



**KMTBB**

Twenty-two outstanding Kentucky mathematics teachers attending a National Science Foundation honors workshop and computer network program in July at UK had a common goal—developing an electronic Kentucky Math Teacher Bulletin Board which will begin operation this fall. The KMTBB will allow teachers to share teaching ideas and software programs. The KMTBB will make noncopyright software available and provide interesting math problems and comments on issues of importance to teachers. The teachers are learning how to operate a VAX computer for math sciences which they may access by telephone from their microcomputers at home. For further information, contact Dr. Don Coleman (606) 257-4802.



**UK Coal Experts Help S.A.**

Two UK coal mining experts traveled to Peru as part of a team of U.S. scientists helping to develop the coal industry in South America.

Curt Harvey and Anthony Szwilski were in Lima, Peru, in June to speak at the "Workshop on the Utilization of Coal as an Alternative to Petroleum Fuels in the Andean Regions." Government and industry representatives from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Chile attended.

The UK scientists explained how the experiences of the coal industry in Kentucky and Appalachia may be applicable in South America.

Harvey and Szwilski were among 10 scientists and professionals selected by the National Academy of Sciences, under the sponsorship of the Agency for International Development, to participate in the South American conference.

**Co. Agent's Role Changing**

The role of the county extension agent is changing due to the shift toward a more information-oriented society, say two University of Kentucky sociologists.

Drs. James A. Christenson and Paul D. Warner presented their findings to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in a paper titled "Extension Client Impact in Knowledge Transfer Processes."

The extension service was formed in the early 1900s to transfer agricultural research findings to farmers. At the time, many rural areas were isolated and illiteracy was common.

Highways and mass media have changed that, say the authors, leading to the question: What is the role of extension in an information age?

Christenson and Warner said the effectiveness of extension agents is limited when their role is viewed strictly as conduits of information. Alternately, if extension agents serve in the role of educators, their effectiveness will be enhanced considerably, particularly if they work closely with university researchers in developing ideas and technologies to serve the needs of the local population.

Although today many public and private information sources are available to the general public, there are few professionals working at the local level to interpret the information being provided. The authors say this is a key role for extension in an information society.

Christenson is chairman of the UK sociology department, which is under the auspices of both the College of Agriculture and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Warner is an extension professor in the UK sociology department and is assistant director of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is housed in the College of Agriculture.