylis came to WKU from the University of South Carolina where he held several administrative positions including Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Associate Vice President for Research. Prior to that, he served as Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Baylis attended the University of Bristol where he received a BSc in Biochemistry and a DVM. He earned a Master’s of Science in Psychology from Sussex University. Dr. Baylis also earned his D.Phil in Neuroscience from the University of Oxford. His research interests are in the area of cognitive neuroscience.

Mr. J. David Porter
Joined WKU in Fall 2009 as Vice President for Student Affairs. Mr. Porter has 18 years of experience in education, administration and student services, including leadership and management roles at a number of institutions of higher education in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. Prior to joining WKU, Mr. Porter served as Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of South Carolina where he held the position of Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, overseeing the offices of Student Life, Student Affairs, CampusLife, and Student Affairs. Mr. Porter received his B.A. degree from the University of Virginia and Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Carolina, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors of the University of South Carolina Student Alumni Association. Mr. Porter is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and is married to Carrie Hightower Porter with one daughter, Abigail, and two sons, Jordan and Cameron.
WKU Cyber Defense Lab is awarded $1.2 Million for an 18-month cooperative agreement with Electronic Warfare Associates and the University of Arizona to work on one of the nation’s top priorities: cybersecurity, the protection and encryption of digital data, identities, finances and transactions, and intrusion detection and prevention methodologies.

WKU reaches a milestone: surpassing enrollment of 20,000 students as the first members of the Class of 2013 arrive on the Hill. Official enrollment for 2009-2010: 20,712.

WKU signs joint admissions agreements with Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) campuses in Madisonville and Owensboro, offering KCTCS students a seamless path to a four-year degree. The Joint Admissions/Joint Enrollment Initiative allows students to be admitted to WKU and these KCTCS institutions at the same time, giving students access to more resources, including advising, libraries, labs and student services.

WKU is the new home to the Chinese Flagship Institute Pilot. The Flagship is an intensive, four-year language program funded through the Diffusion of Innovation Flagship Partner Planning Grant from The Language Flagship of the National Education Security Program at the U.S. Department of Defense.

WKU is named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright students. WKU is included in a list of colleges and universities producing 2009-2010 Fulbright Fellows. The success of the top producing institutions was highlighted in the Oct. 19 print edition of “The Chronicle of Higher Education.” Two WKU students won Fulbright awards for 2009-2010.

The College Heights Herald and the Talisman win national Pacemaker awards at the National College Media Convention in Austin, Texas. WKU was the only university to take home national Pacemakers in both newspaper and yearbook competition. The Herald has won the national Pacemaker 12 times. The Talisman has also won 12 national Pacemakers, including five awards since resuming publication in 2003.

WKU announces that it has surpassed the $150 million mark in its five-year, $200 million New Century of Spirit Campaign. A $500,000 estate commitment for scholarships from Karen (’66, ’71) and David Matchus of Tampa, Fla., moves WKU over the $150 million mark.

Wildlife Taggart is named WKU Head Football Coach after serving as running backs coach at Stanford from 2007-2009. Taggart previously spent eight seasons as an assistant coach at WKU from 1999-2006 and served as co-offensive coordinator for WKU’s 2002 I-AA National Championship team. A standout player at quarterback who set 11 school records for the Hilltoppers from 1995-98, Taggart is one of only four players in WKU’s 91-year football history to have his jersey retired.

In its largest December graduation, WKU confers degrees upon nearly 1,200 students and presented an honorary doctorate to state Rep. Jody Richards. WKU conferred degrees to 1,191 students (72 associate’s, 908 baccalaureate, 211 master’s) along with five recipients of a doctoral degree in education administration offered cooperatively by WKU and University of Louisville. More than 850 graduates participated in the ceremony at Diddle Arena.
The renovation of Van Meter Hall comes to completion. The $21,811,000 construction project includes a 14,000 square foot addition housing a large stage along with a multi-purpose room, various musical storage areas and a Green Room. All of the structure’s windows were replaced with exact replicas of the originals; the entire roof was replaced; two elevators were installed; new lighting was installed throughout the building, and all of the chandeliers were restored. Special niches were built to permanently house the Four Seasons statues. The new auditorium has seating for 1,106 people and includes a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system.

WKU announces an educational affiliation with the global education services provider Navitas Ltd (ASX: NVT) for the establishment of a University Pathways Program at the Bowling Green campus. The program leads the way for other agreements for similar university pathway programs in the United States. Currently Navitas has 28 international partnerships, and WKU is proud to be their first U.S. affiliate. The program opened in September 2010.

WKU graduate student completes DNA sequence of a virus. Completing her master’s thesis, All Wright becomes the first WKU student to complete the entire DNA sequence of an organism—the genome of a bacterial virus. In the laboratory in the Complex of Engineering and Biological Sciences, and under the instruction of her mentor, Dr. Rodney King, Wright finishes sequencing and annotating the genome of a bacterial virus isolated from the environment.

A ribbon cutting and open house dedication is held at the new WKU- Owensboro building. Speakers for the event included President Gary Ransdell, Daviess Judge-Executive Red Hare, WKU Owensboro Director Gnie Vice and U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie.

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The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. Established immediately after the end of World War II by the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright (Arkansas), the Fulbright program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Study/Research and English Teaching Assistantships include round-trip transportation to the host country; maintenance for the academic year based on living costs in the host country; and limited health benefits. Recipients of Full/Research grants may also be eligible to receive funds for books, research allowances, full or partial tuition and language study programs.

Jennifer Dooper, an English major from Owensboro, Kentucky, was awarded an English Assistantship Grant to Argentina.

Dawn Reinhardt, a German and English major from Crossville, Tennessee, was awarded a Research Grant to Germany.

Eileen Ryan, an English major from Louisville, Kentucky, was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship Grant to South Korea.

Emily Wilcox, an Art major from Louisville, Kentucky, was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship Grant to Indonesia.

The Spirit of Achievement

WKU produced 27 nationally competitive scholarship winners in 2009-2010. Twenty-four of the 27 winners were Honors College students. Three winners were both Honors College and Kentucky Chinese Flagship students.
Morris K. Udall Scholarship

The Udall Scholarship provides up to $5,000 for tuition, room and board, or other educational expenses.

William (Joey) Cое is an Environment and Sustainable Development major from Louisville, Kentucky. He spent Fall 2009 circling the globe as part of the Semester at Sea program.

HSP-Huygens Scholarship

The HSP-Huygens Scholarship is offered to outstanding students in the final phase of a bachelor’s degree or during master’s level studies, and is intended to fund study at an accredited university in the Netherlands for up to two years. The scholarship, worth 29,000 Euros ($38,300 US), covers tuition, visa fees and airfare, and provides a monthly living stipend for food, housing and transportation.

Cassandra Warren, a Psychology major from Georgetown, Kentucky, will be attending the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship provides up to $7,500 per year for educational expenses to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

Amanda Beers, a Zoology and Psychology double major from Park Hills, Kentucky, received an award to study abroad in China, Summer 2010.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants up to $5,000 for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad.

Robert Michael Silvey, a Computer Science major from Bowling Green, Kentucky, received an Honorable Mention.

Science Mathematics And Research Transformation (SMART) Scholarship

The SMART Scholarship pays for tuition and education-related fees and provides a stipend of $23,000-$41,000 depending on prior educational experience, paid summer internships, a health insurance reimbursement allowance, and employment placement after graduation in a government lab.

Research Transformation

Critical Language Scholarship

Critical Language Scholarship institutes provide fully funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven

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Foundation for Asia Pacific Education Scholarships

Foundation scholarships provide up to $1,500 for study abroad in an approved Asian or Pacific nation.

Sara Moody, a Social Work and International Relations double major from Warrensville, Kentucky, received an award to study abroad in China, Summer 2010.

Alyssa Surina, an Economics and Mathematics double major from Nashville, Tennessee, received an award to study abroad in China, Summer 2010.

International Education (IIE) selects and arranges internships for them to gain practical experience.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

Students selected to participate in the REU program receive a stipend, housing for the 10-week program and funds to cover travel allowances. Students conduct meaningful research in cooperation with an academic mentor.

Sarah (Katie) Brown, a Gatton Academy student from Taylorsville, Kentucky, received a Summer Research Experience at the Space Physics Research Laboratory within the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program

The Freeman Indonesia Nonprofit Internship Program (FINIP), funded by the Freeman Foundation, aims to develop student leaders and strengthen the nonprofit sector in Indonesia. The Institute of International Education (IIE) selects and pairs ten Indonesian students pursuing U.S. degrees with ten U.S. undergraduates and arranges internships for them to work together in an Indonesian nonprofit organization.

Sydney Combs, a Gatton Academy student from London, Kentucky, received Summer Research Experience with the Mammoth Cave/Upper Green River Watershed Project at WKU.

James Forshey, a Gatton Academy student from Franklin, Kentucky, received a Summer Research Experience in Biotechnology at WKU.

Sean Freeman, a Gatton Academy student from Hebron, Kentucky, received a Summer Research Experience with the Mammoth Cave/Upper Green River Watershed Project at WKU.

Alexander Hare, a Gatton Academy student from Morehead, Kentucky, received a Summer Research Experience in Biotechnology at WKU.

Aric Johnson, a Pre-Medicine major from Smiths Grove, Kentucky, will be attending Edinburgh University, UK.

Rachel Reetzke, a Communication Disorders major and Flagship student from Franklin, Kentucky, will be studying Chinese.

Amanda Beers, a Zoology and Psychology double major from Park Hills, Kentucky, received an Honorable Mention.

Katherine Rush, a Gatton Academy student from Frankfort, Kentucky, received a Summer Research Experience with the Mammoth Cave/Upper Green River Watershed Project at WKU.

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In addition, WKU and foundations recorded a historic amount of $18.9 million in cash receipts. The endowment was recognized at $102.8 million as of June 30, 2010.