

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

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Lexington Herald-Leader
Friday, May 29, 1998

\$1 million fund to honor retiring Midway president

By Holly E. Stepp
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

When friends of Midway College decided to honor retiring President Robert Botkin before his 13-year tenure ended, it didn't take long for people to get behind the idea.

Barely a month.

College officials last night announced the creation of a \$1 million chair to honor Botkin.

The surprise announcement came at a retirement dinner for Botkin and barely a month after the fund-raising began.

Lexington philanthropist Lucille Caudill Little issued an initial challenge gift of \$500,000 last month. The remaining funds were raised through gifts from trustees and other college benefactors.

Midway College spokeswoman Laura Ruzicho said the college's trustees had not decided if the chair would be assigned to a single academic department or would rotate through the college. The chair will most likely rotate among the faculty and will support their salary as well as their academic program or department, Ruzicho said.

Mira Ball, chairwoman of Midway's Board of Trustees, said Botkin had prepared the college well for the 21st century.

"With the addition of new degree programs, new capital projects and the initiation of an aggressive technology campaign, Dr. Botkin's vision and enthusiasm have raised Midway to a new level of excellence," Ball said.

The 151-year-old Woodford County college has undergone some sweeping changes under Botkin's leadership.

Botkin took the helm in 1985 and four years later, Midway converted from a two-year junior college for women to a four-year women's college. In 1995, a School for Career Development was organized and offers several undergraduate degree programs for working men and women.

Enrollment at Midway has grown from around 300 to more than 1,000 and 13 new academic programs have been added to the curriculum.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

Endowed chair honors Midway's president

By RICHARD WILSON
The Courier-Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A \$1 million endowed chair has been established at Midway College in honor of Robert Botkin, the school's president who will retire June 30.

Botkin, 63, has headed the Woodford County women's college since 1985. During his tenure, the school was transformed to a four-year college from two years, and enrollment has expanded from around 300 students to more than 1,000.

Thirteen academic programs have been added, the faculty has been expanded, and admission standards have been raised.

"Dr. Botkin has raised Midway College to a new level of ex-

cellence," said Mira S. Ball, chairwoman of the school's board of trustees. "With the addition of new degree programs, new capital projects and the initiation of an aggressive technology campaign, his vision and enthusiasm have helped propel Midway into the 21st century."

The endowed chair, the college's first, is funded through a \$500,000 challenge grant by Lexington philanthropist Lucille Caudill Little and money raised by the school's trustees and supporters.

The chair was announced last night at a retirement dinner for Botkin in Lexington.

California educator Allyson Hughes Handley will succeed Botkin July 1 as Midway's president.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Thursday, May 28, 1998

UK wins NSF grant for grad program: The University of Kentucky has won a \$2.25 million National Science Foundation grant to establish a graduate program to provide classes and research training on the development of chemical sensors. The program will involve 15 UK chemistry and engineering students a year, and the grant will support graduate fellowships, seminars, workshops and internships at industrial and government laboratories. Through the program, students will learn more about genetic engineering and polymer design, methods used in the construction of chemical sensors. These sensors help identify the presence of certain chemical compounds. Students for the program will be recruited nationwide with an emphasis on minorities and women.

Education reforms are fine, but won't work without funds

By Wayne Willis

When the legislature passed the Kentucky Education Reform Act in 1990, it recognized that radically reforming education in the state would require dramatic increases in funding, particularly for the retraining of teachers. School budgets were increased, and millions of dollars have been spent trying to teach teachers in the field how to teach differently, how to better assess student work, how to play new roles in the leadership of their schools.

Unfortunately, there has been no parallel increase in state funding for the training of new teachers. In fact, teacher educators sometimes are working with the same budgets they had ten years ago.

Budget cuts and inflation have actually reduced the number of handouts I can give my students each semester, increased the portion of my professional development that I pay out of my own pocket, and done nothing to change the fact that when I volunteer to go help in a teacher's classroom in Inez I pay for my own gas.

Education professors who struggled to get their students ready to begin their careers in pre-KERA schools are now supposed to keep up the national research on effective schools, keep up with the literature in our own specialties, keep up with the perpetual flow of new guidelines from the state, and model all things new in our own classes without the benefit of one new professional development dollar from the state.

Perhaps the legislature assumes that as professors with advanced degrees and an intimate knowledge of the literature in our fields, we don't need any retraining. (The medical profession certainly doesn't make that assumption.) It probably is true that as particularly mature learners, we can retrain ourselves with relatively little outside help. But even we need certain resources to keep up.

We need information. We need access to the national research literature on which KERA reforms were based, literature that is not always available in the libraries of regional universities. We also need the literature the state distributes

about education reforms. When KERA was passed, the universities were left out of the loop, and that pattern of omission has continued. A few years ago I was co-director of the Morehead Writing Project, and in that position I had access to people, ideas, policies, and practices from the state education department that I never had access to as an education professor. New alliances between the professors and the state might be very helpful.

And I need more time in the public schools. If I want to be a good teacher educator, I need to be in public schools a lot — watching teachers try out their new stuff, modeling my own new stuff, finding out what is really going on so that the undergraduates I teach will come out of here with a sense of what life is like in the real world. Appreciating this need, my institution gave me a reduced load last semester to work with schools. I did presentations in eleven classrooms, observed others, and spent a lot of time just talking to teachers about how it's all going. It was an extremely valuable experience for me and for the schools, and I wish that I had time to do it every semester.

The irony is that what my institution considered a "reduced load," would have been considered an "overload" at flagship institutions. Indeed, if I were teaching at UK, I probably would not have been expected to do anything with the schools last semester because of that overload. I don't have any illusions that the state is going to suddenly provide the funding to cut teaching loads for me and my colleagues so that we can spend more time in schools, better implement reforms, and better train teachers. But I do think it is unfair when we are criticized for not doing things that we have not been provided the resources to do.

There's a more serious problem lurking just around the corner. Universities have benefited in the last 20 to 30 years from an oversupply of professors that has allowed them to hire particularly strong faculty at low salaries (typically from pools of 50-200 applicants). But there is very strong evidence that in teacher education the

job market is dramatically changing.

During the last three years national faculty searches by my department have typically produced a mere ten to twenty applicants per position. Some positions have simply gone unfilled because search committees did not consider any of the applicants satisfactory. Fortunately we have continued to hire very good people, despite the shrinking applicant pool, but one wonders how long that will last.

One wonders why the pool is shrinking dramatically. Perhaps the most likely reason is the shrinking of university faculty salaries relative to public school salaries. KERA included funding that dramatically raised the pay scale in most districts. No such parallel funding has been provided to raise the salaries of the university faculty.

One of our recently hired new faculty members took a \$6,000-a-year pay cut when she left the public schools to become a teacher educator. An outstanding teacher in our region recently expressed an interest in joining our faculty but changed her mind when she realized that she would have to take a pay cut of more than \$10,000 a year.

Is it reasonable to assume that we will continue to attract strong teachers into the teacher-education faculty when they will have to make major financial sacrifices to do so? Is it even conceivable that teacher-education programs can prepare first-rate teachers for the 21st century when their resources are stuck in the 1980s?

Herald-Leader columnist Bill Bishop's criticisms of teacher education in the region, though not entirely justified, might have an upside if legislators decide that regional universities deserve more than mortar. Appropriations are given to construct or remodel campus buildings, but isn't it just as important to attend to the people who are employed to work inside them?

Wayne Willis is a professor of education at Morehead State University.

Making good on a pledge

Scholars will enter UK thanks to Mashburn

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

When David "Dougie" Allen, Nanita Johnson, Taquoya Owens and LaTonya Robinson graduate from their Lexington high schools this evening and Saturday, friends and family will be there to celebrate their success.

But one of their biggest supporters — their college patron — won't be in the Memorial Coliseum crowd cheering them on.

Jamal Mashburn, former University of Kentucky basketball star and Miami Heat forward is their benefactor for UK scholarships.

After earning their diplomas, Allen, Johnson, Owens and Robinson know their \$12,000 UK tuition will be paid through Mashburn's program.

In 1993, with Mashburn's \$500,000 donation, UK started the Excel Incentive Scholarships targeting eighth-grade students who might not otherwise expect to advance to college.

Some are from single-parent families. One student is a single parent herself.

"Jamal wanted to give something back," said Laretta Byars, UK's vice-chancellor for minority affairs, at a recent breakfast to honor the students.

"He was lucky as an athlete to have adults giving him advice, and he wanted others, not just athletes, to have guidance and support to get them to college," Byars said.

Six eighth-graders were selected in 1994 to receive four years of tuition at UK if they met a few conditions:

Each had maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average for all four years of high school. Good attendance and classroom conduct were also requirements.

Mashburn, who was the fourth pick in the 1993 National Basketball Association draft, said he wanted to do more than just give money.

"I want to see results and see kids in college," Mashburn said in 1994. "Coming to UK changed my life. I want to see them have the opportunity I had."

To help them make it to graduation, all the students were assigned "buddies" from UK's College of Education or the Athletics Department. Since 1994, more than 20 students have been named to the program.

The first four, who are graduating from high school this year, have lived up to the pledge — all are in the top quarter of their classes.

For Allen, a graduating senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, the Excel scholarship is a back-up.

Playing football since childhood, Allen came into his own during high school; a star receiver, he earned a full athletic scholarship from UK Coach Hal Mumme.

"It really took a weight off me this

year," Allen said. "It was nice because I knew no matter what happened (with football), I was going to college."

The Excel scholarship will be held for Allen, in case football doesn't work out or for graduate school tuition, since Allen plans to study finance.

The scholarship has inspired Johnson throughout high school, not just for her own advancement but for her younger brother and sister, too.

In her application essay, Johnson wrote it was her job to set the example for them.

"I hope they will see me going to college doing well and make them work harder to get good grades," said Johnson, who wants to be a pediatrician.

Her younger sister, 17, attends Henry Clay High School, which will graduate Johnson on Saturday. Her brother, 7, attends Crawford Middle School.

Bryan Station High School graduating senior Owens plans to major in dentistry at UK, a career choice that will make a difference for her and her 3-year-old son.

Owens' son, Christian, doesn't know much about his mom's scholarship — eating is his major interest, Owens said with a laugh.

"I had originally thought about medicine, but I just couldn't be in school that long," she said. "So dentistry is a compromise."

Owens, who lives on her own and works to support her son, said college was always her goal.

"I always wanted to do better for me and my son."

The scholarship is invaluable for Robinson, who grew up in an aunt's house with nine others, including her two sisters.

"It's just tuition, but it does help," she said, adding she will have to cover the expenses of room and board and books herself.

But Robinson is no stranger to hard work, clocking at least 35 hours a week as assistant shift manager at the Reynolds Road White Castle.

Robinson said she may join the Army before enrolling at UK to supplement her scholarship.

But college is still the priority. "I want to be a doctor, and I am going to college," she said. "It's just a matter of when."

Hicks to return to Montana to face charges

By **TOM LEWIS**
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

MOREHEAD — A retired Morehead State University professor accused of brutally attacking a Bozeman woman in her home last month waived extradition Wednesday and will return to Montana to stand trial.

Dr. Charles H. Hicks, 62, of Morehead, faces one count each of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated burglary and felony assault. He could face the death penalty if convicted of the kidnapping charge.

Hicks was arrested here on May 12 by Kentucky State Police, accused of being a fugitive from Montana. His Morehead attorney, Paul Blair, blocked extradition until Hicks had hired a Montana lawyer.

Attorney Larry Jent of Bozeman will represent Hicks. Jent said by telephone Wednesday that he had not had time to thoroughly review the case and declined comment on a possible defense.

The Gallatin County (Mont.) Sheriff's Department will coordinate Hicks' extradition, and Deputy County Attorney Jane Mersen expected that Hicks would be flown to Bozeman in about 10 days.

Hicks is being held without bond in the Rowan County Detention Center, no longer under suicide watch.

According to Bozeman Police Detective Rich McLane, a man came to the home of 20-year-old Marcie Fitch on April 27 and wanted to know about the house, which was for sale. He followed her into the house, choked her, wrestled her down

a flight of stairs into the basement and struck her on the head and face.

Fitch said the man used a stun gun on her face, chest and abdomen until she knocked it out of his hand. When she screamed at the man to stop, he backed off and left.

On Fitch's front lawn, McLane found a receipt dated April 25 for a gasoline purchase in Missoula, Mont., on a credit card belonging to Hicks. Transaction records showed the credit card had been used several times in Montana on April 25 and 26 and in Wyoming and South Dakota on April 27.

McLane also discovered that the card was used to buy a bifocal lens in Lexington on April 30. The prescription was nearly identical to a lens found in Fitch's basement.

On May 8, Fitch picked Hicks' picture out of a photo lineup.

On May 12, KSP Detective Matt Sparks searched Hicks' house, his MSU office and two cars. He found a stun gun, maps with Bozeman circled, tourist information on Montana, clothes matching the description of what Fitch's attacker was wearing — including a green coat with credit card receipts from purchases in Montana in a pocket — and a computer and discs.

Bozeman police retrieved the evidence May 15. When it was analyzed in Montana, Mersen said authorities found "lots of interesting stuff, but nothing I can divulge."

In Montana, aggravated kidnapping involves restraining someone by using or threatening to use physical force with the purpose of inflicting bodily injury on or terrorizing that person. Penalties range from two years in prison to death.

The maximum sentence for aggravated burglary in Montana is 40 years, and 10 years for felony assault. Two to 10 years would be added to Hicks' sentence if he is found guilty of any of the offenses and is convicted of using a dangerous weapon while committing the crime.

Hicks took early retirement last year from his post as professor of education in MSU's Department of Information Sciences. He joined the university staff in 1971 as director of institutional research and became a full-time faculty member in 1985.

Hicks has no prior criminal record in Rowan County.