



GOLD RUSH

SEPTEMBER 2018

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

SOTA

33

33 degree tracks

120

120 performances

32,000

patrons in 2017-18



NKU STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT ASSISTS PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

NKU's Center for Environmental Restoration (CER) is leveraging its latest stream restoration project to help people recovering from addiction. As part of its work with the Northern Kentucky Stream Restoration Program, the CER is undertaking a stream and forest rehabilitation project at the Kingsolver Wildlife Management Area in Carlisle, Kentucky.

"Carlisle is two hours from Highland Heights. It's too far for our students to drive back and forth, so I knew we would need to find workers. I had watched a YouTube video about a man who created a company to help ex-convicts transitioning to life out of prison, and it stuck with me," said Scott Fennell, CER Director. "With NKU's commitment to addressing community health issues, I began talking to others about how to use this project to help people recovering from drug addiction."

The Jubilee Project, a nonprofit in Cincinnati that teaches people construction skills, won the bid for the Kingsolver project work and hired Hawkins Warner, a recent NKU graduate who worked with Fennell at the CER, to lead the field crew. Addiction Recovery Care, LLC (ARC) will provide the support needed to transition graduates from rehab into recovery.

Warner and an intern from the NKU stream restoration program are currently training the three ARC graduates on the crew. They are learning valuable job skills such as construction equipment operation and basic surveying.

"There's the old saying, 'Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he's set for life.' That's what we are trying to do with this project—teach them skills that they can take into a new life while doing work that has a lasting effect," said Warner. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y7wpqxyg>

COLLEGE CORNER

NKU'S EXERCISE SCIENCE PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION

The program received the Education Recognition Program (ERP) designation by meeting criteria in the Undergraduate Strength and Conditioning program's eight categories.

"Because exercise science doesn't have a governing body like athletic training, we applied to become an ERP to ensure our curriculum is on the right track," said Wiley Piazza, program director. "NSCA did a thorough review of our course offerings, and this recognition speaks to the quality of our program."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ybfd757g>



CINSAM CONTINUES STEM TEACHER TRAINING WITH DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION INVESTMENT

NKU's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) continues its Next Generation STEM Classroom Project 2.0 (NextGen STEM Project) with a \$200,000 cumulative investment from the Duke Energy Foundation. The grant has supported educating middle school teachers over the past three years through the NextGen STEM Project. STEM focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As part of this project, 24 NextGen STEM Fellows from across northern Kentucky attended CINSAM's Summer Institute to develop teacher leaders in STEM. The institute, led by CINSAM's master teachers Ella Bowling and Amber Carter, was first developed last year as part of CINSAM's year-round NextGen STEM Project.

The NextGen STEM Project models best practices for teachers from school districts throughout Kentucky. The program involves teaching a STEM lesson to a class of students with teachers from multiple grade levels observing around the room. The teachers who attended last year's Summer Institute returned to mentor the current fellows, and graduates of the NextGen program serve STEM ambassadors in their local districts.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtgszy4>



THE SCOREBOARD

Drew McDonald represented the United States in the First FISU America Games in São Paulo, Brazil. The senior on NKU's men's basketball team helped lead the USA Team to the gold medal. The USA Team posted a perfect 4-0 with wins before taking down Argentina in the championship.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y83dqjoe>

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Abdullah Al-Bahrani, the director of the Center for Economic Education, recently published his paper, "Racial Differences in the Returns to Financial Literacy Education."

Dr. Al-Bahrani's research started when he and his co-authors wanted to understand the possible reasoning behind the growing racial wealth gap. "The wealth gap between white households and minority households has grown to approximately 13 fold. One possible reason for the widening gap that has not been tested for in research is a financial literacy gap," said Dr. Al-Bahrani. His group found financial literacy education is positively correlated with increased financial knowledge, however the magnitude of effect is not the same for everyone.

READ MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9owuwj>

BRIEFS

NKU WELCOMES PRESIDENT ASHISH VAIDYA

NKU's Dr. Ashish Vaidya kicked off his presidency on July 1. President Vaidya joins the university as NKU continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary, opens the Health Innovation Center and engages in new projects such as the partnership with St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the UK College of Medicine to establish a northern Kentucky medical campus.

"I am excited to join all the wonderful things happening here at NKU, from the sense of innovation and entrepreneurship, to the great public-private partnerships," said President Vaidya.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y8srxc4>

NKU NAMED A 2018 BEST LGBTQ-FRIENDLY INSTITUTION

NKU has been ranked again for its commitment to LGBTQ inclusiveness. SR Education Group named NKU as 2018 Best LGBTQ-Friendly Online School and one of the Most Affordable Online Colleges for LGBTQ students.

The ranking incorporated data by Campus Pride, a nonprofit organization that helps colleges improve their support and resources for LGBTQ students. Campus Pride rates schools based on a five-star scale. NKU has 4.5 stars on Campus Pride.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y7tkm9d7>

NKU AND HSN PARTNER TO HOST AMERICAN DREAMS ACADEMY

NKU and entertainment and lifestyle retailer HSN partnered to bring the HSN American Dreams Academy to Cincinnati. NKU's network of centers and programs that support entrepreneurialism and business took part in the academy.

The academy was an interactive event targeted toward emerging entrepreneurs looking to launch their business. It concluded with a pitch day where attendees presented their product to a panel of experts. So far, 11 products pitched in the academy have been promoted on HSN's platforms.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y7g74k3z>

NKU HOSTS 1968 FILM FESTIVAL

Continuing its 50th anniversary celebrations, NKU is hosting a film festival dedicated to 1968 cinema throughout the fall semester. Presented by the Department of English and Cinema Studies, the festival takes a deeper look at this compelling time in America's cultural history and the history of film.

Each screening will begin with a presentation from faculty on production history and the film's cultural relevance through recent decades, and be followed by a discussion. The last showing is in December.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/y8dxqapp>

ALUMNI NEWS

TEACHING TOGETHER

NKU's middle grades education program recently took a huge step forward in developing classroom-ready teachers by partnering with R.A. Jones Middle School in Florence, Kentucky, to move teacher preparation out of the college classroom and into a school context.

Jones principal Tony Pastura ('07) initiated the partnership with NKU, approaching the middle grades education program with an idea to help prepare the next generation of teachers. "This partnership was needed," he says. "It provides better support of the kiddos. You've got more young professionals in the building, and there are opportunities for one-on-one attention."

Michael Percy ('14), a seventh-grade math teacher at Jones, said, "NKU really focuses on understanding the development and making sure you have that experience. They make sure you're ready to be in any setting."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ydbvl520>

