Quilt Show

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Canning, crocheting and quilting---all time-honored traditions dating back hundreds of years.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham shows us how a department dedicated to those traditions is celebrating it’s one hundred year anniversary.

WKU’s Family and Consumer Sciences Department has been around for 100 years. What better way to celebrate than a quilt exhibit that takes you back in time.

 “When you go through this exhibit, you get some of the historic events that took place, in general things that were going on in the department and on up to present day.”

Strolling through the third floor exhibit area of the Kentucky Museum gives you more than a glimpse at beautiful quilts, it’s also a stroll down memory lane.

 “It brings back memories, a lot of people have said that, they’ve had a good time remembering things that have happened over the years.”

Martha Jenkins is a 1959 WKU graduate and served on the faculty in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department for forty years.

 “I want people to be aware that the Family and Consumer Science Department exists and we have diverse majors that appeal to a lot of people.”

Jenkins and fellow co-chair Scheryl Buda say WKU founding president Henry Hardin Cherry had lots of forsight when adding this department in 1911.

 “He knew that this young school could benefit from this, it was a time too heading into the first world war when food supply and clothing, basic needs in a lot of areas weren’t being met.”

From quilts made out of tobacco sacks to the muppets who are making a comeback, the history is documented in five different periods.

 “We have some quilts that were made for a lot of different reasons that fit the patterns, the family and social development of the last 100 years. I think that’s what makes it unique.”

And the exhibit truly lives up to its name: “Preserving the past, Sustaining the Future.”

 “Quilts do tell a story, they are part of the culture and you can look at them and sort of identify with the person who made them and the time period.”

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

You can see the quilts for yourself. The exhibit at the Kentucky museum runs through December 10th.

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