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Office of the President
March 4, 2008

1. President Todd Unveils 13 New Commonwealth Collaborative Projects

University of Kentucky President Lee T. Todd, Jr. unveiled 13 projects in late January designed for directly impacting the quality of life in Kentucky. The projects, designated as new Commonwealth Collaboratives by Todd, aim at improving health, education, economic development, the environment, and exposure to cultural events. The Commonwealth Collaborative designation means the projects will receive \$10,000 from Todd's discretionary funds in addition to other funding they already may have from other sources. The 13 join 23 other projects that President Todd designated as Commonwealth Collaboratives in 2005. The projects are subject to annual review to determine their progress and effectiveness. More information about the Commonwealth Collaboratives projects is available online at www.uky.edu/UE/CC/project.htm.

2. Thirty-two High-tech Startups with UK Ties Win Venture Club Recognition

Fifty-five early-stage companies in the Lexington area, including 32 with direct ties to UK, reported an 82 percent increase in funding and 35 percent growth in jobs for 2007 as part of an annual survey conducted by the Lexington Venture Club. The companies also represent the information technology and software, food and consumer products, advanced manufacturing, business services, education, and media business sectors. Bluegrass early-stage companies attracted a record \$64.5 million in funding during 2007, with more than half coming from venture capital. Additional funding came from angel investors, federal grants, Kentucky state funds including a new state matching program, strategic partners, and the entrepreneurs themselves. Venture capital investment has grown from zero dollars in 2003 (the first year of the survey) to over \$37 million in 2007. A total 422 people were employed in these early-stage companies in 2007 — 341 held full time positions with an average salary of \$61,300.

3. Reader's Digest Calls UK the Nation's Fourth Safest Campus

UK has been ranked as the fourth safest campus among 135 schools surveyed by *Reader's Digest*. The March issue of *Reader's Digest* features a special report on safety preparedness at colleges called "Safe at School?" with the survey results. The report examines the numerous safety threats faced by college students today and describes some of the best safety practices employed by certain schools. UK was listed as a Best Practice University in the area of fire safety due in part to its fire drills that feature nontoxic theatrical smoke, which helps students understand what a real fire emergency is like. The full story and survey results can be seen at www.rd.com.

4. UK Is Chosen as Participant in Energy Department's Solar Decathlon

UK is one of only 20 university-led teams from around the world selected to compete in the United States Department of Energy (DOE) 2009 Solar Decathlon. A biennial event, the Solar Decathlon brings together teams in a competition to design, build, and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered house. Over the next 18 months, UK's team will develop its Simple, Modular, Affordable, Renewable, Transportable, Building, combining Living, Understanding, Energy-efficiency, and Sustainability or SMART BLUES House. As part of the project, the student-driven "Blues" Team will ultimately design, fabricate, construct, and test their house at the university in preparation for evaluation at the solar village. The Blues Team, an interdisciplinary group consisting of students, faculty, and staff from six collaborating colleges and 16 centers and departments on the UK campus, was created to execute the decathlon project. The collaborative effort will be led by three principal investigators: Hilary Bryon, lecturer in architecture in the College of Design; Donald Colliver, associate professor of biosystems and agricultural engineering at the College of Agriculture/College of Engineering; and Gregory Luhan, Kentucky Housing Corporation-John Russell Groves Professor in Affordable Housing Design and associate dean for research at the College of Design. Other colleges with faculty serving on the project are the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Communications and Information Studies, the College of Engineering, and the College of Medicine. The principal investigators have already secured \$100,000 in funding from the DOE and will attempt to fundraise more through the participation of the community-at-large as the total project cost is expected to exceed \$500,000.

5. Kentucky African American Encyclopedia Begins its Compilation Stage

The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia Project commemorated the one-of-a-kind encyclopedia project at a mid-January event. The event signified the start of the project's compilation stage of the encyclopedia at its offices at UK under the direction of co-editor Gerald Smith. The public has also been invited to participate in the creation of history by submitting entries interactively to the Kentucky African American Encyclopedia, thought to be the first state encyclopedia of its kind in the nation. To date the book, which will include information on individuals, events, institutions, and movements that shaped the Commonwealth, has been compiled by editors and student researchers from across the state. The other individuals working with Smith on the project are John A. Hardin, co-editor and associate professor at Western Kentucky University (WKU); alumna Karen McDaniel, co-editor and visiting scholar of African/African American studies and women's studies at Eastern Kentucky University and professor emeritus at Kentucky State University; and six undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of fields of study at UK, the University of Louisville, and WKU.

6. UK-developed Lung Cancer Blood Test Is Licensed to Companies

A lung cancer blood test developed by UK faculty members Edward A. Hirschowitz and Li Zhong has moved closer to the marketplace. Rockville, Maryland-based 20/20 GeneSystems, Inc., developer of innovative diagnostic products for early disease detection and personalized medicine, has entered into an agreement with Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics (OCD), a Johnson & Johnson company, to license – and ultimately market – the Hirschowitz and Zhong blood test. The test, which has garnered worldwide attention, has been 90 percent accurate in correctly predicting non-small cell lung cancer in patients years before being detected by a CT scan. No other test has been able to successfully detect lung cancer. Worldwide, 10 million people are diagnosed with lung cancer each year. And in the United States, Kentucky has the highest incidence and death rate from lung cancer – 49 percent higher than the national average.

7. New Scientific Review Reaffirms Oatmeal's Health Benefits

A new scientific review of the most current research shows the link between eating oatmeal and cholesterol reduction to be stronger than when the FDA initially approved the health claim's appearance on food labels in 1997. James W. Anderson, professor of medicine and clinical nutrition at the UK College of Medicine, co-authored "The Oatmeal-Cholesterol Connection: 10 Years Later" in the January/February 2008 issue of the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine. Anderson presented a contemporary analysis to determine if newer studies are consistent with the original conclusion reached by the FDA. His report says studies conducted during the past 15 years have, without exception, shown total cholesterol levels are lowered through oat consumption, and low-density lipoprotein (LDL, the "bad" cholesterol) is reduced without adverse effects on high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL, the "good" cholesterol), or triglyceride concentrations.

8. Colleges of Engineering, Business and Economics Launch SEAM Program

The UK College of Engineering and the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics launched the Scholars in Engineering and Management (SEAM) program in early January. The SEAM program is designed to complement a business or engineering major. The program brings together undergraduate business and engineering students to participate in an integrated program, in which students can learn from each other. SEAM scholars are eligible to enroll in specially designed courses led by an interdisciplinary faculty. Students will work in cross-functional teams in those courses, reflecting the changes in the business world, where intense competition is forcing companies to be more innovative in their marketing and delivery of products and services. Nineteen students are in the first group of SEAM scholars.

9. New 'UK Alert' System Helps Warn Campus Community of Emergencies

More than 9,000 people have registered for UK Alert, the University of Kentucky's new emergency notification system, since it became active in mid-January.

After a very heavy first week of sign-ups, an average of just more than 100 new registrants per day is now being logged. In the case of an emergency on campus, UK Alert will allow those who register to receive messages via several devices including text messaging, e-mail, cell phones, land-line phones, pagers, and fax machines.

10. Study Finds Link Between TCE Exposure, Parkinsonism

Industrial workers who worked with trichloroethylene (TCE) may face a greater risk for parkinsonism, a study by a team of UK researchers shows. The team, led by Don M. Gash and John T. Slevin of the UK College of Medicine, identified a number of industrial workers who exhibited symptoms of parkinsonism, a group of nervous disorders with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease. The workers had experienced long-term exposure to TCE, a degreasing agent widely used in industry that also has been found in drinking water, surface water, and soil due to runoff from manufacturing sites where it has been used. The researchers report their findings in the online version of *Annals of Neurology*, the official journal of the American Neurological Association.

11. UK Hosts Metropolitan Opera's Regional Auditions; Student Advances

The Lexington Opera Society and UK Opera Theatre hosted the Tri-State Regional Finals for the Metropolitan (Met) Opera National Council Auditions in mid-January at Memorial Hall. The auditions featured the best vocalists from district competition in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Judges for the regional auditions were Met representatives George Darden, an assistant conductor and a pianist; Mignon Dunn, a mezzo soprano vocalist; and Charles MacKay, adjudicator for the Met auditions and future general director for the Santa Fe Opera. Vocalists competing at the auditions were accompanied by Cliff Jackson, an associate professor of voice and vocal coach at UK School of Music. Three UK vocalists, Afton Battle, Christopher Conley, and Hannah Smith, competed in the auditions. Battle, a UK graduate student and soprano from Texas, was one of only two winning finalists selected to advance from regionals to the National Council Auditions Semi-Finals at New York's famed Metropolitan Opera stage.

12. UK to Boost Student Retention by Improving Advisor Communication

UK has selected Hobsons Student Retention Solutions to help improve its student retention rates by improving communication between students and the faculty and staff who advise them. EMT Retain, Hobsons' flagship communication system to reach academically "at risk" students, will allow UK to use technology to boost retention efforts among its more than 27,000 students. Hobsons EMT Retain will enable UK to reach at-risk students more effectively with cross-media communication methods, improve overall communication from the university to these students, leverage student data to make student communications more efficient, and create a single, integrated hub for all retention efforts for the entire university. Ultimately, these tools will enhance, diversify, and streamline communications and administrative tasks, allowing UK staff more time to interact with at-risk students. By identifying these students early on, EMT Retain will help the university address an important set of challenges and goals.

13. Exstream Software World Headquarters Opens at Coldstream

One of the world's fastest growing technology companies has opened its international headquarters at UK's Coldstream Research Campus. Exstream Software, which provides enterprise document automation solutions for businesses around the world, and includes five offices in Europe and one in Australia, moved 144 Lexington-based employees to Coldstream the first of the year. It was recently announced that the 10-year-old Lexington company will become part of Hewlett-Packard by April 30.

14. UK Teams with Georgia Tech on Microneedle Drug Administration Research

In what is believed to be the first peer-reviewed study of its kind involving human subjects, researchers at the UK College of Pharmacy and the Georgia Institute of Technology have demonstrated that patches coated on one side with microscopic needles can facilitate transdermal delivery of clinically-relevant doses of a drug that normally cannot pass through the skin. Reported in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the study could help advance the use of microneedles as a painless method for delivering drugs, proteins, DNA, and vaccines into the body. The research also found other advantages for the microneedles, including an ability to produce therapeutic drug levels with lower doses, and lowered production of metabolites that may cause side effects. The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the UK Research Foundation.

15. Seven Will Be Inducted into Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame

Seven journalists will be named to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame on Tuesday, April 1, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington. The seven will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a luncheon ceremony sponsored by the University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Telecommunications Alumni Association. The inductees are Jack Crowner, senior farm director, Kentucky AGNET and WHAS Radio; Don Edwards, a retired columnist for the *Lexington Herald-Leader*; Virginia Edwards, editor and publisher of *Education Week* magazine and president of Editorial Projects in Education; T. George Harris, founding editor of *Psychology Today* and a reporter for *Time*, *Look*, and other publications; the late Kent Hollingsworth, editor of *The Blood-Horse* from 1963 to 1987; the late William Ray Mofield, broadcast journalist and former head of the journalism department at Murray State University; and Al Tompkins, Broadcast/Online Group Leader at the Poynter Institute. The same day, the school will hold its 31st annual Joe Creason Lecture at 6 p.m. in Memorial Hall. This year's presenter of the Creason Lecture is John Carroll, former editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, and *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

16. Kentucky Begins Celebrating Lincoln Bicentennial with Program at UK

Lincoln enthusiasts began celebrations in anticipation of the bicentennial of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln at "Our Lincoln" in early February on the UK campus. The program, a showcase of talent celebrating Lincoln's legacy presented by the Kentucky

Humanities Council, featured performances and artistic illustrations of ideas and themes connecting the popular president and his home state of Kentucky. Popular journalist and TV host Nick Clooney served as master of ceremonies for the program. Performers and presenters included the American Spiritual Ensemble featuring Everett McCorvey, director of UK Opera Theatre; Lexington native Nathan Cole and Akiko Tarumoto, violinists with Chicago Symphony Orchestra; the Lexington Philharmonic conducted by George Zack; Lexington Singers and Children's Choir; Lexington Vintage Dance Society; Kentucky Chatauqua's Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Emilie Todd Helm, Margaret Garner and Henry Clay; the Kentucky Repertory Theatre; UK Opera Theatre; and Jane Gentry Vance, UK English professor and poet laureate of Kentucky.

17. Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Offers New Memory Study

The UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging is one of 30 locations nationwide selected to participate in a home-based assessment study funded by the National Institutes of Health. The study is paving the way to a new generation of memory research studies. The study examines improved ways to collect information about older research participants rather than have them travel to a clinic to meet with health care professionals. Such visits are time-consuming and prevent older, less mobile people from participating in research. The home-based assessment study will investigate in-home methods of information gathering including the telephone, computer, and mail. The study is four years in length.

18. Physician Assistant Program Holds White Coat Ceremony

The UK College of Health Sciences recently welcomed 55 new students into the physician assistant (PA) profession with the presentation of the traditional white coat at a ceremony held in early February. The PA program graduates approximately 56 students per year. The physician assistant program's class of 2009 is comprised of 15 males and 40 females, 45 of whom are from Kentucky.

19. Choice Magazine Recommends University Press of Kentucky Books

Choice magazine named four books published by the University Press of Kentucky (UPK) Outstanding Academic Titles in its January issue. *A History of the Modern Chinese Army*, *Killing of the Indian Maiden: Images of Native American Women in Film*, *Reconstructing American Historical Cinema: From Cimarron to Citizen Kane*, and *Southern Farmers and Their Stories: Memory and Meaning in Oral History* made the list of titles the publication recommended to its readership. *Choice's* "Outstanding Academic Titles, 2007" reveals the best in scholarly titles reviewed by *Choice* magazine for the year. The honor brings with it extraordinary recognition from the academic library community as more than 35,000 academic librarians, faculty, and decision makers use reviews in *Choice* magazine and from *Choice* Reviews Online to inform their collection development and scholarly research.

20. Renowned Cellist Performs with UK Orchestra

World renowned cellist Lynn Harrell joined the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra on stage Feb. 15 as part of the Singletary Center for the Arts Corner on Classics series, which brings world-renowned classical musicians to the Bluegrass. The concert program featuring the accomplished soloist and UK Symphony Orchestra included performances of Beethoven's "Egmont" Overture, Elgar's Cello Concerto, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Harrell is a consummate soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, conductor, and teacher. His work in America, Europe, and Asia has placed him in the highest echelon of today's performing artists. A frequent guest of many of the leading orchestras, the cellist recently has presented solo performances with the Boston and Chicago symphonies, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, and the Israel Philharmonic.

21. UK Events Will Celebrate Culture of India

UK is presenting four events focusing on Indian culture during February and March 2008, exploring issues of linguistics, artistic expression, labor, and feminism. Daniel J. Ehnbohm of the University of Virginia presented "Krishna: Hero, Lover, God" in early February. At 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, in the Niles Gallery, E. Annamalai, visiting professor emeritus, The MacMillan Center of Yale University, will speak on "Reincarnation of English in India," exploring conditions surrounding colliding cultures. This presentation is co-sponsored by the UK College of Arts and Sciences, the Program in Indian Culture, and the Linguistics Program. Piya Chatterjee of the University of California at Riverside will present two lectures late this month. The first presentation, at 4 p.m. Monday, March 24, in the auditorium of the William T. Young Library, will examine "The Global Plantation: Women, Tea, and Imperialism." Chatterjee will speak again on Tuesday, March 25 at 4 p.m., also in the Young Library Auditorium, on "The Geopolitics of Transnational Feminism: Some Lessons From Indian Plantation Women's Organizing." Both lectures by Chatterjee are co-sponsored by the Program in Indian Culture, the Gender and Women's Studies Program, the Department of Anthropology and the UK Asia Center.

22. Jacqueline Noonan to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Dr. Jacqueline A. Noonan, a pediatric cardiologist at UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital, at the third annual Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. National Physician of the Year Awards on March 18, 2008 at The Manhattan Center in New York City. Noonan is professor emeritus of pediatrics, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Cardiology. Noonan will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 50 years of work caring for children with heart disease. Noonan, one of the most important individuals in the history of American pediatric care, is internationally known for her description and characterization in 1962 of the genetic disorder now called Noonan Syndrome. For many years, Noonan chaired the UK Department of Pediatrics and helped establish the Kentucky Children's Hospital. To honor Noonan, an endowed

chair was established: the Jacqueline A. Noonan Children's Miracle Network Endowed Chair in Pediatric Research. Noonan was one of the original UK faculty members hired when the UK College of Medicine opened and treated the very first patient admitted to the UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital.

23. *Kentucky Kernel Wins Big at Kentucky Press Association Competition*

The Kentucky Kernel was named the best college newspaper in Kentucky in January, winning the 2007 General Excellence award in the Kentucky Press Association's annual competition. This marks the fourth straight year the Kernel has received this highly prestigious award. Kernel staff members received first place awards in 15 of 26 categories, 10 second place awards, eight third place awards, and one certificate of merit. The Kernel swept the Best Spot News Coverage category, and several UK alums also won awards for their work at newspapers across the state.

24. Student Awards and Achievements

Terry Clayton, Kinesiology and Health Promotion and member of the UK Football team, was honored with the inaugural Rudy Award. The Rudy Award honors NCAA Division I student-athletes who demonstrate exemplary character, courage, contribution, and commitment as members of their collegiate football teams.

Xiuling Lu, Pharmacy postdoctoral fellow, received the 2008 Cassen Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award from the Education and Research Foundation for the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Lu will conduct her research in the laboratory of Mike Jay, professor of pharmaceutical sciences at UK.

25. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Craig Carter and Jacqueline Smith, Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, received a \$137,798 grant from the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation for "Rhodococcus Equi Pneumonia: Does the Magnitude of Airborne Exposure Predict Disease Development?"

Stephen Clements, Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, and Lars Björk, Educational Leadership Studies, received a \$135,000 grant from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education for their project "Embedded Teacher Learning Through Online Modules: Leveraging Professional Development Resources in Kentucky."

Carla Craycraft, eXtension, received a \$243,491 grant from the University of Nebraska to transform cooperative extension, making information accessible to the general public and extension professionals via the Internet.

Terence Delahanty, 4-H and Youth Development, was awarded a one-year \$220,000 grant for the Positive Youth Development Partnership from federal Administration for Children and Families.

Alan DeYoung, Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, received a Special Initiatives Research Fellowship from the American Councils for International Education: ACTRA/ACCELS, with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Program for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

DeYoung will conduct research during the spring 2008 semester on the project “Making Market Choices in Higher Education: How Students Choose Universities and Specializations and How Universities Create New Specializations in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan.”

Michael M. Goodin, Plant Pathology, is principal investigator of a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Division of Integrative Organismal Systems, for his project “A Host Protein Interaction and Localization Map for a Plant Rhabdovirus.”

Ted Grossardt, Benjamin Blandford, and John Ripy, Kentucky Transportation Center, won the 2008 Greg Herrington Award for Excellence in Visualization Research from the Transportation Research Board Committee on Visualization in Transportation for their paper “Integrated Transportation and Land Use Scenario Modeling Using Casewise Visual Evaluation: Case Study Jeffersonville, Indiana.” The award is presented in memory of Greg Herrington, who is recognized as a pioneer in the exploration and application of three-dimensional visualization technologies to transportation planning and design.

Lon Hays, Psychiatry, received the 2008 Harvey St. Clair Award from the Kentucky Psychiatric Medical Society Foundation's Second Annual Gala. The St. Clair Award is given annually to a psychiatrist in the state of Kentucky who has made valuable contributions to organized psychiatry during his career. Hays is being recognized for contributions to the Kentucky Psychiatric Medical Association as well as the American Psychiatric Association.

Dewayne Ingram, Horticulture Department, received the Paul Smeal Leadership and Administration Award presented by the Southern Region of the American Horticultural Sciences at their annual conference in February.

Tim Jacobbe and Margaret Mohr, Curriculum and Instruction, and Jennifer Stringfellow, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, received a Service Learning Grant for Family Math Night in Jessamine and Fayette Counties.

Tim Jacobbe, Curriculum and Instruction, had his paper “Connecting Research to Teaching: Using Polya to Overcome Translation Difficulties,” published in the December 2007 issue of *Mathematics Teacher*.

Pradeep Kachroo, Aadra Kachroo, and Lisa Vaillancourt, Plant Pathology, received a four-year \$510,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for their project, “Molecular and Biochemical Analysis of a Hemibiotrophic Interaction.”

Joan Mazur, Curriculum and Instruction, received a \$197,759 grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for her project “Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention: Economics of Prevention.”

Nina Nilsson, Curriculum and Instruction, published a chapter, “Reader Responses to African American Children’s Literature: A Sociolinguistic Perspective,” in the book *Embracing, Evaluating and Examining African American Children’s & Young Adult Literature* published by The Scarecrow Press, Inc. (Lanham, Md.).

Kristen Perry, Curriculum and Instruction, published “Primary School Literacy in Southern Africa: African Perspectives” in the journal *Comparative Education*.

Donna Smith, Family Studies, received the 2007-08 Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award, a university-wide honor that recognizes one faculty member and one staff member for outstanding service in the field of academic advising.

Stephen Workman, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, is principal investigator on the Cane Run Project, the development and approval of a watershed based plan. The upper Cane Run watershed includes Georgetown and a portion of Lexington, the Kentucky Horse Park, and the college's Maine Chance, Spindletop, and Coldstream farms. Phase I of the project is partially funded through a \$666,564 grant from the Kentucky Natural Resources Environmental Protection Cabinet.

Dana Walton-Macaulay, Office of Residence Life, has been named the 2007 Attorney of the Year by the Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program for her work for underprivileged clients.

Youling Xiong, Animal and Food Science, was awarded a three-year \$293,654 grant from Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) to study the role of protein oxidation in water-binding and hydration of meat.