

MOREHEAD STATEMENT

MSU ARCHIVES

People, Programs and Progress at Morehead State University

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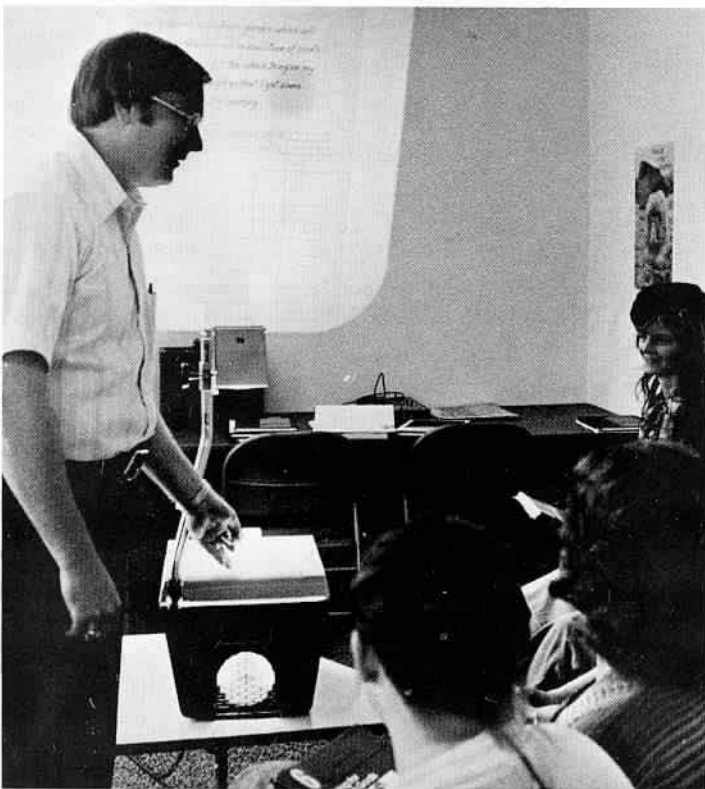
June, 1978

To find, get and hold a job

It's official name is the "employability skills project" but to the growing number of persons benefiting from Morehead State University's newest regional service effort, it is the "job course."

In simple terms, its purpose is to help Kentuckians choose, find, get and keep a job of their choice. It is the first program of MSU's new Appalachian Development Center and, if the growing demand for the instruction is an indication of success, the "job course" is on target.

"Our goal is to help our people be more competitive in today's job market," said Gary Wilson, project coordinator and one of three instructors. "Our clientele range from high school and college students to senior citizens but all have determined that they need to improve their job-related skills."



JOB COURSE — Gary Wilson counsels a class of women preparing to reenter the job market during a session of MSU's employability skills project.

Essentially, the program teaches individuals to use various sources of job information, to plan personal and vocational goals, to effectively present themselves to prospective employers and to develop good work habits.

Since its beginning last fall under a grant from the U.S. Office of Education, the program has enrolled 170 students at 10 locations, including Morehead, Mt. Sterling, Ashland, Lexington, Louisville and Beattyville. The Lexington and Louisville classes were required by the funding agency for comparative purposes.

The project utilizes the Adkins Life Skills Program, a series of 10 units of instruction developed by Dr. Win Adkins of Columbia University. Refined over a seven-year period, the program uses a multi-media approach and other teaching techniques.

"Our students like the material because of its diversity and the practical application to everyday situations," said Kay Freeland, an instructor. "For example, they learn how to fill out a job application and to best prepare themselves for a job interview. We videotape the job interview several times until the student and the instructor feel comfortable with the finished product."

Classes are flexible but usually meet twice a week for two hours per session. The total package of instruction requires about 120 hours. However, each unit can be offered separately as needed by a specific group. Class size ranges from 10 to 25 persons.

Is the program successful?

"Our preliminary findings indicate that 97 percent of the persons enrolled feel they benefited from the instruction and that they would recommend the program to others," said Mrs. Freeland.

Who can participate in employability skills?

The program is available to other institutions, school systems, manpower training projects and the general public.

"We invite interested parties to contact us for more information," said Philip W. Conn, MSU's vice president for university and regional services. "This project is an example of how the Appalachian Development Center can and will assist in the economic growth of our region."

Students seek histoplasmosis sources

Histoplasmosis, a disease harmful to humans, is the subject of an extensive research project by students at Morehead State University.

Caused by a common fungus, "Histoplasma capsulatum," the organism has been found in the bird roosts of Kentucky.

Eleven MSU students, under a grant of \$20,450 from the National Science Foundation, organized a project to determine if the Kentucky roosts were a source of the disease.

Under the direction of Cathy Stevens of Russell, the students took 423 samples at 16 bird roosts in Western, Central and Eastern Kentucky. Five of the sites were determined culturally positive for the fungus.

"Working on this project gave all of us a broad spectrum of experience," Ms. Stevens stated. "Our results have been promising and this project has introduced us to the time-consuming tasks involved in the initiation and fulfillment of research."

Following that investigation, MSU received a grant of \$23,000 from the Kentucky Department for Human Resources for the students to study 12 more roosts this spring and summer.

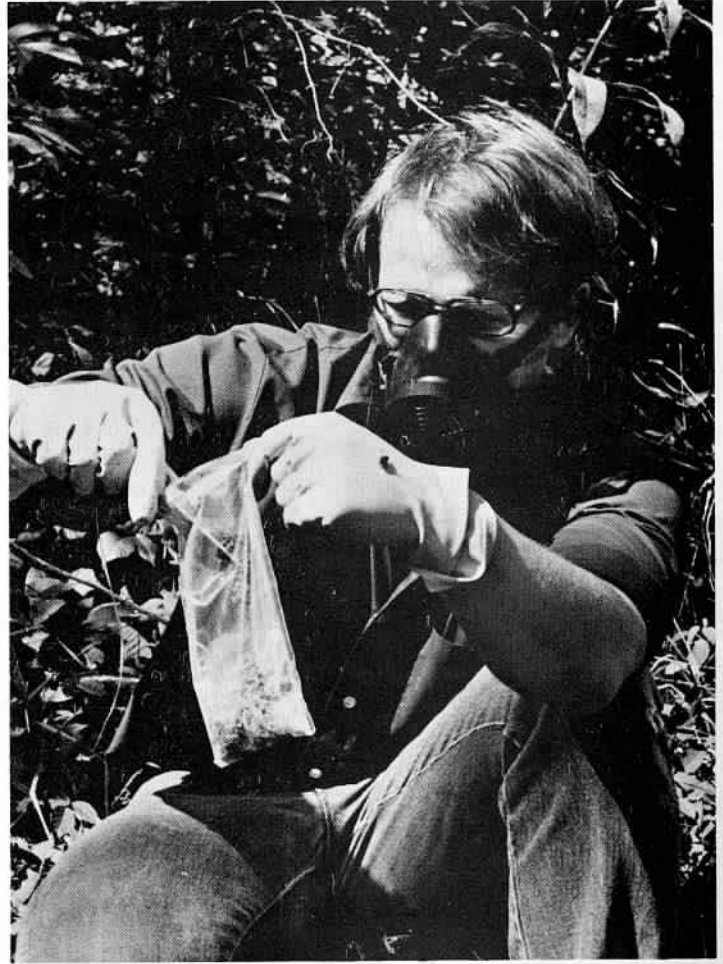
And a third effort, 24 additional roosts at a cost of \$38,000, is in the planning stages. If approved by the state, it would start later this summer.

Working closely with state mycology officials at Paris, the student researchers are attempting to identify roosts which pose potential health hazards.

Dr. Ted Pass, associate professor of biology at MSU and project advisor, believes the greatest danger of the positive sites is that they may be disturbed.

"It is extremely dangerous to disturb positive areas of the fungus during hot, dry periods," he stated. "More spores can be released and people who work in those areas can be affected."

Dr. Pass added there are about 45 to 50 major bird roosts known in Kentucky. Nineteen have been tested and eight were found to be positive.



IN THE FIELD — Bill Crawford, Louisville senior at MSU, carefully takes a soil sample from a Kentucky bird roost. The mask protects him from the fungus-carrying spores.

Findings in the first phase of the project were reported to the National Science Foundation in a formal paper presented by Cathy Stevens and junior Susan K. Kiser of Cleveland, Ohio, during a national conference.

"A great deal of attention is being given histoplasmosis in Kentucky and this project certainly is an important part of that research," Dr. Pass concluded.

Stuart material available

A bibliography of books and materials by and about Jesse Stuart is available at MSU's Johnson Camden Library.

Dr. Jack Ellis, director of libraries, and the library staff at MSU also have prepared a bibliography of material on career education.

The bibliographies are available to teachers, librarians, guidance counselors and interested individuals.

Additional information is available from Dr. Jack Ellis, MSU, Morehead, KY 40351.

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History prof handling Wetherby papers

How did Dr. John Kleber, a staunch Republican, wind up as editor of the public papers of former Gov. Lawrence Wetherby, an equally staunch Democrat?

Dr. Kleber is a professor of history at MSU and is faculty sponsor of the College Young Republicans.

"Political ties apparently were not considered," the historian says of his selection by the Kentucky Advisory Commission on Public Documents to edit the Wetherby papers.

They will appear as a single volume in the series, "The Public Papers of the Governors of Kentucky," a collection of speeches and other papers of the state's chief executives.

The history professor has been kidded by his students and colleagues about the political angle, but he is very happy with the assignment.

"I used to say I had never met a politician I really liked, but Gov. Wetherby is the exception," Dr. Kleber said. "He is a fine gentleman."

The project is being financed by the Kentucky General Assembly and has the support of Gov. Julian Carroll. Up to \$6,000 will be provided by the state to assist with travel, editing and duplicating costs in the Wetherby project. MSU is supplying additional funds.

Dr. Kleber has experienced problems collecting material because the state had no policy during the Wetherby years designed to preserve a governor's papers.

"Fortunately, Gov. Wetherby saved a great deal of material from his term of office and has been extremely helpful in the project," Dr. Kleber said. "Not only has he provided many public papers but he also has furnished numerous papers of a private nature. In fact, he has opened his home to me and given me an insight into what it was like to be governor during his term."

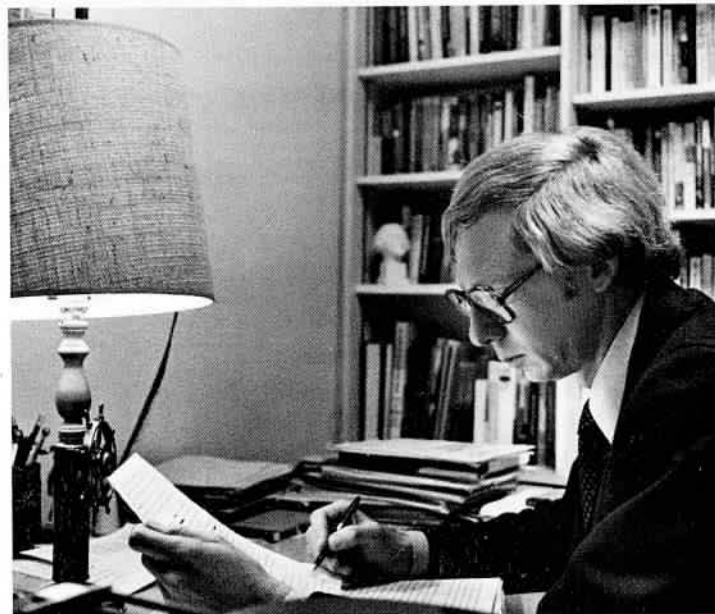
Wetherby was governor for five years, serving the last year of the term of Gov. Earle Clements who was elected to the U. S. Senate. Wetherby was elected to a full term in 1951.

"I am very pleased to have a part in this project," Dr. Kleber stated. "A public book will be the end product of my efforts. This and other volumes in the series will become important research aids to those who study Kentucky history and it will preserve the important works of former chief executives."

Actual editing of the Wetherby papers began last fall and Dr. Kleber has five years to complete the project. However, he hopes to finish much earlier.

Assisting with the preparation of the papers is Virginia Ritchie, Ashland graduate student at MSU. She currently is researching, indexing and collecting biographical information.

"As a student of history and as a Kentuckian, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to assist in this project," Ms. Ritchie said. "To be part of such a venture is a dream come true for any history major."



WETHERBY WORK — Dr. John Kleber of MSU is busy compiling the public papers of former Gov. Lawrence Wetherby.

Campus capsules

Dr. Donald H. Cunningham, associate professor of English, is the author of a new book entitled "How to Write for the World of Work." Designed for classroom use, the book offers instruction in writing employment letters, customer relation letters and informational reports. It was published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston and co-authored by Thomas E. Pearsall of the University of Minnesota.

Two MSU social fraternities recently raised nearly \$3,500 for charities.

Members of Lambda Chi Alpha collected more than \$3,100 for Easter Seals in a walk from Maysville to Morehead and members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon ran from Ashland to Morehead and received more than \$360 for muscular dystrophy.

Dr. Charles J. Pelfrey, professor of English, has been reelected to a three-year term on the MSU Board of Regents. Chosen from among six full-time faculty members, he will serve through the fall semester of 1980.

Dr. Stuart Sprague, professor of history at MSU, has received a three-month research fellowship from the Newberry Library of Chicago. The grant, which consists of a monthly stipend of \$1,500, will deal with the revitalization of the teaching of state and local history in colleges and universities.

Gifts & grants

- \$23,000 from Kentucky Department for Human Resources to continue student-directed research into the relationship between histoplasmosis and bird roosts.
- \$32,349 from Corporation for Public Broadcasting for support of WMKY Radio.
- \$15,000 from Kentucky Real Estate Commission for a full-time faculty position in real estate.
- \$6,721 from Veterans Administration to continue counseling services for veterans.
- \$57,436 from Gateway Area Development District to place students in new or expanding industries and to assist in manpower training.
- \$18,500 from Appalachian Regional Commission for Appalachian Education Satellite Program.
- \$5,841 from Kentucky Council on Higher Education to place radiologic technology students in clinical training positions.
- \$2,500 from National Endowment for the Humanities to allow Dr. Judy Rogers to participate in poetry seminar at Princeton University.
- \$35,700 from National Collegiate Athletic Association to provide summer sports program for 250 youngsters.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY
MOREHEAD, KY 40351



INCREASED VISIBILITY – Morehead State University now is more visible to passing motorists on I-64. Official signs identifying Exit 137 and Ky. 32 as the access route to MSU were erected recently.

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