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Closing the Gap

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Closing The Gap

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Wall of Honor Established; Seven Members Inducted

by Billy Thames

The College of Education inducted seven outstanding educators into its newly created Wall of Honor on Friday October 19, 2007 with a reception hosted by President Whitlock followed by a dinner in the Carl Perkins Building. The Wall of Honor is located on the fourth floor of the Bert Combs building and was established to recognize faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College. These individuals were dedicated to high quality instruction, scholarship, and service. Their actions inspired, supported, challenged, and enriched students who aspired to careers in education.

The seven initial inductees were recognized for their significant contributions to the success of the College of Education. The inductees were:

Dixon A. Barr served as the Dean of the College for 23 years and led the College during its most explosive period of growth. During his tenure the College emerged as a leader in teacher education; training more classroom teachers, counselors, and administrators than any other institution in the Commonwealth.

Imogene Ramsey had a 31 year career at ECU, culminating with her service as Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. With her legacy of excellence, she was instrumental in the preparation of a generation of teachers who have touched the lives of thousands of students across Kentucky.

Carl Hurley graduated from ECU in 1965, taught in the public schools, and was a professor of Industrial Education and Coordinator of Secondary Education in the College before becoming a nationally known speaker recognized as the "world's funniest professor."

Harry Moberly, Jr., an ECU graduate, has had a distinguished career of service as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives for 27 years. During that time he has been a staunch and outspoken advocate for educational reform in Kentucky.

Mary Jean and Raymond Giltner have been strong supporters of the College through their Endowment for Educational Excellence established in 1988. Both have served ECU as members of the Foundations Board. Mr. Giltner passed away in July of 1995.

Bige Towery had a 30 year career in the Rockcastle County schools, culminating in his appointment as superintendent in

1987. During his eight year tenure as superintendent, he implemented a mission which focused on creating a culture where learning is valued and student needs are priority.

The actions of these seven individuals comprising the College of Education Wall of Honor Class of 2007 have touched the lives of thousands of Kentuckians and have made our world better for the generations to come.

Nominations for the Class of 2008 are now being accepted. Contact Dr. William Thames (William.thames@eku.edu, 859-622-2582, Combs 417) for further information.



Wall of Honor inductees (left to right): Dr. William Thames, Chair of the Wall of Honor Committee; Dr. Carl Hurley; the Reverend Doctor Dixon A. Barr; Mrs. Mary Jean Giltner; Dr. Imogene Ramsey; Mr. Bige Towery; Harry Moberly, Jr. Esq.; Dr. Bill Phillips, Dean of the College of Education.

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EKU Hosts 7th Annual Diversity Conference, Feb. 6-7

by Karen Lynn

Eastern Kentucky University, the Southeast/South Central Educational Cooperative, the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, AmeriCorps, the Kentucky Center for School Safety, and the Kentucky Department of Education will host the seventh annual Diversity Conference Feb. 6-7 in the Perkins Building on the EKU campus.

The conference, "Addressing Diversity Through Intervention," will feature Knox County (Tenn.) School District Director of Pupil Personnel John McCook, a leading expert in the field of

response to intervention who serves as a consultant for school systems across the nation; Nelson Lauver, a journalist, broadcaster and humorist who overcame a lifetime of illiteracy caused by undiagnosed dyslexia to create and host the nationally syndicated program, "The American Storyteller Radio Journal"; Carolyn Coil, internationally known speaker, author, trainer, consultant and educator; and Craig MacFarlane, an accomplished athlete who won his first blind national wrestling championship at age 13 after being diagnosed as blind at the age of 2, and author of the autobiography, "Inner Vision."

The conference is designed for P-12 public school teachers, counselors and administrators; college and university faculty, staff and students; individuals who work in the social science fields, and educators and staff in the KECSAC programs.

Also featured will be a performance by The River City Drum Corp, a group of children and young adults between the ages of 2 and 18 who have been trained in African drumming techniques as well as the richness of African culture, and a presentation on The Freedom Center in Cincinnati, which houses a permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad.

The Right Stuff!

EKU Students Attend Annual Conference in Houston

by Laura Weitkamp

Nine members of EKU's Middle School Association attended last year's NMSA conference which promised "The Right Stuff" in personal educational experiences. The NMSA conferences have consistently offered stimulating speakers, engaging sessions, the newest educational products and programs, school visits and action labs, and opportunities to network with others committed to the education of young adolescents.

The Conference, held in Houston November 8-10, featured leading experts in differentiated instruction, technology, the English language, teaming, literacy, mathematics, and numerous other areas. General Sessions offered stimulating messages about education and young adolescents from Cal Ripken Jr., Rick DuFour, and Mae Jemison, who spoke from their backgrounds of baseball, work with learning communities, and involvement in the space program.

The Center for Middle School Academic Achievement (CMSAA) supported a team of Kentucky representatives from some of CMSAA's

partnering organizations: Kentucky Middle School Association, Kentucky Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and Gear-Up Kentucky at EKU. In addition, the CMSAA provided some funding for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for middle-level instructors to attend and/or present at the conference.

The CMSAA also fulfills part of its mission of supporting Kentucky collegiate middle level student associations by offering grants of \$500.00 to offset expenses of members attending state

and national middle school conferences. This year, CMSAA provided funding to student groups at Northern Kentucky University, Brescia University, Murray State University, Morehead University, and Eastern Kentucky University. This initiative also provided a springboard for some institutions to begin a collegiate middle level association on their campus.

"The Right Stuff" was an educational and enjoyable experience for all who attended the NMSA annual conference in Houston.



Ray Yaksic, Mona Hampton, Kristy Blackwell, J.O. Rose, Debbie Campbell, Misty Rose, Tim Ford, Carmen Queen, and Don Bell at the November National Middle School Conference in Houston.

Closing The Gap

Editor: Emily Christensen
Dean: Bill Phillips
Associate Dean: Kim Naugle

Saving The World: A Mountain at a Time

by Emily Christensen

The ozone is weakening, smog pollutes cities, and Bambi is feeling more and more cramped as his forest disappears.

We shake our heads and point at “The Man,” President Bush or perhaps the person next to you.

And while blaming someone else may feel productive, a group of four students from EKU’s Model Lab School felt differently.

High school students Caleb Fligor, David Losson, Blake Neumann, and Glenn Walker created a community problem solving team (CmPS) last fall which focused on the destructive nature of mountaintop removal. This mining technique can result in extreme ecological changes, flooding, and erosion. Faculty members Annie Holman, Susan Neumann, Jen Walker, and Isabelle White served as CmPS advisors. With help from EKU’s College of Education, CmPS was able to compete in both a state and international competition finishing second and third respectively.

Their “Save the Mountain” plan included:

Power point presentations educating students at all levels of the environmental damage mountaintop removal can cause.



Presentations at EKU as part of the 2007 Appalachian Studies and Earth Day programs.

Showing various documentaries and creating a web page that offered links and information about Mountaintop removal.

Lobbying in Frankfort, KY last February for Stream Saver Legislation. The bill was to help increase regulations to protect mountain streams from fill.

Visiting many mountaintop removal sites in Hazard, KY.

Since their 2007 June competition, CmPS senior and team leader Glenn Walker graduated; but the team gained three more members: James Price, Matt Schumann and Ib Jadoon.

Their focus for 2008 is “saving the mountains” through energy conservancy.

They have met with Executive Director of Capital Planning and Facilities

Management, James Street, and began developing an “energy plan” for the Model Lab School. CmPS has also worked with Blue Grass Energy, auditing houses to see what techniques the average home owner can use to reduce heat loss by more efficient heating, cooling, and insulation. As part of a class assignment, CmPS students also designed blueprints and actual models of houses demonstrating energy practices that conserve 40%.

The team is now creating grants to fund an outreach program that will educate Madison County citizens on how to reduce their energy bills while making greener energy choices. With groups like CmPS, it looks like the world is in good hands.

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Attention Alumni! Alumni, the College of Education wants to hear from YOU!

If you would like to share news with us to put in
“Closing the Gap”
please send us a typed update with your name,
class, and major. (Photos are encouraged.)

Please send submissions to:
“Closing the Gap”
Combs 420
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475-3102

ATTENTION MODEL STUDENTS AND FACULTY

The College of Education would like to feature artwork from our Model students in "Closing the Gap"!

If you have something you would like to submit (photos of drawings, paintings, or sculptures; poetry; descriptive paragraphs; etc.) please send them with your name, age, and the title of your piece.

Name _____ Age _____

Title of
Your Piece _____

Please send submissions to:
"Closing the Gap"
Combs 420
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 40475

Model's Masterpieces

After reading DOGKU by Andrew Clements, Model Lab School Kindergarteners wrote haiku. Since we are called the Baines' Bears, these three young authors wrote BEARKU.

I like grizzly bears.
Grizzlies are vicious and big.
They are wild, huge bears
—Ansuva Aikat

Little bears are cute.
They are cuddly and snuggly.
They are very sweet.
—Ananya Patel



Artwork by
Emma Rupard

I like baby bears.
White bears are cute
and cuddly.
I like bears—
cute bears!
—Emma Rupard