‘The Best Is Yet to Come’
President Glasser Begins ‘Conversation’ about University’s Future

“The best is yet to come” at EKU, President Joanne Glasser told faculty, staff and students at a campus-wide convocation Thursday, Nov. 8.

In her first major address to the University community, Glasser said, “We are on the threshold of taking this university to the next level of excellence. Together, we must dream big dreams. And, together, we must work hard to achieve them.”

Glasser, who was selected by the University’s Board of Regents on Aug. 24, became EKU’s 10th president on Oct. 29. The former executive vice president of institutional advancement at Towson University spent the nine-week interim period residing in Richmond and learning more about the campus and community.

She termed the convocation a beginning of “a conversation about the future of Eastern Kentucky University. “This is the first of what I promise will many such occasions for us to come together as a ‘family’ to examine opportunities, exchange ideas and formulate plans.”

Attracted to Eastern, in part, because of the “promise of education reform and EKU’s reputation for teaching excellence,” Glasser said the past two months have “reaffirmed” her decision to move to Kentucky.

“As we begin our journey together, I ask that you join me in embracing our remarkable institutional culture and heritage.” Glasser said. “We simply must not forget the good work that has been done before here.

“If our university is to continue to be a dynamic, vibrant community of teachers and learners,” she added, “we must maintain a healthy relationship between the new and the old. We must welcome new ideas and cherish our rich tradition. And all of us, as valued members of the University community, must actively participate in the decisions that affect our lives.”

Those decisions, Glasser vowed, will be made “in a collaborative, consultative fashion and in keeping with our rich tradition of shared governance.

“In a world of change and uncertainty, I want us to be proactive in controlling our destiny, rather than face change in the form of external edict and mandate.”

EKU’s new president said the University must aggressively pursue reaccreditations, and new accreditations, of its academic programs.

“The difference between a mediocre and an exceptional university ultimately depends on the quality of its academic programs. I believe we are an exceptional university, and we will continue to be.”

Glasser vowed that EKU will continue to invest in its faculty.

“Those of you who teach have impressed me with your knowledge, your experience, your skills and your steadfast focus on teaching. But, more importantly, you have touched my heart with your passion and dedication for what you do, and with your genuine care and concern for those you mentor and nurture. Within the limits of our resources, we will expand faculty development opportunities, support faculty scholarship … and address the issue of keeping faculty salaries at or above 100 percent of our benchmark institutions.”

Glasser added that she also would place “a high priority on providing fair and equitable

Continued on page 3
Through Friday, Nov. 16

Art Exhibit Continues

Traditional Pottery of Jutumambo (Ecuador) and Photographs of Canari Indians of Southern Ecuador, Gail Borden Gallery, Campbell Building. For gallery hours, call 622-8155.

Monday, Nov. 12

People Speaking to Dogs

Talking to Dogs and ‘What Talk: What Are We Doing When We Talk to Dogs?’ Dr. Robert Mitchell, Department of Psychology, 12:20 p.m., Regents Dining Room, Powell Building, part of the Sigma Xi research society series; attendees should bring lunch.

‘Veep’ Barkley Portrayed

“The Veep, Kentucky’s Greatest Orator and Legislator,” Donald Johnson portrays Alben W. Barkley, 7:30 p.m., Richmond Area Arts Center, 599 W. Water Street. Sponsored by EKU Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

Tuesday, Nov. 13

Tech Initiatives Conference

Conference on Preparing Teachers to Use Technology (PT3) implementation grants, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Perkins Building, hosted by College of Education. Information will be exchanged by EKU, Morehead State, Northern Kentucky and Murray State on the grants. Conference also will include presentations on specific grant initiatives; infusing technology into core content courses, redesigning and infusing technology into teacher education courses, development and implementation of an electronic/multimedia teacher education portfolio, etc. For more information, or to make reservations, contact Steve Hyndman at Steve.Hyndman@eku.edu.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Poet Laureates on Campus

Kentucky Poet Laureate James Baker Hall and previous Kentucky Poet Laureate Richard Taylor, joint poetry reading, 7:30 p.m., Grand Reading Room, Grable Library. Their books will be available, and Hall and Taylor will sign after their presentation. Also, Taylor will speak to an American literature class in the Kennamer Room of the Powell Building at 11:15 a.m., and Hall will speak to an Appalachian literature class in the Kennamer Room at 12:20 p.m. The poet’s visit is sponsored by the EKU Center for Kentucky History and Politics, the Appalachian Studies Center and the Department of English.

Wednesday, Nov. 14-Saturday, Nov. 17

‘The Basketle Table’ Presented

“The Basketle Table,” EKU Theatre presents comedy by Susanna Centlivre, 8 p.m. nightly, Gifford Theatre. Tickets on sale at Gifford Box Office, noon–4 p.m. weekdays, $5 adults, $4 students and senior citizens, $5 adults.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Vocal Jazz Ensemble Concert

8 p.m., Brock Auditorium, admission $4.

Friday, Nov. 16-Saturday, Nov. 17

Holidays Art Show and Sale

Friday, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 5–9 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Richmond Area Arts Center, 599 W. Water St. Free admission to sale and reception.

'Do The Time Warp' Comedy

“Rocky Horror Picture Show,” 9:30 p.m., Keen Johnson Ballroom, part of Thursday Night Fun.

World Percussion Recital

8 p.m., Brock auditorium, $2 students, $4 adults.

Men’s Basketball Exhibition

EKU vs. WV Bombers, 7:30 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Monday, Nov. 12

3:30 p.m., Roark 203

Studying Abroad in Ecuador

Hear students share their travel experiences.

Tuesday, Nov. 13

11 a.m.–4 p.m., Powell Lobby

Study Abroad Fair

Announcements

James Madison Fellowships Available

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, a federally-endowed program designed to strengthen instruction about the Constitution in the nation’s schools, will award generous fellowships in 2001 for master’s-level graduate study of the framing and history of the U.S. Constitution. College seniors and college graduates who intend to become secondary school teachers of American history, American government or social studies are eligible for the fellowships.

Through a nationwide competition, James Madison Fellowships will be awarded to at least one legal resident of each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories. After completing study under their fellowships, James Madison Fellows are required to teach American history, American government or social studies for a minimum of one year.

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Blanchard (622-4380) at the James Madison Fellowship Program, PO Box 4050, Iowa City, Iowa 52245-4050, telephone 1-800-525-6928. The Foundation’s Web site is www.jamesmadison.com.

Employee Days Scheduled at Athletic Events

The final home football game and men’s basketball opener, both on Saturday, Nov. 17, have been designated as “EKU Employee Appreciation Days.”

All-time employees of EKU may purchase up to four tickets per game for only $2 each. The football Colonels host Tennessee State at 1 p.m., and the basketball team will open against Cunningham at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the games are available at the athletic ticket office in Alumni Coliseum 126. Ticket windows for the football game open at 11:30 a.m., and the McBrayer Arena ticket windows will open at 6 p.m. (The Nov. 10 EKU-Samford football game was also designated as EKU Employee Appreciation Day.)

The Departments of Athletics and Leisure Studies will again offer Kiddie Colonel Camp for the Nov. 17 game. Recreational programming will be available for children ages 4-10 in the Begley Building, beginning one hour before kickoff. Cost is $10 for the first child and $5 for each sibling. Pre-registration is required; contact the Athletics Department at 622-6501 or Dr. Jon McChesney at 622-1855 or jon.mchchesney@eku.edu.

Information Needed on Faculty-Student Collaborations

A trio of EKU professors is looking for examples of faculty-student collaborations. Dr. Frank Shaw, professor and chair, Department of Chemistry; Dr. William Farrar, professor, Department of Biological Sciences; and Dr. Rose Perrine, professor, Department of Psychology, recently attended a Council on Undergraduate Research conference on institutionalizing undergraduate research.

“We want to learn about the collaborations that already exist and to share ideas on how to make faculty-undergraduate collaborations a more public and more rewarding experience,” Perrine said.

To report a collaboration or for more information, contact Shaw, Farrar or Perrine.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

The Geography of Crime Fighting and Emergency Response (911)

David Lucas, head of the GIS Division at Lexington Fayette Urban County Government.

Monday, Nov. 19

EKU Orchesrta Concert

8 p.m., Gifford Theatre.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Lady Colonels’ Home Opener

EKU vs. Lipscomb, 5:30 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Agent Exploration

Monday, Nov. 12

3:30 p.m., Roark 203

The Headwaters Project: Students Applying Geography in Eastern Kentucky Students at SOC 365 present research findings of water quality in Leitcher County.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

3:30 p.m., Roark 203

National Geographic Information Systems Day

The Geography of Crime Fighting and Emergency Response (911)
Student-Faculty Team Addresses Letcher Water Issues

A group of students and faculty at EKU are employing their myriad academic backgrounds to address water quality concerns in Letcher County, where the Kentucky, Cumberland and Big Sandy Rivers originate.

“The Headwaters Project” brings together faculty and students from geography, sociology, occupational therapy, political science, psychology, anthropology and education to review the historical developments that have led to water quality problems along the North Fork of the Kentucky River, understand the connection between a healthy watershed and stable communities, and develop data visualization tools that can help citizens throughout the Kentucky watershed better understand the scope of water degradation.

The multi-disciplinary team, under the auspices of EKU’s Center for Appalachian Studies, has entered into a teaching and research partnership with Letcher County citizens and officials that focuses on one question: “How do we build a sustainable future for Appalachian communities and Letcher County in particular?”

“We are preparing our graduates for more than just a place in the workforce,” said Dr. Alice Jones, assistant professor of planning in the Department of Geography. “Ideally, we want them to be ‘whole people’ who become productive members of communities, and who have the skills and understanding to participate actively and thoughtfully in the economic, social, civic and political processes of society.

“Water quality is just one example of the kinds of complex and multi-dimensional problems that communities face on an ongoing basis. Understanding these problems requires an integrative, systemic approach: a little bit of history, sociology, geography, economics and political science; a little bit of chemistry, biology, geology and ecology. In essence, a community-centered and place-based class such as this drives home the importance of a broad liberal arts university education, and helps students see the value of their college education as a whole, rather than as a collection of disparate classes.”

EKU’s Center for Appalachian Studies, established last year, “allows us to work outside the disciplinary or department framework to apply the technical and human expertise of the institution to the real and pressing problems of our region,” Jones said. “In some ways, then, what we are engaged in is re-thinking the way that universities operate. It’s very exciting!”

Major environmental problems in the North Fork Watershed include habitat degradation, runoff and siltation from mining, timber and agricultural operations, illegal dumping and pathogens from untreated sewage.

“We want to build upon the North Fork Clean Water Project, a citizen-led effort begun a few years ago, and help to establish a more permanent community-university partnership for sustainable development,” said Dr. Alan Banks, director of EKU’s Center for Appalachian Studies.

“We are not going to Letcher County to fix their water quality problems, or even tell them how to fix them,” Jones said. “We are there to help them develop their own capacity to identify their own problems, and then make decisions as a community to address those problems.”
Our son, Christopher Glenn, is 34 and married to Kelly Arnold of...