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Last Updated: 8:08 am | Monday, March 13, 2006

NKU names dean for College of Informatics

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

NKU has named Douglas Perry the founding dean of the College of Informatics. NKU established the college in May by combining the departments of Communication, Computer Science and Information Systems.

"Informatics is the digital intersection of the arts, sciences and professions, where digital tools are used to both extend these domains and bring them together," Perry said.

Perry helped establish the Indiana University School of Informatics at its Indianapolis campus five years ago. It now has 40 full-time faculty members, 1,000 undergraduates and 200 graduate students. The school recently moved into a \$43 million complex.

"The last five years spent doing this have been the most exhilarating and rewarding of my life," Perry said. "So, when I learned that NKU was forming a new College of Informatics, I was immediately interested - intensely interested."

Perry believes the new college will make NKU a pioneer in the emerging field and contribute to the local business environment.

"Information technology is one of the fastest-growing occupation sectors in Northern Kentucky," Perry said.

Perry has put together a tentative five-year plan. It includes a new home for the current college, where various departments are now spread across campus. Perry will also work on a curriculum for the department that uses existing programs. He also believes the college needs to create new degrees for students such as integrated media, applied informatics and communication. Finally, Perry will be working to recruit more faculty.

"I will be working closely with the college faculty and university administration to finalize a plan that is ambitious, yet achievable," Perry said.

Perry is a cell biologist with a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, City University of New York. He plans on moving to Northern Kentucky with his wife, Meg, a science writer for Eli Lilly. Their son Tyler will be attending George Washington University this fall.

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