It's become a largely forgotten historical fact that while the majority of the original computer programmers in the 1940's were women, today women account for just 26 percent of the workforce in the computer science industry in North America and Western Europe. And just 18 percent of bachelor's degrees in computer and information sciences are awarded to women.

The percentage of women working in computer science is disproportionately low, but Northern Kentucky University faculty, staff, and students are working with their peers across the region and the state to reverse that trend. Since 2011, NKU's Dr. Maureen Doyle, associate dean of the College of Informatics, has worked with a committee of her peers across the state and nation to convene the biennial ACM-W Regional Tri-State Women in Computing Conference (TRIWiC).

The event brings together female – and male – computer scientists and students to learn from and support each other in a collaborative environment. TRIWiC 2016 attracted more than 200 attendees from 17 institutions, including more than 35 NKU students and 10 faculty members.

Doyle spent 20 years working in the private sector as a computer programmer, and she has seen the industry's diversity challenges firsthand.

“I believe diversity in all fields is helpful to creating better products and services,” she said. “The National Council for Women in Technology studied diverse teams in 2014, and found that they often provide superior productivity and financial performance compared to homogeneous teams.”
COMMUNITY IN CRISIS: NKU TACKLES KY HEROIN EPIDEMIC

In Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic, journalist and author Sam Quinones demystifies the extraordinary story of black tar heroin and how it has ravaged so many American communities, including our own region and Commonwealth.

NKU was proud to host Quinones on campus for a three-day event this month to help advance the dialogue surrounding this critical issue. Quinones conducted a public lecture, participated in a daylong symposium, and met with faculty, staff, and students in their ongoing efforts to find solutions to this crisis in our community. The event was the inaugural initiative of NKU’s forthcoming Health Innovation Center. When it opens in 2018, the Center will be devoted to addressing public health issues by preparing students to work in the 21st century public health and health care field, where solutions are found through transdisciplinary collaborations that engage a full range of knowledge and break down the silos that isolate expertise.

LEARN MORE: http://hicinfo.nku.edu/events.html

BRIEFS

CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW EXPANDS ‘3+3’ PROGRAM

Chase College of Law now offers the 3+3 Accelerated Law Program to students at Thomas More College in nearby Crestview Hills as well as to NKU undergraduates.

The 3+3 program – named for three years of undergraduate studies and three years of law school – began at NKU last fall. Students can reduce their education costs by combining a final year of undergraduate studies with a first year of law school.

Other law schools offer similar programs, but these are typically limited to undergraduates at the university of which the law school is a part.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_160310acceleratedlaw.html

NKU STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NKU students’ research is gaining national attention: Juniors Kelsey Klinefelter and Jamie Weimer received national awards this spring to travel to the Society of Toxicology (SOT) annual meeting in New Orleans in March, where they met with scientists and presented their own research on the health risks of pervasive chemical compounds.

Klinefelter studies the effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) upon the development of fetuses and newborns. Weimer studies how taurine, an ingredient in many energy drinks, affects the cognitive abilities of children and teenagers.

LEARN MORE: http://tinyurl.com/zuuk7jy

RECORD CROWD FOR 8TH ANNUAL BUSINESS WEEK

More than 1,400 students – a record number – attended an annual Haile/US Bank College of Business networking event last month that provides one-on-one access to business executives from across the world.

At the 8th annual “Business Week” event, regular classes were suspended so that students could attend sessions to help prepare them for success in tomorrow’s workplace.

They met with executives such as E.W. Scripps Co. President & CEO Rich Boehne; Nickelodeon/MTV Networks Vice President Regan Forman; Cinturfuse CEO Wendy Lea; and Jason Vines, former Communications Chief for Chrysler, Ford and Nissan.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_160331businessweek.html

ALUMNI NEWS

NKU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CREATES FIRST BLACK ALUMNI COUNCIL

NKU’s alumni network is growing: the University’s first Black Alumni Council has been created to serve African-American graduates and help support African-American students. The council is led by Crystal L. Kendrick (’97), a former member of the NKU Alumni Council and a Cincinnati Enquirer 2016 Woman of the Year.

The move comes at a time when NKU’s student body is the most diverse in University history and the number of African-American graduates is growing. The number of bachelor’s degrees conferred to underrepresented minority students, including African-Americans, has grown by 37 percent since the launch of NKU’s 2013-18 strategic plan, Fuel the Flame. In the period from 1997 to 2011, that number grew by 202 percent.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_160205BlackAlumniCouncil.html

FACULTY FOCUS

NKU’s Dr. Daryl Harris has been selected for the prestigious Fulbright Specialists program, a five-year appointment during which he will act as an expert consultant for other universities across the globe.

A writer, director, costume designer, and actor who has worked on nearly every continent, Harris will bring his expertise to other educational institutions, helping to teach students and assisting faculty in developing curriculum.

Harris is an associate professor of performance art at NKU’s School of the Arts, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences. He specializes in multicultural programming and linking theatre to other disciplines, and teaches his students that theatre is about more than acting.

READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_160128alumniawards.html

THE SCOREBOARD

NKU student-athletes have amassed more than 2,500 hours of community service this academic year.

Members of the baseball and women’s soccer programs traveled to the Dominican Republic last fall, where they put on a four-day sports camp for 100 children. Student-athletes also continued their tradition of participating in community activities such as the Buddy Walk, an annual fundraiser for the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati.