Ann Blair Thornton

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All eyes are on Miss Kentucky Ann Blair Thornton as she competes in this weekend’s Miss America pageant.

Amy Bingham talks to the WKU student from Bowling Green in this week’s “View from the Hill.”

Becoming Miss America is something Ann Blair Thornton has dreamed about since she was a little girl. Now she has the chance to fulfill that dream and WKU couldn’t be prouder.

A few months ago, Bowling Green’s Chamber of Commerce held a reception to honor it’s hometown girl Ann Blair Thornton for winning Miss Kentucky.

Now many of these same supporters are headed to Las Vegas to cheer her on in the Miss America pageant.

The WKU senior, who is a double major in English and Economics, has put school on hold for a year to travel the state as a spokesperson for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Kentucky Proud program.

She’s bumped into lots of Hilltoppers along the way.

 “I’ve found that everywhere I go, if I meet a former WKU student or graduate we just instantly bond. You don’t see that spirit anywhere else. It’s been fun to meet people across the state that have the same WKU pride as I do.”

When it came time to choose a school, Thornton says it was a no-brainer.

“It’s always been a family tradition. My mom and my dad are both graduates of WKU and my sister who was a cheerleader here, it just seemed like a natural fit.”

She says WKU President Gary Ransdell is a big part of what makes the campus so appealing.

Ann Blair took an active role on campus and has encouraged other incoming students to do the same.

“I was involved in student government and also greek life and I would encourage other people to do that as well because it branches you out in so many different ways and helps you stay involved with campus as a whole.”

But for now Ann Blair Thornton is focused on that lifelong dream of capturing the Miss America crown and her university and hometown believes she has what it takes to do it.

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Ann Blair’s platform issue is Alzheimer’s Awareness and Research which was inspired by one of her grandparent’s own struggle with the disease. You can watch Ann Blair Thornton compete in the Miss America Pageant live Saturday night at eight pm right here on WBKO.

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

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