

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

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Project a lesson in caring

Stillborns buried in students' 'angel gowns'

By Tom Lewis
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

MOREHEAD — On Christmas Day, Sarah Baldrige was 19-weeks pregnant and looking forward to what next Christmas would be like with a baby.

But things took a tragic turn Christmas night, when abdominal cramps sent her to St. Claire Medical Center. The next day, Baldrige, 19, and her 20-year-old husband, Shawn, found themselves planning a funeral.

Erica Ann Baldrige was born five months too soon and died Dec. 26.

"We knew we were going to have a funeral," said Mrs. Baldrige. "But we were thinking, 'What would we put on her?'" Erica was only 10 inches long.

"Someone suggested doll clothes. But Mrs. Baldrige said no. Her child was no doll, she said. "She was my daughter."

The Baldriges found the answer in a Morehead State

University sewing class taught last fall by Assistant Professor Carolyn Taylor.

The students had made 14 "angel gowns" for stillborn infants and premature babies who die shortly after birth at St. Claire. Erica was buried in one of them — a white flannel dress with pink and blue animal prints.

"This is something you couldn't just go to the store and buy," said Taylor, who got the idea from a Winchester woman who made such gowns for a local hospital.

morbid. But (the students) realized there was a need for it and wanted to do it."

Taylor said when she suggested the angel gown project, the class responded with genuine compassion for the infants and mothers.

"Knowing you're going to be able to help someone in their time of need when they don't have the time to think about something like that" made the project emotional as well as educational, according to student Susie Gullett of Flatwoods.

Students spent 10 hours making a gown and cap to fulfill the class requirement to sew a child's garment. They chose from one of three sizes; Gullett made the smallest.

"If you can imagine making a gown the size of your hand and then thinking it needs to be even smaller — it's hard to imagine," said the 26-year-old senior.

In October, the class toured St. Claire's obstetrics/gynecology unit and nursery and presented the angel gowns to the hospital.

Lisa Wallace, nurse manager of OB/GYN and the nursery at St. Claire, called the gowns a "wonderful idea."

"We're finding that more and more of these parents are having funeral services and treating these babies as if they'd gone full-term," Wallace said.

She said three or four of the gowns have been used.

"It was just precious to be able to give the gowns to the hospital," said 24-year-old senior Christi Stewart of West Liberty. "I never knew it would become so personal."

While the class was sewing the angel gowns, Stewart found out she was pregnant. She miscarried 10½ weeks later.

Stewart did not use an angel gown, but the episode added to the project's emotional impact on class members, who helped Stewart through her grief.

Taylor hopes the project fostered a desire for continued community service in her students. Some took copies of the angel gown patterns to make more themselves or to pass them along to church and civic groups.

Stewart and Gullett plan to teach high school home economics and said their classes likely will make angel gowns.

Taylor said her sewing classes might repeat the project if a need exists, or she might look for other service-oriented projects, such as garments for nursing home residents.

Mrs. Baldrige, who is studying nursing at MSU, thanked Taylor's class and St. Claire for her daughter's gown. If she works at a hospital, she said she would suggest the angel gown program.

2 area teachers win presidential awards

Russell, Elliott educators among 214 afforded honor

By **GEORGE WOLFFORD**
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

RUSSELL — Two North-eastern Kentucky teachers with passions for science have been named winners of President Bill Clinton's Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The honor is the nation's highest for math and science teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

Susan Nichols of Russell Middle School and Vanessa Maggard of Sandy Hook Elementary were among four teachers in Kentucky and 214 in the nation afforded the honor — which includes \$7,500 over the next three years for use in their schools.

Nichols, who graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1982 and returned to teach in her home district, says she thinks she was selected not on the basis of a particular project "but just the way the whole classroom is set up, stressing performance and inquiry.

"I just don't do things out of the textbook, but I concentrate on how things work and why they work that way."

If there was a specific eye-catcher, it was a lifesize, inflated whale her students put together during a study of oceans. Or it could have been her cooperative approach to education, which brings in colleagues like math teacher Mollie Damron.

"It takes a whole cooperative effort, keeping up on teaching skills and knowledge of science," she said.

Nichols has worked closely with the Kentucky Department of Education on science projects and is president of the Kentucky Science Teachers Association this year. She's been a board member of that group for six years.

She is a resource teacher for the Partnership Reform Initiative in Science and Mathematics and a science writing resource teacher for the Kentucky Department of Education.

Nichols likes working with middle-school students. "I compare them to 2-year-olds. Toddlers explore their whole world, and by the time they get into middle school they're

going back to reexamine everything. You've got to keep them interested in science or they'll get turned off."

The two teachers have discretion on how \$2,500 a year will be spent at their schools. Nichols said she wants probes, graphic calculators and other computer equipment to go with math study.

Maggard said she wants to take her time deciding how to spend the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I lean to equipment. I want to do field trips, like space camp, but that would limit the number of children who take part, and I want to see it reach as far as it can."

Maggard, who worked as a beautician and a florist before going to college, didn't focus at first on science. Now she teaches only that topic, four times a day, to students in the

upper levels of the primary program — what used to be the second and third grades.

She became involved in the math and science teacher partnership group after adoption of the Kentucky Education Reform Act. She was spurred on by a brother, Claude Simmons, who teaches science in Indiana. "He kept telling me I would enjoy it because it allows a hands-on, minds-on approach."

Elliott County's high, junior high and elementary schools are on the same campus at Sandy Hook, offering opportunity for collaboration by youngsters of widely differing ages. Maggard's students worked with high schoolers to beautify the playground by putting up birdhouses and decorating trash cans.

Later, Maggard helped put together a program featuring a NASCAR display that helped teach students about physics.

"It was an idea I had to sell to the principal, the superintendent and the board," she said.

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Illinois official is interviewed about EKU job

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ky. — Illinois Lt. Gov. Robert Kustra met yesterday with faculty members at Eastern Kentucky University, where he is among four finalists to become school president.

Kustra, who has been lieutenant governor since 1990, is chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which oversees 12 public universities.

He said that if he were named president of EKU, he would like to serve as adviser to a half dozen students to help gauge what kind of education they are receiving.

Kustra said being a guest lecturer or filling in for various professors might also help him stay connected to the classroom without assuming full responsibility for a course.

Kustra was instrumental in establishing the Illinois Distance Learning Foundation. He also served 10 years in the Illinois General Assembly, advocating education issues and promoting the interests of the Chicago public school reform.

The other finalists are scheduled for interviews this month. The school's presidential search committee hopes to name a successor by the time the current president, Hanly Funderburk, retires June 30.

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Candidate for EKU presidency visits:

Illinois Lt. Gov. Robert Kustra met yesterday with faculty members at Eastern Kentucky University, where he is among four finalists to become the next school president. Kustra, who has been lieutenant governor since 1990, serves as chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, which oversees 12 public universities.

344 faculty petition against UK arena

By RICHARD WILSON
The Courier-Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky. — More than 300 University of Kentucky faculty members have signed a petition against building a \$90 million basketball arena on campus.

The petition, signed by 344 professors — about one-fifth of the faculty — also opposes any major "retrofit" of Rupp Arena, the home of the men's basketball Wildcats since 1976. Faculty members delivered the petition yesterday to UK President Charles T. Wethington Jr.

The petition said the costly projects was at odds with UK's academic mission. And an organizer said the extra cost could make UK basketball an "elitist" event.

"We felt, and we were gratified to learn that other faculty felt, that we really ought to speak out," said George Herring, a UK history professor and a petition organizer.

Herring said some faculty members feared that if they didn't speak out, "we would appear to either be indifferent or acquiescent or maybe even supportive of this, when in fact, as we discovered very quickly, there was strong opposition among faculty."

UK's administration had no comment yesterday on the petition.

After nearly two weeks of negotiations, Wethington may be nearing a resolution of the issue — which could include UK's purchase of the city-owned Rupp Arena. An announcement could come this week.

Last month, when the petition was announced, the administration said its top priority remains academics. But a statement also said it must also address planning for athletics.

The petition called Rupp Arena "more than adequate" as a basketball facility — pointing out that neither upgrading Rupp nor building the new arena would add seats for students or spectators.

"We regard discussion of these matters as especially untimely in view of the state's recent commitment to upgrade higher education and our own aspirations to reach top-twenty status as a research university," the petition added. The faculty also expressed fears that any fund raising would "undermine the more urgent efforts we should be making to raise money for academic purposes."

"At stake here is the fundamental issue of what a university's priorities are and ought to be, and we believe that to commit the lavish expenditures proposed for this purpose sends the wrong message as to our priorities and mission," it added.

UK officials and representatives of the Lexington Center Corp. board, the panel that oversees Rupp, have been discussing UK's purchase of the 23,100-seat arena in downtown Lexington. UK also is considering building a 22,000- to 23,000-seat arena near Commonwealth Stadium.

A study for UK released last month said construction of an arena on campus is feasible. That proposal called for amenities such as private luxury suites, larger and more comfortable seats for some fans, and wider concourses and concession areas than are in Rupp. The luxury suites would go for an average of nearly \$36,600 annually and club seats would average \$1,820 a year.

The petition called these prices "highly objectionable, an affront to the very idea of what a public institution of higher learning should stand for and should be doing."

Herring called that approach "elitist," and added that it would under-

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Georgetown College plans radio network

By Jefferson George
CENTRAL KENTUCKY BUREAU

GEORGETOWN — College radio stations are rarely mistaken for media giants.

Usually low-budget and low-key operations, many campus stations are overlooked in the lower reaches of the radio dial. And with only 140 watts emanating from an 8-by-10-foot booth in the student center, Georgetown College public radio has fit that mold.

Not for much longer, though.

This spring brings a big leap to 50,000 watts for WRVG-FM 89.9, providing the station with a voice for Georgetown and the region. But station officials

have their sights set on an even bigger listening audience: the world.

The new station near the college's athletic complex will be the base for a new public radio network developed by WRVG officials.

Planned to compete with National Public Radio and Public Radio International, World Radio will offer programming generated and distributed by Georgetown College for broadcast by public radio stations across the country and abroad.

It's a huge move, even for a school that's grown accustomed to thinking big — the Cincinnati Bengals held NFL training camp there last summer — but officials say the effort can succeed in both the Central Kentucky and national radio markets.

The Federal Communications Commission early last year allowed Georgetown College to increase its station's power, and officials studied adding NPR and PRI programs. But two other area FM stations — WUKY 91.3/92.1 and WEKU 88.9 — already broadcast the networks' programs, and the cost of airing some programs is rising, WRVG officials said.

More viable was original programming of news and music — jazz and blues — that other stations could also air, said William



cut one purpose of UK basketball. "One purpose UK basketball has served has been a sort of unifying factor in the state, bringing people from all sections and different walks of life — campus, town, blue collar, white collar — all kinds of people together in a positive way and making them feel good about the state.

"We see this as destructive of that sort of thing," he added.

UK has long been unhappy with its lease for Rupp, under which it receives no money from concessions, programs or parking. It pays nearly \$770,000 a year in rent and bond payments to use the arena.

Wethington has said he expects UK to make a decision about the arena sometime this month.

Gillespie, general manager of World Radio and WRVG.

"We didn't really want to duplicate what's happening in this market," he said. "We're actually a flagship for our own network."

Instead of relying on existing radio feeds from a satellite, WRVG will beam up programs that about 1,200 public radio stations can broadcast in local markets.

To help sell those programs, WRVG and college officials went after experienced radio talent. Local radio personality Tom Martin had worked with The Associated Press Radio Network, RKO Radio and the ABC Radio Network before becoming World Radio's director of network programming. Mike Dawahare, World Radio's director of network operations, covered wars, presidential tours and papal visits for NBC television and was a foreign correspondent and editor for NBC Radio and RKO Radio.

Although some people do a double-take at a radio network based in off-the-beaten-path Scott County, some successful cable TV networks have started up in recent years outside the primary media markets. Atlanta is home to CNN and other networks that Ted Turner founded, Dawahare said, and 24-hour sports giant ESPN "started in a garage" in Bristol, Conn., a city of about 60,000.

As Martin put it, "We could be doing this from a beach in Bimini. Why we're not, I don't know."

There's no sun and sand, but the college's new station is leaps and bounds over the old booth in the student center. The station's new home, once a three-bedroom ranch house, has a performance studio that can handle 11 microphones within the station's 14-inch soundproof walls and heavily insulated ceilings and floors.

Getting the new network off the ground will cost less than \$1 million, Dawahare said; about \$600,000 pays for equipment, satellite uplinks, and tower and antenna construction. Funding will come from corporate underwriters, listeners, some grants and merchandising.

The station should be on the air with increased power in early May, officials said. June 1 has been set as the network's launch date.