Dr. Jack Campbell Announces Retirement

Walters State Community College President Dr. Jack E. Campbell has announced his plans to retire at the end of this academic year. Campbell has served as president of the college for 30 of its 34-year history.

In a letter announcing his retirement to Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Dr. Charles Manning, Campbell said his 39 years working in higher education had been “most fulfilling” and that he now plans “to consider other professional and business opportunities on a part-time basis and to devote more time to my family and personal goals.”

However, he said that higher education “will remain a top priority” and that he “would be honored to continue serving the [TBR] and Walters State as President Emeritus.”

In his retirement letter, Campbell commended the college’s faculty and staff, saying he is confident the college will continue to prosper because of “their unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching and service, to shared values and principles, and to exceeding student and community expectations.”

When Campbell was named president of Walters State in 1974 at the age of 35, he was one of the youngest college presidents in the country. With one campus location in Morristown, enrollment the year before he was hired was 1,736 students.

Walters State now has four campuses—Morristown, Greeneville, Sevierville and Tazewell—an exposition center and a regional law enforcement academy. The college now has an enrollment of about 6,000 credit degree-seeking students and around 5,000 students enrolled in job-training and continuing education courses.

One of the first challenges facing Campbell when he was hired was the need to provide a nursing education program for individuals living in upper East Tennessee. With strong community support, Campbell established the nursing program in 1975. Under his leadership, it has become the college’s flagship program and one of the nation’s leaders in producing nurses.

Another challenge Campbell faced early on in his presidency was increasing community involvement in the college through the establishment of the Walters State Community College Foundation, the official fund-raising arm of the college. Today, the foundation is considered one of the most successful in the country among colleges of Walters State’s size.

The Public Safety Division has also become one of the college’s largest programs during Campbell’s tenure. Almost 2,000 cadets from police and sheriff’s departments across the state have received their law enforcement training and certification through the Walters State Basic Law Enforcement Academy. And recently, a formal review of the college’s criminal justice program concluded that it was “one of the top 25 programs in the United States.”

During his time at Walters State, Campbell has received numerous honors. In 1986, he was named one of the nation’s most effective chief executives in higher education in a study funded through the Exxon Education Foundation. He was named East Tennessee State University’s 2004 Distinguished Alumnus in Higher Education. He was the first nationwide recipient of the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction presented by Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for community colleges. And he has been inducted into the Walters State Public Safety Hall of Fame.

Campbell has served on the boards of directors for several regional and national educational organizations, including the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Community Colleges and the National Council for Occupational Education.

His efforts to improve education in this region have netted him several prestigious honors, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the board of directors of the Morristown Boys and Girls Club and the R. Jack Fishman Community Service Award presented by the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Diane, are the parents of two children. Their son, Bradford, and daughter-in-law, Laura, are both pharmacists and have one child, Cooper Campbell. Their daughter, Kellie, is currently pursuing a master’s degree at ETSU.

Building Renamed To Honor Allie Pearl Bayless Doggett

The building housing Walters State’s Mathematics and Behavioral and Social Science Divisions will now be known as the Doggett Mathematics and Behavioral/Social Science Building in recognition of the generosity of the late Allie Pearl Bayless Doggett. Mrs. Doggett was one of the college’s leading supporters. The name change was approved at the spring meeting of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Theatre Students Raise $4,000

Under the guidance of Jerry Malay, associate professor of Theatre, Walters State students raised over $4,000 for area charities last year. The money was raised during opening night performances and earmarked for causes close to the production’s message. “Flowers for Algernon” attendees, for example, donated money to the Lakeway Center for the Handicapped in exchange for admission while “Oliver” brought in cans for an area food pantry.

SIFE Team Places Fourth

Walters State’s Students In Free Enterprise Team earned fourth place at this year’s SIFE National Exposition in Kansas City, Mo. The team was judged by some of the nation’s leading business executives based on a presentation detailing service and educational projects completed throughout the year. The team completed over 40 such projects, including helping elementary school students start a business, collecting used cell phones to help domestic violence victims and conducting financial workshops for senior citizens.

Walters State won the right to compete after capturing its 14th regional title in Washington, D.C., in March.
Alumnus Working To Improve Life In Niger

Most people who knew Chris Gaby while he was a student at Walters State probably assume he is in a lab now, deeply involved in scientific research, given the talents he demonstrated in physics, chemistry and biology. Gaby is actually thousands of miles from a traditional science lab. He leads a team of Peace Corps volunteers working in Niger. After completing his bachelor's degree in microbiology, he decided to leave the academic world for a few years of service and travel.

“My knowledge of the world was mostly limited to what I knew of nearby localities in East Tennessee and what I had read in books and magazines. Having the opportunity to experience new cultures as they are lived appealed to my desire to travel and understand the world.”

Gaby received the President’s Outstanding Student Award when he graduated from Walters State in 2000. While a student, he was active in several clubs and volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club. Gaby says he still uses skills learned through his extracurricular activities daily.

“My involvement in campus groups developed my organizational and time management skills. My understanding of both the limitations and advantages of working with groups was formed then,” he recalled.

Gaby's days are varied. He has worked with individual farmers trying to graft mango trees and stop desert encroachment. He has also worked with communities in projects ranging from AIDS education to literacy.

“One of the most difficult things is being confronted with persons who have no understanding of why you are in their country yet have plenty of preconceptions about you. We are often asked for plain handouts and this does not coincide with the Peace Corps philosophy of sustainable development, which requires beneficiaries to make a partial contribution of some sort and thus have a vested interest.

“It’s difficult trying to explain to someone why giving them a handout is not really in their interest.”

Getting to know and be accepted by people of another culture has been very rewarding for Gaby. His Peace Corps service is scheduled to end next February. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in microbial ecology.

Faculty Footnotes


Dr. Nancy Brown, executive director of the Center for Workforce Development, has had her article, “Get Your Name Out There,” published in “Planning” magazine. The article examines the failure of planners to work with the media when a company tried to circumvent California zoning regulations.

Kim Gunnin, coordinator for Retention Services, was named Adult Educator of the Year by the East Tennessee College Alliance.

Michael Jackson, adjunct professor of History, has been named to Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, 2004.

Dr. Don Lindsey, Earl Rowe and Jeff Horner of the Natural Science Division completed a workshop on biodiversity inventory sponsored by the Tennessee State Parks.

Dr. Lawrence Kennard, professor of Chemistry, led his organic chemistry class in presenting outstanding laboratory projects at the Tennessee Academic Science Association’s conference in Knoxville.

The Mathematics Division was well represented at the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association’s recent meeting. Vicki Borlaug and Mary Owens presented a workshop on “Probability and Statistics: Classroom Activities” and Julianna Gregory and Jill Romines presented “Smart Boards in the Classroom.”
WSCC Alumni Play Leading Role in Foundation

For some Walters State graduates, involvement with the college doesn’t end with graduation. Five current trustees of the Walters State Foundation are graduates of the college.

“Going to Walters State made me realize the potential that I had in life. Now, I want to give something back to the college.”

-Louise Dyer

Louise Dyer was a member of Walters State’s second nursing class. As she rose to become one of the area’s most respected nurses, she also became a community leader. She volunteers her time and efforts to virtually every charitable activity in Hamblen County, ranging from the MATS homeless shelter to the Morristown Theatre Guild. In her efforts to help others, she always appreciates working with young Walters State students that are involved in community service.

Dyer was honored as one of the college’s outstanding alumni in 2004 and is active in the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Club.

Now retired from health care, she runs her own real estate development company.

“It’s rewarding to see the people that are helped through the Walters State Foundation.”

-F. Braxton Terry

Now practicing with the law firm of Terry, Terry and Stapleton, F. Braxton Terry chose to be involved in the Foundation because of the difference it makes in individual lives. The reward for his involvement comes when he meets scholarship recipients and learns how they have benefited from the Foundation’s help.

Terry also feels the college contributes significantly to the local economy and being involved with the Foundation enables him to be part of the college’s future growth.

The Terry family has been involved with Walters State for many years. His father, Charles, is a member of the Foundation’s past presidents’ council. Braxton is currently serving on the Foundation’s executive committee.

For information on giving and involvement in the Walters State Foundation, contact Henry Drinnon, executive director for College Advancement, at (423) 585-2629.

1990
Vicki Mahan, A.S., Nursing, is now branch manager of Adventa Hospice. She and her husband have two children and live in Russellville.

Kelly A. Norton, A.S., General Studies, has earned a Ph.D in higher education from the University of Florida. She is on the faculty at High Point University in High Point, N.C.

1994
Leigh Ann Clark, A.S., General Studies, works at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. She earned a Master’s Degree in Public Health from Emory University.

1999
Daniel R. McMillan, A.S., General Studies, has earned an M.S. from the University of Tennessee and has been awarded a graduate assistantship in English. He is now working toward his Ph.D.

Reese Eldon Stansberry, Jr., A.S., American Studies, is entering the Ed. D. program at East Tennessee State University. Stansberry will be studying post-secondary and private sector leadership. He and his wife, Tonya, have three children and live in Jonesborough.

2000
Barbara Robinson Horton, A.S., General Studies, graduated cum laude from Carson-Newman College with a B.A. She is the ROSS Program Coordinator at the Tennessee Community Assistance Corporation.

2002
Randy Brackins, A.A.S., Criminal Justice, has been named chief of the Gatlinburg Police Department.

Class Notes

Alumni News

Full name ____________________________
Address ____________________________

Years Attended ____________ Area of study________ Degree ___
Current position and/or activities ________________________________

Full name of spouse __________________ No. of children ______
Name and address of someone who will always know your address ______________________________

Return to Office of College Advancement, Walters State Community, 500 South Davy Crockett Parkway, Morristown, TN 37813 or e-mail your news to Debra.Williams@ws.edu.
Senators, Lady Senators Both Begin Season Ranked In Top 25

Ranked in the top 25, both the Senators and the Lady Senators began the 2004-05 season with high expectations.

The men are ranked No. 11 and the ladies entered the poll at No. 23. And so far this season, both teams are living up to their pre-season praise with 5-1 and 6-0 records respectively.

Coach Bill Carlyle returns for his 28th year at the helm of the Senators. Last year, he led the team to a TJCCAA Region VII Championship and a trip to the NJCAA national tournament in Kansas City, where they finished 10th.

Without first-team All-American Jerry Nichols, who transferred to Arkansas State University, Carlyle will look to some talented guards and experienced sophomores to get back to Kansas City.

The Senators are stacked deep in the guard position this year, with Lamont Campbell leading the way. The sophomore was second on the team in assists last year and will see a lot of playing time this season.

Another talented guard that is expected to contribute early on is Wadale Williams, a transfer from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

Carlyle will also count on freshman guards Ralph Legg, Tyler Jones and Adron Marshall. But the Senators also have some big guys to complement the guards, including two 6-foot-9-inch players in D.D. Golden and Darryl Sommerset.

The Lady Senators are also coming off a very successful 2003-04 season. That squad finished the season as the TJCCAA Eastern Division Champions and was one game short of a berth to the national tournament.

Coach Dave Kragel will rely on seven sophomores to provide leadership and maturity for the team: Sonya Jackson, Shay Jones, Yaneesa Simpson, Shea Bell, Natasha Ferguson, Brittany Frazier and Cortney Brown.

Combining these experienced sophomores with eager, talented freshmen who have stepped up early in the season looks like Kragel’s found the chemistry that will make this year’s team hard to beat.

To follow the Senators’ and Lady Senators’ seasons, visit the Walters State Web site at www.ws.edu. The site includes both home and away schedules and complete rosters.