View From The Hill
(04/29/10)

**Derby Princess**

The 136th Run for the Roses is this weekend….and there’s  a WKU connection right in the middle of all the Derby festivities.

Amy Bingham explains in this week’s “View from the Hill”.

WKU student Heather Cowherd of Bowling Green is one of five women chosen to serve as a Kentucky Derby Festival Princess.    But that’s not the only recognition she’s received.

“It’s my first time in a teaching environment so I’m team teaching and I’m a graduate teaching assistant.“

Heather Cowherd has a packed schedule.   In addition to team teaching at WKU, she’s also pursuing her masters degree in public administration and is a mentor at a local elementary school.

“I continued volunteering at Parker Bennett Curry Elementary but I kind of expanded on it, I helped them implement two education programs…read to achieve and youth service club.”

But this week,  Cowherd’s  busy schedule has taken her to Louisville.   With her sash and crown in tow, she is taking part in seventy events leading up to the Kentucky Derby.

“It’s an honor to be a KDF princess because it represents a community, celebrates and promotes volunteerism.”

Cowherd has been involved with volunteerism and community service projects since high school.  Her dedication has even garnered her a Congressional Award.

“It shows I’m able to complete something long term.  It took about a year to complete this..I did beyond what was required of me to do in each category.”

While she soaks up the Derby experience and relishes the congressional award, Heather  knows that giving back will bring even greater rewards in the future.

“I’m able to kind of improve upon myself along the way and meet interesting people and promote volunteerism which I’m passionate about.”

Cowherd was selected out of a field of 85 applicants.  She will take part in Derby festivities through Saturday.   She will graduate with her Masters Degree from WKU on May 14th.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.