Faculty and students from Northern Kentucky University made a larger-than-life discovery in the deserts of Utah last summer: rare bones from a Barosaurus.

During an annual paleontological dig, Dr. Janet Bertog and six students were able to excavate a four-foot-tall vertebra. Finding the remains of a Barosaurus is a rare feat. An 85-foot-long, plant-eating dinosaur that lived 140 million years ago, the Barosaurus weighed in at about 20 metric tons, and a full skeleton has never been found.

The intention of the dig was to simply preserve dinosaur bones that were concentrated in a single area – a lake – and determine why they were there. A skull was found in 2004, before NKU started working with the site. The jaw was found and collected by NKU students in 2011 and 2012. The NKU students continued to uncover both parts of the specimen this summer, and most importantly, were able to determine they did, in fact, belong to the Barosaurus due to their position near the vertebrae.

Each summer, Bertog takes students of all skill levels on an expedition to the Jurassic Morrison Formation, where scientists have discovered several dinosaurs and other animals from 160 million years ago. Work at the site is ongoing.

“Students get the experience of doing field work, and learning the techniques that we use at an excavation,” Bertog said.
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The app is a partnership between NKU’s Center for Applied Informatics, College of Education and Human Services, and local outreach and service agencies. It was created by students from NKU’s College of Informatics. “Street Reach makes it possible for community members to provide help to the homeless, and also educates the public about what resources are available in our community,” said Rachael Winters, professor of social work and former director of the Emergency Shelter of NKY. “We believe that it could become a national model.”

**THE SCOREBOARD**

NKU student athletes recorded a cumulative 3.24 GPA last fall, a new school record.

It was the ninth straight semester that NKU student athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better.

Twenty-three student athletes, or about 10 percent, also earned perfect 4.0 GPAs and were named to the President’s Honors List. An additional 49 student athletes posted GPAs of between 3.6 and 3.99, making the Dean’s List.

**FACULTY FOCUS**

Michele Day is an innovator. Whether it’s connecting College of Informatics students with biology students in the College of Arts and Sciences to investigate lead contamination in a nearby town, or creating the “Journalism in the Digital Age” workshop for high school students, she isn’t afraid to think big.

The educator of 15 years continually pushes her students to develop new skills, try new things, and be bold — and students, she isn’t afraid to think big.

The grant will allow NKU to partner with the Northern Kentucky State Skills Corporation (BSSC) to improve and promote workforce development efforts for Kentucky residents in manufacturing, healthcare, and service industries.

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**NKU AMONG BEST IN THE NATION FOR MILITARY VETS**

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The Military Times’ annual “Best for Vets” list ranks NKU 36th among four-year institutions for the services and support it provides to veterans and their families.

NKU has also been named a top school in the 2016 Military Advanced Education Guide to Colleges & Universities, and the Haile/US Bank College of Business is ranked 27th on the Military Times’ “Best for Vets: Business School List.”

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NKU has received straight A’s from the Horizon League for the quality of its student-produced fall sports productions for ESPN3.

An 11-person student crew films and produces nearly every home conference game for all NKU sports under the supervision of faculty members Wes Akers and Bill Farro.

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**READ MORE:** http://bit.ly/1VvmK5T

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Northern Kentucky University Computer Science student Drake Woods has won a prestigious international scholarship to study in Romania this spring.

He has been awarded an Erasmus+ scholarship from the European Union to study at Babes-Bolyai University beginning in February.

The junior from Florence, Ky, is the first NKU student to receive an Erasmus+ scholarship since the program was created in December 2013.

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