



Kentucky State University

April 2010

KSU Earns Accolades For Community Service Efforts



Kentucky State University was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second year for its commitment to civic engagement and community

service. The Corporation for National and Community Service will present the award at its National Conference of Volunteering and Service in June in New York City.

"Kentucky State University's reputation as an engaged community partner and an institution committed to community service continues to grow," says **President Mary Evans Sias**. "While KSU is pleased to again be named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, we are not going to slow down. We want to increase our efforts and extend our reach even farther into the community."

This year, the organization was impressed with several of KSU's projects, including its many mentoring programs, the bone marrow donor registry program, the e-scraping and recycling program and the Spring Break trip to New Orleans, says **Irma Johnson**, KSU service learning coordinator. KSU also had a steady stream of community service efforts and civic engagements spearheaded by athletic

teams, Greek organizations and involved faculty and staff members, such as helping at nursing homes, working at community events and organizing activities for community youths.

Honda All-Star Team Finishes In Elite Eight

Kentucky State University finished in the Elite Eight of the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament on April 12 after falling to North Carolina Central University. The academic competition tests the knowledge of historically black college and university students on subjects ranging from academic material to pop culture and sports.

The team had defeated Tennessee State University, North Carolina A&T University, Southern University at New Orleans and two-time reigning champions Oakwood University in order to advance to the championship round. After overcoming technical difficulties and then leading by 100 points at the half, KSU lost by 45 points in the end.

This was the furthest KSU has gone in recent years, but the team of **Morgan Van Dunk**, captain **Kendra Joseph**, **James Lawson Whites** and **Leland Reynolds** expected to do well. At its pre-championship tournaments at Medgar Evers College and Morgan State University, Team Thorobred defeated all of the other teams, and Whites individually accumulated the most points.

Dr. Ivory Griskell is the team's adviser.



President Sias Attends Signing To Renew White House Initiative On HBCUs

Kentucky State University President Mary Evans Sias was among a select group of historically black college and university presidents and other guests who were invited to the White House on Feb. 26 to witness President Barack Obama sign the executive order to renew the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



The purpose of the initiative is to strengthen and expand the capacity of historically black colleges and universities in order to enhance their ability to

provide a quality education. President Jimmy Carter established the federal program in 1980.

“It was clear that the president understood that HBCUs like KSU need and deserve the funding often denied them in the past to help them fulfill their missions,” Sias says. “By renewing the executive order for HBCUs President Obama reminded us that HBCUs are an essential component of higher education if this country is going to successfully educate all of its students.”

The Obama administration has committed to a 5 percent increase for the Strengthening HBCUs program and support for the \$85 million in mandatory funding for HBCUs in the pending Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. The administration also supports the HBCU Capital Financing program, the Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions program, a comprehensive science and technology workforce program at the National Science Foundation and the increase of the Pell Grant maximum award to \$5,710 in 2011.

Thorobred News Staff Wins Four Awards

The *Thorobred News* staff won four awards in late February at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association conference held at Transylvania University. The student awardees are junior Anastasia Hill, first place for advertising design; junior Meghan Smith, first place for best sports feature; and senior Terri McCray, honorable mention for best commentary. The staff also won second place for best editorial.

KSU Junior Advances To Next Round Of College Jeopardy, Translates Chinese For Speaker

Kentucky State University junior James Lawson Whites has an amazing mind. He was the buzzer to beat at the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge competitions, and is the man to see when you want to translate a 15-page brochure from Mandarin Chinese to English.



James Lawson Whites

The trivia whiz will fly to Chicago, Ill., in May to participate in the second round of auditions for College Jeopardy. He first had to quickly answer a series of questions online to qualify for the second round. Now, he will have an in-person audition and take a 50-question written test. While in Chicago, Whites and the other qualified applicants will play rounds of Jeopardy and submit to a brief interview, all to gauge which contestants would be the best for the show.

He also recently welcomed a group of Chinese mine owners on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at MineShield LLC's new manufacturing facility in Lancaster. Whites offers various translation services – written and spoken – for Kentucky Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo.

SIRAS Examines African Issues

Dr. Reginald S. Avery, president of Coppin State University, (right) speaks with Anthony Todd Quire '05 (left) after giving the opening



address at the recent 11th annual Southern Interdisciplinary Roundtable on African Studies on KSU's campus. Dr. Egbunam Amadife, director of SIRAS, pictured in the center, was made a Kentucky Colonel at the opening plenary session for his SIRAS efforts. The conference allows students and scholars from around the nation and world to discuss the historical, social, political, artistic and economic trends facing Africa, African Americans and all descendants of Africa and how they can be used to promote better relationships.