President’s View From the Hill

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I share exciting news. On July 1, Pikeville College officially became the University of Pikeville, a bold and strategic move that will build upon this great institution’s tradition of excellence. We are the leading university in Central Appalachia, and we will be even more so in the future.

What began in 1889 as the Pikeville College Institute – a simple four-room brick building situated on three acres of land – transitioned into the Academy, Pikeville Junior College, a four-year college and the medical school. Becoming the University of Pikeville was a natural evolution of what the institution has meant to the community – a special place of higher learning for the youth of the mountains.

The name change is the first phase of our strategic plan. Next, we’ll be looking at the organization, mission, and the needs of the region. As part of the plan for growth, the University has been reorganized into two schools, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (UP-KYCOM). The medical school’s new name reflects the expanded outreach of our mission and the areas we serve, and will enhance our ability to continue to keep the promise we made when the school was founded.

Our University family is looking forward to the new semester. In reflecting on the past year, we have much to be thankful for. The fruits of our labor and the generosity of so many alumni and friends continue to provide opportunities for growth. Last fall we welcomed the largest freshman class in the school’s history. I am pleased to report that we are on track to set a record enrollment again this year. We began construction on the new facility for the College of Osteopathic Medicine in October and will celebrate the opening in the spring.

And, how ‘bout them Bears! What a thrill it was as our men’s basketball team went “All In” to claim the title of national champions. Just when we thought it couldn’t get better, in May we celebrated the academic accomplishments of our graduates – the next generation of teachers, doctors and nurses, business professionals, artists, writers and many others who will make a difference in their communities.

To mark the historic move to university status, we held a special event to celebrate this momentous occasion. A capstone of the day included a dedication by the University of Pikeville’s Alumni Association. The arch bearing the name Pikeville College has been a fixture on the campus’ historic 99 steps for decades. The landmark now has a place of honor in the Allara Courtyard. Allow me to share a few words from that day delivered by Dr. Howard Roberts, professor of business and a longtime member of the alumni board.

With Homecoming approaching, I invite you to come for a visit. I think you will enjoy your view from the hill.

Hal E. Patter
President