Glasser: EKU ‘Full Partner’ in Higher Education Reform

Calling EKU a “full partner” in higher education reform in the Commonwealth, President-Elect Joanne Glasser pledged Monday, Oct. 1, to help make Kentucky postsecondary education “a model for the nation, and through our programs, help improve the quality of life for each and every Kentuckian.”

Speaking to the Kentucky General Assembly Joint Committee on Education, Glasser said, “The opportunity and promise created by reform … was one of the compelling factors that drew me to the Eastern Kentucky University presidency. I commend Governor Patton, the Kentucky General Assembly, the Council on Postsecondary Education and the P-16 community for successful efforts to improve Kentucky’s educational system. We have made every effort to enhance those reforms, and we will continue to do so in the future. Glasser, most recently executive vice president for institutional advancement at Towson University in Maryland, will become EKU’s 10th president Oct. 29. Since her selection Aug. 24, she has spent much of the last month in Richmond, learning more about the campus and community.

In a presentation punctuated by specific examples of contributions to the quality of life in the Commonwealth, Glasser focused her remarks on EKU’s College of Justice & Safety, a Kentucky Program of Distinction.

“The College of Justice & Safety has a distinctive record of developing innovative programs that directly impact our state, our nation and the world. Collaboration has been key to the College’s success,” Glasser said.

Glasser also discussed the “creative partnership” with state and local governments to establish a Business and Technology Center to serve southeastern Kentucky.

“The $40 million, state-of-the-art facility, to be constructed on the south side of campus, “will support Kentucky’s transition to the New Economy and help us improve the quality of life throughout the region,’’ Glasser said.

See related Guest Column on pg. 3.

Center for Appalachian Studies Serves Students, Eastern Kentucky

EKU’s Center for Appalachian Studies (CAS) enters its second year with a continuing commitment to meet a variety of regional needs with a “toolbox” of human and technical resources and build strong leadership skills in students so they can someday be business and community leaders throughout the region.

The Center was established in 2000 to coordinate and promote a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching, research and service on issues related to Appalachia, which encompasses most of EKU’s 22-county primary service region. The CAS brings together a diverse group of scholars from art, biology, English, environmental science, social work, geography, political science, sociology, history, criminology and criminal justice and the health sciences to better understand the region.

The new minor in Appalachian studies emphasizes the importance of disciplinary knowledge, but also strives to achieve a more holistic outlook on the people, politics and environment of the region through a wide range of courses. Eight of the 13 courses that comprise the minor are new, giving the curriculum a greater “coherence,” said Dr. Alan Banks, CAS director.

The curriculum helps students from Appalachia “celebrate their heritage,” said Knox County native Dr. Merita Thompson, a professor of health promotion and administration who teaches in the program. “It reconnects the students who came here to study and provides them with the skills to go back home to help sustain their communities.”

But the program also has attracted students from as far away as California. “It breaks down stereotypes,” Banks said, “and helps them understand and appreciate the region we serve.”

Clearly, though, the Center’s main focus is making connections through teaching, outreach and service.

“If we can build relationships with the people in Appalachia, we can take the human and technical resources of EKU and link them to the communities we serve,” Banks said.

In fact, the Center is already doing just that with the Headwaters Project, which builds upon the North Fork Clean Water Project in Letcher County by establishing a more permanent community-University partnership for sustainable development. This semester, the Social Change in Appalachia class is reviewing the historical developments that have led to water quality problems along the North Fork of the Kentucky River, discussing the connection between a healthy watershed and stable communities and developing data visualization tools and strategies that can help citizens along the entire Kentucky River watershed.

“We want to look at the region with an analytical eye and understand its strengths and weaknesses,” Banks said. “Every community has different needs and the Center provides a toolbox of resources.”

OkSØBERfest Promotes Responsible Choices with Education, Fun

You’ve heard of Oktoberfest. But did you know about okSØBERfest?

That’s the title given to a month-long series of educational and social events at EKU designed to help students make responsible choices about alcohol and provide substance-free socializing opportunities.

Several events are planned during National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, Oct. 21-27, including a presentation by Randy Haverson, a nationally known speaker on alcohol awareness issues on college campuses. Haverson, whose alcohol and cocaine addiction led him to a heart attack at age 21, will offer guidelines on low-risk drinking choices based on his “0,1,2,3” model of responsible use (or non-use).

The October programming is just part of a larger goal “to increase the number and quality of our programs throughout the school year,” said Dr. Sandra Medley, chair of the University’s Substance Abuse Committee and a staff psychologist with the Counseling Center. “All the events are geared to provoke a personal exploration of the issues related to substance abuse.”

Citing recent studies, Medley said EKU students “grossly over-estimate how much their peers are using alcohol. We need to do a better job of showing college students—particularly new students—that the majority of their peers are not abusing alcohol and making bad decisions. We have a responsibility to tell students that making healthy choices is the norm at EKU. We hope this will lead to lower-risk drinking behaviors among the minority of students who do drink excessively.”

The month’s activities include several substance-free social events, educational presentations and discussions, a “town meeting,” a benefit concert, poster exhibit and writing contest in which the top prize is $2,000.

See related Event Calendar on pg. 4.

OkSØBERfest Events

- Thursday, Oct. 18, “Invasion of the Eagles Nest,” substance-free social event on the roof of Telford Hall, 9 p.m., pop rally, dance, live band, free food.
- Tuesday, Oct. 23, Randy Haverson, “0,1,2,3,” alcohol awareness program, 7 p.m., Grise Room, Combs Building.
- Thursday, Oct. 25, “Attack on America” Benefit Concert and Coffee House, acoustic acts, 9 p.m., Pearl Buchanan Theatre and Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building.
- Monday, Oct. 29, Entries due for national Alcohol Issues Student Writing Contest, first prize of $2,000, four second prizes of $1,000 each. For more information, see Dr. Sandra Medley, Weaver 202, or call 622-1303.

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**Announcements**

**Allameh Part of Group Drafting LEP Plan**
Dr. Joy Allameh, director of the Eastern English Language Institute, was an invited participant Sept. 7 at a meeting sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education to draft a comprehensive plan to further support students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

The plan will serve as a guide to the KDE as well as to schools and districts in their efforts to provide the most appropriate and effective educational services to those students. Kentucky is one of the five fastest-growing states in LEP population; 82 languages are represented.

Also, Allameh was invited by the Department of Education to serve as coordinator of the Higher Education Strand of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Conference, Dec. 7-8 in Louisville. The conference theme is “Building Literacy in a Multicultural Community.”

**Admissions Brochure Wins National Award**
The 2000 admissions “search piece,” designed by Don Risi, associate director, Public Relations and Marketing, received a 2001 Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) for Excellence in the Design and Layout category. The APEX Awards, sponsored by Communications Concepts, Inc., are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. More than 5,100 entries were submitted for consideration in the national competition.

**One-Woman Play Looks at History of Women’s Sports**
“Nice Girls Don’t Sweat.”

Or do they?

Author, storyteller and performer Jane Curry will bring her one-woman play celebrating the history of women’s sports to EKU Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in the South Room of the Keen Johnson Building. Her performance, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program at EKU.

The program features Curry’s portrayal of a character named Sammy Kay, who tells stories of the challenges and obstacles faced by women who, throughout history, tried to get involved in sports.

Curry was born and reared in Speedway, Ind., within earshot of the Indianapolis, Ind. As a youngster, the acknowledged tomboy played football in the neighborhood, baseball at recess and basketball wherever she found a hoop and a backboard. She continued to play sports in high school and college.

“I was a tomboy, and the boys would let me play with them because they said I threw like a boy,” Curry told the Providence Journal in 1994. “They stated that as a compliment, and I took it as one – then. Now, my daughter can throw, and they call her an athlete. I like that.”

As Sammy Kay, Curry will talk about the All-American Redheads, modified rules for girls, the 19th century bicycle craze, play days, sport fashions, medical theories, Olympic sex tests, high school gym class, Little League, Title IX, exclusionary membership practices and more. Through-out the rambling discourse, she’ll show slides of famous female athletes and interject humor in making her points.

“Women’s history is by and large very subversive,” she told the Grand Rapids Press. “I think what I’m doing is sort of subversive. Women humorists who have had a feminist point of view have used it to turn stereotypes on their heads and point out social inequities. I love going to a show and having people sucked in by the humor and then before it’s too late they figure out what’s going on.”

Curry has been performing nationally and internationally since 1983 and tours with three other solo shows she has written: “Samantha Rasles the Woman Question,” “Just Say No: Educating Females for the 21st Century,” and “Miz Wizard’s Science Secrets.”
Name: Bankole Thompson

Current Position at EKU: Dean of Graduate Studies

When did you begin working at EKU? I came here in July 1995.

What did you do before coming to EKU? Before coming to EKU, I taught at Kent State University, where I was associate professor of criminal justice. I also have an endowed chair in comparative law at Akron University Law School. Before coming to U.S. I served as state attorney in Sierra Leone. I also served as legal officer of Mano River Union, a West Africa economic integration group comprised of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. After that I was appointed judge of the high court of Sierra Leone.

Tell me about your family. There are eight in my family. My wife Adiatu, who is a physician; Bankole, also a physician, who currently is in the last year of his residency and chief resident of his program; Cecil is a sophomore in law school; Claribel has a degree in psychology and is contemplating graduate studies; Annette is a freshman in law school, and Anita and Christiana are attending high school.

What are your interests and hobbies? My interests are philosophical and are linked with my career objective, which is twofold. One, as a member of the academic community I am constantly exploring and trying to understand the intricate and diverse features of mankind's intellectual, social and cultural heritage. Secondly, as a member of the profession of the law, I continue to advocate for the supremacy of law and justice as the bedrock of our modern civilization. My hobbies are different. I enjoy singing and listening to inspirational Christian hymns. I play pool and I occasionally dance to the exciting rhythms of African music.

Who or what has influenced you the most? In terms of my professional life I would say some of the past judges in Sierra Leone. The early judges whose commitment to the rule of law and tradition infused in me a great passion for justice. I have also drawn some professional inspiration from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He tried to integrate the law as an objective, which is twofold. One, as a member of the academic community I am constantly exploring and trying to understand the intricate and diverse features of mankind's intellectual, social and cultural heritage. Secondly, as a member of the profession of the law, I continue to advocate for the supremacy of law and justice as the bedrock of our modern civilization. My hobbies are different. I enjoy singing and listening to inspirational Christian hymns. I play pool and I occasionally dance to the exciting rhythms of African music.

What is your favorite movie? For some reason I like “The Sound of Music.”

What is your favorite food? My favorite food is Jollof rice. It is a West African dish prepared much like fried rice with many other ingredients like chicken and meat, oil, and much tomato.

What book would you recommend to others? The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. The reason for this is that his tragedies, comedies and histories reflect a profound understanding of human nature. For example, jealousy, pride, love, evil, hypocrisy and envy are all portrayed in a dramatic way. I would recommend anyone read plays like “Macbeth,” “Hamlet,” “Romeo and Juliet” and “Othello.”

What issue concerns you most about today’s world? In terms of my professional life I would say some of the past judges in Sierra Leone. The early judges whose commitment to the rule of law and tradition infused in me a great passion for justice. I have also drawn some professional inspiration from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He tried to integrate the law as an academic discipline with the law as a dynamic instrument of social engineering.

Faculty Can Make a Difference on Student Alcohol, Drug Problems

By Dr. Sandra Medley

Alcohol and other drug problems constitute a major challenge for colleges and universities.

At Eastern, data indicates that approximately 50 percent of our students engage in high-risk drinking on a regular basis. Results from a recent study on campus show a clear connection between alcohol difficulties and academic difficulties at EKU. Students who were receiving C-F grades in their classes were significantly more likely to have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Additionally, students who have difficulties with substances are more likely to miss class, turn assignments in late, and not participate in class discussions.

There are a number of ways by which faculty can wield institutional influence to enhance students' health and safety, all of which are compatible with their roles as teachers and researchers.

• Speak out as advocates for change and for greater attention to alcohol and other drug prevention.
• Develop new course work that enables students to learn about alcohol and other drugs, including prevention, in the context of courses that meet the students' normal academic requirements.
• Participate on task forces and panels to review admissions criteria, graduation requirements, policies regarding alcohol advertising on campus, and other issues. (There is evidence to suggest that students who abuse alcohol prior to attending college will select universities that appear to environmentally encourage high-risk use.)
• Offer extra credit opportunities to students who participate in alcohol awareness activities sponsored by the University.
• Set norms and expectations for student behavior. Class schedules and attendance requirements can signal to students that course work is more important than partying.
• Have assignments due and give tests on Fridays and Mondays.
• Supervise service-learning activities, either as course requirements or as co-curricular events.
• Conduct research that can be used to inform campus policy development.
• Identify students who may be in trouble with alcohol and other drugs and refer them to the University Counseling Center, 622-1303.
• Faculty members have unique opportunities to influence campus health and safety through their involvement in alcohol and other drug prevention. Faculty can exercise leadership through a combination of curriculum reform, the application of interdisciplinary approaches to prevention, and collaboration with student affairs professionals.

Dr. Medley is a staff psychologist with the Counseling Center and chair of the University’s Substance Abuse Committee.

In the past two weeks. Additionally, students who were receiving C-F grades in their classes were significantly more likely to have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days, consumed marijuana recently, and received lower grades. A recent study on campus show a clear connection between alcohol difficulties and academic difficulties at EKU. Students who were receiving C-F grades in their classes were significantly more likely to have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days.

What makes you happy? The relationship and love that I share with my family.

What is one thing about you that people might be surprised to know? That I am a deeply religious person.

What is your favorite movie? For some reason I like “The Sound of Music.”

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2001 Homecoming Schedule of Events

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Student Saxophone Recital
8 p.m., Gifford Theatre. Free.

Blessed Union of Souls
8 p.m., Alumni Coliseum
For ticket information, call 622-3855.

Thursday, Oct. 18

College of Justice & Safety Golf
2:30 p.m., Golf Course, Arlington
Groups assigned or make your own foursome. $25 fee. Advance reservations required. Contact the College of Justice & Safety’s Student and Alumni Affairs Office at 622-8244 or justice.safety@eku.edu.

College of Justice & Safety Wine and Cheese Reception
7-9 p.m., Mule Barn, Arlington
Alumni, faculty and friends welcome.

EKU University Singers
8 p.m., Brock Auditorium. Free.

Friday, Oct. 19

College of Justice & Safety Professional Development Speaker Series
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Stratton Building
"Youth Gangs and Youth Violence: Impact on Schools and Community," Keith Rhodes. Afternoon workshops are designed to give community workers, juvenile justice practitioners and educators specific skills to identify gangs and reduce violence in their communities. $50 per person.

Visit the Kentucky Horse Park
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Ky.
Transportation provided by the College of Justice & Safety. Fee: $10 adult, $6 child (7-12); under 7 free. Contact the College of Justice & Safety’s Student and Alumni Affairs Office at 622-8244 or justice.safety@eku.edu.

Geology/Earth Sciences Cookout
5 p.m., Roark Building
Cookout outside Roark Building, tour the Department of Geology facilities. Alumni, friends and faculty welcome.

Social Work Program Dinner
6-8 p.m., Perkins Building
Celebrate the program’s 30th anniversary and honor the memory of Sue Friedman, original program coordinator. Call Melanie Stamper or Brenda Leat at 622-1645 for reservations.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Challenge Course Open House
8 a.m.-2 p.m., Challenge Course
Department of Community and Workforce Education will demonstrate elements of the state-of-the-art training facility. The 45-foot Tango Tower will be open to climbers for a $10 fee. Contact Rick Lewis at 622-1217.

Department of Technology Alumni Breakfast
8:30 a.m., Faculty Dining Room, Powell Bldg.
Alumni and friends welcome. RSVP by calling Dr. Steve Fardo at 622-3232. Cost $6.50.

Open House
9-11 a.m., Alumni House, Lancaster Avenue
Refreshments.

Department of Government
Parade Tent
9 a.m., North Lawn, McCreary Building
Political science, public administration and paralegal graduates and friends can watch the Homecoming Parade.

4th Homecoming Race
10 a.m., Lancaster Avenue
Run, walk, rollerblade or wheelchair. Awards given to first place for men, women, age group, wheelchair and rollerblade. The College of Justice & Safety will give an award to the first-place runner from that college. Contact Division of Intramural Programs, 622-1244.

Homecoming Parade
10 a.m. Lancaster Avenue and Downtown Richmond
Floats, bands and local entries will highlight the annual event.

Agriculture and Horticulture Alumni Cookout
Immediately Following Parade, A.B. Carter Bldg.
RSVP by Oct. 15 to Dr. Danny G. Britt at 622-2228. Free.

English and Theatre, Foreign Languages and Humanities, and Philosophy and Religion Alumni Brunch
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Case Annex Lobby
Contact Bonnie Plummer at 622-5861 or engphil@as.eku.edu.

Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni/Student Brunch
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 108, Moss Living Center, Burrier Building
Call 622-3445.

Colonel Country Fair
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Coliseum Parking Lot
Featuring entertainment, a variety of foods from Aramark, Fazoli’s and Sonny’s Barbecue and tailgating with members of the EKU family. Groups sponsoring booths and/or tents will include: Alumni Relations, Association of Fire Science Technicians, Career Services, College of Education, College of Business & Technology, College of Justice & Safety, College of Arts & Sciences, Paralegal Program, Graduate School and Eastern Progress.

Baptist Student Union
Homecoming Tailgate
11:30 a.m., BSU Lot
Alumni welcome.

Catholic Newman Center
Cookout
Noon, Catholic Newman Center
Alumni welcome. Free.

Paralegal Reunion
Noon-2:30 p.m., Colonel Country Fair
All paralegal graduates, family and friends invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of EKU’s program.

OVC Volleyball
Noon, McBrayer Arena, Alumni Coliseum
EKU vs. Tennessee Tech University. Free.

Eastern Progress Tailgate
1-4 p.m., Colonel Country Fair
Current and former Progress staff invited to celebrate 80th anniversary of student newspaper. Contact Libby Fraas, 622-1880 or libby.fraas@eku.edu.

Kiddie Colonel Camp
3 p.m.-End of Game, Begley Building
The Departments of Athletics and Leisure Studies will offer recreational programming for children ages 4-10. Fee is $10 for first child, $5, each sibling. Limited to 30. Pre-registration required. Contact Athletic Department, 622-6501, or Dr. Jon McChesney at 622-1835 or jon.mcchesney@eku.edu.

Homecoming Game: EKU vs. Western Kentucky
4 p.m., Roy Kidd Stadium, Hanger Field
For tickets, call 622-2122 or visit www.athletics.eku.edu.

Halftime Entertainment
Roy Kidd Stadium, Hanger Field
Performance by the Marching Colonels Band and the Homecoming Queen and King coronation.

Worn Cleat Club
After the game, Homecoming Tent, Alumni Coliseum Parking Lot
Celebrate with Coach Kidd and members of the Worn Cleat Club. All former football players, managers, trainers, and their families are invited to attend. Meal provided.

Performance in American Sign Language
7-9 p.m., Grise Room, Combs Building
The Interpreter Training Program Association and Blue Grass American Sign Language Teacher Association hosts Peter Cook, telling his original stories in American Sign Language. Cost is $15; adults, $10 for students; free, children under 5. Call 622-4966.