

CHHS September/October 2009 Newsletter

WKU Dedicates McChesney Field Campus

Bowling Green, Ky. - Western Kentucky University is expanding its resources for environmental education, sustainability and other academic programs with the addition of the McChesney Field Campus, a 140-acre site along the Green River in northern Warren County.

The McChesney Field Campus, off Austin Raymer Road near the Anna community, was dedicated Tuesday morning and honors Hardin Field McChesney Sr. and Lucy Blair McChesney. Several members of the McChesney family were on hand for the dedication and unveiling of a marker on the property.

"We're doing this to honor my father and his dedication to Western and his love for higher education and our family's dedication to Western," Field McChesney Jr. said. "It's our family's great honor and pleasure to symbolically turn this land over to Western Kentucky University. May it be enjoyed for generations to come and may it strengthen and advance Western Kentucky University, our community, our Commonwealth and our nation."

President Gary Ransdell said WKU is appreciative of the McChesney family's generosity of "a marvelous environmental asset."

"The McChesney Field Campus will be used for generations to come and offer unique educational opportunities in a stimulating, outdoor environment," he said.

H.F. McChesney Sr. came to Bowling Green in 1927 to teach foreign language at Ogden College. After Ogden College merged with Western in 1928, McChesney taught on the Hill until his retirement in 1959.

"We gave the property to perpetuate my father's name since he'd been on the Hill for so long," McChesney said. "Our idea was to have a place that was dedicated to the best uses Western could develop. We hope that all departments and disciplines on the Hill will have a shot at doing things out here."

His sister, Mary Frances Kindell, said the McChesney Field Campus is a prime location for the study of nature. "How many people understand this wonderful world in which we live?" she said

Kindell, a retired high school teacher, grew up on the Hill when Henry Hardin Cherry was WKU's first president. In recalling Dr. Cherry's passion for wanting to provide education for every child in Kentucky, she said, "that's the spirit we want to preserve."

Faculty and students in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport have taken the lead in developing concepts, plans and uses for the McChesney Field Campus. But the facility will provide a unique outdoor experiential learning environment that will be utilized by numerous academic disciplines throughout the WKU campus community, including recreation administration, outdoor leadership, physical education, public health, cave and karst study, geology, geography, biology, chemistry, teacher education, environmental science, agriculture,

horticulture, environmental health, construction, engineering, history, public relations, marketing, advertising, graphic design, sustainability and more.

Access to the Green River also will provide opportunities for environmental research, outdoor leadership and physical activity classes. In addition to academic uses, the site could be utilized by student organizations or community youth groups for retreats or instructional activities.

Dr. Terry Wilson, director of WKU's Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability, said the McChesney Field Campus is "one more feather in our cap" as WKU continues to take the lead statewide in sustainability issues. "This is a new resource for all of us to make a reconnection with nature," he said.

The McChesney Field Campus will complement WKU's other environmental education sites, including the Upper Green River Biological Preserve, Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning, WKU Challenge Course, Agriculture Research and Education Complex, Shanty Hollow, Kentucky Heritage Corridor and Cave Spring Caverns.

Dr. John Bonaguro, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, thanked the family for providing the property that will have long-lasting implications for WKU and will impact the entire University. "It's in good hands at Western Kentucky University," he said.

About the H.F. McChesney family

The McChesney family has been associated with WKU since Henry Hardin Cherry was president.

Hardin Field McChesney Sr., a native of Trinidad, Colo., moved to Bowling Green in 1927 to teach foreign languages at Ogden College. After Ogden merged with Western Kentucky State Teachers College, he taught at Western from 1928 until his retirement in 1959.

The McChesney family lived on Normal Drive in one of the houses razed last year for WKU's new education building.

He and his first wife, who died in 1935, had five children:

Mary Kindell, who will turn 95 next month. A 1934 Western graduate, she is a retired English/journalism teacher at Middletown High School in Middletown, Ohio.

The late Eugenia Birkhead. A 1936 Western graduate, she was a retired newspaper reporter/columnist and lived in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The late Elizabeth Stark. A 1941 Western graduate, she worked at the Pentagon and lived in Annandale, Va.

Field McChesney Jr. A 1946 Western graduate, he lives in Bowling Green and is retired state/federal government employee. He also served in the Army Air Corps in World War II.

The late Marianne Dugger of Kent, Ohio. She enrolled at Western but didn't get a degree.

In 1941, H.F. McChesney Sr. married Lucy Blair, who grew up in Leitchfield. They owned the 140 acres on the Green River and lived there during World War II before moving back to Bowling Green.

They had three children:

The Rev. David McChesney of Ocala, Fla. He is a College High graduate and a semi-retired Presbyterian minister.

Susan Jensen of Inglis, Fla. She was a teacher and a 1989 WKU graduate.

Maria Flynn of Mayfield. She is a 1972 WKU graduate and a teacher at Paducah Community and Technical College.

Field McChesney Sr. died in 1981; Lucy Blair McChesney died in 2005.

Field McChesney Jr. noted that from the time he entered kindergarten in 1927 until the late 1980s, that one of his father's children attended classes on the Hill almost continuously.

More WKU news is available at www.wku.edu and at <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/>. If you'd like to receive WKU news via e-mail, send a message to WKUNews@wku.edu.

For information, contact Fred Gibson at (270) 745-6021.



IRHDR present poster at KY Rural Health Association meeting

The Institute of Rural Health Development & Research (IRHDR) presented a poster at the Kentucky Rural Health Association meeting in Frankfort. The poster has also been accepted for presentation at the National Rural Health Association's meeting in Memphis in December.

For more information on the IRHDR, please visit <http://www.wku.edu/chhs/irhdr>

Click [here](#) to see the IRHDR poster.

WKU Gerontology Team takes part in Annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk

The annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk was held on September 19, 2009 in the Preston Miller Water Park. The Memory Walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$260 million for the cause.

WKU's Center for Gerontology was a sponsor in the event and had a team of 11 members including students that participated in the walk. The team ended up raising over \$2,800, and they are already making plans for next year. The walk encouraged more than 150 WKU students to come out and participate and as a whole raised over \$35,000. The Center is also sponsoring an Alzheimer's Town meeting to highlight November as Alzheimer's Awareness Month and Family Caregiver Month on November 16 on the WKU campus.

"It was especially encouraging to see the great interest in learning more about dementia" said Dr. Dana Bradley.

"We met a number of walkers who were interested in the new Graduate Certificate in Aging Studies as well."

For more information on this meeting or the Center of Gerontology, please contact Dr. Dana Bradley at dana.bradley@wku.edu.



AHEC Holds AG Safety Day

The Kentucky Partnership for Farm Family Health and Safety, Inc held their Progressive Agriculture Safety Day on Thursday September 24 at the WKU Agriculture Expo Center. About 440 students from 5 different Warren County elementary schools participated. There were 18 educational sessions that focused on safety with each session lasting 15 minutes and students were required to attend at least 10 sessions. These interactive educational programs are designed to teach rural children how to prevent injuries and reduce the risk of farm incidents. All sessions reinforced the importance of taking responsibility for their own safety, respecting parents' safety rules, and sharing safety tips with their family and friends. Safety sessions included ATV, water, First Aid, grain bins, chemicals, roadway (includes a car roll over demonstration), tractor (includes a tractor roll over demonstration), large and small animals, and bicycle safety, as well as some other topics.

The Progressive Agriculture Foundation has sponsored Progressive Agriculture Safety Days™ in locations across the U.S., Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa this year.



News from the School of Nursing

Check out the third quarter edition of Kentucky nurse. Our own Dr. Susan Jones is on the cover. Also highlighted in this edition is the Belize Service Learning Project.

Click [here](#) to see the July, August, September edition

Congratulations are in order!

Congratulations to Dr. Jay Gabbard! He was featured in the August 2009 edition of Kentucky Monthly after being voted Biggest Class Clown in the '09 Professor Superlatives.

Congratulations to Dr. Willie Hey, Dr. Scott Lyons, Dr. James Navalta and the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport. Their journal, the International Journal of Exercise Science was #1 on the Top SCHOLAR yearly downloads stats.

Congratulations to Dr. Doris Sikora and the Beta Delta chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron. They were the regional winners of the District II Award for the 4th consecutive year!

Congratulations to Sheila Flener, CFS, who had work accepted by Lambert Academic Publishing. They published her book 3 Adaptive Reuse Projects. The book is a design study of adaptive reuse of three buildings located in the downtown business district of Bowling Green.

Congratulations to Dr. Sylvia Gaiko. She was chosen by Dr. Barbara Burch to join the Office of Academic Affairs as Interim Assistant Vice President for Program Development. Dr. Gaiko will continue her current duties as Associate Dean of CHHS. Dr. Gaiko has played an important role in the growth of CHHS, and we know that she will do a wonderful job representing CHHS in Academic Affairs.

Congratulations to Rachel Reetzke for being placed at her first choice school, the University of Cambridge, to spend her year funded by the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.