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EKUpdate, November 27, 2000

Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations

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America’s Promise
Pledges to Help Youth

EKU well represented recently at one of the nation’s most prestigious conferences devoted to excellence in college teaching.

EKU was the best-represented university at the conference, “said Dr. Hal Blythe, co-interim director of the Teaching and Learning Center, which offers a wide range of services designed to enhance teaching effectiveness. The participants came from a broad cross-section of the EKU academic community. Attending were Blythe; Dr. Bill Jones, T/LC co-director; Dr. Steve Konkel, Environmental Health Science; Dr. Paula Bickham, also a presenter at the Conference, and Dr. Anisa Al-Khatib, Administrative Counseling and Educational Studies; Dr. Gaby Bedetti, Lisa Bosley, Dr. Margaret Dean, Dr. Richard Freed, Dr. Paula Kristofik and Barbara Stubinski, English; Kathy Tuminski, College of Health Sciences; Dr. Muriel Stockburger, Administrative Counseling and Educational Studies; Mary Slater, Associate Degree Nursing; Dr. William Staddon, Biological Sciences; Dr. Martin Brock, Chemistry; Dr. John Ferguson and Dr. Geri Pobst, Exercise and Sports Science; Dr. Jon Maik, Earth Science; Dr. Jo Ann Ewalt, Government; and Pamela Black, Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work.

This conference brought together some of the top professors from all over the United States to talk about ways faculty can be more effective in the classroom,” said Jones. “I think it says a lot about our faculty when this many participated.” Benefits from the Conference won’t stop with the participants, Blythe said, since they are expected to share their experiences and knowledge with colleagues. Also, materials from the Conference are available at the Center.

“We want to get as much mileage as possible out of this for our entire faculty,” Jones said. “I think we have an outstanding faculty very committed to being the best in the classroom that they can be. This conference can’t help but stimulate them to other ways of doing things that might be even more effective. This team of EKU faculty has brought back to campus some cutting-edge ideas in teaching and learning.”

New Phoenix Center Will Mediate Conflicts

EKU students and student organizations needing help resolving disputes now have a campus outlet.

The new Phoenix Center is a campus-wide mediation center that mediates disputes, serves as a training center for conflict resolution, provides students interested in dispute resolution careers a place to gain experience, and serves as a research facility to advance the study of conflict resolution.

The center uses co-mediators to help maintain neutrality and to help both disputants feel heard and understood. Initially, conflict resolution services are being provided by Dr. Amy Thierne, associate professor, and Dr. Tyler Harrison, assistant professor, both in the Department of Communication. Eventually, peer mediators will provide the service to fellow students.

“We do have some students majoring in dispute resolution who also are trained mediators and will be involved as secondary mediators until they gain more experience,” Harrison said.

The Department of Communication offers an undergraduate degree in dispute resolution where students learn mediation, negotiation and other conflict resolution strategies. “Students who complete the mediation course receive training equivalent or superior to what many practicing mediators receive,” Harrison said.

“We see the center as a way to help students gain practical experience while also serving the needs of other students on campus,” he said.

The Phoenix Center, which is located in Powell 130, is administered by the Office for Student Affairs, headed by Vice President Dr. Dee Cockrille, who oversees a similar operation at Marshall University.

“We provide assistance to students concerning complicated administrative processes that often overwhelm students -- such as grade appeals, grievances and complaints,” Cockrille said. “We expect to help resolve disputes between roommates, student organizations and even some disciplinary issues.”

To schedule an appointment, or for more information about the Phoenix Center, call 622-2642.
Tuesday, Nov. 28

**Events**

**Humanities Forum**
“From Aesthetics to Ethics,” presentation by Dr. Wojtek Chojna, visiting assistant professor of humanities, 6 p.m., Crabb Library 108, sponsored by Department of Foreign Languages and Humanities.

**Colonels Host Capital**
EKU vs. Capital University, men’s basketball, 7:30 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

**Vocal Jazz Ensemble**
8 p.m., Brock Auditorium, admission $1.

**EKUpdate**
November 27, 2000

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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 Nov. 29. Faculty/staff items may be sent to EKUpdate, Jones Room 308, CPQ 7A, powweb@acs.eku.edu, by Nov. 30. 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 622-2301.

**Art Exhibit Opens**
December 2000 Graduating BFA Art Majors Exhibit, opening reception 2-4 p.m., exhibit continues through Dec. 15, Giles Gallery, Campbell Building, Tuesday through Saturday afternoons.

**Horn Studio Recital**
3 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

**Announcements**

**Habitat ‘Stress Relief’ Drawings**
Members of Not the Usual Traditional Students (NUTS) and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) are selling tickets for a mega-drawing to benefit the EKU-supported Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. Numerous prizes and gift certificates have been donated by regional business establishments and are a great way to relieve the stress of the holidays and finals. There are many chances to win! Find out where to purchase tickets by calling 622-6655. Drawings will be held during finals week (Dec. 11-15), but you don’t have to be present to win.

**Advent Calendars Available**
The Foreign Language Club is now selling chocolate-filled German Advent Calendars for $3 each. Supplies are limited, call 622-2906.

**Poinsettia Sale**
Poinsettias will be on sale Nov. 27-Dec. 1 from noon to 1 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the campus greenhouses, located next to the Carter Building. Small poinsettias will be available for $5 ($6 with decorative pot cover) and large poinsettias will be $25. Proceeds will benefit the Horticulture Club.

**Women’s Studies Essay Contest**
The Women’s Studies Program invites submissions to its third annual essay contest. Essays should have as their subject women’s issues or women’s history or literature. Personal experience essays are welcome but should include analysis. Essays may have been written for a class or specifically for the contest. The winner will receive $100 and will be recognized on Honors Day. The deadline for submission of essays to the Women’s Studies Office (Case Annex 57 or 106) is Friday, Feb. 16, 2001. For more information, call 622-2913 or e-mail wmsworks@acs.eku.edu.

**Free Personal Trainers**
Students in Dr. Jack Rutherford’s Adult Wellness course will be performing a free health and fitness assessment in the Burke Wellness Center (Weaver Building) 3:30-4:45 p.m. Dec. 7. Individuals may choose to be screened in any or all of the following: body fat screening, flexibility test, blood pressure check, sub-max Vo2 test (cardiovascular fitness) and a strength test. Information and advice also will be available on how to improve health and fitness.

**Udall Scholarship Available**
Udall Scholarships, valued at $5,000, are available to sophomores or juniors interested in environmental public policy and to Native Americans interested in health care or tribal public policy. For applications, call 622-1538 or e-mail bioelliot@acs.eku.edu. The deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 1, 2001.

**HARRY MOBERLY BUILDING DEDICATED AT EKU** – The Harry Moberly Building was dedicated at EKU Saturday, Nov. 11. The building, formerly known as the Classroom and Conditioning Building, is a functional, state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the needs of EKU’s intercollegiate athletics program and the exercise and sports science academic program. A former Eastern quarterback, Moberly was a founding member of the Colonial Club and has been instrumental in its growth and success. From left are Gov. Paul Patton, James T. Gilbert, chair of the EKU Board of Regents; State Rep. Harry Moberly Jr., son of the honoree; Jeff Long, EKU athletics director; and Charles Barnhart, president of the building’s architectural firm, Sherman-Carter-Barnhart, the honoree, Harry Moberly; President Kustra; and Susan Adams Moberly, daughter of the honoree.
Conference Topic Dec. 7: Kentucky’s Judiciary

EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics and the Kentucky Supreme Court will co-sponsor a day-long conference Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Perkins Building on “Kentucky’s Judiciary: Looking Backward, Looking Ahead.”

The Kentucky Constitution was amended in 1975 to make major changes in the judicial branch.

The morning session, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m., will feature two panels looking back at the past 25 years. Justice Secretary and former Chief Justice Robert Stephens will moderate a panel of judges and prominent attorneys who will discuss "Launching A New Judicial System." Legal scholars from EKU and the University of Kentucky will discuss "Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Judicial System," and former Lexington Mayor James Amato, who headed the campaign to pass the amendment, will speak on "The 1975 Judicial Article: How Did it Ever Pass?"

The afternoon session will include a luncheon address by Chief Justice Joseph Lambert on restoring confidence in the judiciary and a panel of family court judges discussing one of Kentucky’s recent judicial innovations – the Family Court.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, who speaks at 2 p.m. on " Judicial Reform Is No Sport for the Short-Winded." Shepard holds several positions of national leadership in the American Bar Association (ABA) and recently chaired the Appellate Judges Conference and ABA’s Section for Legal Education and Admissions.

Every panel discussion will include opportunities for comments and questions from the audience. The conference will conclude at 5 p.m.

"All three living chief justices in the 25-year history of the new court system will participate in the conference," Dr. Paul Blanchard, director of EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics, noted. In addition to Lambert and Stephens, former Chief Justice John Palmore will serve as a panelist.

The cost for the conference is $25, or $10 for full-time students. Reservations should be made no later than Friday, Dec. 1. For more information, contact Blanchard at 622-4380 or gwblanc@acs.eku.edu or Tom Appleton at 622-1365 or hisappleton@acs.eku.edu.

Smith to Address Kentucky’s Future

Al Smith, host of KEET’s popular public affairs program, “Comment on Kentucky,” will speak on “Kentucky Today and Tomorrow” in a Nov. 29 program co-sponsored by EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Richmond Area Arts Center at the corner of Lancaster and Water streets.

Before he speaks, Smith will receive the first Bert T. Combs Award for Excellence in Kentucky Government and Politics. The award, established by EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics, will be presented by Gov. Combs’ widow, Sara.

"Bert Combs not only served as governor of Kentucky, but he had a distinguished second career as a judge," said Dr. Paul Blanchard, director of EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics. "One of his most significant contributions was as lead attorney for the 66 school districts that sued the state and led to the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act."

Smith is a former newspaper editor/publisher and former co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, among numerous other contributions to Kentucky life.

"He has made contributions in public service all across the board in Kentucky," Blanchard said. "Al’s ideas on the future of Kentucky will be provocative and compelling."

Read a Good Book Lately?

Richard Firstman and Jamie Talan’s “The Death of Innocents”

Dr. Kathryn N. Polmantert, Assistant Professor, Special Education

"The Death of Innocents" is a medical-legal thriller that details the true story of multiple murders of five young children in one family misdiagnosed as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Citing accounts surrounding the 25-year-old deaths, the authors reveal how the scientific and medical communities at the time based knowledge of SIDS on imprecise research, unconfirmed theories and unethical practices. This resulted in erroneous presumptions such as SIDS running in families and the benefits of apnea monitoring.

The book is lengthy and gets bogged down in names, places and events, but overall the authors do an excellent job of weaving pieces of the story together. It was both stunning and scary to learn that widely accepted premises about SIDS are based more on medical egos than on sound, scientific research.

Grab your reading glasses (the print is small) and give yourself plenty of time to tackle this book. You’ll likely come away wondering what other myths drive our current thinking.

Professor Completes Pottery Guide

In addition to giving readers a comprehensive guide to 62 of the Commonwealth’s professional contemporary studio ceramic artists, Joe Molinaro’s “A Pottery Tour of Kentucky” is serving as the impetus for establishing a statewide potters network and is the start of a new series of art tour guides.

"The book gives the ceramists in the state an identity by putting them in a category, in a group," said Molinaro, an associate professor of art at EKU, who is working with Berea potter Gwen Heffner to form the potters network.

"It’s easy to pull that all together when we have this book as a guide,” Molinaro said. "And we’re finding that art galleries outside of Kentucky are buying the book because it’s a way for them to quickly locate a ceramist in Kentucky to invite into shows or represent in their galleries," said Molinaro, a two-time Fulbright Scholar for his Ecuadoran pottery studies.

"Pottery Tour" provides a brief background on Kentucky’s ceramic art, then divides the state into five geographic regions — the River, Highlands, Cumberland, Western Lakes and Bluegrass — and provides an overview of the art community for each.

Within a region, artists are listed by the towns in which their studios are located. Each two-page profile includes the artist’s photo and biography; photographs of his or her work; the artist’s mark; contact information; the studio’s location, hours and directions; and which Kentucky galleries also carry the artist’s works.

Published in August by Crystal Communications, the book has been popular with in- and out-of-state gallery owners, collectors, art and clay lovers and museum curators.

Molinaro includes three artist indexes — alphabetical, by region and by county. He also provides an alphabetical listing of the Kentucky art galleries featuring works by these ceramists.

Fellow EKU art professor Tim Glotzbach is applying for sabbatical to work on one of the guidebooks — a tour of Kentucky’s jewelymaking art studios. Over the next three to five years, Crystal Communications, publisher of “Arts Across Kentucky” magazine, hopes to release “art tour” books on jewelry, woodwork- ing, quilts, folk art and other art topics.
Name: Kathy Werking

Education:

Job Description:
As an assistant professor in the department of communication, my primary responsibility is teaching, but I also have a quarter release time to work for CEDET, the Center for Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Technology. I work on economic development projects in Eastern Kentucky, writing grants and conducting research (mostly evaluating programs).

Courses Taught:
Small group communication, communication theory, training and development, and the basic communication courses.

Family:
I’m single and while I don’t have any two-legged children, I do have lots of four-legged ones — dogs, cats and goats.

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?
First, helping my students, particularly the majors. I like talking with them about their career plans, teaching them and getting them to think about issues and communication skills that will be beneficial in their personal and professional lives. But the second part I love is the economic development work. I work with small businesses, particularly craft businesses. It’s been wonderful working with them to develop programs that will assist them in promoting their businesses. I’m also coordinating the Kentucky Artisan Heritage Trails.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you like to be doing?
I would be an artist. I’m a part-time artist anyway, but I would be doing that full time. I paint floor cloths, a heavy canvas that was a popular floor covering during the late 1700s and early 1800s before linoleum and rugs were mass-produced. When other types of flooring became more affordable, floor cloths fell from favor. But today, with people doing restorations, there’s an interest in them again. It’s art you can walk on.

What are your interests and hobbies?
I’m restoring a 210-year-old farm house in Bourbon County. I also enjoy raising animals, growing herbs and painting.

Do you have a guilty pleasure?
I don’t very much anymore, because I don’t have time, but whenever I’m at home during the day, I tune into the ABC soap operas, especially “All My Children.” I had a roommate in 1977 who got me hooked. I blame it on her.

What is your favorite food?
Mashed potatoes and gravy.

What is your favorite vacation spot?
The coast of Maine because of the beautiful ocean with the mountains very close by.

Publications & Presentations


