University Expands International Opportunities

EKU will take on even more of an international flavor in the months and years to come, thanks to its recent approval by the State Department as a sponsor for J-1 scholars. At the same time, new agreements with foreign institutions will open additional opportunities for Eastern students and faculty.

Unlike regular F-1 international students, who must pursue an academic degree, J-1 scholars may study here on a non-degree basis. They may come for undergraduate or graduate work, and may stay up to three years. Teachers and researchers may be paid according to current standards in their disciplines and also are eligible to stay up to three years.

Department chairs or other faculty who wish to bring foreign scholars to the University should contact Dr. Danny Robbette at 622-2408. The first J-1 scholars are expected to arrive this fall.

“Eastern Kentucky University’s international exchange agreements will enrich the education opportunities for our students and faculty in many ways,” said Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Not only will our students and faculty have the opportunity to live and learn in different cultures, but our campus environment will be enriched as well by the international students and faculty who will join us for a semester or an academic year.”

The University already is benefiting from exchange agreements with Yamanashi University of Japan and Liaoning Institute of Technology of China.

EKU is in the eighth year of its partnership with Yamanashi, a regional public university with a large College of Engineering and Technology and College of Education and Teacher Training. All of the Japanese and American students involved have enjoyed a successful year of study; some EKU students have returned to Japan as teachers, others as graduate students.

Liaoning Institute of Technology is a technical school, emphasizing international business, economics, production technologies and computer science. The exchange program with Liaoning, in its second year, offers the opportunity to learn Chinese or study in the technological disciplines.

Next year, Eastern will have exchange agreements with four additional institutions:

- International University of Moscow in Russia, a comprehensive university. Courses are available in English in a variety of disciplines. Students interested in a year of study in Moscow should contact the International Education Office to learn if their major subject is offered there in English.
- The Hogeschool of Breda in The Netherlands, a large College of Engineering and Technology offering bachelor’s degrees in international business and in the fine arts. This agreement also may offer the chance to complete a bachelor’s degree at The Hogeschool with two years of study there after the first two years at EKU.
- Kyungsan University of South Korea, an exchange school featuring a College of Oriental Medicine in addition to arts and sciences disciplines and the opportunity to learn the Korean language.
- University of Ballarat in Australia, located about 30 miles inland from Sydney. The public university offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in a wide variety of fields.

ConneXtions to Enhance First-Year Students’ Transition

In an effort to provide the most positive living and learning experience for EKU students, the Office of Student Affairs has developed a new housing program for first-year students.

ConneXtions is designed to encourage enhanced interaction between students, faculty and staff in an informal atmosphere. Beginning this fall, participants of the program will be housed in Case Hall and will take part in a wide variety of activities and programs geared to improve the student’s transition to college life and academics and their overall intellectual and personal development.

“This program is geared specifically for first-year students who have a genuine desire to succeed in college,” said Mary Ann Begley, acting director of residential staff development and coordinator of the ConneXtions program. “Often first-year students feel overwhelmed and lost when they first arrive at campus.

“Without question, students are our top priority at EKU,” Begley added. “We have made a commitment as professionals to aid in our students’ holistic development. We take that commitment very seriously and truly feel that in order to be better educators we, too, need to be engaged in active learning. While the ConneXtions program is geared to first-year students, I can certainly that all of us who are involved in the program will be enlightened and enriched by the experience.”

Within the living-learning environment, students will interact with peers who share similar academic and career interests, get to know faculty and staff participating in the program on a personal level and enjoy access to a computer lab and other facilities reserved just for community members. Opportunities also will exist for students who wish to engage in cultural activities and trips outside the campus community.

“We developed this program as a means to ease the student’s transition to college,” said Brandee Petrey, director of residential education and co-coordinator of the ConneXtions program.

“We want them to feel at home and we want them to succeed because helping them to accomplish their goals while at EKU, and in life, is one of our main objectives.”

For more information about ConneXtions, contact Begley or Petrey at 859-622-2077 or by e-mail at Maryann.Begley@eku.edu or Brandee.Petrey@eku.edu.

Athletics Director Search Narrows to Five Finalists

EKU’s search for a new director of athletics has narrowed to five finalists.

Thirty-six applications were received during a nationwide search process.

“The Search Committee was very pleased with the number and quality of the applications that were submitted,” said Dr. Gary Cordner, dean of the College of Justice & Safety and chair of the committee. “Some difficult decisions had to be made just to select these finalists.”

The finalists are:

- Kenneth Bothof, associate director of athletics at Saint Louis University. Bothof held positions at Idaho State University and San Jose State University before joining Saint Louis in 1995. He earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Buena Vista University in Iowa, where he played baseball and basketball, and did graduate work at San Jose State.
- Dean Lee, associate director of athletics at the University of Arkansas and Arkansas Tech University before joining Oklahoma State in 1997. He earned a doctoral degree in education at the University of Arkansas after playing baseball, basketball and tennis at Henderson State University.
- Kyle McDonald, associate director of athletics at Northeast Missouri, who has been at UK since 1988, earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, where he played golf, and performed graduate work at the University of Kentucky.
- Joseph C. “Chip” Smith, associate director of athletics at EKU since 1999. Previously, Smith held positions at Virginia Military Institute and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He holds a master’s degree in athletic administration from the University of North Carolina, where he also played football.
- Tim M. Van Alstine, senior associate director of athletics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro before joining Wisconsin in 1995.
- Dr. Dan Van Alstine, director of athletics at EKU before joining Ohio in 2001.

The finalists will be introduced at open forums for the campus and community. KOREAN VISITORS – Representatives of Kyungsan University of South Korea were on the EKU campus recently to discuss an exchange agreement between the two institutions. From left are Dr. Neil Wright, director of international education; President Kustra; Kyungsan President Dr. Won Lee; Dr. Dan Robbette, Mrs. Lee; and Dr. Ilsu Kim of Kyungsan. EKU art history professor Gay Sweely studied and taught at Ballarat before joining the Eastern faculty.

In addition, EKU is an active member of the Kentucky Institute for International Studies and Center for Studies Abroad, which offer many summer programs and some semester-long programs in several countries, with courses in English and in other languages taught by American professors on site. For more information about those programs, contact the International Education Office, 181 Case Annex, 622-1478.
Events

Continuing through Friday, March 9

Invitational High School Art Exhibit
Giles Gallery, Campbell Building, open
afternoons Tuesday-Saturday.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Civil Rights and Kentucky
“Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky,” Dr. Gerald Smith, 7 p.m., Kenmayer Room, Powell
Building, part of Black History Month activities.

RHA Bridal Show
22nd Annual RHA Bridal Show, 7 p.m.,
Gifford Theatre, $3 admission, eight choreo-
graphed scenes featuring EKU students in
wedding and prom attire sponsored by Geno’s
and Lena’s Wedding Center, exhibits and door
prizes.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Spring Job Fair
Annual event, 2-6 p.m., Keen Johnson
Building, exposes students of all levels and majors
to full-time, co-op or summer employment and
internships. Employers represented at event cover
a wide range of career fields, including account-
ing, insurance, banking, law, telecommunications,
food, recreation, military, manufacturing,
construction, education, entertainment, aviation,
retail, health care, government, law enforcement,
corrections, fashion, child development,
hospitality, mental health, assets protection,
agriculture, management, government, statistics
and environmental protection. For a complete list
of participating employers, visit
www.career.eku.edu. Shuttle bus service will be
provided between the State Lot on Kit Carson
Drive and the Keen Johnson Building. Sponsored
by Career Services, Cooperative Education,
Multicultural Student Services, Services for
Students with Disabilities and The Eastern
Progress. For graduating seniors, a Job Fair visit
sometimes results in an on-the-spot interview and
 eventual employment. All students should bring a
resume, if possible, and “dress to impress.”

Thursday, March 1

“No Way to Treat A Lady”
“Tha Ain’t No Way to Treat A Lady,”
educator and performance artist Nancy Hulse,
a collage of dance, poetry and music, 7 p.m.,
Kenmayer Room, Powell Building. A workshop on
the causes and effects of domestic violence will be
held at 12:30 p.m. in the Kenmayer Room.

“Laundry and Bourbon”
Presentation by EKU Theatre, 8-9:30 p.m.,
Pearl Buchanan Theatre, admission-donations.

Campus Health Screenings
Health screenings will be offered for
employees and students 8:30 a.m.-noon in Jones
122 and 12:30-4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor
Lobby, Powell Building. The screenings, hosted
by students in the Department of Health Promo-
tion and Administration, College of Health
Sciences, will include free blood pressure checks,
body fat testing, and strength, endurance and
flexibility testing. For a fee, cholesterol, triglycer-
ides, HDL, LDL and glucose also can be evaluated.
(This will require fasting beforehand.)

Friday, March 2

“Laundry and Bourbon”
Presentation by EKU Theatre, 8-9:30 p.m.,
Pearl Buchanan Theatre, Keen Johnson
Building, admission-donations.

Faculty Trombone Recital
David Horger, 8 p.m., Gifford Theatre.

Health Sciences Career Day
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Keen Johnson
Building.

Saturday, March 3

Home Baseball Opener
EKU vs. Bowling Green, doubleheader,
oon, Turkey Hughes Field.

Sigma Tau Delta Chili Supper
6 p.m., at the home of Drs. Dorothy and
William Sutton, 115 Southland Drive. Guests
and new members welcome. Sign up by Friday,
March 2. For more information, e-mail
ensgutto@acs.eku.edu.

Wednesday, March 7

A Celebration of Languages
“Cale International: A Celebration of
Languages,” special foods, music, dance and
recitations, 5-5 p.m., Hersdon Lounge, Powell
Building, sponsored by the Department of
Foreign Languages.

Feminism and Entrepreneurship
“How Has Feminism Changed Female
Entrepreneurship?” Jackie Markham, director,
Women’s Enterprise Institute, Midway College,
12-15 p.m., Faculty Dining Room, Powell
Building, sponsored by Women’s Studies
Program.

EKU Orchestra in Concert
8 p.m., Gifford Theatre.

Thursday, March 8

Concert Band
8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Friday, March 9-Sunday, March 11

Baseball Tournament
Friday, March 9, EKU vs. Kent, 2-3 p.m.,
Turkey Hughes Field; Saturday, March 10, EKU
vs. Wright State, 11 a.m., Turkey Hughes Field;
Sunday, March 11, EKU vs. Kent, 11 a.m., Turkey
Hughes Field.

International Travel Grants
Kentucky Council for International
Education is offering grants up to $500 to
professional staff or faculty for travel that will
result in increased exchange opportunities for
Kentucky students and faculty or will strengthen
affiliations between Kentucky institutions and
institutions abroad. March 5 is the application
deadline; applications are available from the

Golden Key Induction
The Golden Key National Honor Society
will host an induction ceremony for new
members Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. in Brock Audi-
torium. A reception will follow. For more
information, visit www.gkhs.eku.edu.
Advising Center Expands to Support Retention Efforts

The recent addition of three full-time professional advisers in the University’s Academic Advising Center will mean improved services for developmental and undeclared students and an enhanced support system for advisers and other campus offices.

“This is part of the Student Success Institute’s emphasis on student retention,” said Diana McGregor, director of undergraduate academic advising. “We want to help developmental and undeclared students make thoughtful decisions and understand how their academic choices relate to their future goals.”

Because of a change in EKU’s admissions criteria to better identify and help those students needing special academic assistance, McGregor expects approximately 750 students this fall will enter with two or more developmental requirements. By definition, those students will enter as undeclared.

Among other duties, the new advisers will assist the Office of First-Year Programs in teaching the GSO 100 and 102 classes. They also will collaborate with Counseling Center, Career Services, Residential Life and Extended Programs staff as well as all faculty advisers to provide academic support services for students.

“The full-time advisers will not replace faculty academic advisers,” McGregor emphasized. “However, they will serve along with a select group of faculty, as the official advisers for a large percentage of the undeclared students who enter Eastern each semester. We value the dedication of faculty advisers, but look forward to the opportunity to offer our undeclared students the intrusive developmental advising that a full-time adviser can give.”

The new advisers are:

- Steve Wilkinson, the former tutor supervisor for Student Support Programs/NOVA at EKU. He also has served as a guidance counselor in the Upward Bound program at Berea College and as a counselor in the Educational Talent Search program at EKU. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a master’s degree in communication management at the University of Southern California.
- Arnette Glassco, who was the head educational support counselor for Student Support Services at Marshall University, where she also served as the interim director of the Student Athlete Program and as a career counselor. She earned a bachelor’s degree in therapeutic recreation from Ohio University and a master’s degree in counseling with an emphasis in student personnel services from Marshall.
- Philip Moss, most recently coordinator of Greek life at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. He earned a bachelor’s degree in educational psychology and a master’s degree in counselor education with an emphasis in student development from Mississippi State University.

“We were pleased to be able to attract and hire three highly qualified and experienced academic advisers,” McGregor said.

She added that faculty and staff could assist the office by participating in the Early Alert System, which identifies students who are exhibiting at-risk behaviors. For more information about the program, visit www.eku.edu/faculty/earlyalert.

Adviser development sessions for new and experienced advisers alike will be scheduled later this semester that include training on how the new Banner system relates to undergraduate advising.

The hours of the Office of Academic Center recently were expanded to better meet the needs of non-traditional students and those who take night classes. The office now is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays.

For more information about services offered by the Academic Advising Center, call 622-2276 or visit www.advising.eku.edu.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting Council Begins Work; Seeks Input

By Dr. Libby Wachtel
Associate Vice President
Office of Planning & Assessment

On Feb. 7, the newly established Strategic Planning and Budgeting Council held its first meeting. Ken Johnston, vice president for financial affairs, and I co-chair the Council, which consists of 29 members from across the University community representing students, faculty, staff, chairs, deans, and alumni.

Academic Affairs, Administrative Affairs, Financial Affairs, Student Affairs and University Advancement are represented.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting Council

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The Council serves as the coordinating body for the University strategic planning process and advises the President on matters concerning planning and budgeting.

Linking the budgeting process and resource allocations to the strategic planning process is a challenge at most universities. The composition of the Council and its charge are designed to forge a strong link between the strategic planning process and budgeting.

Dr. Kustra has charged the Council members to look to the future and stress the importance of developing an effective strategic plan and planning process to help ensure that Eastern Kentucky University will make decisions and will take actions that define who we are and shape what we want to become. Effective strategic planning will help us identify and maintain an optimal alignment with the rapidly changing environment in higher education.

The Council will gather information about trends in the external environment affecting higher education in Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University in particular. The Council will be gathering information from within the university community to assess our current strengths and weaknesses in achieving our mission.

As the Council works to develop a new strategic planning process and plan for EKU, information about all aspects of the process and plan will be widely circulated to the university community for comment and suggestions. The planning process and plan will ultimately be approved through the regular governance structure of the university.

Members of the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Council invite your participation and input. You also can reach the Council through the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Web site at www.academicaffairs.eku.edu/planning/spbc.
Collaboration Will Bring Cuban Artists to Kentucky

EKU will host one and possibly two Cuban ceramists for six weeks this fall as part of a collaborative arrangement with the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in Cincinnati and four other educational institutions in Kentucky and Ohio.

Cuban artists in various media also will be demonstrating their work at the University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Art Academy. The cumulative work will then be showcased at a CAC exhibition in November 2001.

Representatives of the schools joined CAC officials in November for an eight-day visit to Cuba, where they met with some of the prospective artists and discussed the program. Dr. Gill Smith, chair of EKU’s Department of Art, and Joe Molinaro, a professor in the Department and a ceramist, represented Eastern.

“Unlike our knowledge of the rest of our hemisphere, we know very little about Cuban art in general, and that is one reason we’re so excited about this visit,” Smith said. “We see it as an opportunity to enlighten our students about what is happening in Cuban art in order to give them a more global perspective.”

CAC approached approximately 15 colleges and universities in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana to gauge their interest in the project, according to Molinaro.

“I felt good from the beginning that Eastern had shown some forward thinking to be a part of this,” Molinaro said. “While we are a regional institution by geography, we’re not limited to the region in our thoughts or actions.”

Molinaro and Smith agreed that the benefits of the visit extend well beyond the world of art.

“I don’t think Americans have sufficient understanding of what’s going on in Cuba,” Molinaro said, “and the reverse is probably true, too. This kind of exchange is ideally suited to breaking down barriers. We see a responsibility to help educate people about Cuba, its people and its art.”

Molinaro and Smith said they were very impressed with the quality of Cuban work produced in settings where resources are very limited.

“The idea that Cuba is a repressive regime can’t be substantiated by the art we saw,” Smith said. “The fact that these people make beautiful, idea-laden art under the worst possible economic circumstances was eye-opening for us.”

Molinaro said Cuba’s ceramic studios typically “were about a third the size of this [Smith’s] office.”