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MSC Mourns Loss of Class Favorite

By Ty Harrell
Media Information Director

The halls of Murray State College were unusually quiet on the morning of Monday, Feb. 6, especially in the science division, as news of the death of Dr. Dee Keeton began his teaching career at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, where he served as graduate assistant from 1959-61 before being named an instructor in 1961. While there, he taught undergraduates and graduate classes in ichthyology, limnology, and herpetology.

Dr. Dee Keeton looks proudly at his new grandson, John Austin, shortly after John’s birth on Feb. 5. This photo was taken three days before Keeton’s death.

Keeton, who had taught at Murray since 1992, died in his sleep Feb. 5, at his home in Wilkens. “Teaching and family were the most important things in his life,” said Brenna Collier. “He was a very loving man and you could not find a better instructor or man. It is a great loss.”

Keeton circulated.

In 1963, Keeton moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he was employed by Texas Christian University as assistant professor. While on staff at TCU, Keeton established the first freshwater fisheries research program at TCU, served as faculty advisor for pre-med, pre-dental, and nurses see Keeton, related photos pg 3

PT Assistant Option Closer to Reality

By Ty Harrell
Media Information Director

Murray State College announced Thursday, Feb. 23, plans for implementation of a physical therapist assistant program during a press conference on the campus of Murray State College in Tishomingo.

The program is expected to be underway by fall of 1995, pending approval of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

“In Governor (Frank) Keating’s State of the State address, he stated one word and asked us to remember it – growth,” Dr. Glen Pedersen, MSC president said. “He followed that up with growth in jobs, growth in income, and growth in the quality of life. The physical therapist assistant program is a definite plus for the governor’s concept of growth.”

The associate in applied science degree physical therapist assistant program prepares the individual to become a skilled assistant working under the supervision of a physical therapist.

The physical therapist assistant acquires the education to provide essential patient services for the prevention and alleviation of physical impairment and the restoration of function through a program established by the physical therapist.

According to a recent survey conducted throughout southeastern Oklahoma, there are currently 47 physical therapist assistants employed. The demand will be 80 in 1997 and 131 by the year 1999.

“The future graduates of this program have numerous employment opportunities available to them,” Pedersen said. “They have good jobs and income waiting in the ten-county area with salaries of $20,000 and above.”

Construction is underway on the new Nursing/Allied Health Building, which will house the new program.

The physical therapist assistant program has been developed in response to the requests by area health care agencies to meet the need of a shortage of physical therapy personnel in both the home care and hospitals.

“To create a new program offering, a number of criteria needed to be in place,” Pedersen said. “Specifically, these are employment potential for graduates, interest on the part of individuals to participate, a physical location appropriate for program activities to occur, and monetary support. We at Murray State College have documented and received everything necessary and are ready to move forward.”

Serving on the physical therapist assistant advisory committee are: Melanie Bruster of Memorial Hospital of Southern Oklahoma in Ardmore, Helen Trowbridge of Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada, Sherry Wallace of Muscular Performance Lab, Inc. in Ardmore, David Lewis, Assistant Administrator of the Duncan Regional Hospital, Joe Duran, Administrator, Purcell Municipal Hospital; and Mickey Hall of Physical Therapy Services of Durant.

Start-up funds of approximately $200,000 for equipment and personnel are being provided through Murray State College Foundation by the Noble Foundation of Ardmore, Ok., and the McCasland Foundation of Duncan, Ok.

“These two organizations have responded to the needs of the area and the people by providing funds for the first three years of operation of this program,” Pedersen said. “Without the monetary commitment of these organizations, the effort would be only on paper and not a reality.”

Black Heritage Month Provides Time to Reflect

By Ty Harrell
Media Information Director

The month of February immediately conjures up thoughts of hearts and Valentine’s Day - a day to show love towards those close to us.

February is also the month when the groundhog announces either an early spring or a protracted winter. It is during the month of February that we celebrate President’s Day, commemorating the births of the Father of our Nation, George Washington, and the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln.

But February is also a time set aside to recognize the many contributions of black Americans see Heritage page 2
Custodian Brings More Than Cleanser to Work Each Day

By Ty Harrell
Media Information Director

Ingrid Byers (right) always has time for a kind word or friendly conversation as MSC Athletic Director Mike St. John (center) and MSC Freshman Katie Isonberg find out. photo by Ty Harrell

Some may look down upon her job, think they are too good for such, and pray that they never have to do it. Others may not notice, passing her in the hall with nary a glance. She is one who truly loves what she does and is not ashamed to sponsor and clean to work with her every morning.

Ingrid, a native of Germany, has seen bad times in her life, times of uncertainty and despair. Those times allow her to appreciate what she has now. Born and raised in Germany, she was just a teenager when World War II broke out. Immediately after the war, her mother left her with her aunt and moved to Scotland. Ingrid was fifteen before she found her mother and moved to be with her in Scotland. She spent two years there before she met an American G.I. and married. Ingrid finally came to the U.S. in 1965.

"I was raised with a lot of love," Ingrid said. "Then the war broke out and everything fell apart. But I made up my mind that I would treat people like I would like to be treated. I have found out that, if you reach out to people, they will reach back."

She doesn’t make a triple digit salary, or drive a shiny new car, but that doesn’t matter to her. She admires her rewards come in the people she meets every day.

Ingrid has been a custodian for MSC for two and a half years since she and her husband moved back to the area after being away for nearly twenty years.

"We just love the area and we see Ingrid - pg 3"
Students Remember Keeton

Students remember that he had been a good teacher and friendly person. Stewart said, "His return to teaching (in 1985) was really an enjoyable experience for him; he seemed to really like being back in the classroom. He had a great sense of humor, and he used that in his classes," Stewart added. Stewarts sentiments were echoed by students who were shocked by the news of the death.

The one thing that struck me about Dee was that he didn't have the attitude he was here just to do a job, he was here because he wanted to be here," said Alex Delarosa, pre-vet major. "I never saw Dee not have time for students, and he had a good attitude about everybody."

"I knew Dee as an instructor and as a friend," said Becky Bearden, Ardmore sophomore. "He was a very loving individual, and he had a very interesting life, but he was interested in the lives of others."

"I sum him up like a teddy-bear person," Bearden said. "He was just a big, loving teddy bear who accepted people for who they were and nothing else mattered."

"When I took a biology class with Dr. Keeton, he initiated my interest in science," said Cecile Parker. "He talked about the difference between a rock and a frog, and that special spark that makes a frog alive. He was the reason I came full-time to Murray State. I believe any place that had teachers of his caliber was where I wanted to be."

Heritage from pg 2

blood from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on April 1, 1956. His death was attributed to the fact that the first hospital he was taken to would not admit him because he was Negro.

There are many inventions in use today that trace their roots back to black inventors. Namely, Granville T. Woods, who made the first traffic lights, and Samuel McCoy, an inventor of the first automatic oiling mechanism for machinery and from whom we get the analogy "The Real McCoy."

There is also Benjamin Banneker, a freed slave who helped lay out the city of Washington, D.C. and made the first working clock in America, a clock made entirely of wood.

Ingrid from pg 2 wanted to get back," Ingrid said. "My husband quit a really good job because it was killing him. We took a chance and moved back to this area. Once we got here, we didn't know what we were going to do to survive. I heard Murray State was looking for a janitor so I applied."

Ingrid said this was a wonderful opportunity for her, an opportunity to do what she does best, touch people's lives.

"This is a good place for me to reach out to people," Ingrid said. "If I can spread some happiness and sunshine every day in somebody's life, that is a reward for me, and it makes me feel great."

Ingrid takes a lot of pride in her work and is proud to do it.

"A painter takes pride in his paintings," Ingrid said. "If you don't take pride in your work, it won't work out right. You have to be happy at what you do, and I am.

"It's not demeaning to pick up trash or scrub things; somebody has to do it," Ingrid said. "I realized that I have a gift and I use it."

Ingrid said she has one philosophy she lives by and she encourages others to live by it as well.

"My philosophy is to do what makes you happy," Ingrid said. "People have asked me why I do this kind of work and I tell them that I like it. I like to see something dirty and make it come out clean."

Ingrid said there is one pet peeve she can't stand to see in a person, and she will fight it until it is beaten.

"I can't stand negativity," Ingrid said. "When I see a negative person and I can't get them to think positive, I keep working at them until they do think positive."

Her most powerful weapon is a smile, and she uses it every chance she gets. "I think the power of a smile is fantastic. I have always said let a smile be your umbrella," Ingrid said. "No matter what the problem is, if you have a smile, you don't think about it for that moment."

She has developed a great rapport with students and faculty at Murray State, a rapport she does not take for granted.

"I get a lot of respect from the students, and I really respect them," Ingrid said. "They are my kids; I can help only one of them reach their goals, offer encouragement or whatever they need, that is what it's all about.

With all of the benefits offered at MSC, Ingrid may just be one of the most precious.
Stone Rolls with MSC Student Senate

By Ty Harrell
MSC Media Information

The Murray State Student Senate is under new leadership with Matt Stone, and he hopes to lead by not doing all of the leading this semester.

Stone, a sophomore who hails from Norman, chose Murray over Oklahoma University because she wanted the chance to get his feet wet before diving into a four-year school.

"I didn't know how hard college was going to be," Stone said. "I just wanted to test it out here first and then transfer to OU." Stone is debating between majoring in English or science.

"I really don't know what I want to do yet," Stone said. But I will be graduating from here in May, so I need to be deciding pretty quick.

Stone plans for student government at MSC, the biggest having to do with getting others involved in student senate this semester.

"I am simply trying to get the clubs more involved," Stone said.

"I believe if more people get involved, we can get more things done."

"I want more input from others rather than having me just get up and dictate to people what we are and are not going to do," Stone added. "The more people we can get involved, the more ideas."

Stone admits it's a challenge to be president, but it is a challenge he is happy to have. The biggest challenge comes in communication.

"Just trying to talk to everybody is a real challenge," Stone said. "Trying to get them to understand me while trying to understand what they want and need is a challenge."

There has been a problem with student involvement with the student government, but Stone hopes to see that change.

"I just believe the younger students just don't care about what happens here," Stone said. "Most of the people we have involved are non-traditional students, and I believe it poses a problem."

see Stone - pg 7

Nursing Students Lend a Helping Hand to Senior's

Two MSC sophomore nursing students recently gave a helping hand to senior citizens at the Johnston County Nutrition Center.

MSC students David Bell and Cathy Dodd, along with nursing instructor Carol Johnson, conducted seminars on the Heimlich Maneuver, use of emergency services, and how to create a health history which will be used to record and explain medication information.

"A lot of seniors came and were very interested in what the students could do to help them," said Johnson. "They (seniors) had requested the programs so I approached David with the idea and he was glad to do it, as was Cathy."

"I was pleased with the way the presentations were received," see Nursing - pg 5
PSP Offers Students Varied Opportunities

Program Continues to Grow With Bright Minds

By Ty Harrell
Media Information Director

Spring break is generally a time for college students to get away from school and think about anything but homework. However, this is not the case for students involved in the President’s Scholars Program at Murray State College.

Students in the program packed their bags March 8 and embarked on a trip to New Orleans with PSP chairman and MSC English instructor, Jeff Milligan.

The students had an opportunity to learn about marine biology along the Gulf coast, see medical research happen at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, while also enjoying some of the sights New Orleans.

The group was scheduled to meet with Dr. William Ballew, an ethnobotanist and professor in the department of anthropology at Tulane University. They also had an invitation to attend a class with Dr. Darlene Brooks, a music therapist and professor in the department of psychiatry at Loyola University.

This is just one of the many opportunities afforded students involved with PSP.

The program is open to students who score 21 or above on the ACT, maintain a 3.25 grade point average and who have demonstrated academic excellence either in high school or at MSC.

The program is designed to offer an enriching personal, cultural, and academic experience to committee, "Milligan said. "It consists of bi-weekly seminars which deals with a variety of different topics. There are eight faculty members who serve on the committee which oversees the program. The members bring input from a variety of academic disciplines."

"The other thing about the committee is that the people who are involved are some of the best teachers on the campus," Milligan said. "They continue to learn, read, do research, and are interested in education."

Milligan has four different semester themes he uses to loosely organize ideas for the seminars. Towards these ends, the seminar themes reflect four areas of concentration including: values and ethics (good vs. evil); the development of ideas and expansion of cultural awareness (discovery theme); human relationships, man, the social animal theme); and applied knowledge (application theme).

It is the hope of the committee the themes will help to broaden the students’ horizons by exposing them to things to which they may not have been exposed.

"We have a two-fold purpose with these seminars," Milligan said. "While these students may be young, they are generally young and, to the extent they have lived out their lives in rural southeastern Oklahoma, their horizons are limited by their experiences. We try to put them in touch with things in the world outside of southeastern Oklahoma."

One example Milligan offers was a seminar which dealt with the human and ethical impact of AIDS on southeastern Oklahoma.

"We invited people from clinics in Ardmore who deal with AIDS victims, and a lady whose brother, a graduate of Murray’s Nursing program, died of AIDS," Milligan said. "For most of us, this is a problem somewhere else, but we brought it home and explained it is an issue here too."

Aside from sitting in seminars, the students involved in PSP also must accomplish three Honors Option Projects, a rigorous as see PSP - page 6.

Reverend Leonard R. Mitchell discusses his experiences while working with Dr. Martin Luther King during a PSP seminar last semester. Photo by Ty Harrell.

"We just go by what the seniors feel they need," Bell said. "We will continue to present information on an ‘as needed’ basis. We are delighted to help them any way that we can."

Dodd, who spoke for the MSC Nursing Club, offered to create a medical history that the seniors could carry with them in case of an emergency. She stated the club would use computers to make a chart of the medications with dosages. The chart would then be updated as needed.

"This will offer a reliable record of the medications the seniors are on," Dodd said. "It will serve as a vital piece of information so the seniors will know what the medication is and what effects they can expect from it."

Johnson said there are other ideas in the works for the seniors who visit the Nutrition Center.

"We have ordered videos on chair aerobics," Johnson said. "We are interested in getting more things for the seniors."

outstanding students. It provides an unique opportunity to study topics that are either current or not part of the established curriculum of any one course.

"These courses are interdisciplinary, team taught programs administered by the PSP Nursing from pg 4."

said Bell. "A majority of the seniors who participated had either experienced choking or someone close to them had choked, so they (seniors) were very interested in what to do in that type of emergency."

Bell, who has been an emergency medical technician since 1989, as well as a CPR instructor, said the nursing department will continue to hold seminars for the seniors as long as they would like to have them.

"We believe we need each other. I do not believe any people can coexist in isolation or separately. Unfortunately, I do not see racism being eliminated in my generation, but I believe it will be eventually."

A great thought to conclude Black Heritage Month.
The audience for Ronald Radford’s Flamenco guitar concert, slated for March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom on the campus of Murray State College, shouldn’t be misled by his tuxedo. The show will not be marked by formality.

Rather, Radford plans to walk on stage in black tie and tails, sit down in the spotlight, and talk to the audience as if they were sitting in his living room.

Radford, in fact, may be the most relaxed person in the Center when he warms the audience with his friendly, unpretentious manner and dazzles them with a world class performance of Flamenco music.

Radford’s performance is a rarity. He is the only Flamenco guitarist to appear at MSC, but it will not be his first visit to Murray.

“We have had him here before and he puts on a great show,” said Fred Pec, Liberal Arts chair at MSC. “We are just delighted that he will be doing another show here.”

A Fulbright Scholar and protege of the legendary Carlos Montoya, Radford is about the only performer of his type—a full-time American player of Spain’s traditional folk music.

PTK Inducts New Members

Phi Theta Kappa inducted 53 new members into Alpha Epsilon on Feb. 26, 1995.

The society, which recognizes scholastic excellence, held the candlelight ceremony for the new members then enjoyed a reception hosted by alumni of Alpha Epsilon.

Students involved in the program do receive compensation for their dedication. They receive one of the most generous scholarship packages in the state. The combined scholarships cover all but a small portion of the cost of attending MSC.

Milligan has hopes the mix between traditional and non-traditional student participation will increase.

“That has been a big thing for us,” Milligan said. “This has been a program with young students and that does not reflect the composition of the college. I already see a better mix of traditional and non-traditional students.”

Milligan said education is the most important aspect of PSP.

“This is a program which recognizes education is far more than what happens in the classroom,” Milligan said.
Newcomer to visit Finland

Murray State geography/history instructor Robert Newcomer has been chosen to participate in a five-week Rotary Group Study Exchange Program which will take him far away from his classroom in Tishomingo.

Newcomer has been chosen by the Ardmore Rotaract Club to travel to Finland beginning March 18 to learn about the culture while also sharing knowledge of the teaching profession in America. He was chosen from a pool of 20 applicants following extensive interviews and meetings with Rotary Club members from across southern Oklahoma.

The objective of the program is to provide business and professional persons with opportunities for exchanging ideas in their chosen professions with other professionals in other countries. Besides the work that will be put in, there will also be time set aside for sightseeing and taking part in cultural events.

“I am thrilled to have been chosen for this trip,” Newcomer said. “I think there will be a tremendous benefit in having a first-hand experience with an entirely different culture and way of life.”

While in Finland, Newcomer will stay with a Rotary family almost constantly. It is the goal that he will stay with other college teachers. Newcomer hopes to have the opportunity to meet with other instructors of geography while visiting Finland.

Aside from learning the culture and lifestyle of Finland, Newcomer will teach the Fins about life in southern Oklahoma through photographs and lectures.

“We will give presentations to Rotary Clubs throughout Finland,” Newcomer said. “We will show slides and give talks about life in Oklahoma, what we do here and what we will discuss the history, culture and geography of Oklahoma.”

Following his return to Oklahoma, he will continue his work with the program by speaking throughout Oklahoma to other Rotary Clubs in regard to his experiences and what he learned.

Newcomer sees that opportunity as a perfect setting to talk about MSC to those who may not have had exposure to the campus and its facilities.

“I believe that will be a tremendous benefit to Murray State,” Newcomer said. “I will be meeting with people within and beyond the service area of MSC, and it is a great opportunity to talk about Murray as well as what I did in Finland.”

Stone from pg 4

The most commonly heard complaint about student government is that it really doesn’t make a difference in the decision making process, an assumption that is wrong according to Stone.

“I think people should take a closer look at what is going on around them,” Stone said. “A lot could be done in that amount of time if they just put forth the effort.”

D.C. Minor of the band “Blues On The Move” belts out some powerful tunes during a recent concert at MSC.

photo by Ty Harrell
In Loving Memory of Dr. Dee Keeton

Special thanks to Mrs. Keeton for sharing these photographs with The Aggielite

FINAL PLANS
by
Dee Keeton

Lord, don't let me die on a cold windy day when rain turns to ice and snow spits on freshly turned earth.

Lord, don't let me die on a hot summer day when sweat turns neckties and collars into instruments of torture.

Lord, Let me die on a fine spring day when mockingbirds sing complicated tunes of happiness and Hoppy can pick

The Wildwood Flower in the graveyard at the spot where my bones will rest forever.