View From The Hill
(05/13/10)

**Graduation Preview**

A WKU Alum who works for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Commanding General of the ROTC are among the featured guests at Saturday morning’s WKU commencement ceremony.

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

This weekend marks the 167th commencement for WKU and once again the number of graduates has set a new record.

“Over the course of the weekend, we will honor 2400 students who have completed degrees and certificates and this is a record number.”

Registrar Freida Eggleton says the growing number of graduates is a reflection of the increased enrollment at WKU over the last several years.

She adds that an honorary doctorate is being presented to Vickie Phillips who currently works for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Vickie is an alum of Western, she is a native of Kentucky and throughout her career she’s been involved in a wide variety of educational  leadership positions.”
Another popular part of commencement is the commissioning of ROTC graduates as second lieutenants.

“There’s no requirement that our cadets come up on stage and be introduced by President Ransdell and receive a standing ovation but it happens everytime.”

That recognition is something the head of the ROTC nationwide wanted to witness for himself.

“We are especially proud this year to have major general Arthur Bartell who is the commanding general of all ROTC programs across the nation.”

Major General Bartell will administer the oath to seven cadet graduates during Saturday’s ten a.m. ceremony.

Lt. Colonel Jason Caldwell, who leads WKU’s ROTC program,  says it’s humbling to be paid a visit by such a high ranking officer.
It’s special he’s chosen WKU to come to on 15 May feel privileged.”

Chemistry major Jonathan Brantley will be honored as this year’s Ogden Scholar.  WKU’S graduate ceremony will be held tomorrow night at seven followed by undergraduate ceremonies Saturday at ten a.m. and three p.m. all in Diddle Arena.  The Gatton Academy graduation will be held Saturday at one pm at Van Meter Hall.   With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.