

Office of the President
September 9, 2008

1. Students Return to Classes as 2008-09 Academic Year Gets Under Way

Classes for the University of Kentucky's 2008-09 fall semester began on August 27. Students were welcomed back to campus during K Week with more than 100 different events that new students, faculty and staff participated in, including "Big Blue U," held at Commonwealth Stadium; "Campus Ruckus," one of the most anticipated events of the fall semester; and UK FUSION (UK For Unity and Service In Our Neighborhoods), one of the largest volunteer projects in the state. Members of the University community worked in small groups to perform service projects throughout Fayette County.

2. Center for Applied Energy Research Wins \$1.2 Million International Grant

Steve Lipka at the UK Center for Applied Energy Research will explore energy-storage technologies after receiving a \$1.2 million grant in an international research competition conducted by utility giant E.ON. More than 50 international universities and institutes from 11 countries submitted ideas. UK was the only American university to receive one of these awards. His research focuses on carbon capacitors to store energy.

3. UK's Todd Joins Three Other Presidents for 'Energizing Kentucky'

The second "Energizing Kentucky" conference, which will feature a keynote address by *New York Times* columnist and author Thomas L. Friedman, will be held in Louisville on Thursday and Friday, September 18 and 19. The conference series was organized by President Lee T. Todd, Jr., University of Louisville President James Ramsey, Centre College President John Roush, and Berea College President Larry Shinn to stimulate a statewide discussion on energy issues confronting Kentucky's business, government and education communities. More information on the series is available online at www.energizingkentucky.org.

4. UK Solar Car Completes 2,400-mile Cross-country Race

"Gato del Sol III," the UK College of Engineering's student-built and -driven solar car, crossed the finish line in Calgary, Alberta in mid-July at the end of the 10-day, 2,400-mile North American Solar Car Challenge. The completion of the race, which started in Plano, Texas, marked the first time in three efforts that the UK solar car passed a rigorous inspection process to gain entry into the race.

5. Anesthesiology's John Eichhorn Plays Major Role in Global Patient Safety Effort

UK College of Medicine anesthesiology professor Dr. John H. Eichhorn is playing an integral role as the World Health Organization (WHO) launches its second global patient safety challenge, "Safe Surgery Saves Lives." The WHO initiative acknowledges that surgery often is not a therapeutic benefit, but rather a public health hazard, for much of the world's population and addresses improving the safety of surgical care everywhere. The new program centers on a safety checklist and has four main sections: Surgical Site Infection Prevention, Safe Anaesthesia, Safe Surgical Teams, and Measurement of Surgical Care and Quality Assurance Mechanisms. Eichhorn, along with four other anesthesiologists-- from New Zealand, India, Nigeria, and England-- and a biomedical engineer from Massachusetts, created the "Safe Anaesthesia" section of the initiative.

6. Kentucky Children's Hospital Establishes Children's Heart Center

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital recently established the Kentucky Children's Heart Center to provide inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment services for children with congenital or acquired heart disease. Treatment also encompasses patients who have advanced into adulthood, providing the consistency of comprehensive care important to favorable long-term outcomes. Kentucky Children's Heart Center is co-directed by pediatric cardiology chief Dr. Louis Bezold and Dr. Mark Plunkett, chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery. Both are associate professors in the UK College of Medicine. With the use of leading-edge technologies, the Kentucky Children's Heart Center team can identify virtually all complex congenital heart diseases in fetuses as young as 18 to 20 weeks. This information helps the physician team plan the remainder of the mother's pregnancy and follow-up, including immediate intervention if necessary.

7. Study Shows Decrease in Emergency Room Visits by Cutting Secondhand Smoke

Eliminating secondhand smoke exposure by enacting smoke-free legislation decreased emergency department visits for asthma by 22 percent, according to a new study published by Ellen Hahn, professor at the UK College of Nursing, and several colleagues. The study appears in the September issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. Hahn and her colleagues assessed emergency department visits for asthma in four Lexington hospitals 40 months before and 32 months after the implementation of a smoke-free law in Lexington. There was an average 22 percent decline in emergency department visits for asthma after controlling for seasonality, secular trends and demographics of the at-risk population. The rate of decline in asthma visits to the emergency room was 24 percent for adults and 18 percent for children. This is the first study to find a link between smoke-free laws and reductions in emergency visits for asthma in the general population.

8. Congressmen Rogers, Davis Announce Funding for Coal-to-Liquid Mini-refinery

Congressmen Hal Rogers and Geoff Davis unveiled more than \$1.426 million in federal funds to support research at the UK Center for Applied Energy Research on refining coal into liquid transportation fuels. The funding will help advance ongoing research into the Fischer-Tropsch method of converting coal into liquid fuels by allowing the center to build a “mini-refinery.” Kentucky Energy and the Environment Secretary Len Peters announced the state is contributing another \$350,000 to support the project.

9. U.S. News & World Report Ranks UK Chandler Hospital Among Nation’s Best

Rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report* place University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital among the nation’s top hospitals. More than 5,000 hospitals were evaluated and only 170 made the list. UK Chandler Hospital was recognized in the areas of gynecology (42) and ear, nose and throat (44).

10. Researchers Seek Rapid Screen Method to Identify Possible Pharmaceuticals

UK researchers are developing a new method to rapidly screen chemical compounds to determine their capabilities as potential pharmaceuticals. The researchers, led by Royce Mohan, an associate professor in the UK College of Medicine’s laboratory for chemical biology and drug discovery, have received a three-year, \$879,427 grant from the National Institutes of Health under the NIH’s Molecular Libraries Roadmap program. The UK project is seeking a robotic method to analyze the chemical activities of various compounds to determine their effectiveness in preventing angiogenesis, the growth of new blood vessels that many diseases, including cancer, rely upon. Mohan is working with UK College of Engineering professors Laurence Hassebrook, Robotics, and Dan Lau, Computer Imaging, to develop the new system, and with Kyung Bo Kim from the College of Pharmacy to generate a chemical library.

11. College of Social Work Inducts Three into Hall of Fame

The UK College of Social Work Hall of Fame welcomed its newest inductees, alumni Teri Marie Faragher, executive director of the Domestic Violence Prevention Board in Lexington, and Kenn Hicks, a certified domestic violence facilitator in Palmdale, California. The Hall of Fame also recognized Mary Giurgevich for outstanding contributions to the social work field. She previously served at Crownsville Hospital Center in Maryland and with the Bluegrass Branch of the National Association of Social Workers.

12. Study Shows Effectiveness of Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

Publicly funded substance abuse treatment programs in Kentucky reduce substance use, decrease criminal activity and increase employment, resulting in net savings of more than \$10 million per year to the state’s taxpayers, according to a report issued by the UK Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. The center annually conducts

the Kentucky Treatment Outcome Study for the Kentucky Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to examine whether publicly funded treatment accomplishes intended goals. Kentucky is one of only a few states to systematically examine the benefits of treatment, both in terms of client gains as well as reduced costs to society, Robert Walker, the study investigator, said.

13. UK Center for Computational Sciences Wins \$641,598 Grant for Multi-state Grid

The UK Center for Computational Sciences has been awarded a \$641,598 grant to support its role as part of a grid of four universities for solving problems in computational chemistry. The National Science Foundation (NSF) provided \$2.7 million to UK, the University of Florida, the University of Illinois, and the University of Maryland for the grid's cyberinfrastructure. The grid will build simulation models for designing new molecules and materials essential for understanding electronics, pharmacology, and biological systems at the most basic level. The grant is based on previous software development led by the UK Center for Computational Sciences under the NSF-supported GridChem project. At UK, this latest project will be directed by center Director John Connolly and center researcher Michael Sheetz.

14. Equitable Resources Provides Grant to UK's Robinson Scholars Program

The summer programs of UK's Robinson Scholars Program are the foundation of their college preparation programming, and with a recent gift from Equitable Resources, these programs can now contribute even more to the success of the Robinson Scholars. Equitable Resources, an integrated energy company with emphasis on Appalachian area natural gas supply, transmission and distribution, donated \$25,000 to the Robinson Scholars Program's summer activities, their second donation to the program. The Robinson Scholars Program is a scholarship, student support, and leadership development program established by the UK Board of Trustees in 1995 that serves first generation college-bound and college students from Appalachian Kentucky who have demonstrated the potential to succeed but who might encounter economic, cultural, or institutional impediments to their completion of four-year college degrees. In recognition of the potential obstacles facing these students, the program identifies scholars in the eighth grade.

15. College of Medicine Greets 113 Future Physicians in White Coat Ceremony

A class of 113 future physicians marked the beginning of their medical education at the UK College of Medicine during the annual White Coat Ceremony in early August at UK's Singletary Center for the Arts. The class of 2012 was welcomed with the presentation of their white coats, provided by the UK Medical Alumni Association, which the students will wear when they see patients. Students also received copies of *On Doctoring: Stories, Poems and Essays*, provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and "Humanism in Medicine" pins provided by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The class then took the "Pledge of Professionalism for Students of Medicine," promising compassion and respect for their patients, teachers, and colleagues.

The class consists of 46 women and 67 men. Ninety-one students are Kentucky residents, with 50 being from rural areas.

16. Study Finds Unsafe Levels of Secondhand Smoke in Bingo Halls

A study released by the UK colleges of Nursing and Public Health shows the air quality of Lexington bingo halls to be unsafe due to secondhand smoke. In fact, the level of indoor air pollution in Lexington bingo halls is 6.8 times higher than the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for outdoor air. The level of indoor air pollution levels in the bingo halls was 13 times higher than in hospitality venues in Lexington and approximately 5.5 times higher than Georgetown's bingo hall after smoke-free laws took effect.

17. UK Greet 186 High School Sophomores as "Class of Kentucky"

In mid-July, UK welcomed the 186 newest members of its "Class of Kentucky" program to campus. The program, now in its fifth year, recognizes academically talented and community-oriented high school sophomores from throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is facilitated through UK's Office of Undergraduate Admission and University Registrar. Class of Kentucky seeks to honor one top sophomore from each high school in Kentucky. Students are chosen by their respective schools and must demonstrate strong leadership and academic skills.

18. Graphic Design of UK Police Vehicle Wins First Place in International Contest

The University of Kentucky vehicle graphic design was judged the best in the college and university division of *Law & Order* magazine's 2008 International Police Vehicle Design Contest. Upon announcing the winners, the magazine noted that "it is imperative that police vehicles are immediately and clearly distinguished as emergency vehicles as they approach and pass other vehicles at dangerously high speeds. While the appearance of police vehicles takes into consideration public perception and aesthetics, above all, it is about safety and identification." The UK Police vehicle design includes the UK wildcat mascot holding a police badge between the front paws as the main focal point. The blue, white, and gray colors are a direct representation of the school colors. The wildcat badge and "POLICE" lettering on the sides of the vehicle increase visibility and recognition.

19. Paducah Engineering Program Breaks Ground for New Paxton Research Wing

Ground was broken July 31 for a new research facility that will serve the UK College of Engineering Extended Campus Program in Paducah. The \$2.6 million Fred Paxton Engineering Research Wing is a part of the West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) Emerging Technologies building project. The College of Engineering Extended Campus Program is located on the WKCTC campus. The late Mr. Paxton was a longtime supporter of engineering initiatives in Paducah. UK's Paducah engineering program, in collaboration with Murray State University and WKCTC, offers

studies leading to bachelor's degrees from UK in mechanical engineering and chemical engineering. WKCTC and the UK College of Engineering forged a joint fundraising effort so that the project would be supported by both private and public funds. Donors in the Paducah area contributed more than \$1.6 million.

20. Robinson Scholars Hold Readings of their Writings at Young Library

Students in UK's Robinson Scholars Program, along with world renowned authors Maurice Manning, Rebecca Gayle Howell, and Nickole Brown, shared original works with the public at a reading in the auditorium of the William T. Young Library. The event showcased writings of Robinson Scholars who are rising high school juniors and seniors. The public reading is a new addition to the Writers Workshop, a valuable summer program hosted specifically for Robinson Scholars. In an effort to adequately prepare its scholars for the transition to college, the program instituted the Writer's Workshop to engage junior and senior students in argumentative and creative writing techniques.

21. UK Library Is Chosen as Host Site for National Diversity Program

UK Libraries has been selected as one of five host sites for a national program that will provide 45 fellowships at various research libraries for master's of library science students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. The program, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Minority Fellowship Program, presented by ARL Diversity Initiatives, is being made possible through a \$728,821 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Under the program, the 45 fellows will be provided with librarian mentors at one of the five participating research libraries; leadership development opportunities; and career placement assistance. Other host institutions joining UK in the ARL Minority Fellowship Program in 2009 are University at Albany – State University of New York, University of Arizona, the National Library of Medicine, and North Carolina State University.

22. UK, Transylvania Support Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship

The Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship held its inaugural student congress in July with guest speakers and the program of instruction arranged primarily by the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Both UK and Transylvania University provided academic support for this new endeavor. The program brought one university senior from each U.S. state and the District of Columbia to Lexington for a week to learn about Henry Clay's ideals of debate, dialogue, and compromise. Students were selected by their state's senior U.S. Senator or key higher education leaders. Speakers included Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker, *New York Times* correspondent John Harwood, and the Cypriot ambassador to the U.S., Andreas Kokouris. This program will be an annual event and a fellowship is being established for an alumnus of the student congress to attend the Patterson School. UK Trustee Mira S. Ball and Patterson School Director Carey Cavanaugh serve on the center's board.

23. UK Wind Ensemble Spends Two Weeks Performing in China

The UK Wind Ensemble, under the direction of John Cody Birdwell, toured and performed in China for close to two weeks ending May 30 on the invitation of the United States-China Cultural and Educational Foundation. The ensemble was the only American collegiate music ensemble to receive the 2008 invitation from the foundation. Approximately 60 student musicians traveled to China where they performed seven concerts including cultural and musical showcase festivals related to the Olympics in various cities. The final concert in Beijing was scheduled for the country's new People's Liberation Army Concert Hall. During the ensemble's China tour, the musicians performed works by a number of contemporary composers. They performed with featured artists that included UK faculty members Mark Clodfelter, assistant professor of trumpet; Lisa Osland, adjunct professor of saxophone; and Miles Osland, director of jazz studies and professor of saxophone.

24. Student Awards and Achievements

John-Morgan Bush, Music, was awarded second prize in the international solo competition of the 40th International Horn Society Annual Symposium in Denver. The student musician's award was the top honor in his category as the panel decided not to award the first prize.

Christina Espinosa, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, received the 2008 Paul Kevin Burberry Award from the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky. The award is in honor of Burberry, a former UK student who was a pioneer in the field of disabilities and a consultant of HDI. The selection committee, which included Burberry's parents, the Rev. Clyde David and Susan Burberry, selected Espinosa for her outstanding achievements, advocacy, and commitment to the field of disabilities.

Xuwei Liang, Computer Science doctoral student, co-authored a paper with Jun Zhang, Computer Science professor, that was selected as one of the two best papers at the 2008 International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering, Shanghai, China, May 15-18, 2008. The paper, titled "White Matter Integrity Analysis along the Cingulum Paths in Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Geodesic Distance Approach," was selected from approximately 2,200 submitted papers.

Jordann Sullivan, Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies, has been awarded a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship. The \$20,000 scholarship will cover her expenses as she spends a year studying Arabic at Birzeit University in Palestine's West Bank.

Five students in the Jazz Studies Program nabbed three of *DownBeat* magazine's 31st Annual Student Music Awards. UK student musicians were selected as winners in the magazine's jazz group, jazz vocalist, and classical soloist categories. Results for the DownBeat competition were announced in the magazine's June issue. UK award winners this year and their corresponding categories are: UK Mega-Sax, Jazz Group – College Winner; Angie Ortega, Jazz Vocalist – College Winner; and David Harper, Classical Soloist – College Winner. The winning UK Mega-Sax Ensemble was comprised of

students Joe Carucci and Chris Strange, doctoral candidates in saxophone performance; and Brad Grable and Ortega, seniors majoring in saxophone performance. Harper was the only college student to be recognized in the classical soloist category. *DownBeat* magazine is one of the most respected jazz publications in the country, and its annual student awards are among the most coveted in jazz education.

25. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

F.H. (Frank) Cheng, Computer Science, co-authored a poster, “Progressive Interpolation using Loop Subdivision Surfaces,” that received the Best Poster Award at the 4th International Conference on Geometric Modeling and Processing in Hangzhou, China.

Lee Edgerton, Animal and Food Sciences, received the American Society of Animal Science Fellow Award in the teaching category. The award recognizes a long career of distinguished service to animal science and the livestock industry.

Ginny Ellington, Family Studies, received the Career and Technical Education Outstanding Educator Award from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education.

Joseph L. Fink III, Pharmacy, has been elected chairman of The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Fink has served on the center’s board since 2002.

Judy Goldsmith, Computer Science, co-organized a doctoral consortium at the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling being held in Sydney, Australia, this month.

Jane Hayes, Computer Science, is the principal investigator on a \$750,000 collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation. The three-year grant, titled “Traceability+: A Service Oriented Framework to Support Value-Added Software Traceability,” also involves researchers at DePaul and Kent State universities.

George Heersche, Animal and Food Sciences, received the American Dairy Science Association Hoard’s Dairyman Youth Development Award, which recognizes significant involvement in dairy-related youth activities for 10 or more years.

Jim Hower, Center for Applied Energy Research, received the Society of Organic Petrology’s highest honor based on his significant and lasting contributions to the field of coal geology in research, service to the community, educational outreach, and teaching. The group says his work in almost every aspect of coal geology, including organic and inorganic petrology, coal quality, coal utilization, combustion by-products, and environmental aspects of coal utilization is the benchmark in the coal research community.

Debby Keen, Paul Piwowarski, and Jerzy Jaromczyk, Computer Science, conducted several outreach events for high school and middle school students, including running a programming event for the Student Technology Leadership Program Conference at Heritage Hall in Lexington in early May.

Laurie Lawrence, Animal and Food Sciences, received the American Society of Animal Science Equine Science Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the areas of extension, research, teaching, or agribusiness in the equine industry.

Merlin Lindemann, Animal and Food Sciences, received the American Society of Animal Science Animal Management Award. The award recognizes his significant contributions to identifying and alleviating world problems in animal production.

Peter D. Nagy, Plant Pathology, received the Ruth Allen Award from the American Phytopathological Society. The award is given in recognition of an innovative research contribution that has changed, or has the potential to change, the direction of research in plant pathology. This is among the society's most illustrious awards, with previous recipients including members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Tony Pescatore, Animal and Food Sciences, received the Poultry Science Association Fellow Award, which recognizes professional distinction and contributions to the field of poultry science.

Helen Pushkarskaya, Agricultural Economics, received a \$142,756 U.S. Department of Agriculture Higher Education Challenge Grant for the development of an online math course module for doctoral students in agricultural economics.

Jeff Stringer, Forestry, was named a Fellow by the Society of American Foresters, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Society and the profession. SAF only bestows this honor on about 5 percent of its members.

Jeff Stringer, Billy Thomas, and Renee' Williams, Forestry, are co-editors and producers of *Kentucky Woodlands Magazine*, with Diana Olszowy of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The magazine was recently awarded the Gold Award for Excellence with High Distinction by Southern Regional Extension Forestry. This is the highest award presented by SREF for extension programming.

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, Art, was one of seven new members selected for the American Craft Council College of Fellows as reported in the June/July issue of *American Craft Magazine*.

Haining Zhu, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry, has received the Maciag Award from the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources. Zhu received this honor in recognition of his many research accomplishments and for his exceptional ability to mentor young scientists.

Three UK professors have been named Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium) 2008-09 Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows: Lynda Brown-Wright, Educational and Counseling Psychology; Christopher Frost, Law; and Lawrence Holloway, Electrical and Computer Engineering.