Women’s Basketball Team Goes To NCAA Championship Tournament

In the NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament for just the third time in school history, the seventh-seeded Kentucky State University women’s basketball team fell short of an upset victory over two-seed Nova Southeastern University, 66-56, on March 13 at Union University’s Fred Delay Gymnasium.

KSU finished with its best overall record since the 1996-97 season when the Thoroughbettes finished 25-6 and won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) championship.

KSU Celebrates Black History Month With Living Legends

Kentucky State University celebrated living heroes, who continue to do their part to foster change in their respective fields and enrich their communities, with Black History Month convocations every Tuesday and Thursday throughout February.

Rufus Friday, publisher of the Lexington Herald-Leader, spoke on Feb. 12. He asked audience members to consider the living legends in their lives, including KSU President Raymond M. Burse.

All the featured speakers of the Living African-American Legends series — attorneys, corporate executives and other leaders of varied organizations — shared their success stories and offered advice to the students, faculty and staff. Alumni and others from Frankfort and nearby cities also attended the convocations in Bradford Hall’s Carl H. Smith Auditorium.

Friday praised KSU for an impressive list of speakers.

“If you really want to grow, you’ve got to push yourself beyond your comfort zone,” James said.

KSU Named To President’s Honor Roll For Community Service

Kentucky State University has been named to the 2014 President’s Honor Roll For Community Service for the sixth consecutive year. The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its community service work. It highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.
Summer Apprenticeship Program To Focus On STEM Areas

KSU is set to launch a new program that will prepare future college students for study in the STEM areas – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The 2015 Summer Apprenticeship Program will host 30 minority rising juniors interested in STEM careers. The three-week residential program, which launches June 7 – 27, 2015, will introduce the high school students to undergraduate-level STEM programs and help them gain experience in college-level research. The program is funded for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The apprenticeship program will also help Kentucky State University recruit students to its STEM programs and retain students once they are enrolled, according to Dr. Buddhi Gyawali, assistant professor of geographic information systems in the College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems.

Students will take courses, participate in research and visit STEM work places, says Gyawali, who coordinates the apprenticeship program and wrote the three successful grant proposals to fund the program. The summer program is funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Blazer Library Features New Technology

Blazer Library has added a new feature in an effort to enhance services offered to students, faculty and staff. The Collaboration Table “Dugout” is designed to foster collaborative and interactive learning. With a two-tiered table that fits 12 people, two screens and portals that support laptops, the Dugout assists users with sharing ideas on class projects, meetings, small group projects and research.

“It’s a table where students, faculty or staff can come together to co-create on a document or a project or work on a paper together and be able to project that paper on a huge screen from their laptops,” says library director Sheila Stuckey.

The new feature has received early kudos since it was installed in January. Reference librarian Raphael Jackson wrote in an email to Stuckey: “A study group with a professor came into the library hoping to use the upstairs conference room, however it was occupied. I showed them how to use the Dugout in Periodicals, and they were excited as ever. They praised the library left and right.”

In addition to online library databases, Blazer Library holds 346,399 volumes.

CAFSSS Receives Grant To Support Research In Pawpaw Fruit

The College of Agriculture, Food Science and Sustainable Systems’ Dr. Kirk Pomper, associate research director and professor; research and extension associate Sheri Crabtree; and research associate Jeremy Lowe were notified that their Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant proposal titled “Jump Starting New Pawpaw Variety Production for the Industry: Developing Grafting and Top Working Approaches for Growers” was funded for $203,395. The grant will support research in optimizing top working approaches on existing rootstock trees and enable rapid varietal production of high-quality and high-demand pawpaw fruit.

Thorobred News Wins SPJ Awards

The student newspaper Thorobred News brought home two Mark of Excellence awards from the Society of Professional Journalists regional conference held in Louisville in March. Senior Benjamin Schroeder was the winner in the Sports Writing category for small schools for his story “54 to boot,” a profile of 54-year-old KSU football player Quenton Karlberg. The editorial board was a finalist in the Editorial Writing category for the required three-article compilation. SPJ presents the annual Mark of Excellence awards to honor the best in student journalism in the categories of print, online, radio and television. Entries are judged on the regional level first, with the winners advancing on to the national judging. KSU competes in SPJ Region 5, which comprises schools in Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. Schroeder’s article automatically qualifies for the national competition.