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Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations

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Sexton to Speak at Spring Commencement May 6

The executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence since its creation in 1983 will be the featured speaker at Eastern Kentucky University’s 94th spring commencement Sunday, May 6.

Robert F. Sexton, Lexington, will address 1,334 degree candidates. That number includes 130 associate degree candidates, 1,005 bachelor’s degree candidates, 190 master’s degree candidates and nine specialist degree candidates.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Roy Kidd Stadium. In the event of inclement weather, commencement will be moved to McBrayer Arena in Alumni Coliseum.

A Louisville native, Sexton also has served as the deputy director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education and is a founder of Kentucky’s Governor’s Scholars Program and the Commonwealth Institute for Teachers. He also is the founder and president of the Kentuckiana Foundation for Issues and publisher of the Louisville Journal. He chaired the board that created the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington and is on the boards of the Kentuckiana Long Term Policy Research Center and the Kentucky Institute for Education Research.

The Louisville Courier-Journal wrote that Sexton is Kentucky’s “incomparable public policy advocate” and Kentucky Monthly magazine identified him as one of 20 Kentuckians who were most influential in education over the past century.

Sexton also will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree.

Speaking on behalf of the graduating class will be Norma James, a senior police administration major from Lawrenceburg.

In addition to the formal commencement exercises, EKU’s five academic colleges will hold separate receptions in the Keen Johnson Building from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for graduates and their families and friends.

Board of Regents Approves $147 Million Budget

The EKU Board of Regents has approved a $147 million budget for the 2001-2002 academic year.

President Kustra presented the $147,432,179 budget to the Regents at their April 21 meeting. The new-year budget provides an average 3 percent increase in employee salaries, operational expenses and travel. It also includes $150,000 for equity adjustments for staff and $50,000 for faculty, faculty promotions, and increases of $600,000 for University-funded scholarships, $1 million for the University’s share of a health insurance premium increase and $500,000 for the contingency fund. An additional $60,000 was allocated for student organizations. The budget does not call for the expenditure of any fund balance amounts.

The new budget is based on a 5.7 percent increase in state appropriations plus additional funding for state incentives, debt retirement and increases of $600,000 for University-funded scholarships, $1 million for the University’s share of a health insurance premium increase and $500,000 for the contingency fund. An additional $60,000 was allocated for student organizations. The budget does not call for the expenditure of any fund balance amounts.

Revenue increases were supplemented by eliminating vacant positions, which saved about $1.3 million, and utility savings of approximately $500,000.

EKU’s Regents also approved tuition and fee increases for 2001-2002. Undergraduates who reside in Kentucky will pay $1,168 per semester, an increase of $90, while non-resident graduate students will pay $3,849, up $269. The student activity fee and technology fee remain at last year’s levels. Residence hall rental rates will increase by $25 per semester.

In other business, the Board:

approved the implementation of a mandatory meal plan for new freshmen who are required to live in residence halls, effective with the Fall 2002 semester, and authorized Aramark Food Service to make improvements to the Powell Top Floor Cafeteria to implement its Fresh Food Company concept.

approved a special tuition rate for an on-line master’s degree program in loss prevention and safety for mid-career professionals nationwide and beyond. The higher rate is required to cover the costs of program development, technology assistance, administration and small class sizes.

authorized the sale of $2 million in Housing System Revenue Bonds to finance the installation of sprinklers in Case, Martin and McGregor Halls. This will complete a three-year plan to install sprinklers in all of the University’s high-rise residence halls.

approved the purchase of 150 acres of property near the Stratton Building for future University development.

created an endowed directorship to recognize Dr. Bonnie Gray, director of the University’s Honors Program since its inception.

approved naming Room 202 in the Moore Building as the Robert O. Creek Room, honoring Creek’s 52 years of service to the University.

Presidential Search Committee Formed to Assist Regents

A Presidential Search Committee has been formed to assist EKU’s Board of Regents in its search for a successor to President Kustra, who announced in February his plans to leave the presidency when his contract expires on June 30, 2002.

C. Fred Rice of Naples, Fla., who chairs the EKU Board of Regents, also will chair the 15-member Presidential Search Committee. The Committee is composed of student, faculty, staff, alumni and community representatives. Dr. Jan Greenwood, vice president for education practice at A. T. Kearney, Inc., an Alexandria, Va., executive search firm, will assist in the search process.

“We have carefully selected members of the committee to ensure that all groups at the University are represented in the presidential search process,” Rice said. “This blue ribbon panel will take whatever time is needed to help us conduct a national search and identify the best person possible to serve as EKU’s tenth president.”

EKU Presidential Search Committee members are: C. Fred Rice, Naples, Fla., Chair, EKU Board of Regents; Dr. Daisy French, Lexington, Vice Chair, Board of Regents; Gary Abney, Richmond, Secretary, Board of Regents; Dr. Merita Thompson, Richmond, faculty representative; Ritchie Rednour, Monticello, student representative; Glady Johnson, Richmond, staff representative; Dr. Mark Wasicsko, Richmond, dean representative; Dr. Larry Collins, Richmond, department chair representative; Robert B. Morgan, Cincinnati, EKU Foundation representative; Eva Vaughn, Lawrenceburg, alumni representative; Katherine Roberts, Richmond, community representative; Shannon Johnson, Richmond, community representative; and a representative from the EKU Faculty Senate.

For more information about the search, visit www.psearch.eku.edu.

$147 Million Budget
Barnes & Noble to Provide Bookstore Services for EKU

Gary Barksdale brings 24 years of experience in the human resources field to his new position as EKU’s new director of the Division of Human Resources.

Much of that experience has been at large hospitals. Most recently, Barksdale was a member of the senior management team for Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. He also has served with Catholic Health Initiatives; St. Joseph HealthCare and Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington; Erlanger Medical Center, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Hamilton Medical Center, Dalton, Ga.; Emerson Electric Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Vanity Fair Mills, Mornvueville, Ala.; and The Van Heusen Co., Ozark, Ala.

“I want to add value to the campus by providing services that are needed throughout the campus community,” Barksdale said. “My first goal is to meet people and identify those needs.”

Barksdale said he learned about EKU through his work at hospitals and liked what he saw. “We’ve hired many EKU students, so I know many of the alumni. The University’s reputation is excellent.”

A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Barksdale earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial relations from the University of Alabama in 1975 and a master’s in business administration from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock in 1999. He owns lifetime accreditation as a Senior Professional in Human Resources from the Society for Human Resource Management.

The U.S. Army veteran spent four years on active duty and 18 years with the Army National Guard, retiring in 1995 as a major.

He has two sons, 24 and 17.
Chryssa Zizos came to EKU in 1990 on “almost a full ride” to play field hockey.

When the sport was discontinued shortly after her arrival, little did she know that really she was just beginning the ride of her life, a journey that would take her in less than seven years to the pinnacle of her profession.

Zizos is the founder and president of Live Wire Media Relations, a Washington, D.C. firm whose clients range from Fortune 100 companies to technology start-ups and even include country singer Tracy Byrd. Since the year of existence, the firm generated $2 million in revenue, a 430 percent increase over the previous year.

Now, by funding two $1,500 annual scholarships for journalism students, Zizos is honoring those who she said “quickly rose possible, her parents, Andreas and Poppy, and Eastern Progress Adviser Dr. Libby Fraas, previous year.

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Fraas remembers Zizos, who served as

sports editor, as a “focused and driven” student.

“She was willing to explore a variety of

situations that contributed to her later success at

such a young age,” Fraas said of her former

student. “I’ve seen many promising young people

who have limited themselves because they don’t

take advantage of the full range of experiences and

opportunities available to them.

One of a teacher’s greatest rewards is

seeing young people limit themselves.

Fraas added. “One of a teacher’s greatest rewards is sharing a bit of the reflected success of a student like Chryssa.”

It’s not the first time Zizos has made a
teacher proud. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, she battled dyslexia and didn’t learn how to read at the proper level until she was in fifth grade. Through all her struggles, her parents kept faith.

“No one at my house until homework was done,” she recalled. “Every day my parents told me how important it was to get an education.”

In Fraas and other Eastern professors, Zizos found surrogate parents of sorts similarly concerned about her future.

“It was a very supportive environment,” she recalled. “I had the best college experience anyone could have. I could be a poster child for EKU. I just absolutely, positively loved this school.

“I wanted to honor Dr. Fraas because she was such a positive influence on me, as a student and as an adult. We got to pick our desks in the Progress office and I picked one right outside her office. I was a sponge.”

Zizos hopes the scholarship will free future students to concentrate on studies, the Progress and/or off-campus internships just as her athletic scholarship allowed her to blossom.

The two scholarships will be awarded each year: the Andreas and Poppy Zizos Scholarship for a freshman or sophomore and the Elizabeth D. Fraas Scholarship for a junior or senior.

Applicants must be journalism majors, maintain a 3.0 GPA and submit a 500- to 500-word essay stating why they are worthy of the scholarship and describing their goals in journalism.

For more information, call the Department of Communication at 622-1880.
Name: Rosanne Lorden

Education: I started at the University of New Hampshire, but transferred to Armstrong State College, where I received a B.S. in psychology. I have a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in experimental psychology with a developmental emphasis.

Current Position at EKU: I’m an associate professor in the Department of Psychology. The classes that I teach primarily are statistics and research methods courses and the psychology of aging. For the past three years, I’ve also worked part-time with the Institutional Review Office as a liaison for the Banner conversion. I also coordinate one of our two psychology co-op programs.

How long have you been in this position? I came to Eastern in 1986.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you like to be doing? A white-water rafting guide. I love white-water canoeing.

Tell me about your family? I’m divorced. I am involved, though. I have a partner, Richard. He has two girls and I have a son. We have three grandchildren. And my mom and my sisters live in New Hampshire.

What book would you recommend to others? One I read over Spring Break was Barbara Kingsolver’s “Prodigal Summer” and I loved it. It has really fascinating character development and there’s a lot about relationships among people and a lot of appreciation for the land. Her attention to detail about what’s happening in the natural world and her knowledge of the natural world was so illuminating to me. I just fell in love with the book.

What is your favorite food? Everything. Growing up in New England, where the food is very traditional — boiled to death, but tasty — I like to try new foods and new combinations. I like Thai and Indian foods for that reason — they put together unusual combinations of spices and flavors that you don’t usually get.

What is your favorite vacation spot? I did go to Ireland two summers ago and I absolutely loved it. The countryside is beautiful and we tried to see as much of it as we could. And I tried to drink as many kinds of Irish beer as I could while I was there. But, in terms of some place more accessible, the Smoky Mountains are wonderful.

What is in your CD or tape player at home right now? Maura O’Connell, who is Irish; Nanci Griffith; Sarah McLachlan; Louie Armstrong; Nina Simone and Bob Dylan.

Can you recall your most embarrassing moment? One time, I was teaching a class. And you know something’s wrong. You can hear titters from different students. I was turning back and forth, writing on the blackboard, then talking to the class, then writing on the board. Finally, I just stopped and said, “Okay, what’s going on guys? Do I have egg on my face or something?” There are more titters and then someone said, “No, but your skirt is starting to split.” I just looked and saw enough the side seam in my skirt was fraying and splitting open. Every time I had teased I had made it split more. I told them, “I always thought my panty hose or my slip would fall down in class one day, but never my skirt!”

What’s the best advice you’ve ever received? From my grandmother. If she would ask you something and you would say you didn’t know, she would say, “You’re not going to learn that any younger.” Meaning “get with it and learn how to do it.” I say that to my students now when they say, “I don’t know how to do that.”


What issue concerns you most about today’s world? Gritility in the world — that people are less caring and concerned about the welfare of others. That’s depressing. When you look at statistics, young people are volunteering a lot and that suggests they care. But then when you see things like road rage and school shootings, it suggests there are some problems with anger. One other concern involves policies that are very shortsighted — that seem to take for granted that the environment is always going to be there and we don’t need to worry about emissions problems or ecological issues or acid rain. Everyone’s worried about the energy crisis in California, but I’m still waiting to hear the “C” word — conservation.

Who or what has influenced you the most? Obviously, my grandmother was a big influence on me in terms of her attitude. She was highly adventurous and willing to try new things. She grew up in Maine on a farm and never got to ride a bicycle. At age 75, she decided she was going to learn how to ride the bicycle. That kind of “can do” attitude was important to me. Also, the works of Gandhi have been a big influence — the idea that one person can make a difference in the world.

Allameh, Joy; Eckard, Ron; Xou, Guangming, and Friedman, Marjorie. “Positioning what’s happening in the natural world and her knowledge of the development and there’s a lot about relationships among people Summer” and I loved it. It has really fascinating character doing?


Johnson, Ken; Chambers, Steve (graduate student), and Enlow, Ryan (graduate student). “The Impact of Globalization in Kentucky,” panel presentation at the Kentucky Political Science Association annual meeting, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Ky., March 2, 2001.

Koloff, Mary Ann; Joyce and Kolloff, Fred. “Instructional Design Models and Distance Education.” 15th Annual Distance Learning Conference, Madison, Wis., Aug. 4-6, 1999, pp. 169-197.


