Exhibit Highlights

Skateboard
Tony Hawk, Professional Skater

Hammer
Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States

U.S. Constitution
Sandra Day O’Connor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Microphone
Jay Leno, Host of The Tonight Show

Pointe Shoes
Sara Mearns, Ballerina

Baseball Bat
Dustin Pedroia, Professional Baseball Player

Telescope
Neil deGrasse Tyson, Astronomer

NASA Flight Suit
Terry Wilcutt, Astronaut

Laurel Wreath & Typewriter
Robert Penn Warren, First Poet Laureate of the United States

Fiddle
Charlie Daniels, Musician

Film Splicer
Ken Burns, Film Documentarian

Sculpting Tools
Chester Daniel French, Sculptor

Clowning Props
Patch Adams, Doctor & Social Activist

Page Draft & Pen
Judy Blume, Author

Saddle Bags
Daniel Boone, Frontiersman

Racing Shoes
Dale Earnhardt, Racer Driver

Tennis Racket
Chris Evert, Professional Tennis Player

Braille Bible
Helen Keller, Author & Social Activist

Paint Brush
Thomas Kinkade, Artist

Golf Bag
Kenny Perry, Professional Golfer

Enjoy these and many more items in the Instruments of American Excellence exhibit.
A fascinating collection of original instruments by which Americans have achieved extraordinary success.

It's difficult to imagine what a typewriter, a skateboard, a telescope, and a space suit could possibly have in common. While at first glance it is difficult to make a connection, they are all part of a fascinating new collection at the Kentucky Museum on the campus of WKU. This new exhibit, called Instruments of American Excellence, is the only one of its kind and is designed to educate and inspire. It features hundreds of original items – the actual instruments that shaped American history – that successful Americans used on their path to extraordinary achievements.

In virtually every field of study, many of the greatest American icons of our time have personally made generous contributions to this collection. The exhibit is housed at the Kentucky Museum and features items from prominent figures from across America. For the music lover, there are items used by Elvis Presley and Charlie Daniels; sports and entertainment connoisseurs will be delighted to see a skateboard donated by Tony Hawk, one of Jack Nicklaus’ golf clubs, and a tennis racket from Chris Evert; and those interested in history and politics will appreciate Sandra Day O’Connor’s personal copy of the U.S. Constitution.

All items in the special collection were donated or loaned by the people to whom they belong, and the collection will continue to grow and evolve over time.

“Once we collected a few incredible pieces and it was evident that the concept was going to work, a small team was brought on board and the collection began growing at an impressive rate.”

Dan Murph
IAE Exhibit Chairman

This marks the beginning of a new era at the Kentucky Museum, which welcomes more than fifty thousand visitors every year. The Museum is currently seeking accreditation by the American Association of Museums, and the Museum staff is also working toward affiliations with other local and national museums, which will provide additional benefits for its members.

Learn more about the Instruments of American Excellence exhibit and membership at the Kentucky Museum at: www.instrumentsofamericanexcellence.com