Closing the Gap Newsletter

1-1-2008

Closing the Gap

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Recommended Citation
Closing the Gap Jan 2008

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The College of Education inducted seven outstanding educators into its newly created Wall of Honor on Friday October 19, 2007 with a reception hosted by President Whitlock followed by a dinner in the Carl Perkins Building. The Wall of Honor is located on the fourth floor of the Bert Combs building and was established to recognize faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College. These individuals were dedicated to high quality instruction, scholarship, and service. Their actions inspired, supported, challenged, and enriched students who aspired to careers in education.

The seven initial inductees were recognized for their significant contributions to the success of the College of Education. The inductees were:

**Dixon A. Barr** served as the Dean of the College for 23 years and led the College during its most explosive period of growth. During his tenure the College emerged as a leader in teacher education; training more classroom teachers, counselors, and administrators than any other institution in the Commonwealth.

**Imogene Ramsey** had a 31 year career at EKU, culminating with her service as Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. With her legacy of excellence, she was instrumental in the preparation of a generation of teachers who have touched the lives of thousands of students across Kentucky.

**Carl Hurley** graduated from EKU in 1965, taught in the public schools, and was a professor of Industrial Education and Coordinator of Secondary Education in the College before becoming a nationally known speaker recognized as the “world’s funniest professor.”

**Harry Moberly, Jr.,** an EKU graduate, has had a distinguished career of service as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives for 27 years. During that time he has been a staunch and outspoken advocate for educational reform in Kentucky.

**Mary Jean and Raymond Giltner** have been strong supporters of the College through their Endowment for Educational Excellence established in 1988. Both have served EKU as members of the Foundations Board. Mr. Giltner passed away in July of 1995.

**Bige Towery** had a 30 year career in the Rockcastle County schools, culminating in his appointment as superintendent in 1987. During his eight year tenure as superintendent, he implemented a mission which focused on creating a culture where learning is valued and student needs are priority.

The actions of these seven individuals comprising the College of Education Wall of Honor Class of 2007 have touched the lives of thousands of Kentuckians and have made our world better for the generations to come.

Nominations for the Class of 2008 are now being accepted. Contact Dr. William Thames (William.thames@eku.edu, 859-622-2582, Combs 417) for further information.
Nine members of EKU’s Middle School Association attended last year’s NMSA conference which promised “The Right Stuff” in personal educational experiences. The NMSA conferences have consistently offered stimulating speakers, engaging sessions, the newest educational products and programs, school visits and action labs, and opportunities to network with others committed to the education of young adolescents.

The Conference, held in Houston November 8-10, featured leading experts in differentiated instruction, technology, the English language, teaming, literacy, mathematics, and numerous other areas. General Sessions offered stimulating messages about education and young adolescents from Cal Ripken Jr., Rick DuFour, and Mae Jemison, who spoke from their backgrounds of baseball, work with learning communities, and involvement in the space program.

The Center for Middle School Academic Achievement (CMSAA) supported a team of Kentucky representatives from some of CMSAA’s partnering organizations: Kentucky Middle School Association, Kentucky Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and Gear-Up Kentucky at EKU. In addition, the CMSAA provided some funding for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for middle-level instructors to attend and/or present at the conference.

The CMSAA also fulfills part of its mission of supporting Kentucky collegiate middle level student associations by offering grants of $500.00 to offset expenses of members attending state and national middle school conferences. This year, CMSAA provided funding to student groups at Northern Kentucky University, Brescia University, Murray State University, Morehead University, and Eastern Kentucky University. This initiative also provided a springboard for some institutions to begin a collegiate middle level association on their campus.

“The Right Stuff” was an educational and enjoyable experience for all who attended the NMSA annual conference in Houston.
by Emily Christensen

The ozone is weakening, smog pollutes cities, and Bambi is feeling more and more cramped as his forest disappears.

We shake our heads and point at “The Man,” President Bush or perhaps the person next to you.

And while blaming someone else may feel productive, a group of four students from EKU’s Model Lab School felt differently.

High school students Caleb Fligor, David Losson, Blake Neumann, and Glenn Walker created a community problem solving team (CmPS) last fall which focused on the destructive nature of mountaintop removal. This mining technique can result in extreme ecological changes, flooding, and erosion. Faculty members Annie Holman, Susan Neumann, Jen Walker, and Isabelle White served as CmPS advisors. With help from EKU’s College of Education, CmPS was able to compete in both a state and international competition finishing second and third respectively.

Their “Save the Mountain” plan included:

Power point presentations educating students at all levels of the environmental damage mountaintop removal can cause.

Presentations at EKU as part of the 2007 Appalachian Studies and Earth Day programs.

Showing various documentaries and creating a web page that offered links and information about Mountaintop removal.

Lobbying in Frankfort, KY last February for Stream Saver Legislation. The bill was to help increase regulations to protect mountain streams from fill.

Visiting many mountaintop removal sites in Hazard, KY.

Since their 2007 June competition, CmPS senior and team leader Glenn Walker graduated; but the team gained three more members: James Price, Matt Schumann and Ib Jadoon.

Their focus for 2008 is “saving the mountains” through energy conservancy.

They have met with Executive Director of Capital Planning and Facilities Management, James Street, and began developing an “energy plan” for the Model Lab School. CmPS has also worked with Blue Grass Energy, auditing houses to see what techniques the average home owner can use to reduce heat loss by more efficient heating, cooling, and insulation. As part of a class assignment, CmPS students also designed blueprints and actual models of houses demonstrating energy practices that conserve 40%.

The team is now creating grants to fund an outreach program that will educate Madison County citizens on how to reduce their energy bills while making greener energy choices. With groups like CmPS, it looks like the world is in good hands.

Attention Alumni!
Alumni, the College of Education wants to hear from YOU!

If you would like to share news with us to put in “Closing the Gap” please send us a typed update with your name, class, and major. (Photos are encouraged.)

Please send submissions to:
“Closing the Gap”
Combs 420
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475-3102
ATTENTION MODEL STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The College of Education would like to feature artwork from our Model students in “Closing the Gap”!

If you have something you would like to submit (photos of drawings, paintings, or sculptures; poetry; descriptive paragraphs; etc.) please send them with your name, age, and the title of your piece.

Name _____________________________ Age _______
Title of Your Piece _________________________________

Please send submissions to:
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Model’s Masterpieces

After reading DOGKU by Andrew Clements, Model Lab School Kindergarteners wrote haiku. Since we are called the Baines’ Bears, these three young authors wrote BEARKU.

I like grizzly bears. Grizzlies are vicious and big. They are wild, huge bears.
—Ansuya Aikat

Little bears are cute. They are cuddly and snuggly. They are very sweet.
—Ananya Patel

I like baby bears. White bears are cute and cuddly. I like bears—cute bears!
—Emma Rupard

Artwork by
Emma Rupard