EKU Exercise and Sports Science Department and Kentucky Adapted Physical Education (KAPE) program

The Kentucky Adapted Physical Education program (KAPE) is a program in which the EKU students, led by Dr. Louisa Summers of the EKU Exercise and Sports Science Department, work with 22 children with disabilities, ranging from four to eighteen years of age. The main purpose of KAPE involves using physical activity, movement, and exercise to improve the quality of life for these persons with disabilities. The KAPE program has retained an attendance rate of 88% from the fall, and a participant retention rate of 95% for the year.

This year celebrates the 14th year of funding from WHAS Crusade for Children. The University has received $10,000.00 in grants for the 2015-2016 KAPE year from WHAS Crusade for Children. Over the 14 years, this program has received over $93,000 in funding from this incredible organization. The KAPE program is held on Friday evenings at the Telford YMCA in Richmond, KY.
Dr. Jon Ferguson, retired professor for Exercise and Sport Science, presented at the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America southern district convention in Williamsburg, VA. “Barking Orders” addressed the value of Canines and their work with Special Needs Children at the elementary school level.

5th Annual RPA 4-Square Championship!

Friday February 12th was a day that will live on forever! The Recreation and Park Administration Department held their annual 4-square tournament at the campus recreation building. We had a total of 4 courts going at a time with upwards of 60 participants. The players battled for close to half an hour and the field was finally whittled down to four people (the usual suspects), three students and one professor. Although the final four was highly contested, RPA student Brandon Jones went home with the Golden Ball! Thanks goes out to all who participated and to Dr. J’s REC 280, Programming Special Events class, for organizing the tournament!
One of America’s Top Programs

The Graduate School of Occupational Therapy has found themselves on the list at #37 of “Best Grad Schools” by the rankings of U.S. News and World Report for 2016.

Receive your Masters Degree in Public Health

The College of Health Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University offers a Master of Public Health Degree in one of four options:

- Community Health Education
- Industrial Hygiene
- Environmental Health Science
- Public Health Nutrition

The program is tailored to meet the needs of individuals working in or planning to work in a public health profession. Classes are offered on evenings, Saturdays, and via the Internet. A total of 43 semester hours are required to complete the program with 21 hours of MPH core requirements and 22 hours in the chosen option. Full-time students can expect to complete the degree requirements in 2 to 3 years, depending on summer attendance.
Recent Eastern Kentucky University graduate Chase Barnes has made a long-term commitment to improving the lives of others.

The Mt. Sterling native, who graduated in May (2015) with a degree in public health, is currently spending two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize, where he works as a rural health educator.

Barnes’ interest in helping others overseas began with a trip to the Prince of Peace all-girls orphanage in San Cristobal, Guatemala. After his fourth trip, he said, he realized that he wanted to use his degree to make a difference in a developing country, and his research led him to the Peace Corps.

He credited his EKU adviser, Dr. Laurie Larkin, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health, for her encouragement and help during the lengthy application process.

In turn, Larkin described Barnes as perfect for a position with the Peace Corps.

“Chase naturally has a servant attitude and giving heart,” she said. “He is bright and amazing with people. He has been willing to sacrifice comfort to serve overseas to help orphans, widows and those who struggle economically.

“He has participated in many hours of volunteer and mission work. He served in several mission trips to Guatemala where he helped renovate an orphanage and provided food and clothing to a group of students who lived in the orphanage. He volunteered for Relay for Life cancer fundraising activities for the past eight years and was a teen volunteer at the St. Joseph Hospital in Mt. Sterling for three years.”

In his current role, Barnes splits his time between working with two community health workers in the area to provide health education seminars for the villagers and working in the village health clinic. He also works at the government primary school in the village educating students on overall health with an emphasis on physical education.

Professionally, his goal while in Belize is to educate as many people in his village as possible about the importance of maternal and child health and the prevention of non-communicable diseases, resulting in long-term behavior change. But on a personal level, he’s excited to develop friendships with the villagers.