Mahurin Gift to Honors College

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 For decades, Pete and Dixie Mahurin have given back to their alma mater, Western Kentucky University.

Amy Bingham has more on their most recent gift in this week’s View from the Hill.

 He’s a founding member of the WKU Foundation. She’s a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood. Gifts from Pete and Dixie Mahurin have resulted in an endowed professorship in gifted studies and the move of the headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children to WKU.

 Now the University benefits from their generosity again.

Pete and Dixie Mahurin will soon celebrate 55 years of marriage. But they are still smitten with each other.

 “I still feel like in a room full of people I’m married to the smartest guy in the room.”

 “What are the chances of someone with my background marrying the smartest girl and the prettiest?”

The Hilliard Lyons executive indeed came from humble beginnings.

 “There were four of us, four boys and two parents. We didn’t share a bathroom. We didn’t have one.”

He also had a precarious run at WKU.

 “They kicked me out, came back and I managed to graduate before they kicked me out again. There’s what changed me, Dixie.”

Dixie has been impacting the lives of student athletes for more than three decades as their academic coordinator.

And together the couple has made a lasting impression on WKU through their generous gifts.

 “I consider any gift we give to the university not a gift but an investment.”

Each time the Mahurins have first sought the approval of their only child, daughter Sarah.

 “It’s her inheritance actually so we had to ask her how do you feel about this.”

 “There were several opportunities to give money so how would she feel about the Honors College. She was sold. “

So how does this philanthropic couple feel about having the building named the Mahurin Honors College?

No different

 “I expect it to pay huge dividends for the state of Kentucky and America for that matter

 “I just think it will have an impact on people for a long time to come.”

A ceremony naming the building the Mahurin Honors College is being planned for later this spring.

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

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