View From The Hill   
(05/20/10)   
  
**Fijis Bike Across America**

Five WKU students are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime.  
  
But as Amy Bingham tells us in this week’s “View from the Hill”, this trip is about much more than making memories.  
  
The Fijis Across America bike ride for Alzheimer’s research begins Monday in Oceanside California and ends in July in Yorktown Virginia.  
Planning has been underway for nearly a year, but the group says it’s been a labor of love.  
   
“On my 18th birthday I made a list of 50 things I want to do before I die, like a bucket list, and number seven on that list was cycling across country.”  
  
Just a year after making that bucket list, WKU sophomore Tyler Jury watched his grandfather succumb to  alzheimers.   
   
“When I saw my grandfather in the nursing home last year and just completely not the man he used to be…I wanted to raise money for the disease that was affecting him.”  
Enlisting the support of four friends, who are also members of the Fiji fraternity, Jury set about organizing a cross country bike trip to benefit alzheimers research.  
   
“so I said sign me up..let’s do it, let’s bike across America.”  
   
That’s just what they’re about to do.   Chaz Vittitow, Mitchell White, Justin Cave, Wade Haga and Tyler have been training for the trip since last fall.  
   
“Just trying to strengthen our legs, get used to being in the saddle of the bike and just trying to get in the best shape we can for the summer.”  
  
They’ve also been raising money…so far rounding  up more than twenty thousand dollars.  They hope to reach 75-thousand before it’s over.   
   
“We’ll be doing barbeque dinners and different fundraisers along the way to reach the goals.”  
  
Now all the planning turns into pedaling….with plenty of inspiration to go around.  
   
“It’s been really special to see the hope it’s provided for people.  Just the fact that we’re getting on our bikes and every pedal is dedicated to alzheimers.  
   
“In the back of my mind I’ll always be riding for my grandpa when I see a tall mountain in the rockies and don’t want to go up it he’ll be telling me to.”  
  
The Fijis have been collecting stories and testimonies about how alzheimers has affected different families.  They plan to read those each morning and dedicate the ride that day to those families.  
  
If you would like to donate to the cause, log onto fijisacross America.org.  
  
With this week’s “View from the Hill”, I’m Amy Bingham.