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Closing the Gap

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Closing The Gap

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION • SPRING 2010

EKU Awards Doctoral to Member of University Family

Margaret Martin Moore, who has earned two degrees from EKU (as well as a P-12 Kentucky Teaching Certificate and a Rank II teaching certificate) and held a variety of teaching and administrative positions on the Richmond campus since 1989, received the Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies during Spring Commencement exercises. The historic moment occurred during the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, which honored degree candidates from the Colleges of Education and Business and Technology.

The program, a cornerstone of the University's commitment to regional stewardship, was launched in 2008 to focus on the improvement of P-12 public education by improving leadership capacity, particularly in rural Kentucky schools. Forty-four students are enrolled, and additional graduates are expected in ceremonies in December 2010, May 2011 and beyond.

"Being EKU's first doctoral graduate is, of course, quite an honor," she said, "but for me it means that I can now go on and set other goals, including writing articles based on my dissertation," which focused on alternative teacher certification.

Moore, who has taught part-time in the departments of Computer Science and Curriculum and Instruction, now serves as Data Management Coordinator in the College of Education's Office of Educational Research, Assessment and Technology.

That she is the first to complete the doctoral degree is no accident.

Moore was one of 15 recruited in 2007 to enroll in a specialist program as the University awaited approval of its Ed.D. degree program.

"To earn a terminal degree has been a longtime personal goal," said Moore, who earned a bachelor's degree in health education and a master's in student personnel services in higher education. "The timing was right, the EKU faculty/staff scholarship was available, and I was accepted along with others from that 'head start' cohort."

At the start, Moore set a goal to complete the program in three years.

"This meant taking courses every semester," she said. "One advantage came from being on campus. I used the time reading, studying and writing that others had to spend driving to campus.

"I established a strict personal schedule of at least four hours per day devoted to my graduate work and a minimum of 14 hours every weekend, increasing the number of hours during the final semester.

"Another advantage was that I knew early in my program what I wanted to research (and) this allowed me to focus my individual course assignments in a way that benefited my own research agenda. The most important advantage came from having a dedicated committee (comprised of Dr. James Rinehart, Dr. Cynthia Resor, Dr. Paul Erickson and Dr. Kim Naugle)."

Moore also credited the assistance of Dr. Aaron Thompson (now Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education) and Dr. James Robert Miller, faculty emeritus and former chair of EKU's Department of Philosophy and Religion, as well as the support of many family members and friends.

The program's focus on enhancing educational quality in rural schools is reflected in the two courses that Moore cites as "most influential to me in my personal and academic growth": Seminar on Rural Schools and Communities and Leadership in Rural Settings.

"The structure of the courses allowed the 'head start' cohort to conduct research in six



Dr. Margaret Martin Moore

counties in the EKU service region," Moore explained. "We surveyed EKU students, high school teachers and principals from these counties, and we interviewed individuals from the communities, including some government officials. The focus of the research was 'Discovering a Sense of Place in Rural Appalachia.'"

The research led to two national reviewed presentations and one regional reviewed presentation.

Moore's dissertation, "A Case Study: Situated Pedagogy in a Foundations Course in an Alternative Teacher Certification Program," explored how alternatively prepared teachers rate their experiences in a foundations course that takes them through a process of awareness to action and how meaningful that process was in their understanding of how to implement the knowledge in their profession.

She dedicated the work to the "loving memory of my father, Henry Martin, my greatest mentor."

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First Annual Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement

This year the Office of the Dean in the College of Education is awarding the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement. This



Karen Westerfield

award is given to an outstanding graduating senior in the College of Education who possesses a high total grade point average as well as exhibits strong leadership skills, outstanding character, and service.

Selected by a faculty committee, this student represents all of the best qualities found in a classroom teacher. The recipient of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement receives a monetary award of \$1,000.00 and a plaque. Karen Westerfield is the recipient of this award given during the Honors Assembly on April 16.

Ms. Westerfield is a middle grades education major who will complete her program with an overall 3.97 GPA. Ms. Westerfield's instructors recommended her for the College of Education Dean's Award for her excellent work, attention to detail and willingness to go beyond the requirements of each

task. She is thoughtful, locates additional resources in order to create engaging lessons, and consistently communicates effectively.

Ms. Westerfield will be the first in her family to graduate from college. When she finished high school 30 years ago, attending college was not an option for her. She has worked as a mathematics teacher's aide at South Laurel Middle School for eight years and served as a math tutor at the ECU Corbin campus. Her experiences at South Laurel Middle led to her decision to become a middle grades teacher. Karen has a daughter, Jessica, who is attending ECU majoring in Communication Disorders.

In her Presentation Portfolio, Karen writes:

"I believe that education is a journey of learning experiences. Whether or not students succeed in life depends upon their abilities to change, adapt, and progress. The middle grades trek can be one of the most difficult and one of the most rewarding of life's journeys. Education is the key to victory. It incorporates the teaching and learning of knowledge, appropriate conduct,

and technical ability while centering on the development of skills, trades and professions. Furthermore, education includes mental, moral and aesthetic growth. The success of future civil society depends on educating students to become responsible, contemplative, and enterprising citizens. Through education, students learn the skills they need to meet the challenges of their respective life's journey. Education is a journey in which the teacher and the student are both participant and leader. However, to be successful, the journey must be satisfying and rewarding for both. I truly believe I was meant to be a teacher."

Ms. Westerfield is a graduate of whom the university will be proud. She will be an effective teacher who will quickly develop into a leader. She epitomizes ECU's QEP (Quality Enhancement Program) through both written and oral communication, thoughtful, critical thinking, and using creativity to engage students in learning. She will not only have a positive impact on her students, but on her colleagues and community as well.

New Doctorates

The College of Education congratulates two new faculty members who have achieved their doctorate during this year.

Angie Madden is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education. She teaches Teaching Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School and supervises pre-service



Angie Madden

teachers in their practicum field experience. She began her career as an elementary school teacher and completed her Doctorate in Literacy Education at the University of Kentucky in January of 2010. Her research focuses on literacy identity development, or the ways that students come to see themselves as readers and writers, in elementary literacy classrooms with the goal of working towards creating equitable learning environments where all students succeed. Her dissertation is titled: A Descriptive Study

of Literacy Identity Development in an Elementary Writing Workshop.

Ginni Fair has been working at Eastern since 2001. She worked six years as a middle school language arts teacher at Model Laboratory School and has been working in the department of Curriculum and Instruction since August of 2007. Ginni recently



Ginni Fair

finished her doctorate at the University of Kentucky in the area of Curriculum and Supervision, with a specific interest in literacy. Her dissertation topic, "Reading in a middle school social studies classroom: Connections between intertextuality, reader stance, and instructional strategies," allowed her to explore three of her research interests: middle school students, content area literacy, and instructional decision-making.

Doctoral from page one

The doctoral degree is not the last of Moore's professional goals.

"The process of obtaining a doctorate has taught me many things," she said, "certainly not least of which is that there is so much more to learn. More than any previous educational experience, this process has taught me to question critically at a new level, it has introduced me to new research procedures, and it has reinforced my understanding that determination and persistence pay off.

"In addition, I was blessed that I was part of a supportive community of scholars. That made all the difference in the world."

ECU's doctoral program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies is structured to attract a diverse mix of teachers and administrators from pre-school through post-secondary education as well as education of ficials.

For more information about the program, visit www.education.eku.edu/EDD or call 859-622-1125.

Soar to New Heights...

Summer Programs offered to Students

In a partnership with the Madison County Schools, The Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education will offer the Soar to New Heights program for the third year June 14 – 25, 2010. All classes will be held at the Glenn Marshall Elementary School in Richmond, Kentucky. Soar to New Heights is a summer program for accelerated learners and gifted students which strongly encourages parental involvement and participation. The classes provide for children's educational enrichment beyond the everyday classroom.

The classes being offered this year are:

Growing Up Green

by Erin Porter and Cassandra Smith

"Don't blow it-good planets are hard to find." Instead of tossing your trash, reduce it to create artwork, reuse it to inspire dance, and recycle it to make instruments. Learn how to "grow up green" and encourage others to follow your lead!

Where the Wild Things Are

by Stefanie Hauswald and Ashley Roach

Have you ever wanted to roar a terrible roar and gnash your terrible teeth? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel with Max to where wild things are? Be whisked away to magical lands through hands on science and art activities and become the king or queen of your own wild thing land!

Mystery Island: Lost at Sea!

by Tiffany Banks

Do you have what it takes to survive on a tropical island? We will build shelter of found material, design recipes with tropical ingredients, and create a raft for a daring escape attempt! Whether you are a fantastic reader, a creative genius, or a math whiz, all of your skills will be needed to help the group survive...

Amazing Race

by Ashlee Hyde

Prepare to embark upon an unforgettable journey. Challenge your peers by solving clues, winning fast forwards, and competing in challenges from around the world. Explore various cultures, try new foods, and create local crafts. Pack your bags, you have been chosen as a contestant in the Amazing Race!

Passion for Fashion

by Megan Bowling and Amanda Penrod

Do you have a passion for fashion? Put your creativity to work by designing a fashion item of your choice! You will learn about fashion design and being a designer. Sewing experience is NOT required!

Need for Speed

by Kim Holcomb and Lori McCay

Roller coasters are thrill machines, but have you ever wondered how they work? Explore the science related to amusement park attractions. Perform experiments, master Newton's laws, and design roller coasters. This hands-on class will learn the FUNDamental physics of roller coasters.

Mission: Creative Imagination

by Dr. Scott Townsend and Jeff Peake

Have you ever wondered what it takes to train astronauts and engineers for a mission to space? NASA plans to be back on the moon by year 2025. Be part of the crew and prepare for this urgent mission with engineering activities such as rocket building, designing lunar rovers, parachutes, flight design, and creating astronaut safety apparatus.

Hollywood Here We Come

by Catie Poff, Melanie Curz, and Rachael Fitzmayer

Does the wonderful world of theatre interest you? Join us as we explore the elements of theatre through set and costume design, creating characters, writing scripts, and thinking on your feet. Choose your own area of theatre and create a project to share!

The Artist With-In Me

by Rachel Jones and Jose Barron

Creativity has never been this much fun! Learn the techniques inspired by VanGogh, Picasso, Monet, O'Keefe, and

so many other accomplished artists that have come before us! You will use multiple mediums to discover the unique art style within your own imagination.

MindStorm Extreme

by Tina Barrett and Tanya Marshall

Answer the challenge to create a robot that really shakes, rattles, and rolls! Using fundamental robotics, programming, and engineering skills to create objects that can really rock and roll! Be creative and let your imagination run wild!

Special Parent/Community Session

All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Classical Strategies for Gifted Students: Out-Smarting Your Smart Kids.

Dr. Edward Amend, recognized author and clinical psychologist, will share useful strategies. This will be offered on June 22, 2010 only beginning at 8:45 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010 there will be a **Share Fair**. Family and friends will enjoy a wealth of displays that feature technology, literacy, critical and creative thinking skills. All are invited to join the reception to honor the *Soar to New Heights* participants. The *Soar to New Heights* program is designed by Dr. Jeanie Goertz, Megan Taylor and Tina Barrett. Debbie Sparks is the Administrative Assistant coordinating registration. The EKU Gifted Collaborative consists of Dr. Dorie Combs, Chair of Curriculum and Instruction, EKU, Tommy Floyd, Superintendent, Madison County Kentucky Schools, Dr. Jeanie Goertz, faculty, Gifted and Talented, C&I, EKU, Dr. Jack Herlihy, Field Services and Professional Development, College of Education, EKU, Vicki Moberly, Madison County Schools Gifted Coordinator, Randy Peffer, Assistant Superintendent, Madison County Kentucky Schools, and Dr. Sherwood Thompson, Assistant Dean, College of Education, EKU.



In February, Model Laboratory School hosted a special social outing by invitation only to Galaxy Bowling in Richmond. The event was held after school with elementary, middle, and high school students participating. Students were able to bowl, eat pizza, and socialize with their friends. Students from EKU's Occupational Science Program were also on hand to assist and socialize with the students during the event. It was a great experience to be with everyone outside of the school having a good time.

Facelift for Library

The Green Hills Elementary School Library in Harlan County is getting a significant facelift, thanks in part to members of the Kentucky Education Association-Student Program chapter at Eastern Kentucky University's Corbin campus.

The driving force behind the renovations has been Valerie Osborne, an EKU senior who has served Green Hills as a volunteer and substitute teacher for the past eight years and is now completing her student teaching at the school, which counts approximately 175 students through eighth grade in the small, rural community of Bledsoe.

Osborne and KEA-SP President Denise Lewis applied for a grant through Outreach to Teach, a KEA program that selects one or two public schools annually that are in need of a make-over. Photos of a blue tarp suspended from the Green Hills library ceiling prompted a donation of a record \$6,000 toward the project.

A hole had been cut at the tarp's lowest point, funneling any water that reached it into a large trashcan. The students teasingly called their library "Blanton Falls," in honor of librarian Brenda Blanton.

The first phase of the renovations was completed in early April. Several Corbin KEA-SP student members painted the library's walls and numerous bookshelves alongside Green Hills personnel and other volunteers. Also, the Harlan County School District recently installed a new roof above the library ceiling.



On Saturday, May 1, student members from KEA-SP programs around the area and volunteers joined forces with Corbin KEA-SP to complete the second phase. This one-day blitz resulted in a total redesign of the library. A special reading area was created, and hundreds of books were re-shelved. Also, a special mural depicting a waterfall was painted on one of the library's walls.

"Online Mentoring: A Unique Partnership"

Realizing that communicating through technology is crucial, college students are using electronic mentoring to provide support to at-risk middle and high school students through a series of purposeful exercises that encourage their transition from middle school to high school to college. Like at-risk middle and high school students across the nation, Kentucky's at-risk students struggle with career choices and decisions about college. Support and guidance from adult mentors are crucial, however, not always possible due to time and cost restrictions.

Eastern Kentucky University, College of Education and Kentucky Council on Post-secondary Education GEAR UP II have developed partnerships across the state, in an

effort to meet the mentoring needs of GEAR UP students. Specific college access curriculum, including "Money Skills 4 College" has been developed and is being implemented throughout Kentucky, using e-mentoring. College students have been trained to deliver this curriculum via BlackBoard, a secure online delivery system, through Kentucky Virtual Schools at the Kentucky Department of Education. They provide college awareness information, career awareness choices and preparation information, and are positive "real" models for college and work success. This project provides a flexible mentoring option, the opportunity for youth to utilize high-tech communications, and the capacity to mentor to middle and high school stu-

dents across the Commonwealth.

To pilot a sustainability effort, Eastern Kentucky University's GEAR UP is partnering with the Center for Educational Research in Appalachia (CERA) to establish mentoring in its 22 county service region. CERA will utilize online delivery through BlackBoard on EKU's campus. EKU is also partnering with Corbin Independent Schools, to implement e-mentoring in their middle and high school, using their own BlackBoard license.

For more information regarding e-mentoring, please contact carol.gabbard@eku.edu or susan.young@eku.edu.

Counseling Grad Students earn Certification with scores above National Average

Sixteen Eastern Kentucky University students enrolled in mental health and school counseling master's degree programs in Eastern Kentucky University's Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology recently received National Counselor Certification, passing the National Board for Certified Counselors' certification exam with scores exceeding the national average by approximately 75 points.

National certification proves to the public and employers that the counselor has met the national standards set by the counseling profession. The certification travels with individuals wherever they practice, including outside the United States.

The NCC sends a report about the test administrations to the school without names – only University and national means.

DATES to REMEMBER

May 31	University Holiday – Memorial Day
June 24	Chairs Retreat with the Dean
July 5	University Holiday – Independence Day
August 9 – 13	New Faculty Orientation
August 16	President Whitlock's Convocation (8:30 a.m.) COE Opening Day Activities (3:30 p.m.)
August 21	New Part Time Faculty Orientation
August 23	Fall Classes Begin

EKU's Student Worker of the Year - COE Dean's Office

Each year in March Student Employment accepts nominations for EKU's on-campus



Melinda Ballinger

Student Worker of the Year. More than 600 students are employed on the Richmond campus. Of these, 26 were nominated by their campus employers for the honor of

Student Worker

of the Year. Five were nominated by offices in the College of Education. Nominees from the college were: Caitlin Abbott, Teacher Education Services, Kendra Bailey, KECSAC (Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children), Melinda Ballinger, Office of the Dean, Jessica Humphrey, Office of the Dean, and Madeline Salmons, Model Laboratory School.

This year's Student Worker of the Year is Melinda Ballinger from the Office of the Dean. Melinda has completed her sophomore year and has been accepted into the Education Program. She aspires to be a kindergarten teacher. Following is her nomination letter from the Administrative Assistants in the Office of the Dean.

"When we think of organization, attention to detail, creativity, and task completion one name stands heads above the rest. Our office is blessed to have a student worker who always tries to remain busy with some task no matter how large or small. Her telephone skills are outstanding and she takes pride in learning about the college offices so that she can appropriately transfer callers to the person who can provide them with the desired information. It takes only a suggestion that 'this might be something we want to do' and it is a done deal. She has an enviable eye for the artistic and visually pleasing and uses this talent to improve the quality of life in our office. She is punctual and never fails to call before her shift begins to tell us if she will be delayed. She is a wizard at setting up hospitality for the office and is always thinking of other people, their feelings, and how she can improve their quality of life. Steeped in strong moral and family values, she brings a caring and love for all people with her to the office every day. Even when a program has been faltering, she will remember that it is

something desired by the Dean and will try several creative options to breathe life back into it.

There are two very large projects upon which she has taken the lead this past year. The first is a request by our Dean to 'go green' in our office and eliminate as much as possible the paper copies of documents kept from year to year. Learning how to scan using the new Kyocera copier provided by the University, she has, with help, been able to eliminate every binder of copied documents in the office. These documents have been scanned to electronic folders, renamed so the documents can be easily found if needed, and saved to a server in another location. Under her careful touch, this project has been so successful that she will present it to all of the Administrative Staff in the College.

The second project was the reorganization of the office supplies and hospitality items in our office. Utilizing the space no longer used for the binders emptied after scanning, she has an eye for transitioning through a process to utilize the space that has been freed. When entering the storage room it now looks similar to the shelves at Office Max. All items are labeled and arranged logically. The shelves and cabinets have been

arranged to provide the greatest convenience and space utilization possible.

She is extremely diplomatic in her dealings with faculty, staff and students. Even when she is frustrated with a particular situation she remains level headed and tries to find a palatable solution for everyone if possible. She will suggest alternative approaches to situations that feel uncomfortable to her. Her communication with the full-time employees is honest, forthright, and appropriate. She maintains respect for all with whom she comes into contact.

We feel it is quite an honor to work alongside her each day we are graced with her presence. And guess what? She wants to be a teacher! How blessed will be the classroom in which the teacher is Melinda Ballinger! It is with great enthusiasm that the Dean's Office of the College of Education nominates Melinda Ballinger as EKU's Student Worker of the Year!"

The College of Education is quite proud of all of its student workers, recognizing the impact they have on the work life of the offices and acknowledging that they are an integral part of the work flow in and out of the college every day.

CMSAA Announces New Kentucky Schools to Watch

The Center for Middle School Academic Achievement (CMSAA) is proud to announce that seven Kentucky middle schools have been named 2010 Schools to Watch making a total of 18 Schools to Watch in Kentucky. Schools to Watch (STW), part of a national initiative sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, is a middle-level recognition and school improvement program. For the recognition, schools are selected based on 37 criteria set by the National Forum.

Four schools were named for the first time: **Mt. Washington Middle School** in Bullitt County, **West Carter Middle School** in Carter County, **Chandler's Elementary School** in Logan County, and **East Oldham Middle School** in Oldham County. Two schools **Boyd County Middle School** in Boyd County and **North Oldham Middle School** in Oldham County were named for the second time and **Adairville School** in Logan County received the designation for the third time. When a school is named the designation is for three years, then the school must reapply.

These schools were selected for their academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, each school has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Other schools and educators can learn from these schools as they make education exciting for students and teachers. These schools focus on student learning and whatever it takes to make all students successful.

The CMSAA provides funding and coordination for the state program. More information regarding the program and the 18 Kentucky Schools to Watch can be found on the CMSAA web page, www.middleschoolhouse.eku.edu. In addition, the CMSAA is looking for people interested in serving as a STW reviewer. Reviewers evaluate the school applications and visit the schools to determine which schools have earned the designation. More information about serving as a reviewer and the reviewer application can be found on the CMSAA webpage.

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Closing The Gap

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Migrant Education makes a difference!

The Southeastern KY Migrant Education Program continues to help 'close the gap' by providing students and parents with the necessary tools for success.

Each summer the EKU Migrant Education office sponsors the Summer Migrant Academy for migrant students in the EKU service region in grades 7-10. The Academy is designed to focus on transitioning from middle school to high school with the ultimate goal of graduating high school. Kentucky's Career Cruising/Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is used as well as some other personal and career development tools to set a path toward high school graduation and postsecondary studies.

In mid-March 2010 13 out of 19 of the students from the 2009 Summer Migrant Academy returned to Richmond for a reunion of sorts. The students were reunited for a full day of activities that inspired and motivated them to really look at their goals and align their actions accordingly. They listened as guest speaker George Duvall talked to them about how success is a choice and if they don't plan out what they want to do, failure is inevitable. They watched the movie "Holes" and worked through some specific activities that focused on the individual student's personality, how others perceive them and how their environments made positive

and negative reflections upon them. The students shared successes they have experienced since being at camp last summer, discussed their plans as the current school year draws to a close, and opportunities for further development this summer. Once again this summer, this office will offer the Academy to regional students in June. This year, however, an additional component will be introduced for students who wish to return to the Academy. Staff will work with the returning students to further build their ILP (Individual Learning Plan) requirements and take them on field trips to expose them to Kentucky's postsecondary options.

To better involve migrant parents, district parent meetings are hosted along with a regional parent engagement academy. Workshops and activities are offered that better inform parents how to be engaged in their student's life and about school and community resources available to assist along the way. Of course in all of these endeavors, the 'fun factor' is offered to make our families feel comfortable and to give them the much needed entertainment outlet. This spring the Parent Engagement Academy will be held in Somerset, Ky., where the agenda will be packed with grade/age level workshops such as agricultural job safety, drug education/intervention, nutrition/healthy eat-



ing habits, and activities for pre-school and primary ages to enhance motor skills and exercise. The event will include lunch and the entertainment will be a local magician. These events are very well attended – 64 families and 284 people attended a similar event in Mt. Vernon last fall.

The Kentucky Migrant Education Program (KY MEP) is currently updating data for a comprehensive needs assessment and will be working to offer better direction for the service delivery plan. The KY MEP continues to offer outstanding programs and services for migrant children and their families throughout the state. Immigration issues and the changing face of agriculture in Kentucky are just two of the challenges this program continues to face as all strive to make life better for migrant families.