Love Ranking – WKU Campus

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WKU receives a number one ranking in an area that has nothing to do with academics or athletics.

But it’s a topic that has struck a chord with thousands of alumni around the country as Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

You may have heard about a survey released last week naming WKU the number one campus to fall in love. When President Ransdell shared the news on social media, thousands of Hilltoppers were able to relate.

Donald & Jennifer Smith \ Met on the Hill

Dr. Gary & Julie Ransdell \ Met on the Hill

Love is in the air on WKU’s campus but that’s nothing new.

“This is a unique place, it’s such a beautiful campus that it really does lend itself to meet that someone special, walking around sharing moments so I’m not surprised at all.”

Smith is talking about a recent ranking putting WKU at the top of the list of campus’s to fall in love.

It happened for her and her husband Donald back in the early ‘90’s.

“As I was walking into Van Meter I saw her walking and I thought this is going to be a great place to go to school.”

“What he didn’t tell you is that normally he says he thought I was a teacher.”

The Smith’s are in good company. President Gary Ransdell and his wife Julie met and married while students here in the ‘70’s.

“I can remember exactly where it was and where she was, I said who’se that standing up there, she was standing up on a balcony and I said who’se that??”

“I remember meeting him for the first time but I was not as thrilled as he was. “ Laughs

Dr. Ransdell isn’t the first WKU President to fall in love on campus. It happened to Donald Smith’s grandfather Dero Downing too.

“My family has a long history here at WKU. My grandparents met here on the hill and were married nearly 70 years before my grandfather passed away. My parents met here on the hill and just celebrated fifty years and we just celebrated twenty years.”

Both couples are among thousands of others that call the kissing bridge a favorite romantic spot. A bench in the valley even commemorates the place where another WKU couple met.

“We have a gorgeous campus. It was gorgeous then and it’s gorgeous now and he tells students all the time find your spot and we did, we had lots of favorite spots.”

“People love each other and love this place and the two are intertwined. Obviously its been central to our life story for the last 43 years.”

Alumni records indicate more than 13,000 WKU graduates are married to another alum.

Another fun fact----240 employees on campus are married to each other. No record on which of those couples met on the hill.

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

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