Construction to Begin on B & T Center

Ground will be broken late this spring or early summer on EKU's planned Business & Technology Center.

Because the project was not included in Gov. Patton’s recently announced budget, some may have mistakenly concluded that the building was on hold, according to College of Business & Technology Dean Dr. Robert Rogow. However, Rogow added, $14 million already had been approved by the state Finance Cabinet for the project, and architects continue to develop detailed drawings and cost estimates.

The approved funding will allow the College to complete one wing of the facility, Rogow said. A steering committee will recommend at a later date that construction begin on either the conference center/auditorium wing or the classroom wing.

Rogow said he remained “very optimistic” that the entire $40-45 million complex will be constructed, noting that the Center is the University’s top priority in the current capital plan filed with the General Assembly.

In its entirety, the 212,000-square-foot complex will include an “incubator” for new business, an “innovation and commercialization center” to help in the development of new businesses, a conference center with exhibition space, a performing arts center/auditorium, classrooms and office space.

Rogow expects one wing of the facility to be completed within a minimum of 1½ to 2 years.

External Grant Funding Jumps 24% to Record $50 Million

EKU received nearly $50 million in external grant award notifications in Fiscal Year 2001, a 24 percent increase from the previous year and a whopping 377 percent jump since 1996.

Almost every segment of the campus community posted an increase, with the College of Justice & Safety leading the way with $36.9 million, a 29 percent increase in external funding.

“Almost every segment of the campus community posted an increase, with the College of Justice & Safety leading the way with $36.9 million, a 29 percent increase in external funding,” said Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs, at the Jan. 31 meeting of the Board of Regents in Frankfort, “and it is the result of a lot of hard work by faculty, staff, deans, vice presidents, the entire institution.”

Ironically, the sizable increase in funding came at a time when the number of faculty proposals and awards slipped to their lowest levels in six years – 263 submissions and 198 awards.

Scott Tracy, director of the Division of Sponsored Programs, called the funding increase a sign of the continued health of the University’s sponsored programs enterprise in attracting large-scale multidisciplinary projects.

A significant portion of new dollars came through discretionary funding by federal agencies in support of university faculty and staff, Tracy noted. Federal awards, for example, increased more than 21 percent, from $8.8 million in FY 2000 to $10.7 million in FY 2001.

Federal awards for research increased more than 227 percent in the past fiscal year, from $1.1 million to $2.5 million. Total sponsored research awards topped $2.8 million.

“Nearly every department and college on this campus has contributed to the increase in funding,” Tracy said, “and the faculty, chairs and deans are to be commended for their commitment to our mission of excellence in instruction, public service and research.”

Scott Tracy

ANOTHER STELLAR SEASON – Freshman Miranda Eckerle shoots over an Austin Peay defender. The Lady Colonels are coming down the stretch of another successful season (16-6 overall and 8-2 in OVC at press time) and host their final regular season home game Saturday, Feb. 16 when they face league rival Morehead at 5:30. The men’s game between the two schools follows at 8 p.m.
Announcements

Band Premieres New Foster Work

EKU’s Symphonic Band presented the world premiere of “A Stephen Foster Fugue” at the 2002 Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference Saturday, Feb. 9 in Louisville.

The work, by South Carolina Composer Laureate Dr. Gordon Goodwin, was commissioned by and dedicated to the EKU Symphonic Bands and Stephen Collins Foster Music Camps, held annually on the Richmond campus.

According to Dr. Michael Marsden, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the change will “allow families and friends of graduates who have to travel considerable distances to be able to leave home at a reasonable hour and still participate in the College receptions and the commencement ceremony.”

Commencement Time Changed

The times for EKU’s spring commencement ceremony and receptions Saturday, May 11 have been changed.

Commencement will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Roy Kidd Stadium. College receptions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Keen Johnson Building.

Women’s Studies Scholarship

The EKU Women’s Studies Program invites applications for two Charlotte Schmidlapp scholarships of $500 each for the Fall 2002 semester.

The scholarships will be awarded to students working toward a Women’s Studies minor, as evidenced by their completion of WMS 201 and one elective.

Applications may be obtained in Case Annex 157 or 168 or requested by e-mail (isabelle.white@eku.edu). The application deadline is March 4.

Activities Mark Black History Month

Several activities are scheduled at EKU throughout February in observance of Black History Month.

The activities are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services and other campus offices.

The schedule includes:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12 – “Voices of the People Singing the Struggle for Civil Rights,” Dr. Kathy Bulllock, 7:30 p.m., Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building.
- Friday, Feb. 15 – “Organizing for an End to Racism: A History of Civil Rights,” Dr. Ronald A. Sterling, 7 p.m., Keen Johnson Building.

Events

Monday, Feb. 11-15

River Arts March 1

Art Exhibit Opens

University of Evansville Faculty Exchange, Giles Gallery, Campbell Building, opening reception 7-9 p.m. Feb. 11, call 622-8135 for Gallery hours.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

‘Voices of the People’

“Voices of the People: Singing the Struggle for Civil Rights,” Kathy Bulllock, professor, Department of Music, Berea College, 7:30 p.m., Walnut Hall, Keen Johnson Building, part of year-long Chautauqua series on human rights.

‘Talking Politics in Kentucky’

“Talking Politics in Kentucky: Changes Over Four Decades,” Lexington radio/TV personality Sue Wylie, 7:30 p.m., Keenmanner Room, Powell Building, sponsored by EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Valentine Dinner with Figaro

Thursday Alternative Getaway (TAG) program, 7 p.m., Walters Hall Basement.

Thursday, Feb. 14-15

Mozart Comes to Brock

“The Marriage of Figaro,” opera with orchestra, 8 p.m. nightly, Brock Auditorium. Admission $5 adults, $2 students.

Saturday, Feb. 16

Twinbill with Morehead

Basketball Doubleheader: EKU women vs. Morehead State, 5:30 p.m.; EKU men vs. Morehead, 7:30 p.m., McBrayer Arena.

Monday, Feb. 18

University Closed; No Classes

President’s Day observed.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Sport, PE and Women

“The Importance of Sport and Physical Education in the Lives of Young Females,” Heather Adams-Blair, EKU Health Promotion and Administration, 7 p.m., Keenmanner Room, Powell Building, part of year-long Women’s Studies series on Women and Sports.

Flute Night

8 p.m., Brock Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Life of Jesse Stuart Discussed

Jesse Stuart: The Man and His Books,” Dr. James Gifford, director, The Jesse Stuart Foundation, 7:30 p.m., Keenmanner Room, Powell Building. Sponsored by EKU’s Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

Friday, Feb. 22

Band Concert

EKU Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Brock Auditorium.
Two New International Agreements Broaden Horizons

EKU continues to break down boundaries.

Two recent international exchange agreements—one with the University of Pecs in Hungary and another with The Hogeschool Brabant in The Netherlands—have opened even more opportunities for Eastern students and faculty and underscored the University’s global emphasis in its business and economics programs.

The faculty and research exchange agreement with Pecs stems from a long-term relationship between the Hungarian institution and Dr. Norb Elbert, chair of EKU’s Department of Management, Marketing and Administrative Communication. Elbert first visited Pecs as a Fulbright Scholar in 1991 and has made several visits since that time. Two years ago, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the comprehensive institution of about 25,000 students.

Last summer, Pecs Professor Jozsef Poor taught a graduate business class at EKU and was instrumental in the October signing of a formal agreement. Dr. William Davig, a professor in EKU’s Department of Management, Marketing and Administrative Communication, will reciprocate with a two-month visit this fall.

Davig, Elbert, Dr. Michael Roberson and Dr. Allen Engle visited the University of Pecs for a week-long conference in November.

“If we didn’t take advantage of opportunities like this, it would be like someone writing about being a musician but never having picked up an instrument,” Roberson said.

“We have for the past several years made a concerted effort to globalize our program,” Elbert said. “It’s important for us to establish these opportunities and think in terms of the world being our backyard. This certainly adds to the perspective our students need if they are going to compete globally.”

Hogeschool Brabant, in Breda, is hosting three EKU students this semester: economics majors Christopher Sterling, Crescent Hills, and Jason Noll, Villa Hills, and business major Paul Foley, Richmond.

They are only the first Eastern students to take advantage of a cooperative student/faculty exchange agreement between the Dutch institution and EKU. Sterling, Noll and Foley will study international business at the top-rated international business program among the 18 Dutch hogescholen.

“These are three very good students,” said Dr. John Wade, chair of EKU’s Department of Economics. “They’re going with their eyes open, willing to try new things.”

Wade expects several EKU students to attend Hosgeschool Brabant each semester, and “we anticipate having some of their students next fall.” Faculty exchanges could start in 2003.

Four EKU officials, led by Dr. Robert Rogow, dean of the College of Business & Technology, visited Hogeschool campuses in Breda and den Bosch last November to explore possible student and faculty exchanges in art and social work as well as business-related fields.

Also on the trip were Elbert, Wade and Dr. Neil Wright, EKU’s director of international education.

“The deans (Rogow and Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. Dominic Hart) and provost (Dr. Michael Marsden) are very supportive of these types of arrangements,” Elbert said. “I can’t imagine working at an institution with more support.”

EKU students interested in studying in The Netherlands should contact Wright at 622-1478.

Robertson Senior Editor of Book Series

As a prolific writer on the subject of college classroom teaching, Dr. Douglas Robertson is accustomed to seeking publishers for his work.

Now, the roles have been reversed. Robertson, director of EKU’s Teaching and Learning Center, recently was named senior editor for New Forums Press’ “Practices for Better Teaching” Book Series.

“That’s wonderful to be on the other end,” Robertson said. “Now, I’m the editor trying to get people to bring their manuscripts to me.”

In his new role, Robertson said he would be soliciting and developing book projects with nationally prominent authors on the subject of college teaching.

“This appointment helps to position EKU very positively in a wide variety of higher education communities,” said Robertson, a 28-year veteran of higher education who joined the Eastern faculty last summer. “The ripple effects should be good with regard to EKU’s academic reputation, our ability to attract top-name speakers in college teaching and learning, and increasing positive name recognition among funding agencies.”

Robertson is the author of Self-Directed Growth, which concerns intentional change in adult life, and has published dozens of journal articles on many college teaching and learning.

He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching and To Improve the Academy, and is a frequent manuscript reviewer for Innovative Higher Education.

He is a frequently sought consultant and speaker for a wide variety of educational, business, governmental, human service and health care organizations.
Name: Michael L. Foster


Job Description: My area of interest is molecular biology and population genetics and evolution.

How long have you been in this position? I’ve been in this position for seven years.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you like to be doing? I have no regrets. However, I’ve toyed with the idea of practicing medicine. That was an interest of mine years ago before I found research and teaching.

What did you do before coming to EKU? I did graduate school, I completed my doctoral work at the University of South Carolina. While in South Carolina I worked at the South Carolina State Museum. I was responsible for the hands-on exhibit called Nature Estate. I also worked for Procter & Gamble as quality control manager before settling in at EKU.

Tell me about your family. I’m single so my family consists of my mother, Emma Foster; three brothers, Robert, Amanda and Ronald, who is now deceased, and my sister, Johnnie. I also have a total of five nieces and nephews whom I adore.

What are your interests and hobbies? My interests includes movies. Science fiction movies are my personal favorite. I’m a very big “Star Trek” fan; I’ve been that way from the very beginning. I was born the year the show aired and I have purchased every thing that has ever been released. I also enjoy museums, the outdoors and theater music. My hobby is photography. I have a darkroom at home where I experiment with various films and chemicals.

Something you can’t live without is? “Star Trek”!

What is your favorite food? It would have to be something Italian, maybe lasagna. I like Italian food a lot.

What is your favorite TV show? My favorite TV show is of course “Star Trek.” However, I do enjoy a good drama and other than “Star Trek,” I like a show which comes on ABC called “100 Center Street.” It’s a serious courtroom drama based in New York.

If you could time-travel back in time to any place of your choosing, where would it be? I would go back in time to the mid 1800s and meet Charles Darwin.

What is your favorite vacation spot? I would go back in time to the mid 1800s and meet Charles Darwin.

What is your favorite vacation spot? My current position is to travel to all the different places that are available to me. I have been to places all over the world, but my favorite is New York City.

What is your favorite vacation spot? My current position is to travel to all the different places that are available to me. I have been to places all over the world, but my favorite is New York City.

What is your fantasy travel spot? I don’t usually travel, but I did go to the Bahamas and I have every intention of going back again.

What is in your CD or tape player at home right now? The soundtrack to the movie “Ali” and Garth Brooks’ “Scarecrow.” I like a variety of different music.

What book would you recommend to others? I would recommend “Origin of Species.” The reason for this is, as a biologist, I feel that it is in fact one of the most important books ever written. Having said that, I believe that more people should have the opportunity to read it.

Can you recall your most embarrassing moment? The one thing that jumps out for me is when I was doing my dissertation defense. One of the professors asked me a question and I drew a blank, I stood there for what to me felt like an eternity without uttering a word. I remember wishing I could just disappear!

What person do you admire most? My mother! Because she raised all of us as a single mother. She is a very selfless person and even in our darkest times my mother was a beacon of hope for us. No matter what endeavor she pursued she was always very supportive. It is my belief that I learned a lot of things in school, but the most important things I learned from my mother.

What is one thing no one knows about you until now? That I would like to go into administration at some point. I also think it would be great to be a university president.

What issue concerns you most about today’s world? It concerns me that the issues of diversity, justice and equality have not been resolved. The events on September 11th brought a lot of those issues to the surface; however, many people do not acknowl-
edge that this is still a problem.

Banner System Expands to Meet University Needs

The Banner software system has been in use on campus since 1999 and continues to evolve. Although Banner is still the backbone of the university’s information systems, access to Banner is now available through the web. This has increased accessibility and allowed students, faculty, and staff to access Banner from any location.

What areas of the campus are currently using Banner? We actually have five Banner products – Banner Student, Banner Financial Aid, Banner Accounts Receivable, Banner Finance and Banner Human Resources. When we awarded grades for the fall term, that was the final major step in the Banner Student implementation. There are still some things to fine tune, but that was the last major part for the Student section, so now you can go all the way from admission to graduation, and all the steps between, in the Banner system.

The Accounts Receivable system went live July 1 of last year; the Financial Aid portion went live early last year and did their first disbursement this past Fall term; Finance will go live July 1, 2002, and Human Resources, Jan. 1 of 2003. We also have the Miami University DARS degree audit system which works with Banner. This is the same DARS system we purchased more than a decade ago. The new version of DARS went live this week so that it will be available for advising for Summer School and Fall Term 2002.

What is the biggest advantage of Banner? I think communication is a big benefit we’ve realized through the implementation, but I really think the biggest advantage Banner offers is accessibility through the web. We now have access to information and the ability to do business with the University from anywhere in the world, at any time. To me, the ability for students to apply, register, pay fees, and check their financial aid and student records from anywhere in the world is the most revolutionary advantage the new system has given us. This is not only true for students, but faculty as well. It is now possible for faculty to see their teaching schedules or enter grades from anywhere.

How much training is required for the average Banner user? We have two levels of users: Banner users, who actually have Banner logins to get into actual forms in the system, and Web users, who are usually students and faculty accessing a more limited amount of data. Students and faculty who are using the Web don’t require much training because it is Web-based – you just point and click. We just have to let them know what the features are and how to get into the system and access those features. That has been a small amount of training, usually requiring less than two hours of time.

A new hire on campus whose job includes entering data into Banner, will begin the first level of training with a Navigation class. Banner is based on the Oracle technology and while it has the look and feel of Windows, it doesn’t always operate like Windows. It behaves like Windows most of the time, but it’s those exceptions that make the Navigation class helpful. Navigation is now a two-hour introduction to Banner which takes you through how to look up addresses and how to look at initial student information. Then, if the employee is a true user in student information, we have another two-hour training session, called Academic Office, which examines more complete student information and offers tips and tricks for looking for certain types of specific information.

What version of Banner is currently being used on campus? We bought a license that entitles us to the technology that was current when we made the purchase and all technology improvements. We not only purchased the product, but we pay a maintenance fee that gets us all our upgrades. When the Admissions module went live in October, 1999, we were operating on version 5. Last year, we went to Banner 4 and in March, we will begin using Banner 5, which is based on newer database technology. There will actually be very little change in appearance – but we will get some enhanced features. We usually get a major new release every year and a half and we get different updates throughout the year, so we’re constantly in an upgrading state.

Do updates require additional training? It depends on the nature of the update. Most updates done throughout the course of the year will never be noticed by the regular user. We do have a group of users on campus called Banner User Groups or BUGS, which meets every Thursday. We actually have these users help us test an upgrade before we move it into production. The only upgrade we’ve really had which required re-training was when we went from Banner 3 to 4 because the interface changed and the look and feel of the forms were very different. But when we go to Banner 5, it should be an invisible upgrade. Additional training will only be needed if there are new enhancements and new features we decide we want to implement.

How secure is the information in Banner? Access to areas of Banner is controlled through the system by assignment of IDs, which are required even for Web access. Students will see the Personal Information menus, with things like mailing and e-mail addresses, and Student Services, which will offer access to registration, schedule changes, account information, academic transcripts and financial aid status, and allow online payment by credit card.

Faculty Services access, which includes class rosters and teaching schedules, and the ability to enter mid-term and final grades, is available to someone who has been set up in Banner as a faculty member or an adviser. Advisers and faculty can also look at student information, but it will be more general than the information that can be seen that student is assigned to that adviser or enrolled in a class taught by the faculty member. Employees who are given access to student information in Banner will only see the areas pertaining to their job requirements. Security is now administered through the IT Department; a request for Banner access will include information about the job-related needs and the level of access will be determined at that time. All requests for access to Banner require the acceptance of a Confidentiality Agreement and supervisor approval for the individual’s level of security.

What will happen to the previous student system, ISIS, now that Banner is fully functional? ISIS is still available and, until last week, we had been migrating some information from Banner back to ISIS so that it was accessible to faculty and the administrative staff who needed to use the system. We have stopped that migration, so the information in ISIS will not be updated. Information on students prior to fall 2001 will still be available in ISIS, but information after that will be found only in Banner.