

The Norse Parent

NKU Parents Association Newsletter

Moving on Up: What do Division I Athletics Mean to You?

By Dr. Scott Eaton , Director of Athletics

As most of you know by now, on Dec. 8 Northern Kentucky University accepted an invitation to join the Atlantic Sun Conference and reclassify its intercollegiate athletics program to NCAA Division I status.

From the earliest days of Division I consideration, we have said repeatedly



that we would make the move only when we can join a set of peer institutions with similar values and aspirations. The Atlantic Sun Conference offers just that. The conference shares NKU's commitment to academic excellence and community engagement. The A-Sun has a diverse membership comprised of large and small private and public

institutions. All are committed to the academic and athletic success of their student athletes. Our athletic funding structure was set up to ensure competitive play across all sports, and the A-Sun is a conference that will offer competitive balance for all 17 sports that we sponsor.

Let's take a moment to introduce you to the Atlantic Sun. Founded in 1978 as the Trans America Athletic Conference, the A-Sun is headquartered in Macon, Ga. Next year the league will have schools in Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. We will be the third-largest school in the conference, behind Kennesaw State University (24,100) and the University of North Florida (16,317). You can learn more about the A-Sun by visiting <http://www.AtlanticSun.org> or by following the conference on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/AtlanticSunConference>) or Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/AtlanticSun>).... **(continued on page 2)**

In this issue:

[Division I News P. 1](#)

[Greetings from AASA P. 2](#)

[Job Expo P. 3](#)

[PAB Spotlight P. 4](#)

Important Dates:

All Month

NKU Men's & Women's Basketball—[Click here to see a full schedule](#)

February 6

2nd Spring Payment Due

February 15

Summer Study Abroad application deadline

February 20

President's Day—NKU Open/Classes in session

February 22

Job Expo 2012

February 27

Midterm grades are available through March 26

February 2012
Volume 3, No. 5

Moving on Up (cont'd)

This historic announcement came after more than a decade of conversations and deliberations involving countless faculty, staff, students, alumni and community leaders. It was a move that was years in the making, but it was only a first step in our reclassification process. When NKU begins competing at the Division I level in the fall of 2012, the Norse will face more recognizable opponents, which will build stronger rivalries at home and away. Each of our 17 intercollegiate programs have been fully integrated into Atlantic Sun Conference schedules. Our coaches are also working diligently to put together non-conference contests as well. While no schedules are official at this point in time, we can share that men's basketball has been negotiating with Ohio State, Illinois State and Northwestern, women's basketball with Miami, Missouri State and Western Kentucky, men's baseball with Ohio State, Cincinnati and Butler, men's soccer with IUPUI, IPFW (home) and Wisconsin-Milwaukee, women's soccer with Xavier (home), Indiana and Ball State, women's softball with Eastern Kentucky, Marshall and Morehead and women's volleyball with Harvard, Providence and Holy Cross.

Aligning our institution with established Division I programs of this nature, academically and athletically, has certainly been one of our primary goals with this reclassification process. Playing in so many new territories will generate more national exposure for NKU. Having a well-known school increases the brand of the university, making it more attractive to prospective faculty, staff, students and student-athletes as well as increases school spirit among students and alumni.

There is still work to be done – both on and off the playing field – before we head off to create new and exciting rivalries in the Atlantic Sun Conference and at the Division I level. I look forward to sharing our excitement with you at an upcoming NKU athletic contest.

Happy New Year from AASA!

By Tracy Stokes, Assistant Director, African American Student Affairs

The Office of African American Student Affairs has been busy!! Spring Semester started with a bang celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 12th -17th. Mr. Steve Birdine, our commemoration speaker, encouraged NKU faculty, staff, and students to positively work together as a community to effectively achieve change. Partnering with the NKU chapter of the NAACP, AASA co-sponsored MLK Café: Freedom Speaks for an evening of Poetry. The entire NKU community also participated in MLK Day of Service where participants volunteered their time in the Northern Kentucky/ Cincinnati area for the day, and were entertained by the energetic duo Black Violin!

AASA also has activities planned for Black History Month in February featuring comic Derrick Keener, the Natural Woman Screening Tour and Panel, and collaborations with the NKU community, and NKY community. Please contact our office at 859-572-6684 if you have any questions!

As always, thank you for your support!! See you soon!

Did You Know...

You can help incoming NKU Parents!!

- Volunteer to be a Parent Panelist at one or more orientation sessions for summer 2012.
- Offer your experience and advice to new parents as they begin this important transition process.
- Receive additional information about NKU to help prepare you to be an informed panelist and parent!

If you're interested, email parents@nku.edu or post to our Facebook page with questions at:

www.facebook.com/nkuparents

Job Expo 2012

- Is your student applying for a co-op or internship in 2012?
- Will your student be graduating within the next year and seeking full-time employment?
- Does your student want an opportunity to explore career options with employers?



If so, let him/her know about Job Expo, NKU's largest annual career fair, which is only 2 weeks away!

Job Expo 2012 will be held on Wednesday, February 22 from 3-6 pm in the Student Union Ballroom. Any student graduating within the next year or seeking summer or fall co-op/internship opportunities should plan to attend. Students in all majors and all grade levels are welcome to attend.

Training Sessions will be held Monday, February 13 (at noon and 5 pm in SU 302) and Tuesday, February 14 (at 4:45 pm in SU 109) to teach students how to network with employers, to create a strategy for approaching a job fair, and to learn what to wear and bring to the event. All students have access to Norse Recruiting (www.myinterfase.com/nku/student), which includes information on more than 2,000 organizations, current job postings, and a complete list of CDC workshops. Students are expected to dress professionally and bring copies of their resumes and their ALL CARDS. Visit <http://cdc.nku.edu> for more information.

If your organization is interested in hiring NKU students and alumni at Job Expo, please contact Juliane Stockman, Associate Director - Employer Relations and Recruitment Services, at stockmanj1@nku.edu.

Have a Freshman Student interested in Adventure & Leadership?

Encourage them to attend Breaking Ground 2012!

Breaking Ground is a retreat sponsored by the Norse Leadership Society for freshman students. As a program designed for freshmen, Breaking Ground aims to provide learning experiences that students can apply throughout the rest of their college career and beyond. This retreat is held in West Virginia and will push students both mentally and physically, including a whitewater rafting adventure! Freshman students must have at least a 2.5 GPA to apply. The \$65/student fee covers most meals, transportation, and lodging. Your student can apply on OrgSync or at this [link](#).

Questions? Your student can email Kremerc2@nku.edu, Johnsonm15@nku.edu, or mayset@nku.edu

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Parent Advisory Board **Spotlight**

*Ever wondered what the Parent Advisory Board does? Learn more about the value of the PAB from this month's spotlight member, **Ava Ritter**:*

NorseParent: *What is your role on the Parent Advisory Board?*

Ava Ritter: We are Members At Large; specializing in the special needs of parents with athletic students. So far we have attended meetings and listened a lot but are looking forward to more involvement.

NP: *What have you gained from your involvement at NKU?*

AR: We are still quite new to the team, but we enjoy being in the "know" on events that will effect our student and hope to use that insight to help other students and parents of athletes.

NP: *What advice would you give other parents?*

AR: Make certain that they understand the multiple layers of support that are there for the athlete and not just the coaches. The counselors, the study tables, the trainers and healthcare providers as well as many of the professors are so willing to help the athlete. Just reach out to them and let them know you are there to underscore the success of the athlete. But, let the athlete drive the direction and the redirection as needed. Healthy birds leave the nest and our job is make certain they are ready to fly.

Education Abroad

Looking for a great way to encourage your student to make the most of his/her college experience? Brush up on all the resources our Education Abroad Office has to offer:

- **Endless options for study abroad experiences**, including academic exchanges, short-term experiences, and even co-op

programs with other universities in Kentucky. There are over 25 programs just for Summer 2012!

- **Scholarships are available!** Apply now to be sure allow time for processing before the March 23rd scholarship deadline.
- **There is information on study abroad just for parents!** Find more [HERE](#).

Featured Resource

Tip of the month:

It's already time to think about next year. Consider the following items to discuss with your student:

- **Housing Plans:** Visit housing.nku.edu for more information about on-campus options.
- **Summer Plans:** Potential opportunities include: co-op's or internships, summer classes, student employment, or study abroad.
- **Classes:** Remind your student to meet with an advisor for summer or fall registration.

Don't Forget...

The priority period for returning students to apply for on-campus housing just opened on February 1st. Encourage your student to submit their application soon!

Visit http://housing.nku.edu/current/Priority_Room_Select.php for more information!

Contact Us:

Office of New Student Orientation and Parent Programs

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Fax: (859) 572-1960
parents@nku.edu
<http://parents.nku.edu>



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Email parents@nku.edu