Marching To A NEW BEat
New Band Director For The Mighty Marching Thorobreds

Giving it His Best
President Raymond M. Burse reflects on his past, present and future at KSU

130 YEARS OF HISTORY
A look back as KSU turns 130

Men’s & Women’s Basketball Coaches Are Shooting For A Winning Season
Kentucky State University, building on its legacy of achievement as a historically black, liberal arts and 1890 land grant University, affords access to and prepares a diverse student population of traditional and non-traditional students to compete in a multifaceted, ever changing global society by providing student-centered learning while integrating teaching, research and service through high-quality undergraduate and select graduate programs. Kentucky State University is committed to keeping relevant its legacy of service by proactively engaging the community in partnerships on civic projects driven by the objective of positively impacting the quality of life of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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It is the policy of Kentucky State University not to discriminate against any individual in its educational programs, activities or employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, age, religion or marital status.
2015 is just a few short days from being only a memory. As we always do around this time, we reflect on our accomplishments, things we left incomplete—and yes, our failures. My philosophy in life has always been to give 100% at whatever task or challenge I am faced with so I will not have any regrets. I will admit sometimes that is easier said than done. So when things do not play out the way we plan, we have to be prepared to make the necessary adjustments to get through the situation.

Since my return to KSU, my focus has been on a few key issues that I felt were crucial to the continued growth and development of the institution. Many people may not have approved of all of my methods, but drastic times call for drastic measures. It is never an easy task to change direction. You will always face opposition, resistance, and those who feel that if it is not broken why fix it. It is not news to most of you when I reiterate that we were not on a path that would lead to greatness. So things had to change and the change is still happening.

My mission is to ensure that every student at Kentucky State University has an opportunity for success. I want to guarantee that each student leaves here more prepared than they came to cope with the challenges that they will face in life. If we are doing our job, we are creating the next group of world leaders that “enter our doors to learn and go out to serve” our world communities.

I came back to KSU for one simple reason, and that is because I love this institution and I see what we can be. The success of KSU is something that is very personal to me and to be a part of its transformation is an honor and a privilege that I do not take lightly. We are building a team that is singularly focused on delivering the best in educational instruction, support services and leadership development to our number one customer, the KSU student. When we have accomplished this goal, we will be living up to the goals and mission statement of this great University. We have a legacy here at Kentucky State University that we must uphold. With that being said, it takes the entire institution to ensure our success. Every person who sets foot on campus has a stake in this institution’s accomplishment and failures.

The transformation addresses how we account for our resources, how we expend our resources and how we deliver services. We must become an institution that is reputed to be and is a high-performing institution. Our University’s retention has continued to improve each year as it has surpassed 60 percent in 2014-2015, which is the highest in 10 years. The retention rate is an indication that our transformation plan for this institution is working.

As we prepare for the holiday season, I think it is important that we reflect on our 130-year history. We can only imagine what those before us endured to give us the opportunity to write the next chapter of KSU’s history. We cannot and will not be the generation that lets this great institution fail. Our students deserve nothing less than our very best.

So as we think about the things we have accomplished and the things we have yet to complete, we have a lot to be thankful for. The career that you now hold is a result of the educational foundation and support you received from Kentucky State University.

We want to ensure that today’s Thorobreds have that same opportunity. Their success, their future is a part of your legacy. This holiday season, I encourage each of you to not only give thanks but give back to where it all started for you here at KSU.

When we all work together we can achieve “In All Things Excellence.”

I wish a very safe and happy holiday season to you and your families.

Merry Christmas Thorobreds,

Raymond M. Burse
In All Things Excellence

Discover What You Can Be

KSU

www.kysu.edu
10 Things You Should Know About KSU

1. KSU grad student Alexis Ellis was recently awarded a $15,000 scholarship from Xooker. Struggling to pay for tuition, Ellis’ mother set up a GoFundMe account to help her daughter to graduate this month. Ellis almost sold her car before receiving the scholarship from the gaming app company.

2. The Lexington Legends Minor League Baseball team selected 10 KSU students to attend professional baseball’s Winter Meetings in Nashville. The winter meetings, an annual gathering of major league and minor league baseball personnel, has become a must-attend event for those interested in working in baseball in a variety of areas including promotions, sales, community relations, media relations and broadcasting.

3. Retention at the University has climbed 38%. A study from the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness has revealed a retention rate of 60.2% from 2014-2015-- the highest in 10 years.

4. Volleyball coach Christina Coleman was selected as the SIAC Coach of the Year. The honor is the first for Coleman, who led the Thorobrettes to an SIAC championship in 2013, and again in 2015.

5. Kentucky State University received approval for $990,000 in state funds for a project to provide mini-grants that will assist small farmers as well as producers with limited resources statewide. Grants will be awarded to applicants in areas related to organic agriculture, value-added products, aquaculture, farmer education and demonstration projects.

6. The 2015 Classes in Reunion donated a total of $75,050 to The Kentucky State University National Alumni Association’s Permanent Alumni Scholarship (PAS) Fund.

7. The SGA sponsored a Town Hall Meeting in November where students had an opportunity to voice their concerns to President Raymond M. Burse and his Cabinet. Students took the time to talk about policies, program funding, tattoos and more.

8. KSU was named the winner of the McDonald’s HBCU Breakfast Contest in an effort spearheaded by Dr. Shannon Brogan. The University beat out 106 colleges, and students were given $5 Arch Cards during the Homecoming block party. The national competition was part of the fast-food chain’s launch of its “All Day Breakfast.”

9. Floarine Wilson, director of Kentucky State University’s Student Health Services, received the Kentucky Immunization Champion Award.

10. Recent grad Deshon Floyd was selected for the U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) HS-STEM Summer Internship Program. Floyd worked with the Center for Collaborative Cyber-Physical Research where he studied psychological profiling in order to characterize the motives of cyber criminals.
Christina Leath is well aware that people on campus may not be familiar with her role as KSU's Title III Director. After just four months of settling in Hume Hall, she is eager to show the campus why her role is important: government compliance.

“I monitor Title III and Title VII grants to ensure the University is properly administering the programs and funds within the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education,” she said.

Leath is excited to be part of the growing number of employees who are rolling up their sleeves to help with the transformation of the University. The Johnson City, Tenn., native also revealed during a Veterans Day Convocation that she is proud of her four-year experience in ROTC as an undergrad at Vanderbilt University.

“ROTC was a struggle and I stuck with it. However, I did grow to enjoy it and excel in certain areas of it and appreciate the challenge – especially for the leadership and service,” Leath said.

When Leath was in high school, her guidance counselor recommended that she apply for the Army ROTC scholarship. The thought of free tuition, room, board and book and monthly stipends sounded appealing to her. Leath took her counselor’s advice and she was awarded a top tier four-year scholarship.

“As a 17-year-old, I wasn’t thinking about the leadership skills you would get from it or the service. I was just thinking about the money,” she said.

As a classically trained dancer, it never crossed Leath’s mind that she would sleep outside for a week, not shower for days, wear a uniform on a fashionable college campus several days a week and get up at 5:30 a.m. to workout. But, she also learned how to throw a grenade, wander through the woods at night with only a compass and terrain map and truly appreciate the value of a gas mask.

“When I graduated, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. I was more proud of that than graduating college because It was so much more of a struggle for me in a different way,” she said. “I received an educational delay to attend law school. While I was in law school, I was accepted into the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG).”

JAG officers are attorneys qualified to represent the Army and soldiers in military legal matters.

After graduation, Leath practiced law for a few years at a large firm in Jacksonville, Fla. Leath then left the private sector to work at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in San Francisco, Calif., where she was responsible for managing United Healthcare’s Medicare and Marketplace national health insurance programs’ governmental compliance.

While living on the West Coast, Leath decided it was time to move closer to her Tennessee and North Carolina roots. A longtime mentor suggested Leath look into opportunities at KSU to continue making a difference for others.

“My family consists of public educators, so when the opportunity presented itself to work in education, serve students, make a difference, and be part of a positive transformation, I decided to give it a try. After interviewing with President Burse and then receiving the job offer, it confirmed it was time to move back closer to friends and family,” Leath said. “And, I definitely enjoy living in a mid-sized city and near the country over a major city.”

Leath’s legal background and experience in government compliance play an integral role in her current duties as she ensures the University is compliant with the grants’ guidelines. As Title III Director, Leath works with several department chairs and vice presidents on campus including agriculture, aquaculture, computer science, student affairs, academic affairs, external relations and information technology.

“I enjoy working with dedicated staff who are onboard with the transformation and committed to students,” she said. “It is refreshing and encouraging to work with individuals who tirelessly and selflessly give of themselves for the betterment of KSU and its students.”
Francene Gilmer is anxious, yet encouraged, as the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. Gilmer, who began working at Kentucky State University in August, is eager to help rebuild the University and implement new programs and practices for the benefit of our students.

“It’s easy to become complacent and rudimentary when our job functions haven’t changed in a while. I am proud be a participant in President Raymond Burse’s vision that purposes a transformation which involves rethinking and revisiting the standard or the norm,” Gilmer says. “I really believe that this institution, Kentucky State University, an HBCU with a rich legacy, is worth everything we have to make this transformation a reality. The opportunity to work here during this time in KSU history is remarkable.”

Gilmer’s extensive experience in higher education includes her role as the director of the Stuckert Career Center for the University of Kentucky from 2008-2014. She also served as the director of the Career Center at Vanderbilt University from 1999-2007. In addition, she held the role of Director of Minority Professional Opportunities and Student Support Services at Illinois State University for four years. In her most recent position, Gilmer was the Student Success Coach for Learn On Demand, an online program at Kentucky Community and Technical College Systems.

Gilmer earned a bachelor’s degree in Community Health Education from Western Kentucky University and a master’s degree in College Student Personnel Services from Eastern Illinois University.

Her current role allows her to wear many hats. Her team is comprised of staff members in the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Life, Residence Life, The Betty White Health Center and the One-Stop Shop.

“It is my hope to bring the best experiences from my previous universities while continuously looking at best practices from other universities across the country. My desire is to help build an exceptional environment of learning experiences, inside and outside of the classroom. Student Affairs, as a unit, holds the keys for all students from the beginning of enrollment through graduation and beyond.”

For example, Gilmer switched into “event-planning mode” for the Veterans Day Convocation, which featured U.S. Army Major General Peggy C. Combs, who is based in Fort Knox, Ky. Gilmer says that she was pleased to have “an outstanding speaker of note who motivated students with a memorable message.” Gilmer also is setting her sights on the spring semester to make sure the details are in place for new student orientation.

“It is important for our students to understand that the culture at Kentucky State will change to reflect the current motto, ‘In All Things Excellence,’” she says. “These words, this motto, addresses everything we do. President Burse asks that our campus community look beyond just getting it done, but getting it done in an excellent way.”

Another feature at the University that Gilmer is proud to participate in is KSU-L.I.N.K. (Lead. Inspire. Network. Knowhow.) Mentorship Program, which began in the fall. Several faculty and staff members have signed up to mentor more than one student, Gilmer says. As the program is gaining momentum, Gilmer is thinking of other creative ways her team can continue to get involved with students.

“I want us to start going into the residence halls and having coffee chats. Or, maybe we should invite about five students to go to lunch at Subway or in the cafeteria,” she says. “If we get out and show students that we are concerned and begin to teach them some of the things that we value that are good, then hopefully we can help shape our youth.”
TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) DISCOUNT ON THE COST OF TUITION FOR
PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES AND FRANKFORT/FRANKLIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Your employer may offer additional financial assistance with the remaining tuition balance through a separate educational assistance program.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

What you must do:
1. If you have not attended KSU before, you must:
   a. Complete the KSU application process for admission. KSU’s Application for Admission is online at www.kysu.edu, click on “Apply Now.”
   b. Be accepted into the University which will generate a campus wide Student Identification Number required for your registration at KSU.
   c. Proceed to Step 3.
2. If you are a current or former student of KSU and in good standing at the University, then you may proceed to Step 3.
3. Contact your Human Resources (HR) Department to request entry into this program.

This process will require submission of a request form to your employer. On this form, provide your basic personal and employment information, your student ID number, and semester/registration deadline dates.

NOTE: Your HR Department’s transmittal of your name and student ID number to KSU is the University’s verification of your eligibility for this program/discount.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All discounts and financial assistance from your agency are posted after federal financial aid (i.e. Pell Grants) has been applied.
2. No cash refunds will be generated to students as a result of this program unless the refund comes from an external non-federal grant or scholarship.
3. The University has payment plan options for those students who wish to pay the balance of the cost of attendance over the semester. Please contact the Bursar’s Office at (502) 397-6373 for more information.
4. You must be and remain in good academic standing at the University in order to participate in this program.
5. All students must have registered for class and paid (or completed a University payment plan agreement) the associated cost of attending KSU by the close of registration. Registration dates are listed at www.kysu.edu.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Kentucky State University website: www.kysu.edu
Tuition and Fees Information: http://www.kysu.edu/tuition-and-fees/
Frequently Asked Questions: http://www.kysu.edu/admissions-faq/
Bursar’s Office Email Address: Bursarmail@kysu.edu
Financial Aid Department Email Address: finaidmail@kysu.edu

www.kysu.edu
Kentucky State University was awarded an 1890 Capacity Building Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to incorporate research, education, and extension in new aquaponics research. The three-year grant of more than $598,000 is titled, “The Practical Use of High Tunnels for Fish and Plant Production, Maximizing Energy and Nutrient Utilization Efficiencies,” and will explore fish and plant production in high tunnels.

The research portion of the project will involve building 16 aquaculture tanks inside the Kentucky State University High Tunnel Complex. Each of the four high tunnels on campus will have four tanks built inside. The wood-framed, rubber-lined tanks present a low cost means of producing fish in a greenhouse setting. The systems will be reliant on algae in the water to help cycle nitrogen and provide some nutrition for fish. Half of the tanks will have LED lights above them to promote algae function at night and when it is cloudy. The energy consumed by these lights will be offset by an array of solar panels which will be used to sell electricity back to the grid.

In the project’s first year, tilapia will be grown in the aquaponics tanks. Australian red claw crayfish will be grown during the second year, and both species will be grown together during year three. Both of these species are tropical, meaning they require temperatures above 75 degrees Fahrenheit to grow. In Kentucky, high tunnels are a popular strategy for extending the growing season for plants. This project aims to evaluate their usefulness in extending the production cycle for aquatic animals, thereby growing large animals in one production season.

“Algae from the fish tanks will be removed and used to fertilize plants in the high tunnels and will be evaluated as a fish feed ingredient,” says Dr. Andrew Ray, assistant professor in Kentucky State University’s Division of Aquaculture, and lead investigator on this research grant. “These two strategies will be used to help recycle valuable nutrients, which originate from the fish feeds.”

Interest in aquaponics has grown considerably in recent years. Aquaponics combines recirculating aquaculture systems with hydroponics, essentially using fish waste as liquid fertilizer for the plants. In its most basic form, aquaponics systems include an area for fish production, a space for solids/waste removal, and a hydroponic production unit.

Aquaponics is gaining ground when compared to other food production systems. Not only are there two cash crops (fish and vegetables), but aquaponics systems use significantly less water than traditional agriculture, and the plants reach marketable size at faster rates.

The education component of the project includes building two educational high tunnels, one at a pre-K through sixth-grade school in Woodford County, and the second at a middle school in Fayette County that shares resources with a high school. These educational high tunnels will be used to grow fish and plants, to develop hands-on educational lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) principles, and train pre-K through 12th-grade educators.

The extension portion of the project will involve the creation of nine how-to videos that will include descriptions of high tunnels, building fish tanks, fish husbandry techniques and solar technologies in agriculture.
After 27 years at KSU, Dr. John Sedlacek Continues To Shine

Dr. John Sedlacek is definitely a unique gem. Unlike many of the new faces on campus, Sedlacek has served in the College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems for more than 27 years.

Sedlacek has a bachelor’s of science in biology from Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, and a master’s in Environmental Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. University of Kentucky’s doctoral program lured the Midwest native to the South, and he has spent his entire career at Kentucky State University.

As a professor, Sedlacek’s graduate-level courses include Introduction to Agriculture Food and Environment, Environmental Entomology and Introduction to Environmental Studies. Most recently, he and his department participated in the Kentucky Academy of Science meet in Northern Kentucky. Sedlacek’s courses, which are ongoing projects for student teams, are helping to prepare the budding researchers to compete next year.

These ongoing projects also will make a lasting impact on the students and the University’s environment.

“I assign a project of environmental concern to these students – to the different teams,” he said. “And this year, one of the projects is going to be working with some environmental concerns in the high tunnels on campus – such as the use of water and light. Also, things that are important to plants like extending the growing season.”

Another one of the projects that his student teams will be focusing on is studying the University’s carbon footprint, including students, faculty, administration and commuters.

His teams also will be working at the large animal composting facility in Franklin County that will get up and running the next month or so. “They will be doing some environmental measurements out there such as CO2 production and water quality assessment,” he said.

Sedlacek’s ultimate goal is to feature these projects in the Kentucky Academy of Science next year. It is important to give both undergraduate and graduate students as much experiential learning as possible, he said. The students learn in the classroom and obtain work experience on or off campus at either the research farm or in the University’s facility’s laboratories. All of this preparation will help them stand out at future KAS events, he said.

“We want to get them out in front audiences, peers and other faculty members because they are going to be competing for jobs,” Sedlacek said. “They are also going to be competing to get into graduate schools, so what better venue can do that than a scientific meeting?”

Not only was Sedlacek in attendance at the Northern Kentucky event, but so was President Raymond Burse. Burse spent several hours observing and engaging with students at the meet, he said.

“President Burse was in the agriculture science section all Saturday morning from 8 to almost noon, supporting not only our students from KSU but all of the students who were presenting in that session,” he said. “Murray, Asbury, Western (universities) … I think that is a really big deal that they see that kind of commitment from our top leadership. He’s really engaged, and that’s important.”

Not only did Sedlacek appreciate the president’s presence at the science meet, but the other institutions took notice as well.

“I heard, “Well, our president is at a football game right now, and yours is here,” he said. “I know that the president goes to other sporting events, but he chose to be with us, and I really appreciated that.”

In his tenure at KSU, Sedlacek continues to be inspired by his students.

“It is the students that I come into contact with – and when you actually see that light bulb go on – that really excites me.”
More than 150 paddlefish are on display at the Newport Aquarium in Newport, Ky., as part of an exhibit sponsored by Kentucky State University and Big Fish Farms. The exhibit, which began collaboration in fall 2014 and was completed in fall 2015, features research findings, education and extension information on the North American Paddlefish from KSU faculty, researchers, and students.

The fish were donated to the aquarium by Big Fish Farms, a paddlefish farm in Bethel, Ohio, which Kentucky State University’s Division of Aquaculture works with on research and sustainable farming.

Paddlefish, spoonfish, spoonbill cat, and Polyodon spathula are among several names given to this unique prehistoric fish. The paddlefish is the largest - over 200 pounds and 6 feet long - freshwater fish in the United States and is found in 26 states including Kentucky that have large streams, rivers, and impoundments within the Mississippi River basin and adjacent Gulf Coastal drainages.

Paddlefish are highly valued for its black eggs – or roe – which are processed into caviar, as well as its boneless, firm, white meat. Commercial paddlefish farming is necessary to meet the market demand for its caviar and meat and alleviate harvest pressure from the wild paddlefish fishery.

Paddlefish have many outstanding characteristics for aquaculture development as a food fish in Kentucky and other states of the United States. Paddlefish filter feed on zooplankton throughout life, are live longer than 20 years, and grow rapidly (up to 10 pounds per year) reaching sizes up to 200 pounds.

Kentucky State University’s paddlefish exhibit features signs and video to educate visitors about the history, habitat, diet, anatomy, reproduction, and economic impact of the fish as well as the KSU Division of Aquaculture’s research and development in aquaculture production. The display also features a life-size sculpture of a paddlefish.

Located in the aquarium’s Bizarre and Beautiful gallery, the KSU paddlefish exhibit is included in the price of a regular admission tour. To learn more, visit www.newportaquarium.com or www.ksuaquaculture.org.

Kentucky State University  Hosts Paddlefish at Newport Aquarium

Guests can take a photo with the life-size sculpture of a paddlefish.
Serena King-Coleman is more than the coach of the Thorobrettes women's basketball team. King-Coleman is a mother and a leader to approximately 15 young women.

The coach strongly believes that if her young ladies are able to accomplish these goals that it will set the foundation for them so that they will be much more prepared to handle whatever the real world throws at them.

“I want them to believe that they can achieve anything that they want through hard work. For my girls it all starts with basketball and the foundation that we give them here at KSU can prepare them for life,” King-Coleman said.

She led the team to a successful 2014-2015 season with 22-6 record. The team earned an At-Large bid and was selected as the South Region’s No. 7 seed where they faced No. 2 seed Nova Southeastern University in Jackson, Tenn. Their appearance marked just the third time in the school’s history that the women’s team had competed in the NCAA tournament. The Thorobrettes fell 66-56 to Nova Southeastern, but ended their run with the best overall record since the 1996-1997 season.

Expectations are high for the Thorobrettes in 2015-2016. They are a preseason No. 1 favorite in the conference. “As far as women’s basketball, I think we have some of the best fans in the country,” she said. “They come out and support us. In comparison to other HBCUs, I truly believe that if we get a recruit on campus that we can make them a Thorobrette. We have great facilities here and that means a lot.”

The Thorobrettes began the season with wins over Fisk and Kentucky Wesleyan in the C.Y. Russell Classic, vaulting them to No. 25 in the national poll, released in late November. The national ranking was the first of any kind for the program, which came into the 2015-16 season with high expectations after an NCAA Tournament appearance a year ago.

“It is a great opportunity, we will have to be ready to play every night because we know our opponents will be,” she said. “It might not be pretty every night, but when you watch us play we will give our all every night.”
Just like the sport he loves, Williams has had some ups and downs in life. At 6 feet, 4 inches and 225 pounds with a big infectious smile and a glimmer of determination in his eyes, Williams described how he was able to overcome a major setback that happened early in his life.

“When I was 3 years old, I had cancer in my mouth and they thought I wasn’t going to make it,” he recalled. However, Williams bounced back because he has always considered himself to be a fighter. He uses his experience to try to motivate his student athletes.

Williams is a product of Brooklyn, N.Y. He played basketball in high school at Nazareth High School, one of the top Catholic school leagues in the country. He scored more than 2,000 points and 1,572 points when he played as a shooting guard and small forward at Xavier University (1995 - 2000) in Cincinnati, Ohio, for Coach Skip Prosser. A mark that still ranks 15th at Xavier, he holds the school record for points in a game by a freshman, which came in a 35-point outburst against Duquesne University on Feb. 24, 1996. And he led the team in scoring during his junior season (1997-98) with 17.3 points per game.

He graduated with a bachelor’s in communication arts in 2000. After graduation, he played basketball in Venezuela for seven years followed by some time in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA). He also tried out for the Sacramento Kings. Whenever he was not playing ball overseas, he was back in the states coaching Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams.

Williams is not the typical athlete -- he didn't pick up the game until he was 13 or 14. He had to work twice as hard to keep up with the kids who picked up a ball at age 2 and had been dribbling ever since. As a result, the coach is no stranger to hard work and his work ethic is what has been his ticket to opportunities.

“When I was 16, my high school coach gave me a team of 12-year-olds and I loved what I was doing,” Williams said. “I got into it seriously in 2003, when I would come back home from overseas and work with the high schools in Cincinnati.”

Williams has served as an assistant coach for the Thorobreds since the 2012-13 season, guiding the team to winning seasons in two of his three years on staff.

Williams is in his third year at KSU. He joined the KSU coaching staff after former head basketball coach Antwan Banks was impressed with Williams’ work ethic while coaching AAU in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In November, the Thorobreds and Williams received national attention as they played against University of Kentucky’s Wildcats at the Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.

“How many first-year head coaches get the opportunity to go up against a legendary program and coach?” Williams said. “We are very fortunate.”

Although the Breds lost against the Cats 111 to 58, Williams urged his ‘guys to compete for 40 minutes.’

“A lot of the people will just look at the score and go ‘Whoa,’” he said. “That team is going to beat Division 1 schools with 13 full scholarships by the same margin. Calapari told me that my guys played fearlessly and that’s all I can ask for.”
Kentucky State was victorious at the Circle City Classic against Central State for a second consecutive year, to pull out a 21-17 win on Sept. 26 at Lucas Oil Stadium.
KSU Students Score Interviews At Professional Baseball’s Winter Meetings In Nashville

Ten Kentucky State University students loaded two vans with three days of luggage and high hopes of landing an internship at professional baseball’s Winter Meetings. The Winter Meetings were held December 6-10 in Nashville and featured seminars, a trade show, and most important to the students, a job fair.

“There were numerous opportunities to get a career, either part-time, full-time or an internship as an associate or member of minor league or major league baseball. It was definitely eye-opening for me,” Arefes Everette, a senior and member of the KSU baseball team said. Everette found out about the job fair from head baseball coach Rob Henry who accompanied the students on the trip.

The atmosphere was fast-paced and competitive, giving students a firsthand glimpse of today’s job market. Prospective interns huddled around blackboards plastered with job postings jotting down job ID numbers of positions in which they were interested. The next step was to write the job number at the top of their resume and drop it into the towering stacks with other hopefuls. Several times throughout the day, job fair officials would post the names of job seekers selected for interviews for each position and students again would rush to the boards, this time hoping to see their names.

Many of the students landed multiple interviews over the course of the job fair and several walked away with the strong possibility of pending offers. Indianapolis senior Bria Perry landed several interviews during the week, in addition to two she secured prior to arriving at the Winter Meetings.

“As soon as we gained access to the website, I started looking at positions,” Perry said. “I started reaching out and emailing my resume. I told the team contacts that whether or not they’d be here, I would be here in Nashville for the Winter Meetings. There were two that wanted to set up a time to meet while we were here.”

Henry encouraged students to explore other areas at the convention, which led to many other students networking outside of the job fair setting.

“I think it’s been a great experience this week because it gives our students a chance to experience what a job fair is like and to see what the competition is like out there,” Henry said. “And of course with me being a baseball coach, it’s a little bit more near and dear to my heart. It’s always been a great vehicle to give our students an opportunity to see what the competition is like and see what they’re up against in any area — whether it’s professional sports or anything else it might be.”

Competition was stiff with hundreds of participants vying for coveted positions. Positions ranged from unpaid internships to full-time positions in areas including grounds keeping, accounting and community relations.

The students’ majors ranged from education to mass communications and just four of those in attendance were members of the baseball team.

“I had a chance to have two group interviews. One was with Game Day USA located in Naperville, Illinois, and the other was with Cooperstown Dream Park in New York,” Everette said. “I would definitely encourage others going to an event like this to be well-prepared. Have things under their belt and on their resume showing that they’ve done internships and have been involved with activities around campus and in the community.”

The students’ trip was sponsored by the Lexington Legends baseball team who teamed up with the University to help expose students to the other side of professional sports.

“The Legends are pleased to partner with KSU on this opportunity,” Legends President and CEO Andy Shea said. “This will provide a chance for some very talented and energetic students to meet with decision-makers and very possibly get started on an exciting and rewarding career in baseball.” It was also an opportunity to help diversify the sport.

 KSU Students Score Interviews At Professional Baseball’s Winter Meetings In Nashville

Kiron McKenzie of Louisville searches for his name on the interview callback sheet at the Winter Meetings in Nashville.

Bria Perry and Josh Dunn submit their resumes for internships at the Winter Meetings in Nashville.

As soon as we gained access to the website, I started looking at positions,” Perry said. “I started reaching out and emailing my resume. I told the team contacts that whether or not they’d be here, I would be here in Nashville for the Winter Meetings. There were two that wanted to set up a time to meet while we were here.”

Henry encouraged students to explore other areas at the convention, which led to many other students networking outside of the job fair setting.

“I think it’s been a great experience this week because it gives our students a chance to experience what a job fair is like and to see what the competition is like out there,” Henry said. “And of course with me being a baseball coach, it’s a little bit more near and dear to my heart. It’s always been a great vehicle to give our students an opportunity to see what the competition is like and see what they’re up against in any area — whether it’s professional sports or anything else it might be.”

“The Legends are pleased to partner with KSU on this opportunity,” Legends President and CEO Andy Shea said. “This will provide a chance for some very talented and energetic students to meet with decision-makers and very possibly get started on an exciting and rewarding career in baseball.” It was also an opportunity to help diversify the sport.
Give It Your Best:

President Raymond M. Burse reflects on KSU’s transformation, family, selfies — and his Mickey Mouse watch
“Days like these are the kind that college presidents live for,” Kentucky State University President Raymond M. Burse said after he finished speaking to a group of students who were being honored for their work at a recent Kentucky Academy of Science annual convention. Burse began his day welcoming high school students from Louisville’s Fern Creek High School to campus as they visited the University’s Computer Science Program. That meeting was followed by a reception celebrating students who had earned at least 4 A’s and were on track to receive a 4.0 GPA. And before that he had just met with the football team to discuss the hiring of a new head football coach.

Burse, who returned to the University in 2014 with the goal of transforming the institution once more, holds the distinction of serving as the University’s 9th and 14th president.

We got a chance to sit down for a conversation with President Burse to find that on the other side of the frankness and bold practices is a man who tweets, wears a Mickey Mouse watch—a gift from his sons, and is becoming pretty proficient with a selfie stick. He also makes savory chili — no recipe — and is enjoying his new role as “Grandpap” to his first grandchild.

O&U: Why are you here at Kentucky State University?

Burse: (Laughs) When I should be on the golf course?

O&U: Exactly!

Burse: When I initially came, and talked to the Board of Regents, my conclusion was that things they wanted to complete, I could complete in 12 months. I believed that. About three or four months in, it became clear there were more challenges, more broken processes than could be completed in that period. Most things I start in life, I finish. That’s my nature. I was wrestling with the tough issues and tough problems and I concluded at that point — October of last year — that I couldn’t leave things undone. So at this point, it’s really — I don’t want to say that it’s a labor of love, but it’s seeing whether we can rebuild KSU to be a top-ranked, top-fleet academic institution. And that’s the challenge. That’s why I’m here.

Some days I think the challenge is overwhelming and I think, ‘You should just get your bag, Raymond — you didn’t bring many — and go back to Prospect and enjoy your golf game again.’ And then when I look out, and I walk on campus and I see students, I say, that’s not an option. That’s not an alternative. This institution is too important to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, too important to the African-American community in Kentucky for us not to give it the effort to make it the best it can be.

O&U: What will the successful transformation of Kentucky State look like? What will need to happen…

“…it’s seeing whether we can rebuild KSU to be a top-ranked, top-fleet academic institution. And that’s the challenge. That’s why I’m here.”

Burse: One, we’ll need to be able to account for all of our money. It’s one where customer service becomes recognized and is the norm. Where we deliver that daily. Not this office or some other office delivering, but every office delivers that daily. Success is students excelling. Moving the graduation rate significantly from 22 percent. I jokingly say to folks, my alma mater, [Centre College] is about 92-93 percent. I’d like to get there. Everybody says ‘Oh that’s not possible. Be realistic.’ But we’ve got to get the six-year graduation rate of this institution above 50 percent. I would say getting above that level, that’s a victory. Retention rate from fall ’14 to fall ’15: 60.2 percent. Great improvement, but it ought to be in the 80’s. Little indicators like that, and KSU being known in the marketplace across this country for 1, 2, 3 or
more academic programs, such that when people think of teacher education for example, they say, ‘Oh, you need to go to Kentucky State. They can produce culturally competent teachers.’ Those are the indicators for me of success, and that we have moved, and that the transformation is—never complete—but a long ways down the road.

O&U: You mentioned what brought you back here, why you’re in it and why you’ve stayed. And we know the task is not an easy one. Tell us, what is your personal motto, or mantra, or words of wisdom that you hold on to when things get crazy?

Burse: There are several things that I look to. My dad was probably the hardest-working man that I have ever known in my life. He worked for the Corps of Engineers. He was a plumber for the Corps. He only finished the 3rd grade. But whatever he touched, it was to completion and always his best. He used to make us, my siblings, do things over and over again, and I’d say, ‘oh I hate this.’ And he’d just look at me. What he was teaching me, and teaching my brothers and I was that if you’re ever going to engage in something, give it your best. If you’re not going to do that, just leave. Don’t just be there. So it’s remembering that on a daily basis that keeps me going.

And everybody knows that I wear a Mickey Mouse watch.

O&U: (Laughs) We have to hear the story about the Mickey Mouse watch!

Burse: This was gift from my three sons, and so I wear it all the time. And so when I look at it, it’s a reminder of them. That’s the reason I wear it. They gave it to me years ago and I have worn it everywhere I go. When things get a little bad, then I look at the watch, it reminds me of them. They’re doing well, they’re excelling. So looking at it brings a little smile to my face. That’s why I wear it. I’ve worn it now for more than 20 years.

O&U: Give me an example of how each of your sons would describe their dad.

Burse: (Laughs) Each one… I don’t think that they would describe me differently. I think that at this age at which they are now, they say the same thing. I think they’d describe me as a disciplinarian, he always expects the best from us, and he’s always supportive of whatever we want to do. And he’s always there for us. I think all three of them would say that. Each would say it a little bit differently.

Kim and I invested a lot of time and a lot of attention in them. They have been our priorities, up until maybe the last four-five years. So when they needed us or anything, we sacrificed. When we needed to be there, we were there. When my oldest son played soccer at Ohio State, his senior year at Ohio State, I saw every soccer match he played. Every single one. I made that commitment to him. And it required some juggling of my GE schedule, my travel schedule and work. There was one match they were playing — Bowling Green State University, and I was having plane problems getting out of New York, so I told Ray J that I would not be at his game. After the game, when I see him, he says, ‘I come out for warmups and I look up and you’re there. And I’m trying to figure out how you got there.’ I told him that was a commitment that I’d made. That’s the way they’d describe me. They’d also say I work too much. I need to relax more.

O&U: So on that note of relaxing more, what do you consider your self-care? What are your hobbies? How do you take care of yourself?

Burse: Well, let me tell you something — for the last 15 months, I haven’t had much time to myself. When I’m in Louisville on weekends, when I can go home on Fridays and Saturdays, Kim and I walk the Big Four Bridge. I do a lot of reading. Unfortunately now, most of my reading is about and related to Kentucky State, I used to read lots of other things. I like outdoors. When I have the time, when I go home to Prospect, I do my own yard. People will come by and say, ‘oh a big-time GE lawyer’s mowing his own yard.’ But I like to do that. That’s what I like to do.
And then there are times when I’ll completely shut down and do nothing. Nothing. Just try not to think about anything or do anything. During fall break, I disappeared from here for about four days. I was at home in Prospect, and every morning, Kim would say, ‘Are you going to work today?’ and I’d say no. I just needed to refresh and get away.

O&U: Yes. That is very necessary. Reading, what is the last thing you read?

“... ‘Nobody would believe the president of Kentucky State University is mowing his own yard.’ But I like to do that. That’s what I like to do.”

Burse: There’s an article in The Standard—it’s still work related. It’s on this desk somewhere. It’s called “Whatever Happened to High Culture,” which is talking about the absence or non-valuing of liberal arts and liberal studies education and what it means. My physician is one of my buddies, and he periodically sends things to me. That’s one of the things I do, reading something outside of Kentucky State, dealing with the broader society and things that are going on.

If I’m not reading that, I’m reading a magazine. I take the Harvard Business Review. There’s always some interesting articles in there. I serve on the Board of Governors for the Center for Creative Leadership, and they publish a great number of leadership pamphlets on managing and motivating people, so I read as many of those as I can.

O&U: The holiday season is coming up. What is your contribution to family dinner?

Burse: (Laughs) My presence. You know I don’t normally cook or prepare anything for Thanksgiving. Now for Christmas, we will have country ham, and I prepare the country ham. And I make a pretty good chess pie. I’ve done that for years. So that’s something that we always do.

One of our family traditions that we always do together, on Christmas Eve—everybody’s always there, we have chili, and then in the evening, we always go to Mass. That’s a family tradition.

O&U: So about this chili… can we get a recipe?

Burse: There’s no recipe. I’m from the school where you put a little bit of this, and a little bit of that and see how it all turns out.

And Christmas this year will be very different for us. We’re expecting our first grandkid (born December 1) in the next couple of weeks, so all of the family is headed to Portland, Oregon, to spend Christmas with my oldest son and his wife and our first grandchild. It’ll be fun. I just need to hurry up and get to Christmas.

O&U: So you know how the President of the United States releases his music playlist? Well, we want to know what the president of Kentucky State is listening to.

Burse: You know my playlist has dwindled greatly since I’ve come to Frankfort. I’m a big listener of Tom Joyner in the morning. Steve Harvey doesn’t do anything for me. But in Frankfort, the station doesn’t carry Tom Joyner.

Today’s music isn’t my music. I came up in the days of the Temptations and the O’Jays, Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight and all of those groups. In my opinion that’s when music was music. Kim listens to everything. Maxwell is one of her favorite artists. So as a consequence we listen to a lot of Maxwell. She actually drug me to a Maxwell concert.

O&U: So let’s switch gears a little bit. You have been more active on Twitter lately! We saw you’d recently posted a few selfies of you out and about.

Burse: I decided I needed to get back into doing that. One of the problems was, until last weekend, I left my selfie-stick in my hotel room. So if I had my selfie stick, I would be in more pictures.

O&U: Selfie stick! (Laughs)

Burse: Yeah. So my youngest son, he’s into all of this. He gave me one saying, ‘You need to use this, do this.’

President Burse, left, greets a KSU grad at the Homecoming brunch.
He’s the one that originally set up the Twitter account and taught me how to use it. It’s not bad. It’s a good source of sharing information, letting people know you’re out and about and what you’re doing.

O&U: We wanted to show you something. (Pulls out KSU Yearbook from 1983 with an earmarked story and photo about his first year at the University.)

Burse: (laughs)

O&U: Now what would this Raymond Burse say to that Raymond Burse?

Burse: He’d probably say, why’d you come back here?

(Laughs) I guess he’d say, if you look at this list of things that you worked on, how many of those did you find in place when you returned? What year was this?

O&U: ’83.

Burse: ’83. So it was the end of my first year.

O&U: You’ve got to read the story that goes along with.

Burse: (Reads from yearbook story) “There are few opportunities in anybody’s life to make a contribution like the opportunity I’ve been given at KSU—building an institution, changing its direction, doing something I really believe in. There’s an opportunity for this University to be anything it wants to be.”

Sounds the same, huh? Not much has changed.
You may not know KSU alum Donald C. Hylton by name but chances are you know his work. Those plastic tubs you use for storage? The portable toilets at outdoor events? The microwaveable container that holds your soup? Hylton’s research had a hand in making those possible.

Hylton is a research scientist and consultant in the plastic industry on a process called thermoforming. Many well-known companies have turned to Hylton for his expertise when they want to improve product packaging or develop a plastic product with unique characteristics.

“My particular expertise is the materials that are used in the process, understanding how they behave, why they behave the way they do, and helping companies with solutions when they run into problems with materials not behaving the way they think they should,” Hylton said. “My field is rheology, the study of the way in which materials behave when external or internal forces are applied to them. Anytime you process or use plastics there are some type of forces applied to them.”

For his contribution to his field, Hylton was recently awarded the 1890 Universities Career Exemplar Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. He was one of 17 honorees nominated by the 19 universities with 1890 Land Grant distinction.

“It was really unexpected—truly humbling, and left me a little bit speechless,” Hylton said. “It’s such an honor to be honored among the HBCU’s. It’s a validation of all my efforts as a scientist and mentor.”

Hylton, who earned his degree from Kentucky State University in 3 1/2 years, is currently a research scientist at Clark Atlanta University in the Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology. He is also an associate with the McConnell Company Consulting Firm.

“It’s such an honor to be honored among the HBCU’s. It’s a validation of all my efforts as a scientist and mentor.”

Hylton pursued a double major in chemistry and biology and says that Kentucky State University was instrumental in preparing him for the path his career would take. It was
Celebrating 25 years of the PAS Fund’s inception, we are requesting your financial support during our celebration year and each year thereafter.

The PAS Fund is an endowment, which means the principal amount remains in the fund and scholarships are given from the earnings of the fund. With the generous support of alumni and matching funds from the state, the fund balance is $421,000 as of June 30, 2014.

The Permanent Alumni Scholarship (PAS) Fund is the official scholarship fund of the Kentucky State University National Alumni Association. The PAS Fund was started by the Class of 1965 during its 25th Class In Reunion celebration in 1990.

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- Founder - $1,000 or more in a year
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here that he developed his educational foundation, critical thinking skills, and leadership qualities.

“In chemistry and biology, since we didn’t have all the instruments [some other schools had], we had to have the knowledge,” he explained. “We couldn’t always run the experiment itself, so we had to understand the process. We had to learn it. Those who had more equipment couldn’t learn that. They could go and turn a button. We didn’t have those buttons to turn. So I learned that the approach to solving a problem, how you solve a problem, and that solving the problem is better than simply working the problem. There is a difference.”

That skill in addition to the work and encouragement of faculty members helped him hone his craft.

Hylton graduated from the University in 1964. He was very active during his time on the Hill serving as Vice President of his freshman and sophomore classes and president of the biology club. He and was initiated into the Beta Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was captain of the football team for two years.

Hylton began his career as a production supervisor at Seagram’s Distillery, where he spent four years. From there, he went on to become an analytical chemist at DuPont. He later worked at GE where he was hired as an engineer in the Refrigerator Department. He was a charter member GE’s new two-year Engineering Development Program. He credits his mentor Dr. Costel Denson — an African-American PhD Chemical Engineer—with helping him land a permanent position in plastics after completing the program.

“He hired me even though I wasn’t academically qualified. What I said to him was, ‘Can you give a brother a break?’” Hylton laughed. “And he told me he couldn’t turn me down when I said that to him. He hired me and worked with me daily to teach me engineering principles, and how to approach and solve problems from an engineering perspective. He worked to developed me into a chemical engineer with a concentration in rheology.”

Hylton got involved in thermoforming where he built an instrument that was the first of its kind that simulated a process that had never been done before. The Inflation Rheometer was something he and Denson developed together.

The duo’s creation was touted in Chemical Week magazine in 1980 as one of the biggest developments in the industry at that time. “The base from which my career was built on was that. Everything else I’ve done since then was built on the work we did with the rheometer. It gave me a niche.”

Hylton’s career also took him to Exxon Chemical in the polymers division where he helped develop new materials for new applications in thermoforming.

“There I was involved in the technology that led to our major breakthrough in the liner for baby diapers,” Hylton explained. The squeezable Heinz ketchup bottle? Hylton was responsible for the technology that gave us that as well. Some other items that you see daily that Hylton’s work and research played a part in include early renditions of Ensure plastic cans, blister packs that house pills, spas and hot tubs. Hylton was also involved in some of the work to replace metals with plastics in automobiles, refrigerators, dishwashers, air conditioners, fighter planes and the space shuttle.

Hylton is an Emeritus member of the Society of Plastics Engineers and the Society’s Thermoforming Division’s Board of Directors. He is a Fellow of the Society, and received the Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Thermoforming in 2014.

African-Americans are not common enough in the industry which is why Hylton places an emphasis on mentoring and recommends that students explore the sciences.

“We are grossly underrepresented, especially in the plastics field and plastic engineering field,” Hylton said. “We need to turn out more engineers. The engineering field is missing the unique way African Americans have of approaching and solving problems-- that improvisational strength we have.”
There’s no place like a KSU Homecoming!

Although the Thorobreds lost to Fort Valley State University 10 to 35, the campus community won points for their school spirit.
The Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky State University National Alumni Association held its annual Robert and Lucy Phillips Holiday Brunch on Dec. 5 at Wildwood Country Club. The event originated in the 1930’s by the Phillips family.

“They started it in their own home, and it has gotten bigger over the years,” Jacquie Jewell, the program chairperson for this year’s event explained. “Robert and Lucy Phillips loved to entertain. They had no children, so they loved to invite people into their home. So this brunch is a continuation of what they started.”

Once the brunch outgrew the Phillips’ home, it was moved to various hotels conference rooms and this year was held at the country club. It drew a crowd of 150 people.

In addition to brunch, the event featured several vendors—many of whom were KSU alumni—a DJ, as well as a musical selection.

“We need to give back to Kentucky State. If we’re not giving back as alumni our school may no longer exist. It’s also important that current students still see us. We have to be their role models and keep [the Thorobred Spirit] going.”

The Louisville Chapter meets the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Home of the Innocents.

Their next fundraising event will be a Pre-Derby soiree on May 5 at the Lebanese Club.

The annual event brings together scholarship donors and recipients.

“The purpose is for us to give out scholarships for children in the Louisville Area. We awarded four scholarships this year: two went to high school students and two went to college students,” Jewell said. The chapter also aims gain more members through the event and to keep one another connected.

This year’s awardees were Brianna Dorsey, Ben Childs, William Pope and Cedric Hamilton who received the Arthur M. Walters Award. “The purpose is to better children’s lives. Our children truly are our future,” Jewell said. “We hope to give back to the institution that served an essential purpose in our own lives.”
The History Of KSU

In celebration of the 130th anniversary, we take a look back at our storied institution.

From its modest beginnings as a small normal school for the training of black teachers for the black schools of Kentucky, Kentucky State University has grown and evolved into a land-grant and liberal arts institution that prepares a diverse student population to compete in a multifaceted, ever-changing global society.

The university was chartered in May 1886 as the State Normal School for Colored Persons, only the second state-supported institution of higher learning in Kentucky. During the euphoria of Frankfort’s 1886 centennial celebration, when vivid recollections of the Civil War remained, the city’s 4,000 residents were keenly interested in having the new institution located in Frankfort. Toward that end, the city donated $1,500, a considerable amount in 1886 dollars, and a site on a scenic bluff overlooking the town. This united display of community enthusiasm and commitment won the day. The new college was located in Frankfort in spite of competition from several other cities.

Recitation Hall (now Jackson Hall), the college’s first building, was erected in 1887. The new school opened on October 11, 1887, with three teachers, 55 students, and John H. Jackson as president. KSU became a land-grant college in 1890, and the departments of home economics, agriculture and mechanics were added to the school’s curriculum. The school produced its first graduating class of five students in the spring of that year. A high school was organized in 1893. This expansion continued into the 20th century in both name and program.

In 1902, the name was changed to Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Persons. The name was changed again in 1926 to Kentucky State Industrial College for Colored Persons. In the early 1930’s, the high school was discontinued, and in 1938 the school was named the Kentucky State College for Negroes.

The term “for Negroes” was dropped in 1952. Kentucky State College became a university in 1972, and in 1973 the first graduate students enrolled in its School of Public Affairs.

Over the past 30 years, more than 43 new structures or major building expansions have enhanced Kentucky State University’s 882-acre campus, which includes a 204-acre agricultural research farm and a 306-acre environmental education center.

Kentucky State University is a public institution that is striving in all things excellence.
Fun Facts about KSU

In celebration of the KSU’s 130th anniversary, here are a few fun facts about the University.

Did you know?

• Besides our current name, KSU has had six other names.
• Out of the 13 KSU Presidents, four have served two terms including the current President Raymond M. Burse. Burse first served as president of the University in 1982.
• The colors of GREEN and GOLD were established by Paul W.L. Jones, 1898 graduate, in 1910.
• The use of “Thoroughbreds” or “Thorbreds” as a mascot name was used as early as 1929. There is no evidence for who first used this as a name for the athletic teams, but given Paul W. L. Jones’ interest in horses, it is highly likely that he first used the term as a mascot name.

Plenty of famous musical acts have taken center stage at Kentucky State University such as:

• Duke Ellington and Kool and the Gang were here in 1971.
• Earth, Wind & Fire performed here in 1973. The Stylistics and the Funkadelics were also here.
• Soul singer Natalie Cole serenaded Thorobreds in 1977.
• R&B group Cameo performed at KSU in 1979.

It goes without saying that the University has always been socially conscious:

• Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the KSU Convocation speaker in 1957.
• Dick Gregory and Ralph Ellison visited the University in 1975.
• In observance of Black History Month, Illinois Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winning writer Gwendolyn Brooks visited the university in 1983.

KSU also hosted sports legends:

• Louisville son Muhammad Ali was a hit at KSU in 1979.

Greek Life

The first Greek organization on Kentucky State’s campus was Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., on February 25, 1933; the first fraternity was Alpha Phi Alpha on April 28, 1933. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., followed on April 30, 1934; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on November 9, 1934; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., on February 13, 1935; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on March 1, 1935; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., on April 20, 1935.
Life at

Onward & Upward | Winter 2015
Hello Thorobreds!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Todd Horstmeyer and effective Dec. 1st I have been appointed as the new Interim vice president for External Relations & Development. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be asked to serve in this capacity as a representative of Kentucky State University. I can assure you that I intend to contribute in all ways possible to help KSU reach its present goals and create a foundation to ensure its further success under the guidance of President Burse.

My previous two careers have been devoted to actively practicing law in Kentucky and most recently as the executive director of the Kentucky Bar Foundation where I served for the past 15 years. The Bar Foundation is viewed as the charitable arm of the legal profession in the Commonwealth. Whether working as a lawyer on a day-to-day basis, or as executive director of the Foundation, my work ethic is driven by a passion to help others and produce the most successful results possible. I intend to continue this same approach as I assume my new duties.

There are a number of goals that I am in the process of setting, two of which are to continue to improve the communication and enhance the relationship between KSU and its alums. The alums play a vital role with regard to the success of KSU, and I pledge to use my skills and talents to create programs and initiatives which will continue to improve alumni relations through the help of Wendell Thomas, Director of Alumni Relations. Also, KSU is blessed to have two extremely capable people in the Communications Division, Diane Hawkins and Dedra McDowell who do an outstanding job in covering the various activities of the students as well as preparing and editing this publication.

The alums are the life blood of the University and I encourage you to contact me or Wendell Thomas with your suggestions regarding areas that need to be improved, and also programs or projects that you would like to have considered for implementation. The University cannot reach its goals under its established timetable without your continued help and financial support. Please think of KSU when you are deciding where to make your charitable contributions during this holiday season.

President Burse has a vision for KSU which is fully supported by his administrative staff and faculty. The President has assembled a number of outstanding individuals to work in key positions. This team unequivocally is dedicated to providing their skills and talent to assist the President in achieving his goals for the University and to ensure its future success. Rest assured the University is in good hands as it begins its new calendar year and remains committed to “In All Things Excellence.” The Department of External Relations & Development will also continue to do all it can to assist its alums in their efforts of support.

Happy Holidays!

Todd Horstmeyer JD
Vice President for External Relations & Development
Kentucky State University features a **Chapter of the Quarter** and a **KSU Alumni Member of the Quarter** in each issue of **Onward & Upward**.

If you would like to suggest an Alumni Chapter of the Quarter, please recommend chapters that meet the following criteria:

1. Chapters showing growth
2. Unique projects
3. Fundraising activities
4. Galas/Events held
5. Mentoring programs (youth engagement)
6. Recruitment events
7. Students from your area who are attending KSU
8. Community engagement

If you would like to suggest an Alumni Member of the Quarter, please recommend individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. Financially supporting a chapter in their area
2. Active in a chapter in their area

**Alumni Update and KSU Around the Globe**

Send important moments in your life (job promotions, exotic travel, etc.) to us. We would also love to see photos of you in your KSU apparel while traveling for a snapshot segment called “KSU Around the Globe.”

**In Memoriam**

If you know about a KSU alum who has passed away within the quarter, send us the individual’s name, class year and obituary information.

Deadlines for submission for our next publication is February 15, 2016.

Email all information to: alumnirelations@kysu.edu.

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Many people believe they cannot make a difference in a campaign. However, the chart below is an illustration of just how easy it really is to give.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUALLY</th>
<th>SEMIANNUALLY</th>
<th>QUARTERLY</th>
<th>MONTHLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Giving Clubs**

Your contribution is vital to Kentucky State University. A minimum gift of $25 will qualify you for an annual giving club. Please give special consideration to becoming a member of one of the following giving clubs:

- **Thorobred Club**: $25 - $99
- **Alma Mater Club**: $250 - $499
- **President's Club**: $1,000 - $4,999
- **Century Club**: $100 - $249
- **University Club**: $500 - $999
- **Founder's Club**: $5,000 - $9,999
- **1886 Heritage Club**: $10,000 and over

For more information, call (502) 597-6760