

# WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



## GROW CHILDREN'S

THE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$60 MILLION  
FOR A NEW WVU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
IS MOVING FULL SPEED AHEAD.

PAGE 1

### ALSO INSIDE:

**TOWER  
SOCIETY  
DONATION**  
PAGE 2

**LMKR  
SOFTWARE GIFT**  
PAGE 3

**CHAMBERS  
COLLEGE,  
ATHLETICS  
CAMPAIGNS**  
PAGE 4

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

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 **WVU Foundation**

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# 2019 FOUNDATION SCHOLARS NAMED

**From left to right: Marleah Knights, Daisy Levine, Piper Cook, Michael DiBacco and Lillian Bischof**

Five of the state's best and brightest senior high school students who had their choice of some of the nation's most esteemed colleges have chosen to attend WVU as 2019 Foundation Scholars, the highest academic scholarship the University awards.

They are Lillian Bischof from Wheeling Park High School, Piper Cook from Scott High School, Michael DiBacco from Elkins High School, Marleah Knights from Morgantown High School and Daisy Levine from Jefferson High School.

These students believe Yale, Harvard, Davidson and Johns Hopkins cannot compete with the "kinship and never-ending Mountaineer pride" that they believe stem from attentive faculty, an abundance of multidisciplinary research and academic achievement, as well as travel abroad opportunities.

"This is a group of 'all-stars.' Any college in the country would be thrilled to have them," President Gordon Gee said. "Like many of our other top students, they have found a great academic program and the sense of community at WVU. They will get real opportunities to change the world as future leaders and innovators."

To qualify for the Foundation Scholarship, students must meet a rigorous set of criteria, including holding West Virginia residency, possessing a minimum GPA of 3.8 and achieving a minimum composite score of 30 on the ACT or the equivalent SAT score. More than 230 high school students initially applied for the scholarship, and of those, 20 were invited to campus for interviews. The value of the Foundation Scholarship is more than \$90,000 over four years.



# Support needed for new WVU Medicine Children's Hospital

Just over one-third of the \$60 million in private funding required to build a new WVU Children's Hospital has been raised.

To date, donors to the "Grow Children's" campaign have given \$23 million.

"This campaign is a top priority for us," said B.J. Davisson, executive vice president and chief development officer for the WVU Foundation. "Simply put, the healthcare needs of our most precious assets far exceed the national average and continue to grow at an alarming rate. We must grow to meet the demand."

Recently, the Friends of WVU Hospitals pledged \$500,000 to name the Child Life Activity Center in the new facility during its Annual Board Meeting and Volunteer Luncheon.

The 150-bed, nine-story tower is scheduled to be completed in early 2021 and will help WVU Medicine Children's meet the ever-increasing demand for pediatric and maternal health care in the state. The tower will include:

- Diagnostic imaging and a laboratory
- Operating rooms, cardiac catheterization, interventional radiology and endoscopy facilities
- A 34-bed Pediatric Acute Care Unit, including six beds available for hematology/oncology
- A 31-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) with six beds available for epilepsy monitoring
- A 54-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- A 30-bed birthing center
- A medical office building, cancer institute, heart and vascular institute, and maternal fetal medicine clinics



All inpatient rooms will be private except for nine NICU rooms for twins. The tower will also include inpatient and outpatient pharmacy facilities and a cafeteria. WVU Medicine Children's is the leading provider of pediatric specialty, high-risk maternal, and comprehensive gynecologic care in the region.

Individuals or businesses interested in supporting the WVU Medicine Children's "Grow Children's" campaign can contact Cindy Liberatore, 681-285-9239, [cynthia.liberatore@wvumedicine.org](mailto:cynthia.liberatore@wvumedicine.org).

Naming opportunities are available.



An artist's rendering of the new WVU Medicine Children's Hospital



# Barrett honors Douglas with Tower Society gift



Betty Barrett, a longtime supporter of the WVU Alumni Association, is the newest member of the WVU Alumni Tower Society with her \$50,000 contribution in memory of Steve Douglas, the former WVU Alumni Association president and CEO who served in that role for 27 years.

Barrett and her late husband Eddie, who was the sports information director in the Department of

Intercollegiate Athletics, maintained a close friendship with Douglas.

“Eddie loved the Alumni Center and Steve,” Barrett said. “It is such an important asset for the Association and WVU.

I am thrilled to honor the legacies of Steve and Eddie while helping to guarantee the legacy of the facility.”



**Betty and Eddie Barrett**

As president and CEO of the Association, Douglas led the project to construct the Erickson Alumni Center from conception to completion. Heralded as one of the finest alumni centers in the country, the 48,000 square foot facility serves as a hub for many University events and the home away from home for graduates and friends. During 2018, 674 events were hosted there.

Eddie Barrett was the school’s athletic publicity director from 1951-67, except for a two-year stint in the United States Air Force in the mid-1950s.

The WVU Alumni Tower Society was established to sustain and upgrade the Center.

# Endowed scholarship, fellowship donors honored

The Foundation is recognizing the alumni and friends of WVU who have created endowed scholarships, fellowships and student awards in calendar year 2018.



**Ernest L. Hogan Scholars Walk**

Fifty-three donors are being honored by having their name engraved in bricks that will be placed in the Ernest L. Hogan Walk, the pathway located at the downtown campus library.

“We thank these donors for making an investment in our students,” said B.J. Davisson, WVU

Foundation executive vice president and chief development officer. “Providing support for our students through scholarships, fellowships or other financial awards has been and will continue to be a top fundraising priority for both the University and the Foundation.”

The late Ernest L. Hogan began his career in Beckley working for Peoples Insurance Company. After 43 years of climbing the corporate ladder, Hogan retired as president, chairman and CEO of Peoples.

Hogan is known for creating the Ernest L. and Mildred S. Hogan Scholarship at WVU for high school graduates in West Virginia, as well as the establishment of an endowed chair of insurance and risk management at the Chambers College of Business and Economics.

Hogan was honored in 2002 when the pathway in front of the downtown library was named the Ernest L. Hogan Scholars Walk to acknowledge students, faculty and donors for their commitment to the University.

# Gift from former WVU economist means real-life experience for students, 'economic literacy' for West Virginia

The former chief economist at WVU knows all too well how important economic research and data are to the John Chambers College of Business and Economics, the University and the state.

For nearly three decades, Tom S. Witt headed the WVU Bureau of Business and Economic Research and helped provide economic research that was used by lawmakers, business leaders and media throughout the state and nation.

In an effort to provide economics students with extraordinary experiences both inside and outside the classroom, Witt and his wife, Grethe Myles, established the Tom S. Witt Scholars Program. The gift will extend over a two-year period and creates infrastructure Witt said he hopes will lay the groundwork for increased "economic literacy" in West Virginia.

The gift from the Morgantown couple not only supported the revolutionary Applied Regional Economics Research course, but has now also created the first group of Witt Scholars. The scholars completed last year's inaugural course and now have opportunities to take on advanced regional economics research in West Virginia, including economic forecasting.

"We always had excellent student support, and I felt the college and the BBER needed to offer research experiences for undergraduate economics majors," said Witt, who retired from WVU's business school in 2012. "Our gift would help provide more relevant experience to these students, as well as help more rural areas understand the dynamics and the components of individual economies."



**Grethe and Tom Witt**

## WVU receives \$8.2 million software gift from LMKR

LMKR, an international petroleum technology company, has partnered with WVU to expand student and faculty access to industry-leading software.

Beginning fall 2019, the Department of Geology and Geography will implement LMKR's suite of GeoGraphix® and GVERSE, a gift valued at \$8.2 million.

The gift is part of LMKR's University Grant Program, which offers access to highly developed, industry-

leading software used in the exploration and production market. LMKR's software is expected to be seen when graduates enter the workforce, and this access will prepare students for real-world situations and job opportunities where GeoGraphix and GVERSE are used.

"LMKR is thrilled to partner with WVU and expose students to GeoGraphix and GVERSE," said Peter Batdorf, LMKR's senior account executive. "We truly believe these students will continue to build off a strong foundation for the current geoscience workforce. As a result, we are pleased to provide WVU researchers and students with a suite of industry-leading, highly sophisticated tools that optimize the efficiency of petroleum and natural gas exploration and production, giving students an advantage when vying for highly competitive jobs in the oil and gas industry."



# Chambers College, Athletics building campaigns continue

The John Chambers College of Business and Economics is building a state-of-the-art complex on the Morgantown waterfront. Efforts are underway to raise \$40 million in private support for the new facility.

College officials say Reynolds Hall will be more than just a building. It will be a collaborative, creative space that will catalyze innovation for students and transform their learning through experiential opportunities.

The WVU Athletics “Climbing Higher” campaign aims to bring renovated, state-of-the-art athletic facilities to Morgantown.

The campaign includes \$100 million in renovations, the largest being \$55 million in improvements to the Puskar Center.



An artist's rendering of a planned “Ideation Hub” in the new Reynolds Hall



An artist's rendering of the WVU Coliseum Complex

Another \$35 million will be allocated toward continued renovations to the WVU Coliseum, and the remaining \$10 million will be used for a renovated Cary Gym and WVU Golf complex.

If you're interested in supporting these campaigns, contact Ben Murray at Athletics, 304-293-9397, [ben.murray@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:ben.murray@mail.wvu.edu) or Luke O'Connell at the Chambers College, 304-293-8888, [luke.oconnell@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:luke.oconnell@mail.wvu.edu).

Naming opportunities are available.

## WVU awarded new active learning classroom by Steelcase Education

WVU will expand its commitment to innovative education with an active learning classroom that will support instructors and students by creating an environment that encourages engagement, collaboration and creativity.

Steelcase Education Director of Market Development Craig Wilson said WVU was chosen because of a “demonstrated commitment to active learning.” The classroom will help a new group of faculty and students explore all the learning



Steelcase Education classroom model

possibilities an interactive space can bring, WVU officials say.

The classroom in the Health and Education Building, valued at \$67,000, will be ready by the Fall 2019 semester and will be a varied, flexible setting designed to facilitate the hands-on experimentation and problem-solving that 21st century learning demands.

## Jeffrey A. Schoenherr named Associate VP for Medical and Health Sciences Development



**Jeffrey A. Schoenherr**

An advancement executive with 25 years of experience in healthcare and higher education has been chosen as the new associate vice president of medical and health sciences development. Jeffrey A. Schoenherr began his new position May 1.

"It's a tremendous honor to be chosen to lead the philanthropic efforts for medicine and the health sciences at WVU," Schoenherr said. "Our success is important to the state of West Virginia, so we will commit to building strong, lasting relationships with our supporters."

Schoenherr is an accomplished development professional who has served in increasingly greater roles at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions. Most recently, he was assistant vice president for principal gifts at The Ohio State University.

## DR. PATRICE HARRIS SWORN IN AS AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

WVU Foundation Board of Directors member and alumna Dr. Patrice Harris was inaugurated June 11 as the first African-American woman president of the American Medical Association (AMA). Harris, who has three degrees from WVU (BA '82, Psychology, MA '86, Counseling Psychology, MD '92), is AMA's 174th president.



**Dr. Patrice Harris**

She will focus her tenure on the AMA's three strategic arcs: attacking the dysfunction in health care by removing obstacles and burdens that interfere with patient care; driving the future of medicine by reimagining medical education, training and lifelong learning, and by promoting innovation to tackle the biggest challenges in health care; and leading the charge to confront the chronic disease crisis and improve the health of the nation.

To view Harris' inauguration speech, visit:  
<https://youtu.be/RYZMLRpI4E>

## Irvin Stewart Society New Members

The Irvin Stewart Society honors those who have included gift provisions in their wills, created income-producing gifts, provided for testamentary donations of retirement assets, donated life insurance, and transferred their real estate remainder interest to benefit WVU and its affiliated organizations.

Dan A. Billman '89, Houston, PA

Pamela S. Billman '88, Houston, PA

Brian A. Carpenter '81, Cary, NC

Susan G. Carpenter, Cary, NC

Jeff Comfort, Corvallis, OR

Paula Bajus Comfort '79, Corvallis, OR

John L. Davis, JD '72, '76, Wellsburg, WV

Lynn Davis, Wellsburg, WV

Thomas Rymer Davis '89, Charleston, WV

Nancy N. DeHart, Boone, NC

Robert E. DeHart II, Boone, NC

Ann L. Havay '81, Plainfield, NJ

Jeffrey M. Kukura '87, Aurora, CO

Lisa C. Kukura, JD '86, '89, Aurora, CO

Gary A. LeDonne '85, Morgantown, WV

Renee LeDonne '87, Morgantown, WV

Joe Long '74, Charleston, WV

John Mainella '99, Indianapolis, IN

Barbara Bailey Marquess '69, '73, Lakewood, CO

Lawrence W. Marquess, JD '77, Lakewood, CO

Antoinette M. Petrucci '72, '73, Pittsburgh, PA

Michael Pettry, Indianapolis, IN

Tom Prunty '87, Salisbury, MD

Cheryl V. Reeves '68, Troy, NY

Patricia Rice, Morgantown, WV

Steven J. Staffileno '11, '13, '14, '14, Morgantown, WV

+ 1 Anonymous Member



A listing of all members can be found at [www.wvuf.org](http://www.wvuf.org), select Donor Recognition and Irvin Stewart Society.



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## WVU RECOGNIZES FACULTY MEMBERS AS FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

Six faculty members have been recognized with the University's 2019 Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching, which honors exceptional professors who go above and beyond to inspire their students. This year's honorees are:



**From left to right: Dana Huebert Lima, Joshua Osbourn, Kimberly Meigh, Audra Slocum, Andrea Taliaferro and Manal AlNatour**

**Manal AlNatour**, associate professor of Arabic Studies

**Dana Huebert Lima**, teaching associate professor of Biology and director of the Honors Experiential and Community Engaged Learning Program

**Kimberly Meigh**, assistant professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Joshua Osbourn**, teaching associate professor of Chemistry

**Audra Slocum**, assistant professor of Curriculum and Instruction/Literacy Studies

**Andrea Taliaferro**, associate professor of Physical Education Teacher Education

Established in 1985 by the WVU Foundation, the Outstanding Teaching Award honors faculty who are particularly effective and inspiring teachers, as well as faculty who have established patterns of exceptional innovation in their teaching methods, course and curriculum design and instructional tools. Each will receive \$5,000 for professional development.