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EKUpdate, October 16, 2000

Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations

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Pulitzer Prize Winner Larson to Discuss Scopes Trial

Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan in a legal debate over teaching the theories of Darwinian evolution and Biblical creation in public schools. Despite the trial’s significance in the evolutionist vs. creationist debate, Larson’s book is the first modern history of the trial and its aftermath. The book narrates the trial’s events, but also frames them in a broader social context, showing how its influence has cut across religious, cultural, educational and political lines. “As a legal and historical scholar,” Booklist wrote, “Larson moves beyond the titanic personalities to depict “the natural and cultural forces that collided in the Dayton (Tenn.) courtroom: agnosticism versus faith, North versus South, liberalism versus conservatism, cosmopolitanism versus localism. “Careful and evenhanded analysis dispels the mythologies and caricatures in film and stage versions of the trial, leaving us with a far clearer picture of the cultural warfare that still periodically erupts in our classes and courts.”

In terming the book “an excellent cultural history,” the New York Times Book Review said “the Scopes Trial still holds resonance, as we continue to litigate the role of religion in public life and the power of the state to prescribe what shall be taught in public schools.”

Larson also is the author of “Sex, Race and Science: Eugenics in the Deep South” and “Trial and Error: The American Controversy Over Creation and Evolution” and the co-author of two technical books on law and medicine. He presently is working on a book on the history of scientific research in the Galapagos Islands. He has delivered lectures at universities on several continents and has made frequent television appearances in recent years, including CNN, The History Channel and C-Span.

Larson also will make an informal presentation on conducting research to EKU faculty at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 20 in the Faculty Club Lounge of the Keen Johnson Building.

Homecoming 2000: Something for Everyone

Thousands of alumni from across the Commonwealth and beyond are expected to come back to Eastern for Homecoming 2000 Nov. 3-5, but the weekend isn’t just for graduates.

The weekend features a variety of events and activities for the entire campus community, highlighted by a key Ohio Valley Conference gridiron battle between the Colonels and Murray State University at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

Other Homecoming events include an African-American reunion for classes of the 1970s and ’80s, an Amateur Talent Night, EKU volleyball matches, a Mozart opera, the Homecoming Run and Parade, Colonel Country Fair and a halftime queen coronation. Also, numerous academic departments and campus organizations have scheduled receptions.

A partial list of events follows (for a complete list of events, visit www.eku.edu/alumni or stop by the Alumni Relations office for a brochure):

Friday, Nov. 3

- African-American Reunion, 3-10 p.m., contact Donna Kenney, 622-2106, for details about all the Reunion events throughout Homecoming Weekend.
- Amateur Talent Night, 6-9 p.m., Pearl Buchanan Theatre, free. Contact Tamara Cole, 622-1383 or staucol@acx.eku.edu, or Karen McClain, 622-8121 or ladyBred@yahoo.com.

Saturday, Nov. 4

- 23rd Annual Homecoming Race, 10 a.m., Lancaster Avenue. Run, walk, rollerblade or wheelchair. Contact Division of Intramural Programs, 622-1244.
- Homecoming Parade, 10:05 a.m., Lancaster Avenue and downtown Richmond. Floats, hands and local entries highlight event. To enter, contact Alumni Relations, 622-1244 or alumni.event@eku.edu.
- Colonel Country Fair, Alumni Coliseum Parking Lot, featuring entertainment, concessions, reunions, demonstrations and more.
- Class of 1990 Reunion, 1 p.m., Colonel Country Fair, Alumni Coliseum Parking Lot, group photo at north end of tent.
- Homecoming Game, EKU vs. Murray State, 2 p.m., Queen Coronation, halftime of game, Roy Kidd Stadium. For tickets, call 622-3654.
- Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” 3 p.m., Brock Auditorium, $1 students, $2 general public, may be purchased at door.

Sunday, Nov. 5

- Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” 3 p.m., Brock Auditorium, $1 students, $2 general public, may be purchased at door.
**Announcements**

**International Banquet**
Tickets are on sale for the 12th annual International Banquet Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kent Johnson Ballroom. EKU international students will present their native cuisine and cultural dances and songs from around the world. Tickets ($48, general admission, and $6 for students) are on sale in Case Annex 181, telephone 622-1478. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**Apply for Scholarship**
Applications are now being accepted for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program for full-time sophomores or juniors pursuing a baccalaureate degree who are planning a career in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. Applicants must have a 3.0 average or equivalent, be ranked in the upper one-third of their class, and be a U.S. citizen, resident alien or U.S. national. In April 2001, scholarships will be awarded to students who will be college juniors or seniors during the 2001-02 academic year. In order to be considered, students must be nominated by their institution. The scholarship award covers eligible expenses up to a maximum of $7,500 per year. Junior scholarship recipients can expect to receive a maximum of two years of support; senior scholarship recipients are eligible for a maximum of one year of support. For more detailed information and application materials, contact Dr. Gary Kuhnhenn, Roark 106, or call 622-8140. Application packets should be picked up by Nov. 1; the deadline for submitting completed applications is Dec. 10.

**Conference Bridge Available**
University faculty and staff now have access to conference calls and teleconferencing through the EKU Conference Bridge. The EKU Conference Bridge was purchased by the College of Justice & Safety with Program of Distinction funds in cooperation with Information Technology and Delivery Services. It is available for use at no charge, by EKU faculty and staff. The Conference Bridge is capable of accommodating 3-24 callers from both on and off campus. Reservations are required to use the bridge. To set up a conference call, contact Jenny McWilliams of the Training Resource Center at 622-6671 or ekujjtap@aol.com.

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**EKUpdate**

**October 16, 2000**

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

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To Submit Items for Next Issue: Student items must be submitted to the Student Development Office, Main Floor, Powell Building, no later than Oct. 18. Faculty/staff items may be sent to EKUpdate, Jones Room 308, CPO 7A, pinweb@acs.eku.edu, by Oct. 19. If possible, please do not send items as attachments to e-mail but, rather, incorporate items within the text of the e-mail message. Items also may be faxed to 622-1995. EKUpdate's telephone number is 622-2341.

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**Summit Registration Continues; Free Morning Session Tickets Available**

Registration continues for the statewide America’s Promise Summit, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 10 at Eastern Kentucky University. The summit, featuring General Colin Powell, chairman of America’s Promise, will bring communities, schools and colleges and universities together in an effort to mobilize volunteer efforts on behalf of Kentucky’s youth.

The morning session, beginning at 9 a.m. in Alumni Coliseum, will include presentations by Powell; Governor Paul Patton; Lieutenant Governor Stephen Henry; Kentucky House Speaker Jody Richards; Viola Miller, secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children; Miss America 2000 Feather French; humorist and former EKU professor Carl Hurley; and WKYT-TV news anchor Sam Dick.

A limited number of complimentary tickets for the morning session are being provided to communities, schools, colleges and universities. Also, a limited number of complimentary tickets will be made available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at Alumni Coliseum. Tickets may be reserved by calling 622-8333.

Registration for the full conference, which includes the Summit, luncheon and breakout sessions for communities, schools and institutions of higher learning, is $50. To register, download a form at www.eku.edu/visitors/events/powell or call 622-0244.

EKU’s University of Promise program and the America’s Promise Summit are co-sponsored by the University’s Colleges of Education and Justice & Safety.

For more information about America’s Promise, visit www.americaspromise.org or call 1-888-55YOUTH.

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**

‘Forged by Fire’
Sharon Draper, Cincinnati Public Schools, discussion of her book, “Forged by Fire,” 7 p.m., Great Reading Room, Crabbe Library, part of EKU Libraries’ Autumn Voices lecture series.

**Volleyball Action**
EKU vs. Morehead State, 7 p.m., Alumni Coliseum.

**CMENC Musicale**
Campus musicale, 3 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

**Wednesday, Oct. 18**

‘Summer for the Gods’
Summarized from the book, “Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial,” author Dr. Edward Larson, history and law professor, University of Georgia, 7:30 p.m., Moore 116, sponsored by Chautauqua Series. (See full story, p. 1.)

**University Singers Concert**
Brock Auditorium, 8 p.m., free admission.

**Friday, Oct. 20**

Breakfast with Author
Continental breakfast with “Summer for the Gods” author Dr. Edward Larson, 6:30-10 a.m., Faculty Club Lounge, Keen Johnson Building, sponsored by Department of History and History Club. Pulitzer Prize winner Larson will make an informal presentation on conducting research on the Scopes Trial and his current project on evolution and the Galapagos Islands.

**Volleyball Team Home**
EKU vs. Austin Peay, 7 p.m., Alumni Coliseum.

**Saturday, Oct. 21**

Volleyball Action
EKU vs. Tennessee State, 2 p.m., Alumni Coliseum.

**Sunday, Oct. 22**

Delta Omicron Musicale
3 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

**Monday, Oct. 23**

Graphic Design Workshop
Graphic Design Instructional Workshop, opening reception, 7-9 p.m., Giles Gallery, Campbell Building, workshop continues through Nov. 14. For more information, contact Betsy Kurzinger, 622-1640.

**Tuesday, Oct. 24**

Sexton on Education Reform
“Gaining Ground: Ten Years of Education reform in Kentucky,” Dr. Robert F. Sexton, executive director, The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, 7:30 p.m., Kenan Room, Powell Building, sponsored by EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25**

Women Photographers Honored
“Seeing America: Women Photographers between the Wars,” Melissa McKeen, historian, 7 p.m., Crabbe 108, part of EKU Libraries’ Autumn Voices lecture series.

Woodwind Quintet Concert
EKU Faculty Woodwind Quintet, 8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

**Thursday, Oct. 26**

**Colonnels Host Tennessee St.**
EKU vs. Tennessee State, football, 7:15 p.m., Roy Eld Stadium.

CMENC Musicale
8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.
Questions & Answers

Institutional Research Helps University Chart Course

EKU’s Institutional Research office works behind the scenes to shed valuable light on a variety of issues that affect the University. Director Dr. Karen Carey talks about the office’s role and how the research helps Eastern better serve its students.

Q: What is Institutional Research?
A: Basically, we do research about the University. Institutional research is responsible for providing the “official” university data to other offices. Part of our role is to describe the institution accurately so that others can plan and make decisions. IR people are usually involved in analyzing policy alternatives, and in trying to identify the best case for a particular situation or decision. Institutional research supports the planning and assessment processes of the University, too, by supplying impartial evidence of program or institutional effectiveness. It’s not the academic research people normally think of, but is specific to EKU and its environment.

Q: How has your field changed in the last few decades?
A: Institutional researchers have always been interested in retention, but in the 1950s and 1960s we assumed that when a student didn’t graduate, it was some fault or behavior pattern of the students that caused them not to succeed. Over time, we’ve learned that it’s just one part of the picture and we need to look at the quality of the experience they have at college — the quality of teaching, the curriculum, even the satisfaction of alumni after they graduate.

When the public started questioning whether higher education was doing what it was supposed to do, then institutional researchers were called upon to demonstrate the quality of the educational experience. So we began doing evaluation studies, more work on program review and became more involved in planning and policy analysis.

Today, we still have to do all the descriptive, evaluative and analytical kinds of research, but we’re also expected to be proactive and anticipate problems. We used to look at the data and see that there’s a pattern that maybe indicates there’s a problem. But now data is available so much faster and this is a time where knowledge is the main currency, so everyone needs more information and they need it to be more accurate and they need it quickly.

But being in institutional research is like being a higher-education detective. You get to use a wide range of research methods — statistical analysis, surveys, focus groups, interviews, environmental scanning and data management — to shed light on a variety of issues.

Q: What are the primary responsibilities of Institutional Research?
A: We tend to be in the middle of a lot of things and work with many other offices on campus. Some are very basic. Every year we do a Fact Book that includes some of the statistics people request most often. We distribute it to all the deans, department chairs, administrators, librarians and anyone else who might need it. We also put most of that information on our Web site (www.eksu.edu) so that people from within and outside the institution can access the information. We also respond to at least 40 external surveys each year. Some of them are used for ranking purposes. We also do several of the IPEDS surveys, which are reports to the state and federal government.

We also produce a lot of internal reports that have to do with enrollment, retention and success of students in developmental programs. And we’re part of Academic Affairs, so we support all the efforts of planning.

Every year we develop an Institutional Research notebook that we send to the deans and department chairs that has the most recent versions of a lot of our standard reports, like the enrollment by major, the degrees awarded by major, and a portrait of the graduating class.

I think doing that grading class portrait for the first time a few years ago was interesting in a couple ways. It showed, for one thing, that almost 50 percent of our graduates are transfer students and I don’t think we really knew that before. For accountability purposes, we report the six-year graduation rate in four-year programs, but we learned that many of our students take eight or 10 years to graduate and it may be related to the fact that they have families, responsibilities and they’re going part-time. Some of our data analysis is what pointed out the fact that we have a large group of nontraditional students who have may have different needs in terms of scheduling and curriculum.

We also get lots of ad hoc data requests from administrators and faculty. We try to respond to all requests and it really helps if people send me their requests in writing or in e-mail.

Q: What kind of research are you conducting now?
A: We’re involved in providing data for academic programming review, as well as for aspects of assessment. Every year we conduct the surveys of graduating seniors. We’re also doing an alumni survey in collaboration with the Appalachian College Association and several regional universities in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. We’re trying to see the impact of the institutions and their alumni on this region.

There’s also been more of an emphasis on accountability and institutional effectiveness, and providing that information takes lots of time. One measure we use internally is the IDEA student evaluation of teaching, which is conducted at the end of each term.

Q: What do you want faculty to know about the IDEA surveys?
A: The IDEA survey instrument has been redesigned. The objectives have changed to reflect those of the 12 Wingspread Principles of Good Practice and Undergraduate Education, a national higher-education study group. And now the survey addresses practices of teaching such as using groups and methods other than straight lectures, which seemed to be the assumption in the past. So it’s now useful to courses that involve practice, a lab or a lot of small-group discussions.

The IDEA can be used as a formative evaluation to give faculty information about how they can improve their teaching. We’ll be working with EKU’s Teaching and Learning Center to identify areas the faculty may need to improve in so the center can offer workshops in those areas.

Q: What have we learned about the quality of teaching at EKU from IDEA and other surveys?
A: We’ve done a preliminary analysis from last spring and one area where Eastern students are different from students at comparable institutions is the amount of time they spend taking care of family members — either parents, children, partners, whatever. That probably doesn’t surprise any of us, but it’s notable that it’s a statistically significant difference.

Q: What new information has ACT been gathering on our students?
A: Every year we send a data file to ACT and they send us a data file with a report about our freshman class, the freshman class in Kentucky and the national freshman class.

We use that data for planning purposes and also to keep track of historical trends. But this year we’re also using an ACT survey of entering students — trying to get a good database that will give us solid information about how students feel about Eastern as they enter; what were the factors that influenced their decision to choose Eastern; how they perceive the University at the beginning of their college career; and what kind of special needs they think they might have. We also want to find out why they decided to go to college at all, what kinds of extracurricular interests they might have and other questions that will help the University serve them better.

Q: What does your research tell us about students?
A: We participated for the first time this year in a survey called the National Study of Student Engagement, which is being conducted through Indiana University and was developed partially in response to the national rankings. There are some scholars in higher education who say that the rankings really don’t say anything about the quality of what goes on in a classroom because what a student leaves college with. Instead, this survey tries to get at how involved students are in various parts of their education. I’ve gotten back a preliminary analysis from last spring and one area where Eastern students are different from students at comparable institutions is the amount of time they spend taking care of family members — either parents, children, partners, whatever. That probably doesn’t surprise any of us, but it’s notable that it’s a statistically significant difference.

Q: What do you want people to know about your office?
A: Well, we’re a small office and we serve a lot of people. We couldn’t begin to do it without the help of ITTS. Institutional Research gives you a great perspective on how integrated all the EU functions really are. We really appreciate the cooperation and the feedback we get from people all over campus.
Name: Ella Hunter

Current Position: Professor of baccalaureate and graduate nursing, specializing in psychiatric nursing.

Education: B.S.N., Oklahoma Baptist University; M.S., Texas Woman’s University; and Ph.D., Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

Recent Awards: EKU Foundation Professor; Kentucky Nurses Association District 2 Outstanding Nurse of the Year.

Family: My husband is George Hunter, a professor at Asbury Theological Seminary. My son Donny Hunter is a student at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and works at the Mall of America; my daughter, Monica Kapac and her husband are doing mission work in Galati, Romania, working with the children who live in the sewers under the streets.

What’s the most rewarding part of your job? The thing I enjoy the most is working with the students. They’re very interesting and it’s fun to see them learn and develop some expertise and competency and begin to enjoy their profession—they kind of grow into the nursing practice area. I love how EKU focuses its energies on helping students learn and in serving eastern Kentucky. I love that mission. It’s a good fit. It’s such a honorable thing to do.

What’s the most challenging part of your job? The evaluation of student performance. In trying to prepare students for state boards, we try to write exam questions that are not just theory but application questions. They’re difficult to write. It’s difficult for students to know how to study for them. And they have to be able to do that because that’s what board exams are. Then evaluating clinical performance and their knowledge base is also very challenging.

Where’s the most exotic place you’ve lived? Many years ago, I lived in Pakistan for two years while my husband was in the service. We were on a base near the Afghan border. That was an interesting experience.

What are your interests and hobbies? I like to read. And I have two Pembroke Welsh Corgi dogs. They’re bred in England to herd cattle and are known for their friendliness. They’re happy all the time. We got one by accident and fell in love with him. We then ended up getting another one to keep the first one company. Also, we’re developing a bird sanctuary in our yard and we’re learning about plants that attract birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

What is your passion? A burning interest of mine is better services for the chronically ill so that they can live a fuller life. Another passion is promoting adequate nursing practice. I do that by supporting a Patient Bill of Rights, which says patients have a right to X number of nurses. I hate what’s happening in health care right now. I think it’s the crime of the century. All of these profit motives for health care. What’s the best advice you’ve ever received? Perseverance will take you further than just about anything. That’s worked for me and keeps me plugging away.

What issue concerns you most about today’s world? I’m concerned about the violence and the drugs. They probably go hand in hand. I don’t think we have a clue about how to help people with their problems. We’ve got things we’re trying, but we certainly don’t have any universal answers. It’s just such a huge, seductive problem.

If you could have dinner tonight with one historical figure from the 20th Century, who would that be and why? I would be tempted to say Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt because they lived through such chaos. I would be very interested in how they made the decisions they made and in the incredible courage and vision that took. They lived because of the incredible uncertainty of their time. How do people make such far-reaching decisions. How do you have the courage to do that?

Publications & Presentations


