GO FIGURE

Number of consecutive years NKU has been named one of the region’s healthiest employers.

$18,550

Amount distributed to local nonprofits through the NKU Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project last spring.

4

Number of NKU students who earned the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship this summer.

NKU TEAM WINS CYBERWARS COMPETITION

The Northern Kentucky University student cyber security team won first place at the Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA) Cyberwars invitational competition in May. The competition was an eight-hour online battle that combined offense and defense.

The nine teams invited to this Cyberwars competition included some of the best teams in the Midwest, including the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology team, which placed third nationally in the 2013 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. The University of Louisville, which has done well in regional competitions, also participated.

This victory comes on the heels of NKU’s third-place finish in the Midwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in March. NKU placed higher than any other public institution among 50 teams competing in the Midwest.

The NKU team used Griffin Hall’s state-of-the-art virtualization lab to connect to the competition network. Team alumni Ty Braunwart and Kevin Childers helped set up the network and virtual machines for the team’s intensive practice sessions before the competition.

Cybersecurity is one of the focal areas of NKU’s College of Informatics. Computer Science faculty member Dr. Yi Hu has coached the team for the past five years. “We have our students prepare an offensive cyber warfare strategy as a way to educate them in ethical hacking skills, which are needed to actively defend critical IT infrastructure,” said Dr. Hu.

COLLEGE CORNER

The Chase College of Law announced recently it has received a $1 million gift from W. Bruce Lunsford to establish and support the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology. Lunsford, a 1974 Chase graduate, is chairman and CEO of Lunsford Capital, LLC, a private investment company headquartered in Louisville. The Lunsford Academy will be an honors immersion program operated by the NKU Chase Law + Informatics Institute. The focus of the program will be to develop “renaissance lawyers” for the Information Age. The academy will provide students with the technological, financial and professional skill sets essential to the modern practice of law. Through the program’s technology-driven, skills-based curriculum, students will acquire the fundamental skills that will make them more productive for their clients, more attractive to employers and better prepared to practice law upon graduation.

In addition to taking the program’s required and elective law and informatics courses, Chase students participating in the Lunsford Academy will have the opportunity to participate in technology-focused semester-in-practice placements and study abroad programs. Chase College of Law also partners with the NKU College of Informatics to offer a Juris Doctor/Master of Business Informatics and Juris Doctor/Master of Health Informatics and with the NKU Haile/US Bank College of Business to offer a Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration.
NKU GEARS UP FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

A longstanding commitment to public engagement has once again landed NKU on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Northern has been named to the Honor Roll six times since 2006.

Three projects were key to NKU’s receipt of the award this year. One involved an ongoing partnership between NKU nursing students and area hospitals; another involved quick-response relief after the March 2012 tornadoes; and the third involved incorporating student philanthropy into a dual-credit class taught by an NKU professor at Dixie Heights High School.

“It’s a tribute to a lot of people – students, faculty and community partners – when public engagement works well, as it has in all three of these projects,” said Mark Neikirk, executive director of NKU’s Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. “There is a direct community benefit but also a direct academic benefit for our students.”

The Honor Roll recognition also celebrates NKU’s overall commitment to service, including more than 100 service-learning classes each academic year that partner with area nonprofits. Outside of class, NKU student organizations and students volunteer thousands of hours in the community.

THE SCOREBOARD

It hasn’t taken NKU men’s basketball coach Dave Bezold long to adjust to life in Division I. After a 9-9 record in Atlantic Sun play during their first year of DI competition, the Norse will boast one of the nation’s toughest nonconference schedules in 2013-14, including trips to Rupp Arena to face Kentucky and to the Dean Smith Center to face North Carolina. Add in a pair of games against Sweet 16 foe Florida Gulf Coast, and the Norse will certainly have their work cut out for them next season.

FACULTY FOCUS

The NKU Board of Regents voted unanimously in May to award Professor Michael R. Carrell the title of Regents Professor, a title he will retain throughout his continuing years of service to the university. Carrell is just the twelfth NKU professor to receive this coveted recognition, which is granted to full professors who, at the apex of their careers, have an exceptional record of achievement in scholarship or creative activity that has brought acclaim to the university and is consistent with the university’s core values. Carrell came to NKU in 1998 as dean of the College of Business.

BRIEFS

NKU UNDERGRADS WIN ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES POSTER COMPETITION

NKU students Stefania Gusigliani and Alexus Rice won first place at the World Environmental & Water Resources Congress Student Poster Competition. The competition highlighted their research examining the occurrence of cyanobacteria (blue green algae) blooms in the region. These algae are potentially toxic and allergenic. Gusigliani, a junior environmental sciences major, and Rice, a sophomore biology major, competed mainly against graduate students from colleges and universities across the world. READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_130609poster.html

MPA STUDENTS BRING EXPERTISE, PASSION TO ADDRESS REGIONAL CHALLENGES

When Jim Kaufman set about selecting a capstone project for his NKU Master of Public Administration degree, he picked a topic close to home – creating a network to help local families experiencing childhood apraxia of speech, or CAS. This neurological motor speech disorder doesn’t allow messages to go from the brain to those parts of the body needed to produce intelligible speech. While many have never heard of CAS, Kaufman and his family were all too familiar. His son, Liam, was diagnosed with CAS in 2012. READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_130524kaufman.html

BOOK SHOWCASING NKU ENGAGEMENT FUNDS PHILANTHROPY CLASS

When “Becoming an Engaged Campus: A Practical Guide for Institutionalizing Public Engagement” hit bookstores in 2011, no one expected it to become a best-seller. But the book written by former NKU President James Votruba and two of his NKU colleagues, has enjoyed another kind of success. It has generated money to support public engagement – the very thing they were trying to promote when they wrote it. Next year, profits will be designated to support an NKU Mayerson Student Philanthropy class. READ MORE: https://www.nku.edu/news/_130528book.html

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NORSE THINK TANK BRINGS HANDS-ON LEARNING TO GIFTED MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

The NKU Institute for Talent Development and Gifted Studies will host its first Norse Think Tank program this month. This new enrichment program is designed to meet the needs of academically, creatively and artistically gifted and talented middle school students entering sixth through eighth grades. It offers an integrated, multidisciplinary focus on engineering, visual and performing arts, entrepreneurship, business creation, science, architecture and original interdisciplinary studies. READ MORE: https://www.nku.edu/news/_130423thinktank.html

ALUMNI NEWS

Lorraine Zago Rosenthal was always a fan of television, film and literature, and that interest inspired her to create her own stories.

Fiction writing began as a hobby for Rosenthal (M.A. in English, 2010). Then, in 2011, her first novel, “Other Words for Love,” was published by Random House (Delacorte Press) and quickly made its way to Amazon’s “Best Books of the Month for Young Readers” that January.

Her follow-up work, “New Money,” is the story of a young Southern woman of modest means who suddenly finds herself thrust into New York’s high society when she discovers she is the illegitimate daughter of a recently-deceased billionaire. The novel, which is scheduled for release by St. Martin’s Press (Thomas Dunne Books) later this year, has already been optioned by Sony Pictures Television. The sequel to “New Money” will be published in 2014.

In addition to writing novels, she also serves as a freelance writer and currently reviews DVD film and television releases for PopMatters, a popular culture website.