

2-11-2002

EKUUpdate, February 11, 2002

Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://encompass.eku.edu/upubs_update

Recommended Citation

Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations, "EKUUpdate, February 11, 2002" (2002). *EKU Update*. 29.
http://encompass.eku.edu/upubs_update/29

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Encompass. It has been accepted for inclusion in EKU Update by an authorized administrator of Encompass. For more information, please contact Linda.Sizemore@eku.edu.

EKUupdate

A Newsletter for the Eastern Kentucky University Community.
Volume 3 • Number 13

February 11, 2002

Frankfort Reception



State officials and members of the General Assembly were special guests Jan. 31 at a reception hosted by EKU in the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort.

External Grant Funding Jumps 24% to Record \$50 Million

EKU received nearly \$50 million in external grant award notifications in Fiscal Year 2001, a 24 percent increase from the previous year and a whopping 377 percent jump since 1996.

Almost every segment of the campus community posted an increase, with the College of Justice & Safety leading the way with \$36.9 million, a 29 percent increase in external funding.

"This is a point of pride," said Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs, at the Jan. 31 meeting of the Board of Regents in Frankfort, "and it is the result of a lot of hard work by faculty, staff, deans, vice presidents, the entire institution."

Ironically, the sizable increase in funding came at a time when the number of faculty proposals and awards slipped to their lowest levels in six years – 263 submissions and 198 awards.

Scott Tracy, director of the Division of Sponsored Programs, called the funding increase

Construction to Begin on B & T Center

Ground will be broken late this spring or early summer on EKU's planned Business & Technology Center.

Because the project was not included in Gov. Patton's recently announced budget, some may have mistakenly concluded that the building was on hold, according to College of Business & Technology Dean Dr. Robert Rogow. However, Rogow added, \$14 million already had been approved by the state Finance Cabinet for the project, and architects continue to develop detailed drawings and cost estimates.

The approved funding will allow the College to complete one wing of the facility, Rogow said. A steering committee will recommend at a later date that construction begin on either the conference center/auditorium wing or the classroom wing.

Rogow said he remained "very optimistic" that the entire \$40-45 million complex will be constructed, noting that the Center is the University's top priority in the current capital plan filed with the General Assembly.

In its entirety, the 212,000-square-foot complex will include an "incubator" for new business, an "innovation and commercialization center" to help in the development of new businesses, a conference center with exhibition space, a performing arts center/auditorium, classrooms and office space.

Rogow expects one wing of the facility to be completed within a minimum of 1½ to 2 years.

"The faculty, chairs and deans are to be commended for their commitment to our mission of excellence in instruction, public service and research."

Scott Tracy



ANOTHER STELLAR SEASON – Freshman Miranda Eckerle shoots over an Austin Peay defender. The Lady Colonels are coming down the stretch of another successful season (16-5 overall and 8-2 in OVC at press time) and host their final regular season home game Saturday, Feb. 16 when they face league rival Morehead at 5:30. The men's game between the two schools follows at 8 p.m.

"a sign of the continued health of the University's sponsored programs enterprise in attracting large-scale multidisciplinary projects."

A significant portion of new dollars came through discretionary funding by federal agencies in support of University faculty and staff, Tracy noted. Federal awards, for example, increased more than 21 percent, from \$8.8 million in FY 2000 to \$10.7 million in FY 2001.

Federal awards for research increased more than 227 percent in the past fiscal year, from \$1.1 million to \$2.5 million. Total sponsored research awards topped \$2.8 million.

"Nearly every department and college on this campus has contributed to the increase in funding," Tracy said, "and the faculty, chairs and deans are to be commended for their commitment to our mission of excellence in instruction, public service and research."

Announcements

Band Premieres New Foster Work

EKU's Symphonic Band presented the world premiere of "A Stephen Foster Fantasy" at the 2002 Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference Saturday, Feb. 9 in Louisville.

The work, by South Carolina Composer Laureate Dr. Gordon Goodwin, was commissioned by and dedicated to the EKU Symphonic Bands and Stephen Collins Foster Music Camps, held annually on the Richmond campus. Based on themes from the Foster repertoire, the piece is the first major work for band commissioned by the EKU program in the 96-year history of the institution.

The Symphonic Band, under the direction of EKU Director of Bands Dr. Joe Allison, performed the work at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

The Foster Music Camp, the

Commonwealth's longest-running music camp, will mark its 67th season this summer.

Commencement Time Changed

The times for EKU's spring commencement ceremony and receptions Saturday, May 11 have been changed.

Commencement will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Roy Kidd Stadium. College receptions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Keen Johnson Building.

According to Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the change will "allow families and friends of graduates who have to travel considerable distances to be able to leave home at a reason-

able hour and still participate in the College receptions and the commencement ceremony."

Women's Studies Scholarship

The EKU Women's Studies Program invites applications for two Charlotte Schmidlapp scholarships of \$500 each for the Fall 2002 semester.

The scholarships will be awarded to students working toward a Women's Studies minor, as evidenced by their completion of WMS 201 and one elective.

Applications may be obtained in Case Annex 157 or 168 or requested by e-mail (isabelle.white@eku.edu). The application deadline is March 4.

Activities Mark Black History Month

Several activities are scheduled at EKU throughout February in observance of Black History Month.

The activities are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services and other campus offices.

The schedule includes:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12 – "Voices of the People Singing the Struggle of Civil Rights," Dr. Kathy Bullock, 7:30 p.m., Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building. Sponsored by Chautauqua Lecture Series.
- Saturday, Feb. 16 – Back in the Day Dance, sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.
- Saturday, Feb. 16 – Multicultural Mixer/Potluck Dinner, 6-9 p.m., Arlington Mule Barn. RSVP by Feb. 14 to Office of Multicultural Student Services, 859-622-3205.

- Sunday, Feb. 17 – African-American Achievement Banquet, 4 p.m., Keen Johnson Ballroom.
 - Thursday, Feb. 21 – "Resiliency of the African-American Family: Pre- and Post-Slavery," Dr. Aaron Thompson, 6 p.m., Grand Reading Room, Crabbe Library.
 - Friday, Feb. 22 – "Call Me A Playa Hater" lecture series, Kwame Ronnie Vanderhorst, 10:10-11 a.m., 1:25-2:15 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., Herndon Lounge, Powell Building.
 - Thursday, Feb. 28 – "Everyday Heroes," Deborah Lewis, 7:30 p.m., Room 116, Moore Building. Sponsored by Chautauqua Lecture Series.
 - Friday, March 1 – Mali African Dance and Drum Group, workshop at 2:30 p.m., Weaver Gym, performance at 8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.
- For more information about any of the activities, call 622-3205.

EKUpdate

February 11, 2002

EKUpdate is published every other Monday during the academic year by the Office of University Advancement. Comments or questions should be directed to:

EKUpdate

Public Relations and Marketing
Jones 308, CPO 7A
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Ave.
Richmond, KY 40475-3102
859-622-2301
karen.lynn@eku.edu

Vern Snyder
Vice President

University Advancement

Ron Harrell
Editor

Jerry Wallace
Managing Editor

Karen L. Lynn
Production

Tim Webb
Photography

Shawnicka Itson
Editorial Assistant

To Submit Items for Next Issue:
Send items to the above location,
fax or e-mail address by Feb. 14.

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR VIETNAM ERA VETERAN STATUS, IN THE ADMISSION TO, OR PARTICIPATION IN, ANY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WHICH IT CONDUCTS, OR DISCRIMINATE ON SUCH BASIS IN ANY PHASE OF EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RECRUITING, HIRING, PROMOTION, AND COMPENSATION. THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY DOES HEREBY REAFFIRM THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL QUALIFIED STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL STATUS AND ENSURING THAT PARTICIPATION IN ALL UNIVERSITY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN A WAY THAT FURTHERS THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. ANY COMPLAINT ARISING BY REASON OF ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY, JONES BUILDING ROOM 409, COATES CPO 37A, 859-622-8020, OR TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WASHINGTON, DC. THE BOARD OF REGENTS HAS ADOPTED AND SUPPORTS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN. COPIES OF THE PLAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE, THE OFFICES OF ALL VICE PRESIDENTS, DEANS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, DIRECTORS AND IN THE OFFICE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Events

Monday, Feb. 11-Friday, March 1

Art Exhibit Opens

University of Evansville Faculty Exchange, Giles Gallery, Campbell Building, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Feb. 11, call 622-8135 for Gallery hours.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

'Voices of the People'

"Voices of the People: Singing the Struggle for Civil Rights," Kathy Bullock, professor, Department of Music, Berea College, 7:30 p.m., Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building, part of year-long Chautauqua series on human rights.

'Talking Politics in Kentucky'

"Talking Politics in Kentucky: Changes Over Four Decades," Lexington radio/TV personality Sue Wylie, 7:30 p.m., Kenamer Room, Powell Building, sponsored by EKU's Center for Kentucky History and Politics.



Wylie

Thursday, Feb. 14

Valentine Dinner with Figaro

Thursday Alternative Getaway (TAG) program, 7 p.m., Walters Hall Basement.

Thursday, Feb. 14-Friday, Feb. 15

Mozart Comes to Brock

"The Marriage of Figaro," opera with orchestra, 8 p.m. nightly, Brock Auditorium. Admission \$3 adults, \$2 students.

Saturday, Feb. 16

Twinbill with Morehead

Basketball Doubleheader: EKU women vs. Morehead State, 5:30 p.m.; EKU men vs. Morehead, 7:30 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Monday, Feb 18

University Closed; No Classes

President's Day observed.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Sport, PE and Women

"The Importance of Sport and Physical Education in the Lives of Young Females," Heather Adams-Blair, EKU Health Promotion and Administration, 7 p.m., Kenamer Room, Powell Building, part of year-long Women's Studies series on Women and Sports.

Flute Night

8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Life of Jesse Stuart Discussed

"Jesse Stuart: The Man and His Books," Dr. James Gifford, director, The Jesse Stuart Foundation, 7:30 p.m., Kenamer Room, Powell Building. Sponsored by EKU's Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

Friday, Feb. 22

Band Concert

EKU Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Library Series Traces Region's Musical Roots

"Old Sounds in New Lands: A Celebration of Kentucky's Appalachian Music," a three-part lecture/performance series at EKU, will explore the origins and development of Appalachian and bluegrass music.

The series will include a public performance by legendary Appalachian folk singer Jean Ritchie on Wednesday, March 6.

"The first immigrants to Eastern Kentucky were predominantly Scots-Irish, and they brought with them their music from home," Greg Mitchell, assistant University librarian and project director, explained.

That's why the first program in the series features Pale, Stout and Amber, which specializes in Scots-Irish music. "That evolved into Appalachian folk music, which we have represented by Jean Ritchie. And, as time went by, it eventually evolved into bluegrass music," which will be performed by Homer Ledford and the Cabin Creek Band in the series finale.

The series is sponsored by EKU Libraries, the EKU Center for Appalachian Studies, Friends of the EKU Libraries, the Kentucky Humanities Council and the American Library Association. All events are free and open to the public.

"There is a story to tell as we follow the thread of this music," Mitchell said. "We see this as one of the roles a library fulfills on our campus. We want to provide educational and cultural opportunities to the campus community and the people of the region. It's a way of reaching out to many different people."

The complete schedule of events, which also includes a film about the life and work of Ritchie, follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 26, "Transplanted Roots: Anglo-Celtic Origins," 6-7 p.m., lecture by members of Pale, Stout and Amber, Grand Reading Room, Crabbe Library; 7-7:30 p.m., reception, Grand Reading Room; 8-9 p.m., performance by Pale, Stout and Amber, Peal Buchanan Theater, Keen Johnson Building.
- Sunday, March 3, "Mountain Born: The Jean Ritchie Story," film, 7 p.m., Crabbe Library 118 (Allen Auditorium), free.
- Wednesday, March 6, "Mountain Soil: Ingredients for A New Sound," 6-7 p.m., lecture by Dr. Ron Pen, director, John Jacob Niles Center for American Music, Grand Reading Room; 7-7:30 p.m., reception for Pen and Jean Ritchie, Grand Reading Room; 8-9 p.m., performance by Jean Ritchie, Posey Auditorium, Stratton Building, EKU law enforcement complex.
- Tuesday, March 12, "Bluegrass Branch: Pickin' Up the Tempo," 6-7 p.m., lecture by Homer Ledford, dulcimer maker and bluegrass musician, Grand Reading Room; 7-7:30 p.m., reception, Grand Reading Room; 8-9 p.m., performance by Homer Ledford and The Cabin Creek Band, Posey Auditorium, Stratton Building.

For more information, contact Mitchell at 622-6593.

Two New International Agreements Broaden Horizons

EKU continues to break down boundaries.

Two recent international exchange agreements – one with the University of Pecs in Hungary and another with The Hogeschool Brabant in The Netherlands – have opened even more opportunities for Eastern students and faculty and underscored the University's global emphasis in its business and economics programs.

The faculty and research exchange agreement with Pecs stems from a long-term relationship between the Hungarian institution and Dr. Norb Elbert, chair of EKU's Department of Management, Marketing and Administrative Communication. Elbert first visited Pecs as a Fulbright Scholar in 1991 and has made several visits since that time. Two years ago, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the comprehensive institution of about 25,000 students.

Last summer, Pecs Professor Jozsef Poor taught a graduate business class at EKU and was instrumental in the October signing of a formal agreement. Dr. William Davig, a professor in EKU's Department of Management, Marketing and Administrative Communication, will reciprocate with a two-month visit this fall.

Davig, Elbert, Dr. Michael Roberson and

Dr. Allen Engle visited the University of Pecs for a week-long conference in November.

"If we didn't take advantage of opportunities like this, it would be like someone writing about being a musician but never having picked up an instrument," Roberson said.

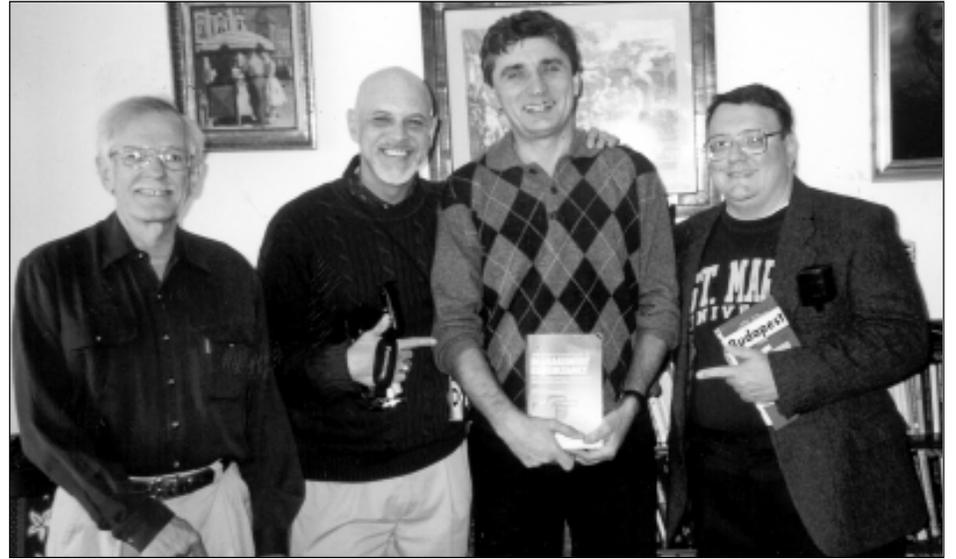
"We have for the past several years made a concerted effort to globalize our program," Elbert said. "It's important for us to establish these opportunities and think in terms of the world being our backyard. This certainly adds to the perspective our students need if they are going to compete globally."

Hogeschool Brabant, in Breda, is hosting three EKU students this semester: economics majors Christopher Sterling, sCrescent Hills, and Jason Noll, Villa Hills, and business major Paul Foley, Richmond.

They are only the first Eastern students to take advantage of a cooperative student/faculty exchange agreement between the Dutch institution and EKU. Sterling, Noll and Foley will study international business at the top-rated international business program among the 18 Dutch hogeschools.

"These are three very good students," said Dr. John Wade, chair of EKU's Department of Economics. "They're going with their eyes open, willing to try new things."

Wade expects several EKU students to attend



From left, Dr. William Davig, Dr. Michael Roberson, Jozsef Poor and Dr. Allen Engle.

Hogeschool Brabant each semester, and "we anticipate having some of their students next fall." Faculty exchanges could start in 2003.

Four EKU officials, led by Dr. Robert Rogow, dean of the College of Business & Technology, visited Hogeschool campuses in Breda and den Bosch last November to explore possible student and faculty exchanges in art and social work as well as business-related fields. Also on the trip were Elbert, Wade and Dr. Neil

Wright, EKU's director of international education.

"The deans (Rogow and Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. Dominick Hart) and provost (Dr. Michael Marsden) are very supportive of these types of arrangements," Elbert said. "I can't imagine working at an institution with more support."

EKU students interested in studying in The Netherlands should contact Wright at 622-1478.



GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REGENTS – Gov. Paul Patton chats with Board of Regents Vice Chair Daisy French (left) and President Glasser after addressing the Board at its Jan. 31 meeting at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort.

Robertson Senior Editor of Book Series

As a prolific writer on the subject of college classroom teaching, Dr. Douglas Robertson is accustomed to seeking publishers for his work.

Now, the roles have been reversed.

Robertson, director of EKU's Teaching and Learning Center, recently was named senior editor for New Forums Press' "Practices for Better Teaching" Book Series.

"It's wonderful to be on the other end," Robertson said. "Now, I'm the editor trying to get people to bring their manuscripts to me."

In his new role, Robertson said he would be soliciting and developing book projects with nationally prominent authors on the subject of college teaching.

"This appointment helps to position EKU very positively in a wide variety of higher education communities," said Robertson, a 28-

year veteran of higher education who joined the Eastern faculty last summer. "The ripple effects should be good with regard to EKU's academic reputation, our ability to attract top-name speakers in college teaching and learning, and increasing positive name recognition among funding agencies."

Robertson is the author of *Self-Directed Growth*, which concerns intentional change in adult life, and has published dozens of journal articles, many on college teaching and learning. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching* and *To Improve the Academy*, and is a frequent manuscript reviewer for *Innovative Higher Education*.

He is a frequently sought consultant and speaker for a wide variety of educational, business, governmental, human service and health care organizations.

President Glasser's Inauguration

Scheduled Events

Wednesday, Feb. 27

College of Justice & Safety Colloquium, "The Crime Crash of the 1990s: Real or Fiction?" 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Posey Auditorium, Stratton Building. Featured speakers include Dr. Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University, and Dr. Eli Silverman, City University of New York.

"Business After Hours," Richmond Chamber of Commerce Welcomes President Glasser, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Stratton Cafeteria, co-hosted by College of Justice & Safety, Dept. of Criminal Justice Training, Chamber of Commerce and Training Resource Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 27-Saturday, March 2

"Baby," musical presented by EKU Theatre, 8 p.m. nightly, Gifford Theatre, tickets \$6, box office open weekdays Feb. 19-March 1, noon-4 p.m., call 622-1323.

Monday, March 4

College of Arts & Sciences Music, Reading and Exhibits Series, details TBA.

Tuesday, March 5

Future Teacher Day, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m., beginning at Model Laboratory School and continuing at other campus locations.

"The Sweet Tastes and Sounds of Kentucky," Model Laboratory School, reception and desserts, 6-7 p.m., entertainment, 7-8:30 p.m.

11th Annual Employee Health Screening, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Powell Lobby, hosted by HEA 360 and 290 classes.

Wednesday, March 6

Region 6 Future Business Leaders of America Conference, beginning 9 a.m. in Brock Auditorium, welcoming remarks by President Glasser at 9:25 a.m.

Student Reception for President Glasser, 4:30-6 p.m., Powell Lobby, sponsored by Student Government Association, all students invited.

"Mountain Soil: Ingredients for A New

Sound:" 6-7 p.m., lecture by Dr. Ron Pen, director, John Jacob Niles Center for American Music, Grand Reading Room; 7-7:30 p.m., reception for Pen and Jean Ritchie, Grand Reading Room; 8-9 p.m., free performance by Jean Ritchie, Posey Auditorium, Stratton Building. Sponsored by EKU Libraries, the EKU Center for Appalachian Studies, Friends of the EKU Libraries, the Kentucky Humanities Council and the American Library Association.

Thursday, March 7

"Celebration of EKU Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Work," 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Keen Johnson Building.

Friday, March 8

Robing, 2-3 p.m., Alumni Coliseum. Inauguration Ceremonies, 3-4:30 p.m., Alumni Coliseum. Reception, 4:30-6 p.m., Main Concourse, Alumni Coliseum. Scholarship Reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arlington House. Scholarship Dinner, 8 p.m., Keen Johnson Building.

Note: Classes will be canceled from 2:15 to 5 p.m. on the Richmond campus and 1-5 p.m. at all extended campus centers.

Saturday, March 9

Pops for Music Sake, 7-8:30 p.m., Brock Auditorium, tickets \$10, proceeds to Department of Music Scholarship Fund.

President's Ball, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, Keen Johnson Building, open to University community and public. Students admitted free; make reservations in advance at Student Government Association office, Powell 132. Admission for non-students, \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. Call 622-1724 for reservations.

Tuesday, March 12

Reception, Gallery on Main Street, co-hosted by President Glasser and Harry Moberly, details TBA.

Eastern Family Portrait

Name: Michael L. Foster

Current Position:

Associate professor of biology.

Job Description:

My area of interest is molecular biology and population genetics and evolution.

How long have you been in this position?

I've been in this position for seven years

If you weren't doing this job, what would you like to be doing?

I have no regrets. However, I've toyed with the idea of practicing medicine. That was an interest of mine years ago before I found research and teaching.

What did you do before coming to EKV?

I did graduate school, I completed my doctoral work at the University of South Carolina. While in South Carolina I worked at the South Carolina State Museum. I was responsible for the hands-on exhibit called Nature Estate. I also worked for Procter & Gamble as quality control manager before settling in at EKV.

Tell me about your family.

I'm single so my family consists of my mother, Emma Foster; three brothers, Robert, Aundie and Ronald, who is now deceased, and my sister, Johnnie. I also have a total of five nieces and nephews whom I adore.

What are your interests and hobbies?

My interests includes movies. Science fiction movies are my personal favorite. I'm a very big "Star Trek" fan; I've been that way from the very beginning. I was born the year the show aired and hopefully it will be here throughout my life. I also enjoy museums,



the outdoors and theater music. My hobby is photography. I have a darkroom at home where I experiment with various films and chemicals.

Something you can't live without is?

"Star Trek"!

What is your favorite food?

It would have to be something Italian, maybe lasagna. I like Italian food a lot.

What is your favorite TV show?

My favorite TV show is of course "Star Trek." However, I do enjoy a good drama and other than "Star Trek," I like a show which comes on A&E called "100 Center Street." It's a serious courtroom drama based in New York.

If you could time-travel back in time to any place of your choosing, where would it be?

I would go back in time to the mid 1800s and meet Charles Darwin.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

I don't usually vacation, but I did go to the Bahamas and I have every intention of going back again.

What is in your CD or tape player at home right now?

The soundtrack to the movie "Ali" and Garth Brooks' "Scarecrow." I like a variety of different music.

What book would you recommend to others?

I would recommend "Origin of Species." The reason for this is, as a biologist, I feel that it is in fact one of the most important books ever written. Having said that, I believe that more people should have the opportunity to read it.

Can you recall your most embarrassing moment?

The one thing that jumps out for me is when I was doing my dissertation defense. One of my committee members asked me a question and I drew a blank. I stood there for what to me felt like an eternity without uttering a word. I remember wishing I could just disappear!

What person do you admire most?

My mother! Because she raised all of us as a single mother. She is a very selfless person and even in our darkest times my mother was a beacon of hope for us. No matter what endeavor I pursued she was always very supportive. It is my belief that I learned a lot of things in school, but the most important things I learned from my mother.

What is one thing no one knows about you until now?

That I would like to go into administration at some point. I also think it would be great to be a university president.

What issue concerns you most about today's world?

It concerns me that the issues of diversity, justice and equality have not been resolved. The events on September 11th brought a lot of those issues to the surface; however, many people do not acknowledge that this is still a problem.

Banner System Expands to Meet University Needs

The Banner software system has been in use on campus since 1999 and by 2003, all campus records will be available through the integrated information system. So what kind of training do faculty, staff and students need to use the program? And how often? Which areas currently use Banner and which ones will in the future? Banner Manager Mona Guckes addresses these and other questions.

What areas of the campus are currently using Banner?

We actually have five Banner products – Banner Student, Banner Financial Aid, Banner Accounts Receivable, Banner Finance and Banner Human Resources. When we awarded grades for the fall term, that was the final major step in the Banner Student implementation. There are still some things to fine tune, but that was the last major part for the Student section, so now you can go all the way from admission to graduation, and all the steps between, in the Banner system.

The Accounts Receivable system went live July 1 of last year; the Financial Aid portion went live early last year and did their first disbursement this past Fall term; Finance will go live July 1, 2002, and Human Resources, Jan. 1 of 2003. We also have the Miami University DARS degree audit system which works with Banner. This is the same DARS system we purchased more than a decade ago. The new version of DARS went live this week so that will be available for advising for Summer School and Fall Term 2002.

What is the biggest advantage of Banner?

I think communication is a big benefit we've realized through the implementation, but I really think the biggest advantage Banner offers is accessibility through the web. We now have access to information and the ability to do business with the University from anywhere in the

world, at any time. To me, the ability for students to apply, register, pay fees, and check their financial aid and student records from anywhere in the world is the most revolutionary advantage the new system has given us. This is not only true for students, but faculty as well. It is now possible for faculty to see their teaching schedules or enter grades from anywhere.

How much training is required for the average Banner user?

We have two levels of users: Banner users, who actually have Banner logins to get into actual forms in the system, and Web users, who are usually students and faculty accessing a more limited amount of data. Students and faculty who are using the Web don't require much training because it is Web-based – you just point and click. We just have to let them know what the features are and how to get into the system and access those features. That has been a small amount of training, usually requiring less than two hours of time.

A new hire on campus whose job includes entering data into Banner, will begin the first level of training with a Navigation class. Banner is based on the Oracle technology and while it has the look and feel of Windows, it doesn't always operate like Windows. It behaves like Windows most of the time, but it's those exceptions that make the Navigation class helpful. Navigation is now a two-hour introduction to Banner which takes you through how to look up addresses and how to look at initial student information. Then, if the employee is a true user in student information, we have another two-hour training session, called Academic Office, which examines more complete student information and offers tips and tricks for looking for certain types of specific information.

What version of Banner is currently being used on campus?

We bought a license that entitles us to the technology that was current when we made the purchase and all technology improvements. We not only purchased the product, but we pay a maintenance fee that gets us all of our upgrades. When the Admissions module went live in October, 1999, we were operating on version 3. Last year, we went to Banner 4 and in March, we will begin using Banner 5, which is based on newer database technology. There will actually be very little change in appearance – but we will get some enhanced features. We usually get a major new release every year and a half and we get different updates throughout the year, so we're constantly in an upgrading state.

Do updates require additional training?

It depends on the nature of the update. Most updates done throughout the course of the year will never be noticed by the regular user. We do have a group of users on campus called Banner User Groups or BUGS, which meets every Thursday. We actually have these users help us test an upgrade before we move it into production. The only upgrade we've really had which required re-training was when we went from Banner 3 to 4 because the interface changed and the look and the feel of the forms were very different. But when we go to Banner 5, it should be an invisible upgrade. Additional training will only be needed if there are new enhancements and new features we decide we want to implement.

How secure is the information in Banner?

Access to areas of Banner is controlled through the system by assignment of IDs, which

are required even for Web access. Students will see the Personal Information menu, with things like mailing and e-mail addresses, and Student Services, which will offer access to registration, schedule changes, account information, academic transcripts and financial aid status, and allow on-line payment by credit card.

Faculty Services access, which includes class rosters and teaching schedules, and the ability to enter mid-term and final grades, is available to someone who has been set up in Banner as a faculty member or an adviser. Advisers and faculty can also look at student information, but it will be more general than the information that can be seen if that student is assigned to that adviser or enrolled in a class taught by the faculty member. Employees who are given access to student information in Banner will only see the areas pertaining to their job requirements. Security is now administered through the IT Department; a request for Banner access will include information about the job-related needs and the level of access will be determined at that time. All requests for access to Banner require the acceptance of a Confidentiality Agreement and supervisor approval for the individual's level of security.

What will happen to the previous student system, ISIS, now that Banner is fully functional?

ISIS is still available and, until last week, we had been migrating some information from Banner back to ISIS so that it was accessible to faculty and the administrative staff who needed to use the system. We have stopped that migration, so the information in ISIS will not be updated. Information on students prior to Fall 2001 will still be available in ISIS, but information after that will be found only in Banner.