

Office of the President  
October 16, 2007

1. UK's Freshman Class Stands among Its Most Diverse and Accomplished

The 2007-08 University of Kentucky freshman class is among the most diverse and accomplished, according to preliminary figures. The class also stays on the pace set forth in UK's Top 20 Business Plan, which calls for growing the faculty to decrease class sizes and then over the next several years expanding enrollment to meet Kentucky's needs for a more skilled and educated workforce. UK's freshman class is 3,922 students, close to the targeted goal of 4,000 students. UK had a record number of applicants for freshman enrollment – 10,619, a nearly 6 percent increase over last year. Yet, enrollment is intentionally about 300 students fewer. There are several indications of the growing quality of UK's student body, including an increase in the average ACT score among entering freshmen from 23.9 last year to 24.3 this year. The mid-50 range of ACT scores has moved from 21-26 last year to 22-27 for this year's freshman class. Moreover, this year's freshman class had 38 Singletary Scholars – the university's most prestigious scholarship – up from 25 last year. Overall enrollment is down about 600 – 26,625 this year from 27,209 last year. In addition, last month, UK announced some 200 new faculty members, a net increase of more than 60. Diversity among the faculty ranks also increased with an additional 10 African-American faculty hired, the most since 2002-2003.

2. President Todd Helps Kentucky 'See Blue' in Second State Tour

UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. and UK First Lady Patsy Todd barnstormed into several major Kentucky cities in their second statewide bus tour aimed at enhancing understanding of the University's mission and the value of its service to new generations of Kentucky students. The "See Blue Tour" visited Northern Kentucky, Owensboro, Ashland, Louisville, Corbin, Manchester, Frankfort and Burkesville during September, with other visits slated for Paducah, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown and Springfield. The tour was modeled after 2005's "Dream Tour," when President Todd emphasized the importance of UK's research mission for the Commonwealth's future prosperity.

3. UK's Research Grants from NSF, NIH Increase by \$13 Million

Federal awards from key federal agencies – one of the most important measures in UK's Top 20 push – continue to increase. Federal awards for fiscal year 2007 (2006-2007) from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation increased by almost \$13 million over the past year. The largest and most prestigious public and private universities in America compete for these awards. Overall, external

awards for Fiscal Year 2007 at UK were \$280,265,288, down from about \$290 million in FY 06, a dip partly due to a decline in noncompetitive federal grants and contracts.

4. Twenty-six Sophomores Are Inducted as Inaugural Chellgren Fellows

The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence named its inaugural class of 26 sophomores selected as Chellgren Fellows at a ceremony held September 17 in the W. T. Young Library Auditorium. The event also officially introduced Phil Harling, a faculty member in the Department of History, as the center's first Chellgren Endowed Chair. The Chellgren Fellows Program is for students with exceptional academic potential and aspirations, who are eager to participate in a special learning community designed to cultivate extraordinary achievement. Outstanding faculty members from across campus serve as individual mentors for the Fellows. The Chellgren Fellows are Keri Borden, Jenna Brashear, Laura Crawford, Eli Darby, Chelsea Darnell, Lindsey Felton, Alecia Fields, Sarah Fogarty, Chongyang Ge, Sarah Groppo, Elizabeth Hensley, Jason Hope, Brittany Kidwell, Dwight Lacy, Lesley Mann, Allison Overdorf, Kathryn Preston, Lisa Rogers, Eric Schlich, Mark Smith, Bradley Sturdivant, Joseph Tarantino, Binh Tran, Jessalyn Ubellacker, Krishna Vyas and Brett Wolff. Faculty/staff serving as mentors are Joanna Badagliacco, David Bettez, Lisa Broome-Price, Robin Cooper, Jef Ferguson, Raphael Finkel, Larry Grabau, Harling, Bob Houtz, Darrell Jennings, Jane Jensen, Sung Kim, Philipp Kraemer, Derek Lane, David Nash, Kelly Ney, Jeff Peters, Suzanne Pucci, Rich Schein, Lou Swift, Bob Tannenbaum, Bruce Walcott, Bruce Webb and Ernie Yanarella.

5. Legislature Allocates \$5 Million to Kentucky Geological Survey for Research

The second 2007 special session of the Kentucky General Assembly passed the "Incentives for Energy Independence Act," which included an allocation of \$5 million from the state's General Fund to the Kentucky Geological Survey. The funding was authorized for KGS "to conduct research, either itself or in collaboration or under contract with other entities, to quantify the potential for enhanced oil and gas recovery and enhanced coal bed methane recovery using carbon dioxide." The law specifies that the research must include deep wells drilled in both the Illinois and Appalachian coal fields in Kentucky. At least one of the wells must analyze Devonian shale for its potential for enhanced gas recovery and carbon sequestration.

6. College of Pharmacy, Owensboro Group Partner for Clinical Education Center

The UK College of Pharmacy and Owensboro Medical Health System are partnering to bring a unique Clinical Education Center (CEC) to Western Kentucky that will help address the growing demand for pharmacists in the region. Owensboro Medical Health System has pledged \$1.2 million over five years to establish a Clinical Education Center based in Owensboro. The CEC will serve as the hub for the final year of the pharmacy curriculum for a group of about eight to 10 students.

7. Report Identifies Kentucky's Healthiest and Least Healthy Counties

A new report ranking the health of each Kentucky county shows Oldham, Boone, Jessamine, Anderson, Woodford, Fayette, Spencer, Davis, Calloway and Clark to be the most healthy counties in the state. The least healthy counties are Owsley, Powell, Hart, Knott, Lee, McCreary, Perry, Harlan, Clay and Wolfe. The report, "The Health of Kentucky: a County Assessment," was produced by a Kentucky Institute of Medicine™ (KIOM) task force. This research was funded by a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. The foundation's mission is to address the unmet health care needs of Kentucky. According to the report, in general, Kentucky is a healthy place to live and work. Many of the health problems in the state result from poor lifestyle choices, which lead to otherwise preventable diseases and premature deaths.

8. UK Wins Second IGERT Grant to Build Graduate Education in Research

Kim Anderson and Bruce Hinds, along with Dibakar Bhattacharyya, J. Zach Hilt, Barbara Knutson and Stephen Rankin, all faculty members in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, recently received a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education Research Training (IGERT) program, "Building Leadership through a Program on Engineered Bioactive Interfaces and Devices."

9. UK Comprehensive Stroke Center Wins National Recertification

The UK Comprehensive Stroke Center was recently recertified as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The UK Comprehensive Stroke Center is part of the Kentucky Neuroscience Institute, which integrates the expertise of UK HealthCare's neurology and neurosurgery physicians and researchers. First granted the certification in 2005, the renewal was based on the hospital's specially trained physicians and staff, and exceptional patient outcomes. The center was the first in the region to receive this prestigious designation.

10. Center for Applied Energy Research Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

The UK Center for Applied Energy Research is celebrating its 30th anniversary with various activities that run from this fall to early next year. A Kentucky Energy Summit last week featured energy presentations from six experts. A short course on pollution control in power plants will be offered on October 24 for engineers and others who work in industries with heavy energy consumption. Matthew Simmons, author of *Twilight in the Desert: The Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy*, will give a lecture on November 15. An energy fair for students will be held on January 23.

11. Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture Partner to Hire STEM Extension Agent

The UK colleges of Engineering and Agriculture have collaborated on the hiring of a 4-H agent-at-large in Paducah to work on increasing student awareness of careers in STEM (science, technology engineering and mathematics) disciplines in the western part of the state. Torey Earle, a 4-H agent from McCracken County, began work in this position on October 1.

12. UK, Six Southeastern Universities Join Forces to Launch Auto Research Group

UK has joined six other southeastern universities, the National Transportation Research Center Inc., the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Tennessee Valley Authority to launch the Automotive Research Alliance (ARA). The ARA will provide research resources to automotive manufacturers and suppliers, including technology and manufacturing solutions as well as academic and training programs. UK's involvement will be coordinated by the Center for Manufacturing, but will build on capabilities at programs and facilities across the university, such as the UK Center for Aluminum Technology, the UK Institute of Research for Technology Development, the Painting Technology Consortium and several other ongoing research enterprises beneficial to the automotive industry.

13. Conference Focuses on Islamic Philosophy and Theology

Seeking to bring attention to Islamic philosophy and theology, the University of Kentucky Interfaith Dialogue Organization, in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, the Department of Philosophy and the Office of International Affairs, presented a conference titled "Islamic Philosophy and Theology Today." The late-September symposium highlighted speakers from Turkey, Canada, the United Kingdom and the U.S. Keynote addresses were presented by Gerald Massey of the University of Pittsburgh, Alparslan Açikgenç of Fatih University, Turkey, and Chryssi Sidiropoulou of Bogaziçi University, Turkey. Graduate students from Purdue University, Hartford Seminary, University of Notre Dame, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Bogaziçi University (Turkey), University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) and University of Ottawa (Canada) rounded out an international panel discussing Islamic issues ranging from Islamic jurisprudence to the question "Who is the God of the Qur'an?"

14. Nick Clooney Hosts Fundraising Event for Journalism and Telecommunications

Journalist and activist Nick Clooney was Master of Ceremonies for Bids for Brains 2007, a fundraiser for scholarship and programming endowments in UK's School of Journalism and Telecommunications. Bids for Brains featured a live and silent auction of items including a week at a Hilton Head, S.C., condo; use of a corporate box during a 2008 Cincinnati Reds game; two mid-field tickets for the UK-Florida football game; two lower-level tickets for the UK men's basketball home opener; a Keeneland picnic basket;

cookbooks signed by Paula Deen; two tickets for the 25th running of the Breeder's Cup at Santa Anita Racetrack in 2008; and a movie night with Nick and Nina Clooney.

15. UK BEST Introduces 20 High School Students to Engineering

Twenty high school students gained valuable pre-engineering experience in the College of Engineering's first UK BEST (Building Engineering, Science and Technology) program this summer. The program is designed for rising high school juniors who are interested in adding to the diversity of the engineering education experience at UK after high school. While on campus, participants built their own model scale cars, soldered electrical circuit boards, prepared and tested composite materials, constructed and tested bridges, created their own Flash design, pieced together roller coasters and held a public infrastructure forum. The students also saw professional engineers at work during visits to leading companies such as Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Ceradyne Inc., Lexmark International and SECAT Inc. In addition, leadership training, direct instruction from engineering professionals and an ACT review and strategies session were part of the program. The Society of Automotive Engineers also provided sponsorship in the form of material donation.

16. UK Libraries, School of Music Help Lexington's Library with Free Film Series

UK Libraries, UK School of Music and the downtown branch of the Lexington Public Library are hosting the free film, discussion and performance series "Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form." The Tuesday programs presented in September and October focus on specific eras and types of jazz and are led by one of five local jazz scholars. The series includes two concerts by the UK Jazz Combo and other live music presentations. Jazz scholars taking part in the series include UK's Chester Grundy, Raleigh Dailey, Dick Domek, Alicia Massie-Legg and Ron Pen. The series is supported by a national grant from Renew Media, a not-for-profit organization that fosters independent artistic expression; the American Library Association; and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The project also is supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and locally by LexArts and UK Libraries.

17. UK Appalachian Center Holds 30th Anniversary Celebration

As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, the UK Appalachian Center hosted Appalachia Week on the UK campus from September 21 to September 28, with a full calendar of education and arts events. Banjoist Tim Lake was featured at the opening celebration, which was followed during the week with a photography exhibit, a conversation with five authors and social activists about photography, social concern and Eastern Kentucky, a road show on the effects of mountaintop removal, a film about the Marshall University football team, storytelling, square dancing, a presentation of banjo styles, and a documentary titled "Sludge," which investigates a recent Kentucky coal waste disaster.

18. UK's Research Magazine Notes Milestone Anniversary This Fall

*Odyssey*, UK's research magazine, marks its silver anniversary this fall. The anniversary issue offers three special features: Research Spotlights covers 55 top projects, the Timeline highlights some of the notable events and achievements at UK in the past quarter century, and Movers & Shapers is a gallery of 25 faculty who were, or continue to be, influential and visionary in moving the university forward. An additional feature, "Coal: Breaking Oil's Chokehold," features UK researchers working on projects directly related to energy research and supported by more than \$50 million in federal, state, and industry funding.

19. Twelve Undergraduates Experience Research in Electrical, Computer Engineering

In a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the UK College of Engineering Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) offered 12 undergraduate students an active eight-week summer research experience. Several projects were available in a wide range of areas within ECE. Students worked with faculty, graduate students, research staff, and other undergraduate students in a program that incorporates research activities with field trips, workshops, and social activities. The program is under the direction of Ingrid St. Omer, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering.

20. UK Percussion Ensemble Wins Third Consecutive Collegiate Competition

UK Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of James Campbell, professor in the School of Music, has been selected as a winner for the third time in three consecutive years at the annual Percussive Arts Society International Collegiate Percussion Ensemble Competition. A feat unmatched by any other percussion ensemble in the world at the event, it has earned the ensemble a rare showcase concert in November at the PAS International Convention being held in Columbus, Ohio.

21. Young Library Is Featured on Chronicle of Higher Education's Almanac Issue

William T. Young Library is showcased on the cover of *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* Almanac Issue 2007-08. The issue is the publication's annual summary of the nation's higher education system.

22. UK Art Museum Wins Regional Commendation for "Landscape" Exhibition

The UK Art Museum received a commendation from the 2007 Southeastern Museums Conference Exhibition Competition for last year's exhibition, "A Romance with the Landscape: Realism to Impressionism." The award recognizes an exhibition that best fulfills the museum's institutional mission. The committee that names the award-winning exhibition considers the planning, research, content and design of exhibitions in its selection process. Kathy Walsh-Piper, director of UK Art Museum, and Amy Nelson, director of grants and community assets at UK Art Museum, accepted the award at the

conference luncheon on October 3 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The exhibition included paintings and works on paper from such artists ranging from Charles François Daubigny to Claude Monet. The show and its related catalogue, which brought together rarely seen works from private and public collections, examined key developments in the landscape tradition during the 19th century. It was organized by Janie Welker, curator of exhibitions and collections at UK Art Museum, and Linda Stratford, an art historian and Lilly Scholar at Asbury College.

23. Theatre Department Will Present Competition-winning Play in April

The UK Department of Theatre will present the winner of the 2008 James W. Rodgers Playwriting Competition, “Weak/Side/Help” by Andrew Shafer. The new play speaks to the use of performance enhancing drugs by college athletes and the issue of race in sports. It was selected from a strong field of playwrights under the age of 30 from across the country and around the world, who submitted their work to the biennial juried competition. The winning play will premiere, and runner-up plays will receive concert readings, in April 2008 on the UK campus.

24. Student Awards and Achievements

Andrew Lynch, Chemical Engineering, was presented with a \$10,000 Astronaut Foundation Scholarship by Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden in a September 18 ceremony. Previously, Lynch had won three other prestigious scholarships: the 2007 Beckman Scholarship at UK, providing him with \$19,300 over 14 months to support his own research project under faculty mentorship; the Goldwater Scholarship, awarded to students planning careers in math, science and engineering; and the Udall Scholarship, given to college sophomores or juniors who demonstrate outstanding potential and study the environment and related fields.

25. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

John A. Armitstead, director of pharmacy services at UK HealthCare and assistant dean at the UK College of Pharmacy, has been elected to a three-year term on the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors.

Dibakar Bhattacharyya, Chemical and Materials Engineering, was recently honored for career achievement by the North American Membrane Society at its annual meeting in Florida. A special symposium and a keynote lecture were on the program in honor of Bhattacharyya. The symposium featured six participants who are highly respected in the field and who have been influenced by Bhattacharyya's work, including a former student. Bhattacharyya was recognized not only for his technical expertise, but also for his work with students and his commitment to developing the next generation of engineers in the field. Bhattacharyya is a two-time winner of the UK Alumni Association Great Teacher Award.

Oscar W. Dillon, Mechanical Engineering professor, is the recipient of the Applied Mechanics Award from the Applied Mechanics Division of the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers. The award will be presented at the Applied Mechanics Annual Dinner November 13 in Seattle as part of the ASME Congress.

Roberta Grevious, Kentucky Children's Hospital nursing care technician, has received the hospital's Golden Stitches Award. The award, initiated by Tim Bricker, professor and chair of pediatrics, recognizes a hospital staff member whose work makes a difference in the lives of children.

Wendy Hansen, Obstetrics and Gynecology, is featured in a Parents.com story about what OB/GYN moms learned about labor and delivery both as doctors and as patients.

Harold Kleinert, Human Development Institute, received \$194,000 from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to disseminate nationally interactive modules for the Brighter Tomorrows project, which is designed to enhance the communication skills and knowledge of physicians, obstetricians/gynecologists, and family practitioners in providing information to families of children newly diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Linda Peel, Adolescent Medicine Clinic, received the Ohio Valley Society for Adolescent Medicine's Outstanding Service to Adolescents Award at the annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio earlier this month.

Sue Rimmer, Earth and Environmental Sciences, has received the Association for Women Geoscientists' 2007 Outstanding Educator Award. This award honors educators who have played a significant role in the education, support and encouragement of women geoscientists.

Kelly Smith, Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named chair-elect of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and will serve a three-year term.

Jeroen van den Hurk, Historic Preservation, was awarded the \$2,000 Hendricks Manuscript Award from the New Netherland Institute at its 30th Rensselaerswijck Seminar in mid-September in Albany, N. Y. The honor recognizes the best manuscript relating to any aspect of the Dutch colonial experience in North America. His winning submission was "Imagining New Netherland: Origins and Survival of Netherlandic Architecture in Old New York," research that focuses on the architecture of New Netherland and provides an analysis of historical documents referring to the built environment and surviving architecture, as well as a comparative study of contemporary 17th-century Dutch architecture. The award also grants him the honor of being named a Fellow of the New Netherland Project.

Tony Zhai, Materials Engineering, received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award on Quantitative Understanding of the Effects of Micro- and Macro-texture on Fatigue Crack Initiation and Early Growth in High Performance Alloys. The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. To date, five faculty members in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering have received either the NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award or the CAREER Award.