



GOLD RUSH

SEPT 2012 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



GO FIGURE

➔ 57,000

That's how many P-12 students were impacted last year by NKU College of Arts and Sciences camps, in-school presentations and campus visits.

➔ 15

Number of consecutive years the NKU chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society has been named the nation's best chapter.

➔ 322

NKU is one of only 322 schools nationwide to be named to the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. U of L and WKU joined Northern on the list.



HUNTSMAN, RICHARDSON HIGHLIGHT 2012 ALUMNI LECTURE

Dust is flying, insults are being lobbed across the proverbial aisle and the siege of television commercials has begun. Ahh, election season in America. As the nation barrels toward what promises to be one of the most contentious, interesting and entertaining presidential elections in modern history, Northern Kentucky University will welcome two men who have been there and done that.

The NKU Alumni Association and Fidelity Investments Alumni Lecture, titled "Governing in America: Battle for the Presidency," will feature Jon Huntsman and Bill Richardson, both of whom know firsthand what it is like to run for president and what implications the upcoming election will have for America. The event will take place on

Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the James C. and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union ballroom.

From 2004-09 Huntsman was governor of one of the most conservative states in the country, Utah. He has been to every Republican National Convention since he was a delegate for Ronald Regan in 1984, though he has announced he is skipping this year's event.

Two-term New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson led the energy forum at this month's DNC Convention and is, despite perhaps some residual hard feelings from the Clintons for endorsing President Obama in the Democratic primary in 2008, still a spokesperson for the party in the media and at political functions.

COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGES OF INFORMATICS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

NKU is introducing electronic medical record (EMRs) software into its health informatics and nursing curricula. NKU has successfully implemented ClinNext, a fully certified hospital information system and EMR through a joint educational partnership between Grupo Hima San Pablo, Southern Strategic Assets and Resources, ClinNext and NKU.

The NKU colleges of informatics and health professions have developed and are offering hands-on EMR exercises and experience to their students on ClinNext. The goal is to provide students with a basic EMR skill set in the context of their informatics and nursing education that will prepare the student for today's health care careers, on a system that is operating in a fully functioning health care environment.

Students will take on every role inside a health organization and learn hands-on what the EMR software can do. They will logon to the software as physicians, nurses, front desk staff and other medical personnel to understand the responsibilities, challenges and importance of each particular role in a medical office. Further, the students will be able to use the software in the role of administrator to see how to best configure the software for the real world. Finally, students will be able to access practice data and work to develop healthcare analytics such as dashboards and scorecards with the software. Students will learn how to use the software as a tool to improve the management and delivery of health care and will also be instrumental in shaping the strategic plan of the software development into the future.

UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Three grants totaling \$57,500 have been awarded by NKU to faculty members conducting community programming and research. The funding will enable an innovative evaluation of barriers to high school graduation, the expansion of an Ohio River field study program for students in grades 4-12 and a closer look at human trafficking in our region.

The awards represent the 2012 University-Community Partnership Grants, which are offered each year as part of NKU's continuing commitment to public engagement. The grants are awarded to full-time faculty who establish partnerships with local government agencies or nonprofits to address Northern Kentucky's educational, health, social or civic needs.

While the grants are made to faculty members, each project also must include NKU students in the work, often as co-researchers. The idea is to mentor students in research skills while also providing direct community benefits.

Dr. Jan Hillard, who is NKU associate provost for research, graduate studies and regional stewardship, coordinates the program, which since 2002 has directed approximately \$1 million to community research and programming ranging from support for a regional conference for gifted to children to a look at social diversity in our region. "This program illustrates the ideal of being a bridge builder between the university and the community," he said.

Successful applicants had to demonstrate a connection to the goals of Vision 2015, the nonprofit collaborative based in Covington that oversees the implementation of a plan to improve Northern Kentucky's economy, education, health, governance, community stewardship and quality of life.

THE SCOREBOARD

The NKU women's volleyball team has made the transition to Division I play look easy.



The Norse raced to a 7-0 start, winning tournaments at Western Carolina and Morehead State. At publication time, NKU sits alone atop

the Atlantic Sun Conference as the league's only unbeaten team. The Norse are led by Kelly Morrissey's 78 kills, followed closely by Shelby Buschur's 75 and Haley Lippert's 73. Mel Stewart has added 335 assists and 51 service aces.

BRIEFS

EMERITUS PROF EARNS FIRST NKU ACS FELLOWSHIP

Dr. William Oliver, who for 35 years taught chemistry at NKU, has been named to the 2012 class of American Chemical Society Fellows. Dr. Oliver joins 95 other distinguished scientists who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in chemistry and made important contributions to ACS. This year's class represents 23 technical divisions and 52 local sections and reflects a wide range of disciplines and locations. Fewer than 600 scientists have earned this honor from a total membership of about 160,000.

MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUoliver>

GREAT PLATE CHALLENGE

NKU's Great Plate Challenge encourages participants to eat more fruit and vegetables every day. The contest asks participants to track the number of meals/plates they eat each day that consist of at least half fruits and vegetables. Each week, totals for the campus will be tallied and compared against weekly goals established by the NKU Wellness Center. If the collective goal is met, Green Bean Delivery will generously donate up to 1,900 pounds of fresh produce to the Brighton Center Food Pantry in Newport.

MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUgpc>

FACULTY FOCUS

Gail Mackin of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has received a \$600,000 NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) grant to establish a program to recruit, retain and graduate financially needy, academically talented students who will enter the graduate school or the workforce in a STEM discipline. Project SOAR is a collaboration that involves five NKU academic departments – biological sciences, chemistry, physics and geology, mathematics and statistics, and computer science. It will award a four-year scholarship to 17 incoming freshmen in each of four years (68 total full scholarships).

MPA EARNS REACCREDITATION

The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) has reaccruited the NKU Master of Public Administration program for the next seven years. Accreditation indicates that an MPA program meets certain benchmarks in terms of quality and value. It is a voluntary peer review process for programs in the field of public administration, public policy and public affairs. Accredited programs are determined to be in compliance with the standards set forth by the field.

MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUmpa12>

NKU PARTNERS WITH BOONE COUNTY PARKS

The NKU Center for Environmental Education has partnered with Boone County Parks to develop and present environmental educational programs and increase visitation at the county's parks, particularly those that feature natural areas. As part of the partnership, educational programs at Boone County Parks are free and open to the public of all ages. New programs include hikes with naturalists, pond and creek studies, wildlife, butterflies, trees, birds, nature restoration, weather, littering, nature journaling and more.

MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUcee12>



ALUMNI NEWS

As Joe Beechem ('81) was sitting in an "Introduction to Biology" class at NKU, he had a revelation. All life on the planet was just a variation in the order of four simple letters – A, T, C and G – inside a single molecule common to all: DNA. People, trees and bugs were all constructed using an identical four-letter code.

That revelation prompted Beechem to switch his major to chemistry and biology and embark on a journey that has taken him around the country – teaching, researching and developing scientific tools and processes.

Today Beechem is senior vice president of research and development for NanoString Technologies in Seattle. He has developed multiple products in the area of reading individual DNA molecules to improve cancer and disease detection.