



# GOLD RUSH

JUNE 2012 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



## GO FIGURE

2:16

Fastest marathon time ever run by incoming NKU President Geoffrey Mearns, who qualified for the 1984 Olympic trials.

1,625

Number who participated in NKU's three commencement ceremonies on May 6.

72%

That's how much of NKU's total public funds comes from tuition.



## GEOFFREY MEARNS NAMED NKU'S FIFTH PRESIDENT

The NKU Board of Regents voted April 17 to name Mr. Geoffrey S. Mearns the university's fifth president, effective August 1. Mearns succeeds Dr. James C. Votruba, who is retiring after 15 years as NKU president.

"After a long and comprehensive national search, we feel we have found the best person in the nation to lead NKU," said Terry Mann, chair of the NKU Board of Regents.

Mearns has served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State University since February 2010, and was dean and professor of law at Cleveland State's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law for four and a half years prior to that.

"I am excited by the opportunities that lie before us," he said. "NKU is valued internally and externally as an outstanding academic institution that is an integral part of its community. There is a great deal of pride from the faculty, staff, students, alumni and the region about how far the university has come and where it is going."

Mearns earned a bachelor's degree in English from Yale University in 1981 and a juris doctor from the University of Virginia in 1987. After graduating from law school, he clerked for the Hon. Boyce F. Martin, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Louisville.

## PINPOINTS



**KELSEY PATTERSON** is a junior public relations major from Franklin. Kelsey says her favorite thing about attending NKU is meeting new people and making friends from across the commonwealth. She said it's been easy to get involved on campus, as evidenced by her extensive extracurricular resume. In just two years at Northern, she

has cheered, been a member of Kappa Delta sorority, served on Panhellenic Council, volunteered with Best Buddies, served with the Dance for Fitness Troupe, and been an active member of the Norse Force. Kelsey is a 2010 graduate of Franklin-Simpson High School and is the daughter of Joe and Lorie Patterson.

## COLLEGE CORNER

### COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

In recognition of its efforts in helping northern Kentucky's underserved population, the NKU Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved (NACU) was awarded the 2012 Award of Excellence in Public Health by the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department.

The award committee commended NACU's collaborations to provide flu and Hepatitis B vaccination to the homeless and efforts to reduce unnecessary visits

to local emergency rooms.

Community partnerships are fundamental for the NACU program. Faculty and students collaborate with community physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers and therapists to assist clients to improve their health.

For more information on the NKU NACU program, visit <http://healthprofessions.nku.edu/nacu/index.php>.

# NKU AGAIN RECOGNIZED AS HEALTHIEST EMPLOYER



For the second consecutive year, NKU has been named the Healthiest Employer of Greater Cincinnati for organizations with between 1,000 and 4,999 employees by the Cincinnati Business Courier.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment that demonstrates NKU's commitment to the health and wellness of everyone on our campus," said NKU President James Votruba.

The award methodology was based on a web-based assessment survey comprised of 75 scored and weighted questions, along with an essay submission. The categories, scoring and analysis were developed by a private panel of medical, academic, business, wellness, finance and statistics professionals.

NKU offers a number of programs and services aimed at making the campus healthier, such as annual health screenings, access to the Campus Recreation Center and healthy food options, health and wellness classes, one-on-one health coaching, ergonomics assessments, walking clubs and on-site massage therapy.

The university is also incorporating health considerations into new facilities, such as taking ergonomics into consideration when designing the Griffin Hall informatics center. Much of this effort is overseen by the university's Healthy Workplace Committee.

## THE SCOREBOARD



For the fifth straight year, NKU has claimed the Great Lakes Valley Conference Commissioner's Cup by posting the strongest finish in the league's seven core sports (men's

and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, softball and baseball). It marked the eighth time since the award was instituted 10 years ago that NKU has won the Cup. NKU will join the Division I Atlantic Sun Conference in July.

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Tamara O'Callaghan, NKU associate professor of medieval literature and historical linguistics, is one of 25 awardees of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities High Performance Computing Collaboratory 2012 Summer Institute. Dr. O'Callaghan will attend two workshops in advanced topics in the digital humanities: one at the University of Illinois' Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Science; and the other at the University of South Carolina's Center for Digital Humanities. Her efforts this summer will be particularly focused on the production of electronic texts and editions of medieval literature in their manuscript context.

## BRIEFS

### 'THE OTHER WES MOORE'

The Other Wes Moore, a memoir by youth advocate and Rhodes Scholar Wes Moore is the 2012 NKU Book Connection selection. Copies will be distributed to more than 1,500 incoming freshmen, and next fall, they will read and discuss the book in numerous classes. Moore will also speak at NKU.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/wesmoorenku>

### NKU STUDENTS TAP POWER OF GIS

NKU students are harnessing the power of Geographic Information Systems to address community challenges and advance their careers. This spring, MPA students analyzed issues ranging from the impact of the nation's recession on the region to the location of emergency response resources.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUGIS2012>

### DAWN PLITZWEIT NAMED WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

NKU entered a new era in women's basketball when Dawn Plitzweit was announced as the first new head coach in 29 years. Plitzweit, who spent the past five years as associate head coach at the University of Michigan, replaces Nancy Winstel, who won 636 games and two national championships in 29 seasons.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/Plitzweit>

### NKU IT HONORED FOR GRIFFIN HALL TECHNOLOGY

For the second consecutive year, the Office of Information Technology was recognized for the Most Innovative Use of Technology by the Kentucky Digital Government Summit. The award is presented annually for the demonstration of a creative, unique and resourceful use of technology, and is open to any state or local governmental agency.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKUITaward>

### JUNIOR WINS \$5K PRIZE FOR NORSE IN NEED PROJECT

NKU junior Darnell Wilson won the third annual Sillerman Prize for Innovations in Philanthropy on College Campuses. Wilson will receive \$5,000 for his project, Norse in Need, which aims at improving retention by helping fellow students in need of emergency aid.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NorseInNeed>

### STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY AWARDS

The Office of Research, Grants and Contracts (RGC) recently announced the spring 2012 recipients of its Student Research and Creativity Awards. RGC encourages undergraduate and graduate students to undertake research and creative projects that will contribute new insights into a student's chosen academic field.  
MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/nku2012SRCA>



## ALUMNI NEWS All in a Day's Work

Rachel Bea ('06) starts each morning with a 10-mile run – the first of several workouts she does every day. Last month, her last-minute decision to put her rigorous training to the test by participating in the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon paid off when she won the women's division of the 26.2-mile race with a personal record of 2:54:41. "I decided the Friday before the marathon that I was going to do it," she says. "That's how I do things." Rachel ran cross country at NKU while earning her master's degree, and when her eligibility ran out she stuck around to help the team. She's now an assistant coach and runs with the Norse every day. On "off days" the 30-year-old physical education teacher bikes or swims.