



# GOLD RUSH

FEBRUARY 2016 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

3.24

The cumulative GPA of NKU student athletes in the fall semester, a new school record

\$1M

Awarded to nonprofits over the past 15 years by NKU's Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project

1,333

The number of degrees and certificates conferred upon graduating students at Winter Commencement in December



## NKU STUDENTS, FACULTY UNEARTH RARE DINOSAUR FIND

Faculty and students from Northern Kentucky University made a larger-than-life discovery in the deserts of Utah last summer: rare bones from a Barosaurus.

During an annual paleontological dig, Dr. Janet Bertog and six students were able to excavate a four-foot-tall vertebrae. Finding the remains of a Barosaurus is a rare feat. An 85-foot-long, plant-eating dinosaur that lived 140 million years ago, the Barosaurus weighed in at about 20 metric tons, and a full skeleton has never been found.

The intention of the dig was to simply preserve dinosaur bones that were concentrated in a single area – a lake – and determine why they were there. A skull was found in 2004, before NKU started working with the site. The jaw was found and collected by NKU students in 2011 and 2012. The NKU students continued to uncover both parts of the specimen this summer, and most importantly, were able to determine they did, in fact, belong to the Barosaurus due to their position near the vertebrae.

Each summer, Bertog takes students of all skill levels on an expedition to the Jurassic Morrison Formation, where scientists have discovered several dinosaurs and other animals from 160 million years ago. Work at the site is ongoing.

"Students get the experience of doing field work, and learning the techniques that we use at an excavation," Bertog said.

## COLLEGE CORNER

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

NKU's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an initiative of the Haile/US Bank College of Business, is among the best in the world at helping student entrepreneurs achieve their dreams.

The center has received the "Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines" award from the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers. Its INKUBATOR program has also been ranked among the top five university business accelerators in North America by UBI Global.

**LEARN MORE:** [https://cob.nku.edu/about/news/cie\\_awards.html](https://cob.nku.edu/about/news/cie_awards.html)



## NKU-DEVELOPED APP TACKLES HOMELESSNESS

As the weather turns cold, connecting the homeless with street outreach and emergency shelter services becomes increasingly important.

A new app developed at NKU puts that technology right in the palm of your hand for the first time. "Street Reach" allows members of the public to make electronic reports to outreach workers when they encounter someone in need of help, and also allows the homeless to reach out for aid.

The app is a partnership between NKU's Center for Applied Informatics, College of Education and Human Services, and local outreach and service agencies. It was created by students from NKU's College of Informatics.

"Street Reach makes it possible for community members to provide help to the homeless, and also educates the public about what resources are available in our community," said Rachael Winters, professor of social work and former director of the Emergency Shelter of NKU. "We believe that it could become a national model."



## THE SCOREBOARD

NKU student athletes recorded a cumulative 3.24 GPA last fall, a new school record.

It was the ninth straight semester that NKU student athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better.

Twenty-three student athletes, or about 10 percent, also earned perfect 4.0 GPAs and were named to the President's Honors List. An additional 49 student athletes posted GPAs of between 3.6 and 3.99, making the Dean's List.

## FACULTY FOCUS

Michele Day is an innovator. Whether it's connecting College of Informatics students with biology students in the College of Arts and Sciences to investigate lead contamination in a nearby town, or creating the "Journalism in the Digital Age" workshop for high school students, she isn't afraid to think big.

The educator of 15 years continually pushes her students to develop new skills, try new things, and be bold - and earlier this month, those efforts were recognized by the NKU Alumni Association when Day ('08) received the Faculty/Staff Strongest Influence Award.

**READ MORE:** [http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_160128alumniawards.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_160128alumniawards.html)

## BRIEFS

### NKU AMONG BEST IN THE NATION FOR MILITARY VETS

NKU is among the top universities in the nation for military veterans.

The Military Times' annual "Best for Vets" list ranks NKU 36th among four-year institutions for the services and support it provides to veterans and their families.

NKU has also been named a top school in the 2016 Military Advanced Education Guide to Colleges & Universities, and the Haile/US Bank College of Business is ranked 27th on the Military Times' "Best for Vets: Business School List."

#### READ MORE:

[http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_151109bestforvets.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_151109bestforvets.html)

### NKU STUDENT DRAKE WOODS WINS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Northern Kentucky University Computer Science student Drake Woods has won a prestigious international scholarship to study in Romania this spring.

He has been awarded an Erasmus+ scholarship from the European Union to study at Babes-Bolyai University beginning in February.

The junior from Florence, Ky. is the first NKU student to receive an Erasmus+ scholarship since the program was created in December 2013.

#### READ MORE:

<https://www.nku.edu/news/151216drakewoods.html>

### STATE GRANT TO HELP NKU PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NKU has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Bluegrass State Skills Corporation (BSSC) to improve and promote workforce development efforts for Kentucky residents in manufacturing, healthcare, and service industries.

The grant will allow NKU to partner with the Northern Kentucky Training Consortium to provide training and professional development opportunities to companies and employees in these industries in order to help fill training gaps, and improve job retention and career advancement.

#### READ MORE:

<https://www.nku.edu/news/151217communityconnections.html>

### NKU STUDENT-PRODUCED SPORTS BROADCASTS EARN STRAIGHT A'S

NKU has received straight A's from the Horizon League for the quality of its student-produced fall sports productions for ESPN3.

An 11-person student crew films and produces nearly every home conference game for all NKU sports under the supervision of faculty members Wes Akers and Bill Farro.

Clips from the student productions have been featured on ESPN's nationally-televized SportsCenter program. The program began in the mid-1990's with volunteers, but today students also receive class credit.

#### READ MORE:

<http://bit.ly/1VvmK5T>

## ALUMNI NEWS



First-generation students at NKU will now have more opportunity to succeed thanks to the generosity of a prominent alumnus who was once a first-generation student himself.

Rich Boehne ('81) and the Scripps Howard Foundation have donated \$1 million to the Boehne First Family Generation Scholarship fund, which was established in 2012. Boehne is chairman, president & CEO of Cincinnati-based The E.W. Scripps Co., one of the nation's largest local television and digital media companies and a digital journalism pioneer. He is also vice chairman of NKU's Board of Regents.

"NKU provided us with a life-altering opportunity to expand our horizons and succeed both professionally and personally. And wherever our lot in life takes us, it is important that we continue to engage and give back," Boehne and his wife Lisa ('81) said. "We hope to help a new generation of students to pursue their dreams and help change the world."

**LEARN MORE:** [HTTP://NKU.EDU/NEWS/\\_160203BOEHNESCHOLARSHIP.HTML](http://NKU.EDU/NEWS/_160203BOEHNESCHOLARSHIP.HTML)