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Eastern Kentucky University, Public Relations

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Thompson Named to Special United Nations Court

Looking back to his childhood there, Dr. Bankole Thompson remembers a Sierra Leone “described quite fittingly as the Athens of West Africa in terms of education” and “the model of British parliamentary democracy in Africa.”

The Sierra Leone of today, however, is reeling from a period of ethnic strife and “an over-politicization of its system of justice” in the ‘80s and ’90s. Beginning in 1991, fighting between the Sierra Leone government and the Revolutionary United Front resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of more than 2 million people, more than one-third of the country’s population. Many fled to neighboring countries.

As a recent appointee to the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone, Thompson, the dean of graduate studies at EKU and a recognized scholar in comparative law, criminal justice and international law, hopes to help his homeland recover its glory.

Thompson, a former judge of the High Court of Sierra Leone, was one of eight judges appointed to a three-year term on the special regional court, which will meet regularly in Freetown, Sierra Leone to consider as many as 20 cases annually. The judges, he said, have been “empowered to try to punish all persons who carry the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law and criminal law of Sierra Leone committed during a period of hostilities and rebel insurgency. Persons who commit such serious infractions against the rights of others should never go unpunished.”

Thompson believes the key to his selection was two books he authored, “The Constitutional History and Law of Sierra Leone (1961-95)” and, especially, “The Criminal Law of Sierra Leone.”

“I believe that my pioneering work on the ‘Criminal Law’ book in 1999 helped to credentialize me for such a prestigious judicial appointment,” said Thompson, who credited his wife, Dr. Adiatu Thompson, for providing the “inspiration” for completing the second volume. “Some credit is also due EKU,” he said, “for creating the right kind of academic culture and intellectual environment that supported the research for the book. I hope this appointment opens the way for equally deserving colleagues at Eastern.”

Another factor in his selection, Thompson speculates, is his “strong commitment to judicial independence.”

The unrest of the previous decade saddened Thompson.

“It came to a point where judges were expected to show sensitivity to political ideologies and ethnic loyalties in the dispensation of justice,” he said. “In nascent democracies, one sure way to undermine stability is to politicize the judicial system and make the rule of law subject to the whims and caprices of the political authorities.”

“I feel committed to help because we had inherited from Britain a very fine tradition of democracy, the rule of law and the principle of liberty. To see these values challenged and destroyed was tragic. I do feel a sense of mission.”

Thompson said the Court was established as a result of an agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations.

In addition to one other Sierra Leonean, other permanent members of the Court are from Canada, Cameroon, Nigeria, Gambia, Austria and the United Kingdom. The prosecutor is from the United States.

Sierra Leone is slightly smaller than South Carolina in geographical size, borders the North Atlantic Ocean between Guinea and Liberia.

Thompson joined the EKU faculty in 1995 as a professor of criminal justice. He was named dean of graduate studies in 2001.

Prior to coming to the U.S., Thompson served as principal state attorney in Sierra Leone and as legal officer for the Mano River Union, a West African economic group composed of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. He also was a founding member of the country’s Law Reform Commission and was the first African to hold the David Brennan Chair of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Akron Law School.

He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fourah Bay College (Sierra Leone), then affiliated with the University of Durham, and M.A., LL.B. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cambridge in Great Britain.

Chautauqua Series Spotlights Love

Singers and songwriters From Tin Pan Alley to Liverpool have rhapso- sized about it.

“Since the beginning of time, it has captured the imagination of poets and writers. And now EKU, in its third annual Chautauqua lecture series, will spend a year exploring every angle of the subject of love.”

The 14-part series begins Thursday, Aug. 29, with a presentation titled “Gold Diggers” by EKU psychology professor Dr. Matthew Winslow and concludes April 24, 2003, when Dr. Gil Smith, chair of Eastern’s Department of Art and Design, looks at “Themes in Art.” In between, speakers from EKU and educational institutions nationwide will discuss the topic from diverse standpoints, including courtship, pheromones and fertility, language, pop music, American dance, romance, addiction, marriage, and Buddhist enlightenment, among others.

“Those lectures will educate and entertain us by exploring a single idea from many perspectives,” said Dr. Bruce MacLaren, professor of earth sciences and Chautauqua director. “They are designed for a general audience of students, faculty and townspeople.”

Additional debates and workshops through the 2002-03 academic year also will focus on the topic.

All Chautauqua lectures will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the University’s new Student Services Building Auditorium.

The complete schedule of lectures follows:

Thursday, Aug. 29, “Gold Diggers,” Dr. Matthew Winslow, EKU Department of Psychology.

Thursday, Sept. 12, “Limitations,” Dr.
Chautauqua Series Opens
“The (Evolutionary) Psychology of Love: Men Are Shallow and Women Are Gold-Diggers,” Dr. Matthew Wanslow, part of year-long lecture series on love, 7:30 p.m., Student Services Building Auditorium.

Monday, Sept. 1

Labor Day Observed
No classes; University offices closed.

Thursday, Sept. 5-Sunday, Sept. 8

First Weekend
Series of events and activities for University community – see www.firstweekend.eku.edu for details.

Saturday, Sept. 7

Colonels’ Home Opener
EKU vs. Slippery Rock, 1 p.m., Kidd Stadium; for ticket information, call 622-2122.

DOZENS OF FALL CULTURAL EVENTS ANNOUNCED

Martin Receives SIPJ Honor
Kevin Martin, Mt. Sterling, a junior journalism major at Eastern Kentucky University, has been selected as one of two photographers nationwide to cover the Society of Professional Journalists’ (SPJ) national convention.

Barclay Receives Golf Hall Honor
Dr. Dwight Barkley, retired professor and chair of EKU’s Department of Agriculture, has been selected for induction into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame.

Correction on Disenrollment
Incorrect information regarding disenrollment has been given on the EKU Web site’s master calendar and in the Aug. 12 issue of EKUpdate. EKU no longer disenrolls students for non-payment. Students who have a past due account are subject to a monthly late fee of 10 percent of the balance, up to $25. Students with an outstanding balance also are subject to a registration hold.

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Glasser Shares ‘Good News’ at Convocation
Numbers Up, Residence Halls Full

Summer enrollment was up. Registration numbers for the fall semester are running well ahead of a year ago. Residence halls are full for the first time in many years.

“That’s certainly good news,” said President Glasser, “and further evidence that, working together, we have reversed the trend of declining enrollments at EKU.”

Glasser addressed faculty and staff at the University’s annual back-to-school convocation Monday, Aug. 12, in Brock Auditorium. First-time freshmen and transfer students arrived Sunday, Aug. 11 for the beginning of New Student Days; the first day of fall classes is Monday, Aug. 19.

“I’m pleased to report to you that freshman admissions are up by more than 500,” Glasser said, “and that our graduate programs will experience a similar increase. Actual registrations are running approximately 800 more than last year.”

It was the first fall convocation for Glasser, who assumed the EKU presidency in October 2001.

“This new year brings with it the promise of great opportunities, as well as many challenges,” Glasser said, “as we build on the good work that has been done here to secure EKU’s place as a leader among the nation’s comprehensive universities, and to firmly establish us as a university of national distinction.”

Glasser updated faculty and staff on several campus construction projects, including the recently opened Student Services Building, which will house admissions, advising, financial assistance, housing, cooperative education, career services and other offices that students frequently visit.

“This state-of-the-art facility is testimony to our continuing commitment to meeting our students’ needs,” Glasser said. “It is EKU’s new ‘front door’ through which many prospective students, their parents, other visitors to the campus and our current students will pass. It provides a ‘one-stop’ service center that is designed to meet all our students’ needs. No longer will our students have to run all over the campus in search of essential student services. This reinforces that, at EKU, students come first!”

Glasser also noted that:

• Construction on the $7 million first phase of a student fitness center will begin this fall. The facility, to be located near the Moberly Building and Roy Kidd Stadium, should be completed by late 2003.

• Planning continues for the proposed Business and Technology Center, to be located south of the Eastern By-Pass adjacent to the Perkins Building.

• Work is under way to replace the campus electrical distribution system.

The EKU president also addressed the state revenue shortfall.

“I believe that a ‘university of national distinction’ is fiscally responsible and accountable, manages its resources wisely, and works diligently to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. We were prepared for the reduction in state appropriations and, together, we made every effort to minimize its impact on the quality of our programs and services to our students.”

Because of the “uncertain economic environment,” Glasser said she has asked the members of the President’s Cabinet (all vice presidents and college deans) to immediately begin preparing a plan for an additional 5 percent reduction in state appropriations. “I have asked that our plan be flexible and focus on preserving the high quality of our academic programs and

ITDS Team Wins Top Honors in Nationwide Digital Document Contest

EKU has won the grand prize in a nationwide document design and distribution contest.

The “FormPioneer” contest, sponsored by Evisions, Inc., was created to recognize the innovative use of their software to reduce paper printing and postage costs, save time, offer better data and improve service. Entries were received from colleges and universities throughout North America.

“We wanted to draw attention to the impressive work of clients like EKU,” said Evisions President Kevin Jones. “In this contest, they swept virtually every category.”

“They took impressive strides in reducing paper, saving money and making what they print more readable,” he continued. “EKU added better data and, as a result, offered better service to their students.”

EKU ranked highly in all categories, but was particularly honored for creating tangible savings for the campus. The award committee noted EKU saved the University money by replacing costly pre-printed forms with blank stock, added important data to make their receipts more understandable to students and created a highly-professional and cohesive collection of documents.

“I’m pleased that EKU has received national recognition for efforts to improve efficiency and enhance service to students,” said President Glasser. “I applaud our staff’s good work, and I encourage the University Community to continue to share their ideas to increase efficiency and effectiveness.”

The documents, which were revised when EKU began using the Banner system, include vendor checks, academic transcripts, billing statements, purchase orders, cashing receipts and grade modifiers. Designers of the new documents were Mona Guckes, Information Systems Support manager, and Jon Fulkerson, programmer analyst.

“It’s nice to be recognized among other excellent colleges and universities,” said Guckes. “We do work hard, and we’re always trying to find better, less expensive, ways to serve our students and employees. Our staff likes to be on the leading edge of practical technology.”

This project turned out to be an immediate and rewarding success. “We’re glad to have been selected,” she added.

This was the inaugural “Evisions FormPioneer Contest.” Other contest participants included Western Kentucky University, Stetson University and Marshall University.
Name: Gene Kleppinger

Current Position:
Online Learning Coordinator, Information Technology and Delivery Services (ITDS).

Job Description:
I manage everything about the Blackboard system at EKU, including online courses and Web sites for every class. My main job is to support faculty who are using Blackboard to communicate with their students, in order to improve teaching and learning at EKU.

If you weren't doing this job, what would you like to be doing?
At home I’m currently flooring the attic. To make extra money I can teach chemistry, philosophy and theology, or write books to help people make good use of the Internet. I like to watch old situation comedies like “I Love Lucy” or play board games for relaxation.

Family:
I live in Berea with my wife Beth and two teenage sons, Benjamin and Jonathan.

Interests and Hobbies:
Handbells, church choir, EKU: Honors Program, Macintosh computers, Alfred Hitchcock movies, homeschooling, collecting “interesting” necklaces.

Publications & Presentations


Two copies of each publication or presentation will be prepared by Archives staff for inclusion in EKUpdate. Papers also can be sent by e-mail to debbie.whalen@eku.edu. For more information, call 622-1792.