

The Norse Parent

NKU Parents Association Newsletter

Happy Holidays

To Our Norse Family

Parent of the Year Recipient Honored



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Peter Gitau, Amira Zekic, Arnela Zekic and President Geoffrey Mearns (Photo compliments of Erin Mullins)

Each year, NKU students are encouraged to take a few moments and reflect on the individuals who have supported them throughout their lives. Students have an opportunity to nominate those individuals for the Parent of the Year award. This year's nominees were all exceptional, but in the judges' eyes, one nomination stood apart from the rest.

The winning nomination was submitted by Arnela Zekic, who nominated her mother, Amira. *Continued on next page...*

In this issue:

Parent of the Year P. 1

Parent of the Year cont. P. 2

Intramural Fields P.3

Parent Scholarship Program P.3

Join the PAB P. 4

Important Dates:

Ongoing

NKU Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country and Basketball—[Click here to see the full NKU Athletics schedule](#)

November 27-29

No classes—
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2

Online Parking Permit
Sales open for Spring
Semester

December 7-13

Final Examinations

December 14

Winter Break Begins

December 17

Faculty deadline for
grade submission

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2013-2014 Parent of the Year Continued...

Amela wrote the following about her mother:

I do not just consider Amira Zekic as my parent; she is my best friend, my hero, and the bravest woman I know. Even before I was born she did everything she could to protect me and give me the best possible life I could have. In 1993 during the Bosnian War, when Amira was pregnant with me, she escaped the country leaving the home she had lived in for almost twenty years plus all of her belongings and fled to Germany so she could give birth to me safely.

My mother has endured so much raising me. Going through the struggle of moving to America at forty six years old, with no knowledge of the English language, all she wanted was for me to get an education and have a successful life here. My mother is the reason I am who I am today. She took the first job offered to her when she came to America, she continuously saved money for me and my future, and she supported me with every club, sport, organization, or any idea I had that I swore would help me become more successful. My mother would do anything for me and would never let anything in her way.

In 2008, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. At this time, I was in ninth grade and even though I did not act like it, I needed my mother the most then. Looking back, I regret I was not there more for my mother. I wish I could have supported her more when she battled cancer, like she supported me in every triumph or hardship I went through. This never fazed my mother though. Being the brave woman she is, she conquered this bump in the road all while working a full time job, continuing to be the best full time mom, never damaging her relationship with me, and always supporting me to make sure I have everything I need to move forward with a better and greater future.

When it came to choosing where I should go to college, NKU was the easiest decision of all. When I received the letter in the mail that stated I would be blessed enough to receive a full tuition scholarship, my mother and I cried together. She was proud of me, but all my excitement stemmed from the hope she could stop working so hard for me and do something for herself for a change.

NKU was also such an easy decision for me because I would be near my mother and come home to not only her great cooking, but her advice at times too. My mother might not be physically putting me through college by paying for it, but she is helping me mentally. She is the person I go to if I am stressed or when I have any struggle.

My mom isn't someone to just look up to, but someone to try to be. She reminds me every day not to give up, to always believe the future is brighter if you work for it, and the greatest gift she gives is her endless love. If one day I have half the bravery, courageousness, wisdom, or love she has I will feel accomplished.

Amira was recognized at Family Weekend received free registration for the event and received a crystal trophy. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 2014 Orientation Leaders!

With over 95 applicants, the competition was fierce in this year's orientation leader selection process. After three rounds of interviews, the following students have been selected to serve as orientation leaders. Congratulations!

Danny Ginn - Head OL
David Trump—Head OL
Tanner Campbell
Courtney Cook
Mariah Cox
Erin Donohue
Nathan Garbig
Tyler Griffith
Sydney Groshong
Juliane Jendrollik
Courtney Knox
Connor McDermott
Jessica Mertens
Brian Murray
Jalan Nored
Lam Pham
Rick Seal
Julie Stoll
Sierra Thorn
Steven Vandergraff
Natalia Weekly
Denise Wellbrock
Nicole White
Landon Wilson
Meredith Wolf
Tatenda Zinyemba



Intramural Fields are Open for Business!

By Matt Hackett, Director of Campus Recreation

The new IM Field Complex Kickoff event was held on October 24th. The event marked the grand opening of the new outdoor student recreation facility. The IM Field Complex has 3.5 acres of lighted artificial turf that can accommodate football, softball, soccer, and lacrosse. The complex will be utilized for Intramurals, Sport Clubs and open recreation play for students. Over 1,300 students visited the complex during its first week of operation.



Don't Forget to File Your FAFSA!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be filled out beginning January 1. Take advantage of the time you have with your students over the holidays and consider filing your FAFSA. Remember, this is something that has to be done each year! For more information, Go to www.fafsa.gov.

Support the Parents Association Scholarship Fund!

The Parent Advisory Board met on November 15th and plans were made at that meeting to create a scholarship fund. The board is seeking monetary donations to reach a \$1000.00 goal. Once the goal is reached, the board will create scholarship guidelines and will advertise the scholarship. The intent of the scholarship is to provide monetary assistance to alleviate some of the small costs of attending NKU.

If you would like to donate,

Please send check to:

Northern Kentucky University

ATTN: Dan Emsicke

LAC 211

Nunn Drive

Highland Heights, KY 41099

Checks can be made out to "NKU Foundation" with "Parent Scholarship" in the memo line.

The Parent Advisory Board thanks you in advance for any monetary donation you make!

Join the Parent Advisory Board Today!

We need YOU to make the Parent Advisory Board the best it can be! Do you have a student currently enrolled at NKU? Are you interested in making a difference on campus? Consider joining the Parent Advisory Board! The PAB meets on NKU's campus twice a semester and helps plan events such as Family Weekend and the Parent and Royal Reception. Parents also have the opportunity to reach out to new parents during the Northern Exposure Orientation Program! We are still looking for a junior class representative and At Large Members! If interested, email [Britta Gibson!](mailto:Britta.Gibson@nku.edu)

Advising

Forming a strong relationship with an advisor is a great way for your student to stay ahead while in college. Advisors are excellent resources of campus knowledge and they can also be on the frontline in helping your student decide about life after college. It is not

uncommon for a student to turn to an advisor for career advice, academic counseling, or a letter of recommendation.

An advisor is a great place to turn if your student has a question and they do not know who to ask. Students can even "[Ask an Advisor](#)" a question online!

Featured Resource

Tip of the month:

Your student has a break from classes, projects and organization meetings. Use this time to reconnect with your student and help them recharge. This is a great time for you to check in on them and see how they are feeling about college thus far.

- * How does your student feel about his/her academic progress? What changes could they make to make next semester even better?
- * Has your student registered for classes? If not, what steps does your student need to take to get prepared for the spring semester?
- * Is your student plugged in? Ask them about clubs or organizations. It's never too late to get involved!
- * Has he/she begun to build his/her network? Now is the time to make those connections!

Contact Us:

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Fax: (859) 572-1960

parents@nku.edu
parents.nku.edu



[Connect with us on Facebook!](#)

Next Parent Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, January 31st
6:30-8:30 pm
Student Union 108

Need to unsubscribe?
Email parents@nku.edu