

FILL THE
WESTERN SKY

THE CAMPAIGN *for*
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

NAMING CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026





FILL THE WESTERN SKY NAMING CEREMONY

Welcome **Ben Pendry**
Vice Chancellor for Advancement

Remarks **Kelli R. Brown**
Chancellor

Eddie Wells
*Catamount Club Board of Directors
President*

Closing **Kyle Pifer**
Director of Athletics

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF DONOR PHILANTHROPY

Thanks to the generosity of donors from across Catamount Nation, the transformational success of the “Fill the Western Sky” comprehensive fundraising campaign is clearly visible throughout Western Carolina University athletics—not only in bricks and mortar but also in the lives of the student-athletes who learn, compete, and grow within these spaces every day.

Each named space that we celebrate today represents a story. Each tells the tale of alumni who found opportunity at Western Carolina University, families who believe in the power of education and the importance of intercollegiate athletics, and friends whose generosity is helping shape the future of Catamount Nation.

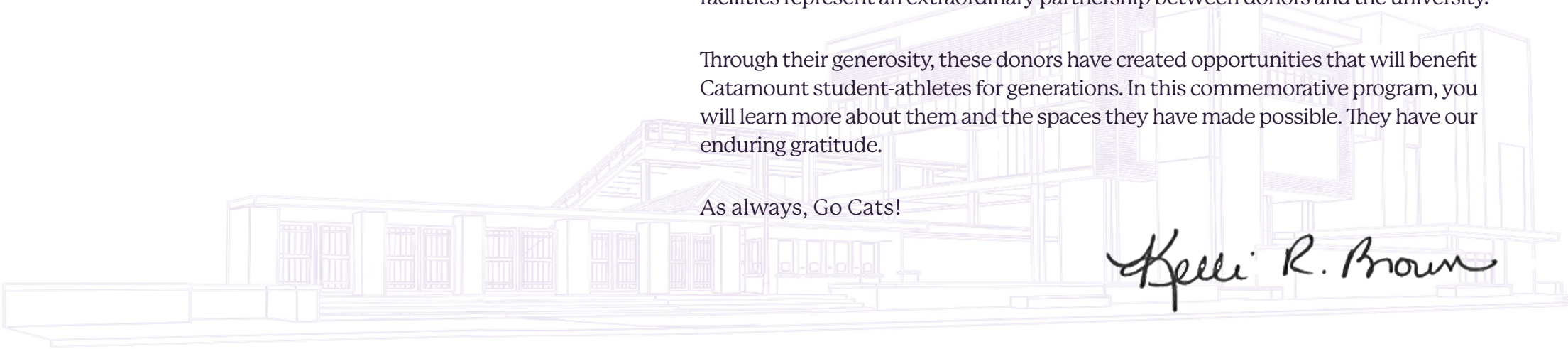
As you explore these facilities, we invite you to remember and thank the individuals, families, foundations, and partners whose philanthropy has created an environment where excellence can thrive. Together, their investments are expanding facilities, enhancing the student-athlete experience, and ensuring that future generations of Catamounts have the resources they need to succeed—in competition, in the classroom, and in life.

Every named space reflects a commitment to Western Carolina University’s mission and a belief in the life-changing impact of higher education and intercollegiate athletics. From conference rooms where game plans are developed to coaches’ offices where mentorship takes place, from gathering spaces where teams celebrate victories and prepare for challenges ahead, and to areas for media and video operations, these facilities represent an extraordinary partnership between donors and the university.

Through their generosity, these donors have created opportunities that will benefit Catamount student-athletes for generations. In this commemorative program, you will learn more about them and the spaces they have made possible. They have our enduring gratitude.

As always, Go Cats!

Kelli R. Brown





Athletics Facilities Spaces Named During the Fill the Western Sky Campaign

Larry & Mary Arbaugh
Atrium

Bill & Beverly Barr
Coach's Office

Dennis & Kelli Brown
Student-Athlete Success Center

Civil Design Concepts
Coach's Office

Clay & Alisa Cox
Coach's Office

Crawford
Football Operations Suite

Mark Dellinger
Coach's Office

Terry & Vikki Fortner
Victory Center

Grattan Family
Gate

Ken Hughes
Coach's Office

Paul & Susan Johnson
Coaches' Box

Roland & Cathy Johnson
Coach's Office

Jerry & Kay Kiser
Coach's Office

John S. Martin
Coach's Office

Jeff & Mary Meredith
Coach's Office

Kenny Messer & Melanie Clark
Coach's Office

Phillips
Football Center

Philip Preston
Home Coaches Balcony

Dave & Pennie Roberts
Head Coach's Office

South
Balcony

Stanberry Family
Offensive Coordinator Office

Van & Alan Stayton
Coach's Office

Mike & Marsha Sullivan
Atrium

Robbie & Miriam Vannoy
Coach's Office

Vexter
Coaches' Box

Michael Wade
Defensive Conference Room

Randy White
Defensive Coordinator Office

Steve White
Media Center



LARRY & MARY ARBAUGH ATRIUM

The hospitality level atrium on the fourth floor of the new Western Skybox recognizes a gift from alumni Larry and Mary Arbaugh to support athletics facilities renovations at their alma mater. The Arbaughs have a long history with the university beginning with Larry's father, a WCU accounting professor for 20 years. They have stayed connected to WCU, joining the Catamount Club after graduation, serving WCU in numerous roles, and contributing philanthropically to athletics, academics, and arts programs.

A 1979 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in physics, Larry

previously served as WCU's associate athletics director of administration and is a former member of the Catamount Club Board of Directors. Mary, a 1979 alumna with a bachelor's degree in marketing, currently serves on the WCU Foundation Board of Directors, where she chairs the finance and audit committee. In addition to gifts supporting student-athletes and the arts at WCU, they have funded three graduate scholarships in health care-related programs in the name of their late daughter Katherine. They say they hope their gift toward renovations of sports facilities enhances the future of Catamount athletics.

BILL & BEVERLY BARR COACH'S Office

A Catamount football coach's office is named in recognition of gifts from Beverly Barr, a 1972 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in education, and her husband, Bill. A retired teacher at White Oak High School, Beverly has a long record of service to her alma mater, including the Alumni Association Board of Directors and WCU Foundation Board of Directors. She is also a former president of Alpha Delta Kappa and currently is an independent distributor for an essential oils company. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Bill is retired

after a career in the food production industry, where he worked mostly in sales.

The Barrs believe that football provides young athletes with a powerful path to grow as teammates and successful citizens, saying "In this complex, they will train, compete, and build lasting friendships that shape their futures. Our hope is that this gift inspires generations of Catamounts to return and strengthen the Catamount Nation."





DENNIS & KELLI BROWN STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS CENTER

An area in the Jordan-Phillips Fieldhouse focused on supporting Catamount student-athletes' academic success is named for Chancellor Kelli R. Brown and spouse Dennis Brown in recognition of their leadership and financial support throughout the "Fill the Western Sky" campaign. The historic comprehensive fundraising initiative, WCU's first with a major focus on athletics facilities, also emphasized academic excellence and student engagement. In addition to a contribution toward athletics facilities renovations, the Browns have made multiple gifts supporting endowments for scholarships for first-generation students; military student services; academic programming; student-athletes and athletics programs; the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band; and student success and emergency funds.

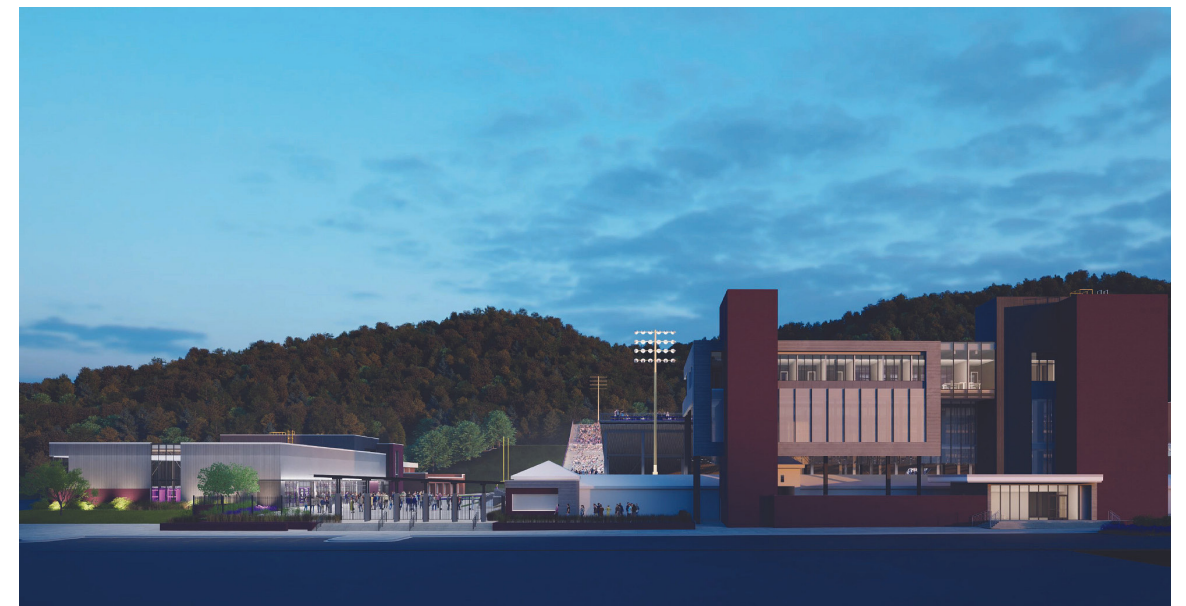
Former provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Georgia College and State University, Kelli Brown was appointed WCU's 12th chancellor – the first permanent woman CEO in university history – by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in 2019. A health educator by training, she previously held faculty appointments at Illinois State University, the University of South Florida, and the University of Florida, and she served as interim president of Valdosta State University. Husband Dennis, WCU's first-ever "first gentleman," is better known as the "first dude." He previously served as a U.S. Army field artilleryman, fast food worker, laborer, agricultural and test engineer, manufacturing engineer, systems analyst, and IT project manager.



CIVIL DESIGN CONCEPTS COACH'S OFFICE

An Asheville-based design and engineering firm, Civil Design Concepts, PA, made a leadership gift toward athletics facilities improvements here. That generous contribution has been recognized by the naming of a coach's office in the new football operations suite of E.J. Whitmire Stadium in the firm's honor. Representatives of the company serve on the advisory board for the College of Engineering.

The firm's executive team says that Civil Design Concepts has been proud to play a role in the planning, development, and growth of WCU's campus over the past several years. "As a 100% employee-owned company, we understand the fundamentals of teamwork and are proud to support WCU in its mission to serve the Western North Carolina region," the company states. "We look forward to many great years to come."





CLAY & ALISA COX Coach's Office

When former WCU placekicker John Clayton “Clay” Cox went through the student-athlete college recruitment process with his youngest son a few years ago, he got a first-hand look at several NCAA Football Championship Subdivision schools and toured their athletics facilities. He characterized the experience as eye-opening, and it prompted support for his alma mater from him and wife Alicia S. Cox. A coach's office in the renovated stadium where Clay once competed is named in recognition of their gift.

Clay, who graduated from WCU in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and was a practitioner of the barefoot kicking style, attended WCU on a scholarship and was a three-year letterman in football and All-Southern Conference Scholar-Athlete. He is retired from the private offender management



services firm he and Alisa founded in 1992. He is a former member of the Georgia House of Representatives after serving four terms, and he coached the kickers and punters at Greater Atlanta Christian School for 21 years.

CRAWFORD Football Operations Suite



The Crawford Football Operations Suite reflects the deep love that Mike and Gina Crawford have for Western Carolina University and their belief in the life-changing impact of higher education, leadership, and athletics. WCU shaped Mike's personal and professional journey, created lifelong friendships, and has been part of the Crawford family legacy for five generations. Mike and Gina say they hope that this investment will strengthen Catamount athletics, inspire future student-athletes, and help WCU continue rising as a university of choice for generations to come.

Mike is a 1987 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. Following

his retirement as chief performance officer at national accounting firm FORVIS LLP (now Forvis Mazars LLP), he was elected chair of the university's Foundation Board of Directors in 2024. Mike is the fourth generation of his family to graduate from WCU. His father, Frank Moody Crawford Jr., was a 1954 WCU graduate, grandfather Frank Moody Crawford Sr. graduated in 1941 from what was then Cullowhee State Normal School, and great-grandfather W.R. Sherrill graduated in 1902. Spouse Gina and daughter Emily have attended WCU, and brother Steve is a 1985 graduate. Mike received the WCU Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award in 2024.



MARK DELLINGER

COACH'S OFFICE

In recognition of philanthropic contributions from WCU alumnus Mark Dellinger toward athletics facilities improvements at his alma mater, a coach's office in the new football operations suite of E.J. Whitmire Stadium is named in his honor. A 1990 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Mark is the son of two late alumni who both graduated from WCU in 1964. His father, Kenneth Dellinger, earned a degree in business management and his mother, Patsy, studied office administration.

A resident of Bessemer City, Mark previously established the Dellinger Family Scholarship Fund to support a junior or senior in the WCU College of Business out of his appreciation for the education he and his father received there. Preference for scholarships from the fund is given to members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, of which he was a member and later served as an adviser. Mark is a manager for American & Efird, a textile corporation headquartered in Charlotte.

TERRY & VIKKI FORTNER

VICTORY CENTER

The Victory Center, which serves as the offensive conference room for the Catamount football program, is named in honor of alumni Terry and Vikki Richards Fortner in recognition of their commitment to help improve athletics facilities at their alma mater. Residents of Dahlonega, Georgia, Terry and Vikki say they hope this space contributes to numerous WCU victories on the football field.

A 1977 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business management, Terry has served on

several university boards including the Foundation Board of Directors, Board of Visitors, Catamount Club Board of Directors, and Alumni Association Board of Directors. Vikki earned her bachelor's degree in education in 1979 at WCU. Longtime supporters of Catamount athletics, they are owners of a land development company and international consulting firm. Terry is a former executive at Nationwide Insurance and LKQ Corp., and Vikki was previously owner of By Vikki Accessories and Natural Path Wellness Center.



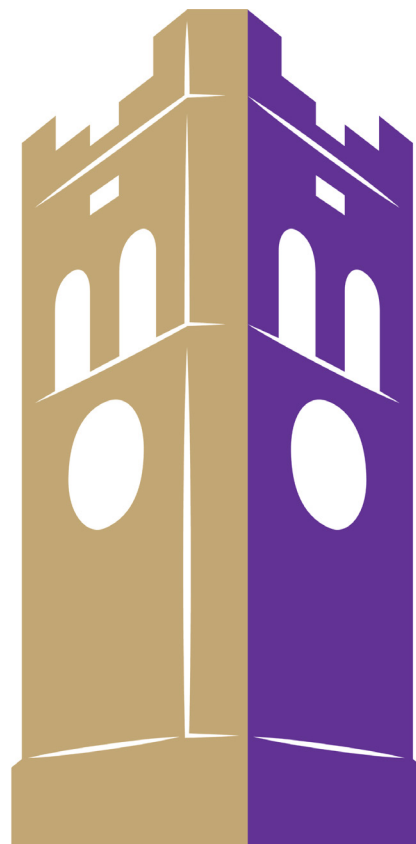


GRATTAN FAMILY GATE

Tad Grattan, a 1987 WCU graduate with a bachelor's degree in sport management, and spouse Susan made a commitment to his alma mater during the "Fill the Western Sky" campaign out of a desire to help future Catamount student-athletes have access to the type of top-notch athletics facilities he says were lacking during his time as an intercollegiate tennis player. In recognition of that support, entry gate No. 1 at E.J. Whitmire Stadium is named in honor of the Grattans.

A four-year member of the WCU men's tennis team, Tad competed on the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour. He discovered WCU by accident as a young tennis

player from Florida when his parents dropped him off at a tennis camp in Asheville in the mid-1970s, staying in the nearby Cashiers area. A Marine Corps Reserve member and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, he is the retired founder of an outpatient physical therapy network. The former Susan Meister is a former advertising executive with wedding planning website The Knot. Both Tad and Susan served as members of the "Fill the Western Sky" Campaign Steering Committee.



KEN HUGHES COACH's Office

A coach's office in the new football operations suite is named in honor of alumnus Kenneth "Ken" Hughes in gratitude for his support for athletics facilities improvements at WCU. An Asheville resident, Ken graduated with honors in 1974, earning a bachelor's degree in accountancy. A member of the WCU Board of Trustees, he is former chair of the WCU Foundation Board of Directors, and he has served on a chancellor search committee and the steering committee for the previous "Lead the Way" comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Ken is a retired chairman and CEO of FORVIS (formerly Dixon Hughes Goodman), which ranks among the top 10 public accounting firms in the nation. He has been instrumental in developing a philanthropic and volunteer relationship between his firm and alma mater. In 2015, WCU renamed its accountancy program in its College of Business as the Dixon

Hughes Goodman (now FORVIS) Accountancy Program in recognition of gifts and pledges totaling \$1 million from Ken and his partners at the firm. He also established the Kenneth M. Hughes Endowed Scholarship at WCU in 2013 to provide financial assistance for accountancy majors. Ken was recipient of the WCU Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award in 2006.





PAUL & SUSAN JOHNSON COACHES' BOX

A coaches' box in the new football operations suite is named in recognition of Paul and Susan Johnson's support of Catamount athletics, which includes a contribution to a field turf replacement project in 2019. Although Paul, a 1979 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in physical education, did not play football during his time here, that did not prevent him from becoming widely regarded as one of the most innovative coaches in college football history. He retired as head coach at Georgia Tech in 2018 after 11 seasons, a stint that included nine bowl game appearances, three bowl wins, and

three Atlantic Coast Championship games. Paul received the WCU Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award in 2022.

Paul began his head coaching career at Georgia Southern, where his squads won five straight Southern Conference titles and two NCAA Division I-AA national championships. Known for his mastery of the flex-bone option offense, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2023. He met his future wife, the former Susan Propst, when both attended WCU. She graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in social work.

ROLAND & CATHY JOHNSON COACH'S OFFICE

A coach's office in the football operations suite in E.J. Whitmire Stadium has been named in recognition of a philanthropic gift from alumnus Roland Johnson and his wife, Cathy. A 1976 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in social work, Roland is a retired pharmaceutical industry entrepreneur and executive. He received the Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence in 2005 and 2008 from the Triad Advisory Committee of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Cathy is a former real estate broker in Winston-Salem.



A member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, he has a lengthy history of financial support for his alma mater's athletics and academic programs, and he formerly served on the WCU Foundation Board of Directors and the Board of Visitors.

In discussing his longtime support of WCU, Roland says, "Western Carolina University taught me to dream bigger than I ever imagined. Dream audaciously. Lead with integrity. Outgrow every expectation – and lift others as you rise."



JERRY & KAY KISER COACH'S Office

Cherished memories of attending Western Carolina University during the glory days of Catamount sports inspired a retired furniture corporation executive and his wife, already longtime supporters of the institution, to take additional

steps to help improve WCU's aging athletics infrastructure. In recognition of their gift toward athletics facilities renovations at their alma mater, a coach's office in the football operations suite is named in honor of alumni Gerald and Kay Kiser.

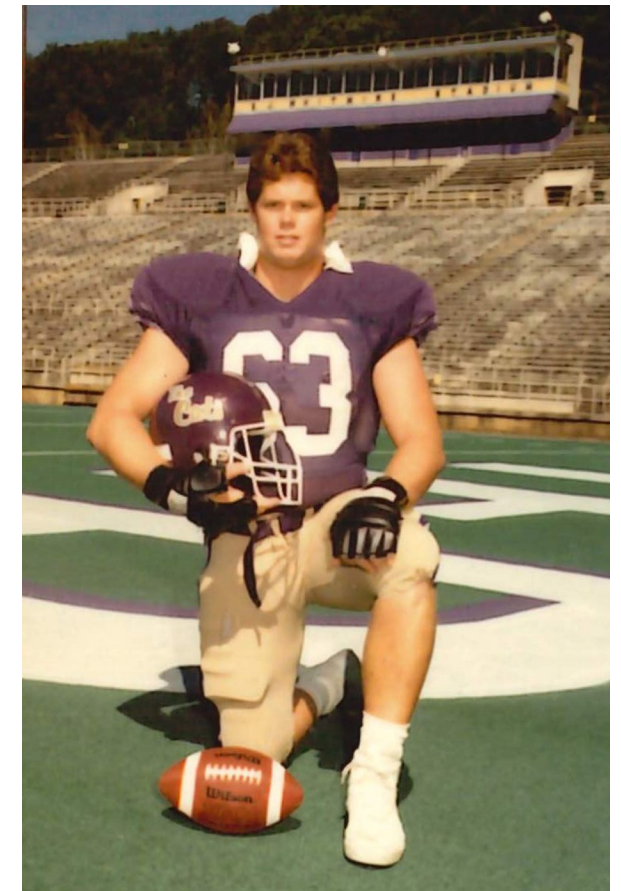
A 1969 graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Jerry is retired chief executive officer of La-Z-Boy Inc. and a former member of WCU's Board of Trustees. Kay, who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1969, is a retired educator who taught at schools in the North Carolina counties of Rutherford and Caldwell. The Kisers are longtime donors to WCU, including support of the Catamount Club and cross country, golf, and football programs.



JOHN S. MARTIN COACH'S Office

When John S. Martin returned to Cullowhee on Saturdays in the fall to watch college football games, the former four-year starter on the Catamount offensive line noticed that E.J. Whitmire Stadium looked much like it did during his playing days in the late 1980s. That realization led the 1990 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business law to support athletics facilities renovations at his alma mater. In recognition of that support, a coach's office in the new football operations facility is named in John's honor.

After redshirting in 1985, he became a cornerstone of the Catamounts' offensive line, starting every game at offensive tackle from 1986 to 1989, and was named a team captain in 1988. John was known as a technician at blocking and for his relentless drive on and off the field. Recipient of WCU's Joseph and Mable Crum Academic Excellence Award in 1989, he is principal adviser with the CAPTRUST financial advisory firm in



Raleigh and a former member of the WCU Foundation Board of Directors and Board of Visitors. A current member of the Catamount Club Board of Directors, he previously established an endowed scholarship fund to support members of the Catamount football team.



JEFF & MARY MEREDITH Coach's Office

Jeff and Mary Meredith are devoted Duquesne University alumni and lifelong Steeler fans—they say it's in their genes. But, when it came time to build their forever retirement home, the mountain views, winding Tuckasegee River, and strong community spirit at Western Carolina University made Cullowhee feel right. They believe it is an honor and privilege to give back to the community they now call home, including a gift toward athletics facilities renovations here. A coach's office in the new football operations suite is named in recognition of their generosity.

Jeff is a retired corporate officer and attorney, practicing mostly in the environmental services industry. Over his 36-year career, he worked in diverse capacities providing leadership in areas from business development to legal representation. He retired in 2024 as eastern region business development manager for Waste



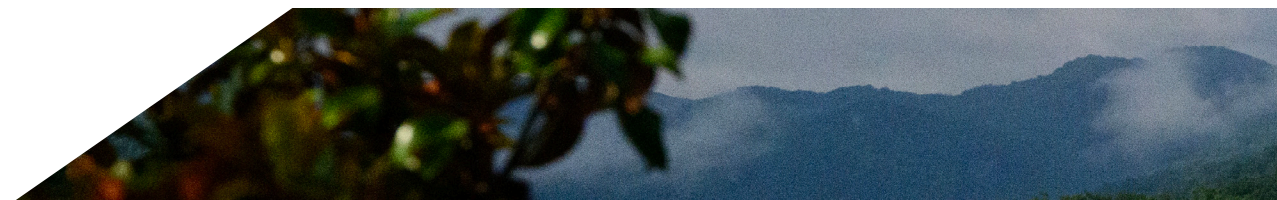
Connections Inc. Mary had a career in pharmaceutical sales and worked as a pharmacist, also serving as director of the Georgia Pharmacy Association. They both are members of the Catamount Club and moved to Cullowhee from Asheville in 2017.



KENNY MESSER & MELANIE CLARK Coach's Office

Alumnus Kenny Messer, who grew up in rural Haywood County plowing tobacco fields behind a mule, once said that providing philanthropic support to WCU is a way to show appreciation for an institution that saved him from a future of staring at the north end of a southbound pack animal. A chemical company executive who graduated from WCU in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Kenny and partner Melanie Clark are longtime supporters of Catamount athletics, including a gift resulting in the naming of a coach's office in the football operations suite in their honor.

Kenny is a former member of the WCU Board of Trustees and past member and president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Catamount Club Board of Directors. He received the WCU Alumni Association's Professional Achievement award in 2018. A retired travel industry professional, Melanie was appointed to the Foundation Board of Directors in 2026. They both served on the "Fill the Western Sky" Campaign Steering Committee. Kenny and Melanie say they hope their commitment supports educational opportunities that prepare graduates for the game of life.





PHILLIPS FOOTBALL CENTER

The Phillips family name has long been associated with Western Carolina University and Catamount athletics. The venerable Jordan-Phillips Fieldhouse is named after the founders of the national construction contractor company now known as Phillips Infrastructure Holdings – the late Ted Phillips Sr. and Ted Jordan, who both held positions on various university leadership boards. Current company board chairwoman Avis Phillips served on WCU's Board of Trustees from 1977 until 1985. And W.T. "Teddy" Phillips Jr., who previously served as company CEO and now is executive director of the board, was a member of the university Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2009.

A former football player and business major at WCU, Teddy issued a challenge during the annual GivingTuesday fundraising initiative in 2024 pledging \$1 million toward upgrades to E.J. Whitmire Stadium if the Catamount Club reached a total of 2,000 members by June 30, 2025. His challenge resulted in a final membership tally of 2,679 at the end of that fiscal year. The Phillips Football Center was named by Teddy, who, as a scholarship recipient himself, believes in the opportunities that football can provide for students and hopes the center will give other students the ability to build the same strong foundation he received from his time at WCU. He served as co-chair of the "Fill the Western Sky" Campaign Steering Committee.



PHILIP PRESTON HOME COACHES BALCONY

The new coaching balcony for home team video operations in the expanded E.J. Whitmire Stadium at Western Carolina University has been named in memory of the late Philip Preston Sr., an alumnus and passionate supporter of Catamount athletics, thanks to contributions from an anonymous fellow fraternity member. Known to his friends as "Lip," Philip was a 1990 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in radio and television who passed away in August 2025. A resident of Atlanta, he was a sales executive in the eyewear industry.

A cheerleader during his time as a student at WCU, Philip was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and served as rush chairman. He was an

active member of the Catamount Club and a former member of the WCU Alumni Association Board of Directors. "'Lip' was a remarkable individual whose warmth and generosity left a lasting impression on all who knew him," the anonymous donor says. "His legacy lives on through the many lives he enriched and the memories he leaves behind."



DAVE & PENNIE ROBERTS HEAD COACH'S OFFICE



Foremost among those favorite faculty members was the late Jim Hamilton, longtime head of the Department of Physical Education and a loyal supporter of Catamount athletics.

Dave earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1969 and his master's degree in physical education in 1971, both from WCU. He retired from coaching in 2004 following a 32-year career that included stints as head football coach at Western Kentucky University, Northeast Louisiana University (now Louisiana-Monroe), and Baylor University. He held assistant coaching positions at Eastern Kentucky, Davidson,

Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, and South Carolina. The head football coach's office is named through the generosity of gifts from Dave and his wife, Pennie, who holds a degree in psychology from Winthrop College.

A member of the Catamount football team's defensive unit in the 1960s, WCU alumnus Dave Roberts was moved to make a gift to his alma mater out of deep gratitude for former professors and appreciation for his teammates, many of whom have gone on to achieve success outside the world of athletics.



SOUTH BALCONY

The new visiting football team coaches' balcony is named in recognition of Steve and Becky South for their gift toward WCU athletics facilities renovations. In a bit of geographical serendipity, the balcony providing in-game video and operational support for coaches of visiting teams also happens to be located on the south end of the new football suite.

A 1981 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a defensive back on the Catamount football team during his time in Cullowhee, Steve is majority owner and chancellor of South College, a multicampus institution of higher education based in Knoxville, Tennessee. Becky is an active member of the Knoxville community and a member of the South College Board.



STANBERRY FAMILY Offensive Coordinator Office



For years, attendees of WCU home football games have heard the public address announcer exclaim, “That’s a Catamount first down, brought to you by Stanberry Insurance.” Fans should be hearing even more declarations of offensive prowess emanating from the PA system in the years to come, thanks to a gift from Kevin and Lynn Heath Stanberry. In recognition of their financial support, the offensive coordinator office in the new football operations suite has been named in honor of the Stanberry family. The Stanberry connection to WCU began with family patriarch and alumnus Larry Stanberry and continued with Kevin, a 1994 graduate of WCU with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, and Lynn, a 1999 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in economics.

Kevin and Lynn both served as members of the “Fill the Western

Sky” Steering Committee. He is currently vice president of Stanberry Insurance, and she is former owner of O’Malley’s Pub and Grill in Sylva, where she worked as a WCU student. They are active members of the Catamount Club, and Kevin serves on the Catamount Club Board of Directors. A member of WCU’s Foundation Board of Directors, Lynn was integral to the creation of the Purple Zone pre-game events for Catamount Club members.

The husband-and-wife team received the Southern Conference Distinguished Service Award in 2011 in recognition of their support for WCU athletics.



VAN & ALAN STAYTON Coach’s Office

A coach’s office located in the new football operations suite is named in honor of support from a father-and-son duo who both were members of the Catamount football special teams unit during their respective times as student-athletes at Western Carolina University. Van Stayton, a 1965 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in social work, was a kicker for the WCU football squad, and son Alan Stayton, a 2007 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in hospitality and tourism management, was a punter. They previously established the Van and Alan Stayton Endowed Football Scholarship Fund here.

A charter member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity chapter at WCU, Van has been a major supporter of WCU’s student-athletes and the Catamount Club for more than 40 years. He is former president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and previously was on the Catamount Club Board of Directors. After graduating, Van served his country as an aviator in the U.S. Navy, with two tours in Vietnam aboard the USS Kitty Hawk, flying E-2 Hawkeyes. He then worked as a captain for Western and Delta airlines for 29 years, and he was the lead developer for The Summit, which was the first major off-campus housing project for WCU students. Alan serves as director of flight operations for a Tennessee-based distillery.



MIKE & MARSHA SULLIVAN ATRIUM

The entrance lobby atrium in the new football center expansion is named in honor of Mike and Marsha Sullivan in gratitude for their gifts to improve athletics facilities at WCU. Although Mike and Marsha are not alumni of this university, their daughter Marissa is, earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2022 and currently studying toward her master's degree. Residents of Florida with a home in Cashiers, Mike and Marsha previously made a significant contribution to the Catamount athletics program resulting in the naming of the film room in the Liston B. Ramsey Regional

Activity Center in recognition of their philanthropy.

Mike is CEO of Gargiulo Inc., a national produce company that provides tomatoes to many restaurants and food service suppliers including Subway and US Foods. The company owns more than 160,000 acres of farmland in Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and California. He was a certified public accountant for 10 years before joining Gargiulo as chief financial officer, becoming CEO in 2008. Marsha is a retired customer service manager for the tax collection office in Lee County, Florida. They both served on the "Fill the Western Sky" Steering Committee.



ROBBIE & MIRIAM VANNOY COACH'S Office

As members of the class of 1979, Robbie and Miriam Vannoy say they are proud to support the future of Catamount athletics. Western Carolina University is where they met and where Robbie excelled as a member of the Catamount football team, earning First-Team All-Southern Conference and AP Honorable Mention All-American honors. They say the scholarships that brought them to Cullowhee shaped their lives, from a career in Spartanburg to a home in Charleston. "We are honored to name this coach's office and help the next generation thrive," said the Vannoys.

Robbie holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from WCU and was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity. He retired as vice president of international sales for William Barnet & Sons, a global manufacturing company specializing in fibers, polymers, and yarns. He joined the company in 1991 and became head of international operations. Prior to his work there, he spent 10 years with Milliken as a marketing manager. A former educator, Miriam earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from WCU, where she was a member of Phi Mu sorority.



VEXTER COACHES' BOX

The visiting team coaches' box in the new football operations center of E.J. Whitmire Stadium is named in recognition of a leadership gift from Peter and Martha 'Marty' Vexter toward renovations of athletics facilities at WCU. Peter is originally from London and served as a firefighter before embarking upon a successful career in the specialty insurance industry, retiring after more than 30 years. Marty, also retired, is an avid golfer. Residents of Arden, they are members of the Catamount Club.

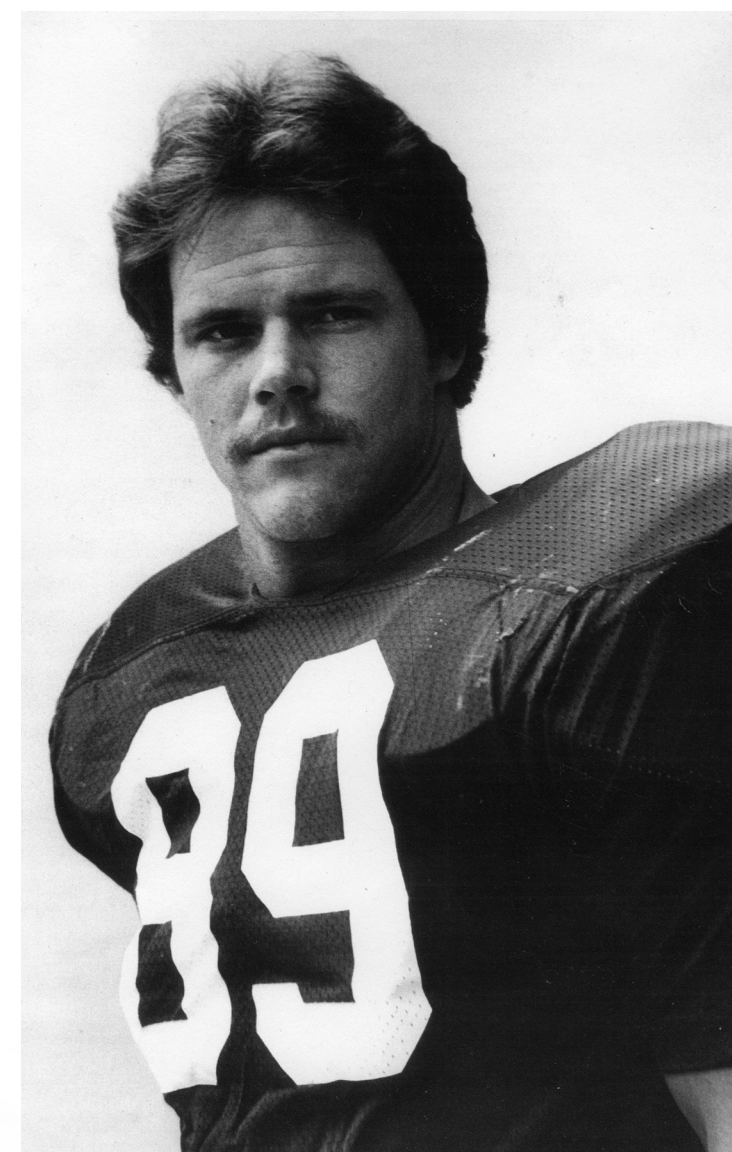
Peter began serving his community as a firefighter at just 18 before transitioning into the insurance industry in his mid-20s. He worked initially for a worldwide company called Aon Risk Services, where he and Marty met. Throughout his career, Peter focused on professional liability exposure and serving Lloyd's of London, Sedgewick Limited, and Sedgewick James of Chicago. Most recently, Peter was executive vice president for Proquest, joining the team in 2000 to establish the company's Chicago office.

MICHAEL WADE DEFENSIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

A former two-time Western Carolina University Academic All-American football player who still gets chills thinking back to his own time on the college gridiron wants to help ensure that future Catamount student-athletes have similar experiences. That's why Michael G. Wade, a 1977 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business administration, made gifts to his alma mater to support athletics facilities improvements. In recognition of Mike's support and his time as a Catamount defensive end, the football program's defensive conference room is named in his honor.

Co-owner of Rabbit Ridge student housing complex in Cullowhee and other real estate projects, Mike is a former insurance executive. He and wife Regina are longtime supporters of Catamount athletics, and he previously made significant contributions to the university's arts programs. Mike is also among the donors who led an effort to name the new media center in E.J.

Whitmire Stadium after legendary WCU sports information director Steve White. The modern facility replaces an outdated press box on the east side of the stadium.



RANDY WHITE

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Office

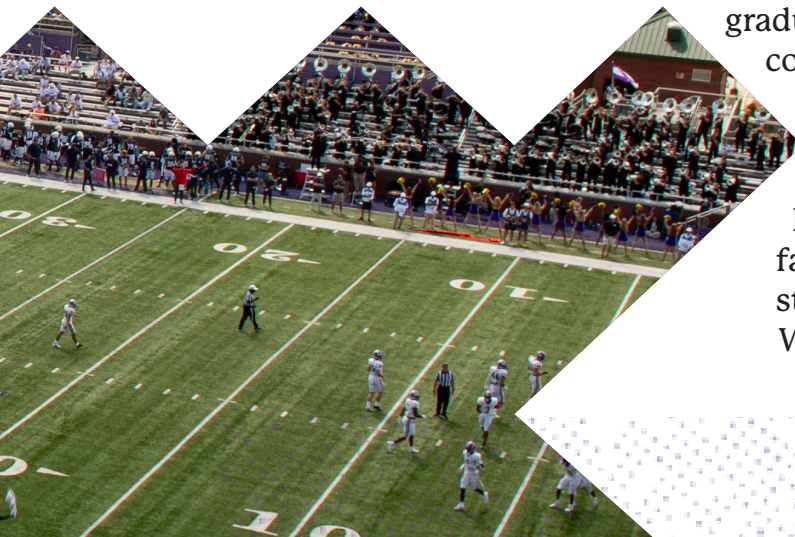
Alumnus Randy White says that when he passed through Catamount Gap and saw the WCU campus for the first time in 1986, he knew his life would change forever. That's why he agreed to co-chair the steering committee for the "Fill the Western Sky" comprehensive fundraising campaign. It's also why he stepped up in another way by making a leadership gift to help renovate athletics facilities at his alma mater. The defensive coordinator office has been named in recognition of support from Randy and wife Kim Hunter.

A former member of the Foundation Board of Directors, Randy graduated from WCU with a bachelor's degree in finance in 1989 and a master's degree in business administration in 1991. He and Kim, also campaign



steering committee co-chair, are managing directors at Hunter and White Private Wealth Group of Wells Fargo Advisors in Santa Rosa, California. "As an undergraduate and graduate, I soaked in everything I could," Randy says. "My time at WCU was truly invaluable.

I want the same for more students. Kim Hunter and I support scholarships and facilities to ensure that the student-athlete experience at WCU is second to none."



STEVE WHITE

MEDIA CENTER

The new media center is named in acknowledgement of the contributions of retired sports information director Steve White, a 1967 graduate of WCU with bachelor's degrees in history and political science who began a four-decade career with Catamount athletics in 1970. The facility is made possible by gifts from numerous friends, colleagues, and former student-athletes in appreciation for the passion and dedication of a man affectionately referred to as "the walking encyclopedia of Catamount athletics." The effort to name the new media center in Steve's honor was kicked off by leadership gifts from David Wiggins, a 1991 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in accounting, and wife Joy Wiggins, a 1993 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in accounting; and former Catamount football standout

Mike Wade, a 1977 graduate of WCU with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and spouse Regina.

The media center will accommodate approximately 155 people. It replaces a now-outdated press box on the east side of the stadium. Sports editor of the student-run Western Carolinian newspaper as an undergraduate, Steve also served as first executive director of the Catamount Club, originally called the Big Cat Club. Although he retired in 1998, he remains active with WCU through his ongoing involvement with the Catamount Sports Network, the WCU Athletics Hall of Fame selection committee, and the recently launched "Tracking the Cats" podcast. All donors who made contributions in Steve's honor are listed on a plaque in the Phillips Football Center.





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