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## WKU receives another \$500K

California couple's gift will provide endowment for Honors College

By NATALIE JORDAN, The Daily News, njordan@bgdailynews.com Jul 17, 2008

Western Kentucky University has received a major gift for its Honors College.

The university announced today that it is the recipient of a \$500,000 gift to create the university's first endowed professorship in its Honors College - the Jarve Endowed Professorship. The gift, from John and Jacque Hughes Jarve of Atherton, Calif., will be matched through the commonwealth's "Bucks for Brains" fund, giving a total impact of \$1 million for the Honors College.

"It is an unbelievable vote of confidence in WKU and the Honors College," said Craig Cobane, director of the Honors College.

The gift will be paid out in a five-year period, and the interest will go to support the work of the director and for undergraduate research.

The funds will provide students doing substantive research projects with a stipend, an honorarium for a faculty mentor and the project itself.

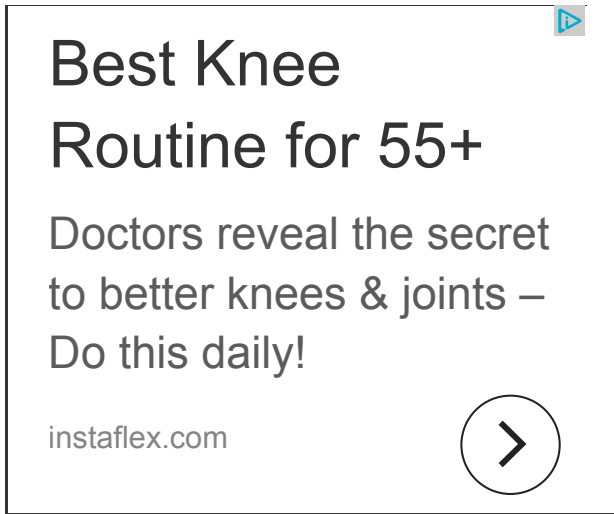
"By funding students to do research, what we hope will happen is that more of our students will be able to be published in faculty-level journals," Cobane said, "which makes them much more competitive for graduate school and future employment."

The gift will be matched through the state's Regional University Excellence Trust Fund, said Tom Hiles, vice president of institutional advancement.

Hiles said the legislature passed a new round of "Bucks for Brains" funds during its last session, with WKU getting \$2.4 million.

This is the first gift the university has received to take advantage of those matching funds, he said.


Although the gift will be doled out across a five-year period, Hiles said the university will get the matching funds from the state in 2009.



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The California couple has ties to WKU and Kentucky - Jacque Hughes Jarve is a native of Adairville, a 1981 WKU graduate and is a member of the university's Board of Advisors. John Jarve served as a Hays Watkins visiting CEO professor at WKU in 2005.

The Jarves previously created the Jarve Fund for Excellence in the Ogden College of Science and Engineering at WKU.

The gift, Hiles said, is significant because it is for the Honors College - the first one in Kentucky and one of President Gary Ransdell's strategic initiatives.

“President Ransdell has put great emphasis on building upon the Honors College and the Gatton Academy for Math and Science,” Hiles said. “Having the Jarve professorship is like having the Good Housekeeping seal of approval on the Honors College. It gives it instant credibility.”

The Honors College will have close to 1,000 students enrolled at the start of the fall semester, Cobane said previously.