

Office of the President  
June 17, 2008

1. UK Confers a Record 6,500 Degrees at its 141st Commencement

A record 6,500 candidates for degrees were honored during the University of Kentucky's 141st Commencement on May 4 in Lexington's Rupp Arena. This includes students who earned degrees in August 2007 and December 2007, along with candidates for degrees in the 2008 spring semester. Beverly Kirk, a UK alumna and award-winning TV and radio news reporter based in Washington, D.C., and Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed the graduates. The \$5,000 Kirwan Memorial Prize for outstanding contributions to original research or creative scholarship was presented to UK ophthalmologist and professor of physiology, Dr. Jayakrishna Ambati, an international authority on age-related macular degeneration. Lynne A. Hall, the Marcia A. Dake Professor of Nursing Science and associate dean for research and science in the UK College of Nursing, received the \$2,000 William B. Sturgill Award for outstanding contributions to graduate education. Two student leaders in UK's "DanceBlue" benefit, Megan K. Tolley of Louisville and Joseph David Ritchie of Bardstown, and non-student William R. Grimes of Morehead, who operates a free health care clinic in a rural eastern Kentucky community, received the 2008 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallions. The graduating senior who spoke on behalf of the Class of 2008 was Christine Tillman, a nursing major from Paducah.

2. UK Wins \$10 Million NIH Grant to Fight Effects of Superfund Wastes

UK has received a grant of more than \$10 million for a multi-pronged effort to study the relationships among environmental pollutants, nutrition and disease. The grant, funded by the National Institutes of Health, will support the efforts of more than 50 scientists and students representing more than 15 academic departments in the colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, and Pharmacy. UK's program, "Nutrition and Superfund Chemical Toxicity," was one of only two proposals selected for funding from among 18 competing grants submitted nationally to the NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences under its Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP). UK joins 13 other universities with ongoing Superfund programs. Superfund sites are defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as uncontrolled or abandoned places where hazardous waste is located. More than 500 such sites are in Kentucky, a state where rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and hypertension are well above national averages. The UK grant, written by program director Bernhard Hennig of the College of Agriculture, supports five projects that address ongoing Superfund-related issues in the Commonwealth, and several core activities, including community outreach. More information about the program is

available online at [www.uky.edu/Research/Superfund/](http://www.uky.edu/Research/Superfund/).

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

UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. joined University of Louisville President James Ramsey, Centre College President John A. Roush, and Berea College President Larry Shinn in sponsoring and hosting "Energizing Kentucky," a conference in Louisville earlier this month that focused on the impact of rising energy costs on Kentucky businesses and industries and ways those businesses are adjusting. The conference featured Sandra Meyer, Duke Power Co.'s vice president for Kentucky and Ohio, and Pierce Lyons of Alltech among the leading speakers. Energizing Kentucky is a series of three conferences focusing on energy issues facing the Commonwealth, and makes the presidents of several of Kentucky's leading institutions of higher education the moderators of the discussions of these critical issues. The second conference is scheduled for September in Louisville on governmental policies and will feature *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman as keynote speaker. The third conference, date to be announced, will focus on the education response.

4. Kentucky Children's Hospital to Lead National Leukemia Study

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital researchers will lead a national study for children with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The study is based on laboratory research that was performed at UK's Markey Cancer Center. The principal investigator for the national study is Dr. Jeff Moscow, vice chair and professor of pediatrics in the division of hematology/oncology of the UK College of Medicine, and a physician at Kentucky Children's Hospital. The study, sponsored by the Children's Oncology Group and funded by the National Cancer Institute, involves children with AML who have experienced either a relapse of their disease, or who were unable to achieve a remission with standard therapy, Moscow says. The study will test the drug Bortezomib (Velcade) in combination with chemotherapy. Bortezomib is a new drug that is used to treat multiple myeloma in adults, but it has never before been used to treat leukemia in children. The clinical trial is the direct result of laboratory observations made at the UK Markey Cancer Center by Dr. Craig Jordan. In a series of key studies, Jordan demonstrated that primitive cells that give rise to leukemia cells, called leukemia stem cells or leukemia initiating cells, are especially sensitive to Bortezomib in combination with chemotherapy. Jordan is now at the University of Rochester.

5. Faculty Elects McCorvey as Representative on UK Board of Trustees

Everett McCorvey, the Lexington Opera Society Endowed Chair of Opera in the UK College of Fine Arts and director of UK Opera Theatre, has been elected as a faculty representative to the UK Board of Trustees, replacing Jeff Dembo, whose term expires June 30, 2008. McCorvey was elected to a three-year term, which will expire June 30, 2011. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, McCorvey received his undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a doctorate in musical arts, from the University of Alabama. A professor of voice at UK's School of Music, McCorvey is credited for the growth the

university Opera Theatre has achieved. Under his leadership and with the support of the Lexington Opera Society, the opera program has become one of the most sought after opera educations in the country, on par with other noted programs at Julliard, Florida State, and Indiana.

6. College of Medicine Joins Georgetown College to Recruit Minorities

The UK College of Medicine has entered into a partnership with Georgetown College to enhance diversity in medical education through coordinated minority student recruitment efforts. Georgetown College will identify prospective “partnership students” as early as sixth grade, selecting students from populations that are underrepresented in medical professions. As Georgetown nurtures these students through their college careers, UK’s College of Medicine will provide special opportunities for them to observe, shadow, and be mentored by medical professionals. Once a student is on track toward a medical career, UK will become more directly involved, helping prepare students for their application to medical school. Each year, up to two Georgetown College partnership graduates, who academically qualify and are selected for admission, will be provided financial assistance to the UK College of Medicine.

7. UK Reports its Highest-ever Six-year Graduation Rates

UK reported the highest six-year graduation rates in its history, with its six-year graduation rate for 2007 (those students entering the university in 2001) rising to 61.2 percent, the highest in the state among public universities. The rate is up from 59.1 percent for 2006 or for students who entered UK in 2000. At the same time, graduation rates for African-American students also were at historic highs at 50.3 percent for 2007, up from 45 percent the previous year. That rate also is highest among all public institutions in the state. This past year also marks the first time African-American graduation rates have exceeded 50 percent at UK. The student-faculty ratio has dropped in the last year to 17-to-1 from 18-to-1. The drop is the result of a net increase in faculty of more than 60 this academic year, an increase made possible by legislative funding of UK’s Top 20 Business Plan in 2006. UK received an additional \$20 million in state support in 2006 for its business plan that was made available in 2007-2008. The bulk of those dollars were used to increase the size of the faculty as part of an effort to lower student/faculty ratios, improve graduation rates and retention, and continue to expand research and public service efforts.

8. UK Eliminates Paper Schedule of Classes and Bulletins for Online Publication

Students needing to register for future semesters will soon find their courses with the click of a mouse, rather than a turn of a page. Starting with spring 2009, the schedule of classes will be paperless. Officials say the decision to not print a traditional schedule book will bring both environmental and economic benefits to the university, especially in light of recent budget cuts to higher education. UK will continue to print the schedule of classes for the summer advising conferences. This publication will be a newspaper format that will be much smaller and more cost effective. UK will also go paperless with

the Undergraduate Bulletin starting with the 2008-09 academic year. Both publications will be available for download on the Registrar's Web site.

9. Latest *America's Top Doctors* Includes 20 UK HealthCare Physicians

Twenty UK HealthCare physicians are named in two of the latest *America's Top Doctors* lists. Published by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., the 7th edition of *America's Top Doctors* and 3rd edition of *America's Top Doctors for Cancer* recognize specialists who are considered among the best in both patient care and research. More than 250,000 doctors nominated their top colleagues, including those to whom they would refer their own patients. Less than 5 percent of all doctors in the nation are listed as a Top Doctor. UK HealthCare physicians included in *America's Top Doctors* are Joseph R. Berger, neurology; Timothy Bricker, pediatric cardiology; Leslie Crofford, rheumatology; Paul DePriest, gynecologic oncology; Philip A. DeSimone, medical oncology; Dennis E. Doherty, pulmonary disease; James E. Ferguson II, maternal and fetal medicine; Darren Johnson, orthopaedic surgery; Patrick C. McGrath, surgery; Franklin C. Miller, maternal and fetal medicine; Timothy Mullett, thoracic surgery; Roy Patchell, neuro-oncology; Edward H. Romond, medical oncology; Randall G. Rowland, urological surgery; Joseph Valentino, otolaryngology; John R. van Nagell, gynecologic oncology; and Byron Young, neurological surgery. DeSimone, DePriest, McGrath, Mullett, Patchell, Romond, Rowland, Valentino, van Nagell and Young also are listed in *Top Doctors for Cancer*, along with Kenneth B. Ain, medical oncology and endocrinology; Jeffrey Moscow, pediatric hematology-oncology; and Marcus Randall, radiation oncology.

10. Kentucky Transportation Center Wins \$3.5 Million for Transit Security Center

The Kentucky Transportation Center's Intelligent Transportation Systems section, headed by Joe Crabtree, has won a \$3.5 million grant over the next three years to continue development of the North American Transportation Security Center. The Kentucky Transportation Center, which is headquartered at UK and affiliated with the UK College of Engineering, will collaborate with Morehead State University, Coldstream Digital, and General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems on this project. The shipment of hazardous materials provides a target for terrorists. In Kentucky, 70,000 trucks pass through the state on a daily basis, with some of them carrying hazardous material. The ability to track hazmat shipments on a real time basis is essential for providing an early warning of an impending terrorist attack. The project will allow for the development of a functional prototype of a hazmat truck tracking center. The project will complement a congressional directive to the Transportation Security Administration to develop a program that tracks motor carrier shipments of security-sensitive materials.

11. College of Law Helps Habitat for Humanity with House for Custodian

Rita Mays has been an integral part of life at the UK College of Law for many years. She not only serves as a custodian for the college, she greets each person with a friendly smile, wishes them the best on a good day, and has become part of the heart and soul of the college. When the College of Law learned that Mays was receiving a house

from Lexington Habitat for Humanity, faculty, staff, and students all wanted to pitch in to help Mays achieve her dream of becoming a homeowner. UK Law is partnering with Ashland, Inc., Webasto Roofing Company, and Lexington Habitat for Humanity to give a new home to Mays and her family. Students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College of Law are working on the house on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout May and June. They also are helping fulfill a wish list of items to help Mays' make her new house a home. Mays and her family will work with Lexington Habitat for Humanity to gain sweat equity hours toward the house. Lexington Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry that cultivates partnerships with families in need, sponsors, and volunteers to build simple, decent, affordable housing in Fayette County.

#### 12. Faculty Citations Lead to High Rankings for Gatton College Doctoral Programs

A recent study regarding the rankings of doctoral programs in economics in the United States spotlights the high quality of the Department of Economics at the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics. The study, published in the April 2008 *Southern Economic Journal*, is based on citations to publications authored by UK economics faculty members. The study focuses on published research in all major peer-reviewed economics journals over the period 1985 to 2004 and citations to these publications in professional journals. Basing the rankings on a per faculty member basis, UK's Department of Economics ranks 19th among all public universities in the U.S. Among all public universities, the Department of Economics ranks 38th, ahead of benchmark institutions Purdue, Florida, and Georgia, and ahead of all public Southeastern Conference (SEC) universities. In the field of public economics, the department is ranked eighth overall and fourth among all public universities. The department is the third-highest ranked in this field among UK's benchmarks and first among SEC schools.

#### 13. UK Teams Score High on NCAA's Academic Progress Rate

The NCAA released its fourth annual Academic Progress Rate report, showing that all 22 of the UK sports teams surpassed the NCAA target score and that 13 of the 22 squads exceeded the national average for public universities in their sports. The women's swimming team led the way for UK with 986 out of a possible 1,000 points, followed by women's soccer (985), men's outdoor track (976), women's outdoor track (976), men's indoor track (973) and women's basketball (972). The marks are a four-year composite, covering the 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 school years, that measures academic eligibility and retention of student-athletes. The NCAA target score for each sport is 925. The 13 Wildcat teams that exceeded the national average among public universities in their sports included baseball (940), men's basketball (941), women's basketball (972), men's cross country (970), football (943), rifle (966), women's soccer (985), women's swimming (986), men's tennis (958), men's indoor track (973), women's indoor track (971), men's outdoor track (976), and women's outdoor track (976).

14. Center for Research on Violence Against Women Hosts National Meeting

The UK Center for Research on Violence Against Women served as host to a late May national meeting on how universities should address stalking victimization on their campuses. The meeting, part of a U.S. Department of Justice funded project, was attended by criminal justice, student affairs, prevention/education, and other professionals from colleges and universities across the country. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a national model policy on how universities should respond to stalking cases that involve their students. In its 2007 Women's Safety Study, the Center for Research on Violence Against Women surveyed 2001 UK women students and found that 15.1 percent had had the experience of stalking victimization while a student at UK, down from 18 percent in the 2004 version of that same study. Almost half of those stalking cases took place on UK's campus, and there was an increase in the use of electronic means to commit stalking over the past three years.

15. Louisville Physician Wins UK Library Associates Achievement Award

Dr. Laman A. Gray Jr. of Louisville is the 2008 recipient of the UK Library Associates Medallion for Intellectual Achievement. The award, which recognizes high intellectual achievement, was presented at the UK Library Associates annual meeting. Gray is a professor of surgery and director of the division of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at University of Louisville School of Medicine. He holds the Jewish Hospital Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery and is medical director of the Cardiovascular Innovation Institute.

16. KGS and Partners Make Progress on Carbon Storage Research Projects

Following the mandate of House Bill 1, passed in last summer's special legislative session, KGS has partnered with several private companies to plan research projects in deep geologic carbon dioxide storage and enhance oil and gas recovery using carbon dioxide. A site has been selected in Hancock County for a demonstration of the ability to store the gas connected to global warming in formations 8,000 feet below the surface. Similar projects are being developed in the eastern coal fields of Kentucky. The partners involved in this work have formed the Kentucky Consortium for Carbon Storage.

17. William T. Young Library Marks its 10th Anniversary

The William T. Young Library celebrated 10 years of service to the public with a celebration on May 13. The event included tours, a reception, and a program with featured speaker E. Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University. A student celebration is scheduled for August 25 during K Week.

18. Appalachian Center Hosts Social Venture Showcase

In April, the Appalachian Center convened the fourth annual Social Venture Showcase for the Appalachian IDEAS Network. This event challenges Appalachian undergraduate college students from universities and colleges across the 13-state region to develop entrepreneurial social ventures that address local community issues. The Appalachian IDEAS Network is a regional, multi-university initiative led by UK.

19. Sustainability Project Wins \$103,000 Two-Year Extension

Ernie Yanarella, professor of Political Science, and Carol Hanley, Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment education coordinator, have been awarded a follow-up \$103,000 grant from the Kentucky Department of Education to continue and expand his sustainability agenda on campus and within the larger Bluegrass community, beginning July 2008 and continuing through June 2010. The grant will allow Yanarella's sustainability team to teach a pilot course proposed for the inchoate general education reform program, and integrate its two-class module into UK 101 or its successor. The grant also will offer a community workshop advancing livability and sustainability in Lexington by bringing key movers and shakers from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to share the strategies behind that city's achievement of world-class status. It will also extend environmental education programs at the national level to K-12 schools in the Lexington area.

20. Six Individuals, One Unit Receive 2008 President's Awards for Diversity

President Todd, accompanied by Allan Richards, chair of the President's Commission on Diversity, presented the sixth annual President's Awards for Diversity to recognize outstanding efforts toward advancing UK's mission to embrace diversity while maintaining academic excellence. The awards went to College of Medicine Department of Biomedical Engineering graduate student Nirmal Ravi; three faculty members, College of Arts and Sciences philosophy professor Joan Callahan, College of Arts and Sciences geography professor Karl Raitz, and College of Agriculture plant pathology professor Christopher Schardl; one staff member, Human Resources Development and Training staff member Marietta Watts; one administrator, College of Medicine Dean Jay Perman; and one university unit, the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center.

21. Two Groups with UK Ties Receive State Earth Day Awards

Two groups with ties to UK were among 10 individuals and groups recognized on Earth Day by the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission for significant contributions to the environment. Water Pioneers Water Quality Program received a 2008 Earth Day Award for sponsoring a week-long, in-depth study of Appalachian watersheds for rising high school sophomores enrolled in the UK Robinson Scholars Program. Another Earth Day Award went to the Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community for its efforts in the 2006 and 2007 U.S. Conference of Mayors' City Recycling Challenge. The partnership between UK, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, and the

Fayette County Public Schools developed a promotional campaign to encourage recycling of aluminum cans. Thanks to the partnership's efforts, more than 3.7 million cans were collected in Fayette County for recycling during the 2006 two-week contest and more than 10 million cans in 2007.

22. Education Professor Helps Winburn Middle School Finish Strong in Math Contest

Thanks to the guidance of College of Education professor Xin Ma, the Winburn Middle School MathCounts team had a strong finish in the 2008 Kentucky State MathCounts Competition. Ma, a professor of mathematics education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, coached the team beginning in November 2007. He led one student to a third-place finish in the Countdown Round of competition and two students to top-17 finishes in individual rounds. In regional competition, one student claimed first place in the Countdown Round, the Winburn four-member team took third place, and four students finished in the top 17 in the individual rounds.

23. Conference Offers Advice to Caregivers of Aging Parents

Caregivers facing the challenges of caring for older adults found useful information at the 25th annual Challenges of Aging Conference. Four workshops focused on meaningful interactions, stress management, long distance care-giving, and the "best kept community resource secrets." Open to all Central Kentucky residents, caregivers, and professionals, the conference provided the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of aging about health and wellness, world events, recreation, financial management, gardening, medical issues, and more.

24. Student Awards and Achievements

Caitlyn Cecil, Center of Membrane Sciences, won first place at the 2008 Southern Region American Institute of Chemical Engineers Meeting for her presentation on film materials. Cecil also published a paper, with Dibakar Bhattacharyya, titled "Functionalized Membranes by Layer-By-Layer Assembly of Polyelectrolytes and In-Situ Polymerization of Acrylic Acid for Applications in Enzymatic Catalysis," which appeared in the American Chemical Society publication, *I&EC Research*.

Ashley Dimkich and Greg Dombrowski, Education, were named finalists for the Southeastern Conference's H. Boyd McWhorter Student-Athlete of the Year award. They received a \$5,000 post-graduate scholarship for their efforts. Each SEC institution nominated one male and one female student-athlete for this annual award.

Samanthia Farthing, Psychology, and Lian Liu, Computer Science doctoral student, received the 2008 Carol S. Adelstein Outstanding Student Award, which is presented annually to students with a disability who best serve as an inspiration to the university community through excellence in academic achievement, leadership, extracurricular activities, and social and personal qualities.

Lesley Jaye Mann, Agricultural Biotechnology, and Ashby Clay Turner, Biology have been named the 2008 Beckman Scholars at UK, providing each of them with \$19,300 over 14 months to support their own scientific research projects under faculty



mentorship. The program is funded by the Beckman Foundation and provides a stipend and support for research projects the winning students propose in the fields of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, or a biomedical science.

Sam Nicaise, Electrical Engineering, won a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship worth about \$7,500 per year for two years as he completes his undergraduate study.

Three Art students were among those recognized at this year's "University Open," a juried competition between undergraduate fine arts students at Kentucky colleges and universities. Dawn Graham took third place at the show. Tyler Dearing and Katherine Norman received honorable mention recognition for their work.

## 25. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Janice Almasi, Education, joined two select groups this year when she assumes seats on the boards of directors of the National Reading Conference and the International Reading Association. Her terms will run from 2008 to 2011.

Lars G. Björk, Educational Leadership Studies, was selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the upcoming year. Björk will be working with a research team at the University of Jyväskylä Institute of Educational Leadership in Finland on several projects funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education including conducting the first national study of superintendents in Finland, conducting a study of municipal government mergers, and publishing study findings in international scholarly journals.

Jonathan Cardi, Law, has written an article "Über-Middleman: Reshaping the Broken Landscape of Music Copyright" that will be included in the 2008 edition of the *Entertainment, Publishing and the Arts Handbook* published annually by Thomson West Group.

James G. Cibulka, dean of the UK College of Education, has been named the next president of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The NCATE Executive Board ratified his appointment May 9, 2008.

Allison Connelly, Law, was recognized by the Fayette County Bar Association with the Citizen Lawyer Award. The award, presented at the annual Law Day celebration, recognizes a member of the Bar whose involvement in governmental, civic, charitable, or community activities has demonstrated a sincere desire to maintain and improve the administration of justice, the quality of the legal practice, and the quality of life for all residents of Fayette County.

Merl M. Hackbart, Public Administration and Finance, is the recipient of the 2008 William E. Lyons Award from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration and the Department of Political Science. The Lyons Award, named in honor of the late William (Bill) E. Lyons, professor of political science and public administration, is presented annually to a member of the university community who epitomizes the academic leadership and public service demonstrated by Lyons during many years as a faculty member at UK.

Peter Nagy, Horticulture, had an article published in the journal *Cell Host and Microbe*, a publication belonging to the *CELL* series of journals. He reported on the role of a host protein on the replication of the tomato bushy stunt virus, as well as other positive-strand RNA viruses.

Melynda Price, Law, was recently honored with a Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship Postdoctoral Award, given to individuals who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, show promise of future achievement as scholars and teachers, and are well prepared to use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

Lori Ringhand, Law, who co-authored work on U.S. Supreme Court nominees discussed in an editorial, was quoted in the *New York Times* and by National Public Radio in April regarding her work on United States Supreme Court confirmation hearings in the Senate.

Art Sebesta, Chemistry, won the 2008 Paul Nestor Award for Employment Creativity. Sebesta was recognized for creative problem solving that saved the department an estimated \$121,500 in equipment and training costs.

Rick Underwood, Law, was cited multiple times in the newest edition of *Federal White Collar Crime* by Julie R. O'Sullivan (Thomson/West) and identified as an expert of perjury.

Susan West, Dean of Students Office, won the Southeastern Panhellenic Association Greek Advisor of the Year Award during the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference in Atlanta, Ga., recently. The UK Panhellenic Council was also awarded for its women's issues programming.

Sheila Woods, Pediatrics, and Suzanne Springate, UK HealthCare, received the 14th annual Sarah Bennett Holmes Award, presented annually to UK women who promote the growth and well-being of other women on campus and across the Commonwealth.