January 2016 Newsletter
College of Health Sciences
Eastern Kentucky University

Eta Sigma Gamma 2015-2016 Officers

CHS Public Health: Eta Sigma Gamma Officers for this year are left to right in the photo Janson Hoskins - President, Nikki Howard - Historian, Rebecca Smith - Vice President, Staci Cox - Secretary/PR, Lindy Darnell - Treasurer. The Beta Chapter of ESG at EKU is the second oldest in the country. Eta Sigma Gamma members will be participating in a variety of Public Health activities/initiatives on campus and across the state this year.
U.S News Ranks EKU in Top 20 Among Online Nursing Degree Programs

EKU Online graduate nursing degree programs are No. 18 in the nation on U.S. News and World Report’s 2016 list of best online degree programs. Eastern Kentucky University advanced significantly in standing, up from No. 63 one year ago, and was the highest rated Kentucky school to make the list.

Dr. Mary Clements, chair of the EKU Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing said the news reflects the comment of the instructors. “We are very pleased with our national ranking. The graduate faculty at EKU are outstanding in their fields and are very engaged with the students. The recognition for their efforts is well deserved,” said Clements.

EKU offers a number of online graduate nursing programs:
- Family Nurse Practitioner: MSN or Post-MSN Certificate
- Psychiatric Mental Health: MSN or Post-MSN Certificate
- Psychiatric Mental Health Family: Post-MSN Certificate
- Nursing Administration: MSN or Post-MSN Certificate
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Post-MSN DNP

U.S. News rankings are based on five categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology and admissions selectivity.

This is the second accolade EKU’s Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing has received in a month. The online RN to BSN program was ranked No. 11 in the nation by Affordable Colleges, which rates colleges for quality and value. To see the full U.S. News rankings, visit www.usnews.com/online.

Consistently recognized as having some of the nation’s best online degree programs, EKU strives to make quality education accessible to everyone. EKU is an accredited, brick-and-mortar institution celebrating more than 100 years of student success. EKU Online offers more than 30 undergraduate and graduate degree options in a variety of fields, representing Arts and Sciences, Education, Justice and Safety and Health Sciences.
The Students Before Profits Award was created to promote nonprofit colleges and universities offering online degree programs that put students before profits and education before the bottom line. For our 2015/2016 Online Doctorates in Occupational Therapy award winners, we selected online and hybrid/low-residency programs from accredited, nonprofit colleges and universities and have ranked the programs according to their affordability. Eastern Kentucky University’s online Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is ranked #2.

Occupational therapeutic post-acute care, which takes place in the home, rehabilitation settings, and skilled nursing facilities, was the largest and fastest-growing category of Medicare spending from 1994-2009. In 2017, occupational therapy, as a profession, will celebrate 100 years of service in providing science-driven, evidence based resources and care to address society’s needs in a globally connected and diverse workforce. As OT becomes a more specialized field of health care, professional clinicians and scholar leaders with increasingly advanced knowledge and skills to drive the field forward are needed. A Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy or Clinical Occupational Therapy Doctorate will prepare graduates to fill positions created by this growing demands. Best Online Doctorates in Occupational Therapy: Students Before Profits 2016 - Eastern Kentucky University’s online Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is designed for students who are occupational therapists with a master’s degree in occupational therapy or another field and who seek to become ethical leaders of change in occupational therapy services for diverse populations. the program can be completed in just over two years of part-time study and requires 40 credits for completion. Students may or may not be able to have their practicum experience arranged in their state of residence, so students should enquire about their state at the time of inquiry.

Accreditation: Eastern Kentucky University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Tuition: $25,200
Outstanding Alumni
Priscilla Baierlein

When I think of EKU and my time there I can hear the rumble of the football games, the scurrying feet of the square, and the excitement of homecoming. I can almost feel my legs cramping from the walk between Telford and Burrier...home to my favorite classes. I can smell the deliciousness from my Food Management class and hear the children playing on the playground outside the child development center. I can hear the voice of Mixon Ware advising me, Dana Bush singing 5 Little Apples and bestowing all her wise parenting lessons upon us in my favorite Child Development class, and Susan Kipp saying I had a good eye in my Sewing class (a compliment that I think of often). Not only did these ladies, and rest of the faculty in the FCS department, teach lessons that would stay with me in my day to day as a photographer and a Mother, they gave me the kind of confidence that comes from a sense of belonging and showed kindness and love all along the way. They may barely remember having me in class, but I will always remember their classes. The family in Burrier, in this department, was a home to me. A safe place to land. A place to discover myself.

After changing majors a multitude of times, finding Family and Consumer Sciences, and later Child and Family Studies, was somewhat of a miracle. To think it fit me, my life (before and after), my passions, so well, and it took so long for me to discover. After graduating with a BS in Family Studies and a Minor in Family and Consumer Sciences, I quickly dove into the life of nonprofits. After working with two different programs, I somehow found my love for photography. I am now a Lifestyle photographer, specializing in children and families. This has been my full time life for six years now. My background in Child and Family Studies makes me uniquely qualified in my field. It is here I learned the different ages and stages and the best way to approach a child depending on their personality. It is here that I fell in love with the joy and absolute amazement with which a child sees the world. It is here that I learned to work with children and families, long before I ever stood in front of them with a camera. With lifestyle photography I don’t simply sit a family in one place and shoot. I work with them, play with them, talk with them, learn with them, make a connection - see the way their family ticks.

Some would think that a degree in photography may have suited me better, but I look at my life and am amazed at how it developed into where I am now. I may not have chosen Child and Family studies for photography reasons, but it fits my business and me perfectly. To me, photography is about people first. It’s that connection I make with children that allows me to capture true personalities...true laughs...true moments. That’s a connection I couldn’t have learned to make anywhere else but my little home in the Burrier building at EKU. Not to mention the impact it has had on me as a mother, as evidenced by the felt board sitting in my living room with a place for our daily routines and weather and season.

EKU, the Burrier building, and the family of the FCS department, will always be a home for me. They will always be a big part of my story. They helped to mold and develop the person, the photographer, and the mom I am today. Having a degree from this department doesn’t just teach you to do one thing. It teaches you in a way that you can do a multitude of things...lead a multitude of career paths. It is what you make of it. For that, I am forever grateful.

Photo credit to Stacey Woods Photography