Board of Advisors members pleased with University’s recent progress

Working to help youth comes naturally for Lopez

BY SARAH GOULD
Admiral T. Joseph Lopez has worked with youth for most of his life, so his dedication to WVU seems only natural.

"I think the same reasons that kept me in the Navy drive me to assist West Virginia, and those are the opportunities to work for the betterment of an organization and our country through young minds," said Admiral Lopez, who retired from the U.S. Navy in 1999 and is now the chief operating officer for Brown & Root Services, a Division of Halliburton Company.

Admiral Lopez is one of two flag officers in the history of the U.S. Navy who achieved four-star rank after direct commission from enlisted service. He served as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces, Southern Europe from 1996-1998. He commanded all U.S. and Allied Bosnia Peace Forces in 1998.

Though he has traveled throughout the world and currently lives in Virginia, Admiral Lopez's heart is truly back in the Mountain State. A native of Powellton, in Fayette County, he frequently visits West Virginia, both to see relatives and to fulfill his duties as a member of the WVU Board of Advisors and the National Youth Science Foundation board of trustees, headquartered in Charleston.

In December 1998, Charleston newspaper named Admiral Lopez West Virginian of the Year. He has also been honored by the Italian Heritage Festival as West Virginian of the Year (1989) and received the designation of "Distinguished West Virginian" in 1984 from Governor John D. Rockefeller IV. He is an alumnus of Potomac State College and the West Virginia Institute of Technology, as well as The U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

"As a life-long West Virginian, and with my son having graduated from the University, I've always maintained an on-going interest in WVU," Admiral Lopez explained. "With that background, my goal as a BOA member is to assist in any way possible with the goals and objectives of President Hardesty. I spent my entire life shaping and motivating young people and managing large organizations, so if I can use any of those skills in assisting the board to function better then that's what I would like to do."

WVU's vitality impresses Admiral Lopez.

"I sense from observing WVU, not only through the media but also through my own son and nephew's recent education there, that it is a campus with energy and new ideas and new focus, a place that, if I had another son or daughter, I would want them to go. Certainly one day I hope my grandchildren will attend. I'm excited about the new directions that are taking place at WVU," Lopez said.

He calls WVU "absolutely central to all West Virginians" and recognizes the University's role in the future growth of the state.

"I think the biggest challenge that will face WVU in the coming years will be trying to balance the needs in education for the 21st century with budgets and student population, superimposed on the needs of the entire state of West Virginia for students who are educated to assist in the progressive economic development of our state," he said.

These stories are part of a series profiling members of the WVU Board of Advisors, which will become WVU's governing board July 1.

Leech: Economic development benefits state, U

BY AMY QUIGLEY
Board of Advisors members James J. Leech believes faculty and staff should be proud of their part in creating positive change at WVU in recent years.

"Changes have resulted in consistent and record growth in virtually all areas," said Leech, a Morgantown resident and chairman, president and chief executive officer of Centra Bank, Inc.

In particular, he cited student-centered programs such as the Mountaineer Parents Club and WVU's All Night and the university's research programs.

With his background in banking, Leech is particularly interested in the role of WVU research in economic development.

"When WVU brings its resources to bear to benefit the state, the result is a stronger state economy and, in turn, more state investment in WVU," he said.

A strong research program is impressive to companies that are considering moving into West Virginia, he added.

Particular research areas at WVU that have impressed Leech include gene therapy, forensic identification and neurosciences.

For the past several months, board members have been learning about all aspects of WVU in preparation for the board's transition to WVU's governing body. Leech said he has found it overwhelming to contemplate how far-reaching WVU is in the state.

He believes WVU will be well served by an institutional governing board, whose members truly understand the University's needs, helping to determine its direction.

The talent level among his fellow board members is incredible, Leech said.

"I believe it is the strongest board put together in the state, as it should be," he said.

Leech believes his prior service on the State College System Board of Directors gave him a good understanding of WVU's role in West Virginia.

His experience as CEO of one of West Virginia's three largest banks is also something he draws upon as a board member, he noted. It gave him a familiarity with the state's legislative process and acquainted him with many of WVU's largest supporters across the state.

Leech has served on many other state boards, including the board of directors of the West Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, the West Virginia Roundtable and the West Virginia Bankers Association. He serves on the WVU College of Business and Economics Visiting Committee and is a past president of the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties.

An honors graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, he began his career as a certified public accountant and later served as president of the Southeast Region of Huntington Banks and as chief operating officer for One Valley Bank's Northern Division.

WVU librarian’s book gets favorable New York Times review

BY TIM TERRAN
Anna Schein's co-edited book Treaty of Canandaigua 1794 was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review Sunday, and she couldn't be happier.

Her interest in Native American issues began in 1992 when Leon Shenandoah, a Iroquois chief came to WVU to plant a peace tree. That visit and one other by Onondaga Chief Oren Lyons in 1994, made possible by an endowment for Native American studies, piqued her interest, especially Lyons' mention of the 200th anniversary of the Canandaigua treaty, an agreement between the United States administration of George Washington and the Iroquois Confederacy of six Native American nations.

With co-editor G. Peter Jamison, Schein gives both sides of the history that is background for legal actions being pursued in the courts.

"What struck me (when Chief Lyons spoke) is that I knew nothing about this treaty, and I don't think anyone else did. I felt that if we knew more, we would be more supportive of indigenous rights," said Schein, who is a University Librarian and head of the periodicals department. "The goal of the book was to present the history of this treaty from both the United States and Iroquois perspectives and to make it available to the public."

Schein's interest in minority cultures also stems from her master's degree work in English as a second language. She received that degree in 1994 and a degree in library science in 1974. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in American studies through State University of New York at Buffalo.

Times reviewer Fred Anderson said the book "offers a mosaic of tradition, religion, scholarship, polemic, law and history that tends to dissolve conventional distinctions between past and present and invites readers to contemplate what Indian treaties mean."