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Office of the President
June 8, 2010

1. UK Confers Nearly 7,000 Degrees at 143rd Commencement

Nearly 7,000 candidates for undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees were honored at the University of Kentucky's 143rd Commencement in Rupp Arena on May 8, 2010. The ceremony recognized spring 2010 graduates as well as students who received their degrees in August and December 2009. David C. Novak, chairman, CEO, and president of Yum! Brands Inc., served as Commencement speaker. This year's student speaker was Kara A. Sutton of Elizabethtown, a 4.0-GPA student, with a double major in political science and economics, who has served as a legislative intern to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell. For the first time in UK history, the university broadcast its main Commencement ceremony live over the Internet. The webcast was archived on www.uky.edu/uknow.

2. New UK Institute Will Train Next Generation of Power and Energy Engineers

The UK College of Engineering has received nearly \$2.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a new institute to train the next generation of power engineers. The need for young engineers is urgent considering the challenges of the carbon footprint, the race to develop alternative energy resources and the goal of creating a national "Smart Grid." The Power and Energy Institute of Kentucky (PEIK), under the direction of electrical and computer engineering Professor L.E. Holloway, will educate the specialists needed to handle the technical challenges of generating, transmitting, and distributing electric power.

3. Toyota USA Foundation Gives \$500,000 to Program to Improve Math, Science Teaching

Toyota USA Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to a UK program designed to help K-12 teachers develop more effective methods of teaching math and science in 13 central and northern Kentucky urban school districts. The grant will allow the UK Partnership Institute for Mathematics and Science Education Reform (PIMSER) to provide teacher-driven teams, assisted by university and college faculty, in developing localized strategies for improving teaching and/or student learning in their mathematics or science programs. PIMSER's Partnership Enhancement Project (PEP) will provide planning guidelines and training to teachers to help determine their district's students' specific mathematics and science needs. Math and science professors at UK and several other colleges and universities use research based strategies to provide intervention plans for those specific needs. The teachers also will receive training on how to write professional development plans. The professional development guidelines could support a variety of proposals or plans. Participating school districts are, in northern Kentucky, Bellevue Independent, Boone County, Campbell County, Covington Independent, Dayton Independent, Kenton County, Newport Independent, Silver Grove Independent, and the Diocese

of Covington Department of Catholic Schools. In central Kentucky, participating districts are Bourbon County, Fayette County, Scott County, and the Diocese of Lexington Catholic Schools.

4. National Science Foundation Chooses Five UK Students for Graduate Research Grants

Five UK students will receive \$100,000, government-funded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships to support research-based master's or doctoral degrees. UK's newest NSF fellows are: Hui Chu, a doctoral student studying developmental and social psychology; Mark Goodman, a doctoral student studying entomology; Lesley Mann, a graduating senior studying agricultural biotechnology; Sam Nicaise, a graduating senior studying electrical engineering; and Christine Smith, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in geography. Additionally, four alumni were also recognized by the program. Alumni Jessica Sherman and James Stucker also will receive fellowships. Sherman, a graduate student at the University of California at Santa Barbara, holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from UK. Stucker, a graduate student at Ohio State University, earned his bachelor's degree in geology at UK. Additionally, alumnae Kathryn Boucher and Erin Yost received honorable mention recognition from the program.

5. Coalition Report Regales Three UK Spinoff Firms for Using Grants for Economy Gains

UK spinoff companies Allylix Inc., Mersive Technologies, and AllTranz Inc. are featured in *Sparking Economic Growth: How Federally Funded University Research Creates Innovation, New Companies and Jobs* released by The Science Coalition. The report suggests that one of the best ways the United States can foster long-term economic growth is through investment in the basic research that leads to innovation and job creation. The UK companies from the colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, and Pharmacy are part of the 100 success stories in the report. Collectively, these companies employ more than 100,000 people and have annual revenues approaching \$100 billion. The report is available at www.sciencecoalition.org.

6. Sanders-Brown Researchers Get \$2.4 Million to Study Alzheimer's in Down Patients

Elizabeth Head and Frederick Schmitt, physicians at the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, have been awarded a five-year grant for a dedicated research study of aging in adults with Down syndrome. The \$2.4 million grant was awarded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development within the National Institutes of Health. The study will look at how Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease may affect a person's memory and thinking as they get older. The project will follow neurological, learning, and memory changes in adults with Down syndrome as they age; examine brain changes using MRI; and measure blood biomarkers. In combination, the study hopes to identify early markers of the development of Alzheimer's disease in Down syndrome.

7. Gaines Center Selects 11 New Gaines Fellowship Scholars for 2010-11, 2011-12

Gaines Center for the Humanities selected 11 undergraduates as new scholars for the Gaines Fellowship Program for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 academic years. Fellowships recognize students' outstanding academic performance, demonstrated ability to conduct independent

research, interest in public issues, and desire to enhance understanding of the human condition through the humanities. Fellowships are awarded for the tenure of a student's junior and senior years, or for the last two years of a five-year program; students in all disciplines and with any intended profession are given equal consideration. The 11 students selected as Gaines Scholars are: Jessica Anderson, majoring in international studies; Zachary Davis, majoring in sustainable agriculture and sociology; Martha Groppo, majoring in history and journalism; Claire Heitzman, majoring in classics; Lauren Ison, majoring in chemistry; Ashleigh Lovelace, majoring in English and arts administration; Shady El-Maraghi, majoring in biology and French; Hannah Osborne, majoring in political science and history; Lena Reich, majoring in international studies and Spanish; Katherine VanHoose, majoring in architecture; and Ainsley Wagoner, majoring in interior design. All fellows take a specially designed, four-credit-hour per semester seminar in the humanities both semesters of their junior year. Each student will complete a major independent study project in his or her senior year, earning between six and 15 credit hours. The fellowship carries stipends of \$2,000 in a scholar's junior year and \$3,000 in the senior year.

8. Habitat Leader, Student Volunteer Are Recognized for Community Service

A Habitat for Humanity activist who died in an August 2006 airplane crash and a student who has volunteered both locally and in Latin America received UK's 2010 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallions for outstanding community service. The awards were presented at UK's 143rd Commencement at Rupp Arena. Patrick H. Smith of Lexington, who died on board Comair Flight 5191 when it crashed on takeoff at Bluegrass Airport Aug. 27, 2006, was chosen for his many years of involvement in Habitat for Humanity, in which he helped build houses for the poor in Lexington, west Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Mexico, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Gulfport, Miss., in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Rebecca Elizabeth Linares of Louisville was selected as 2010's graduating senior to receive the recognition. Linares, majoring in international studies and Spanish in the UK College of Arts and Sciences, was nominated for her various volunteer efforts.

9. Three UK Students Are Recognized by Prestigious Two-year Goldwater Scholarships

Three UK students were recognized by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. The scholarship is worth approximately \$7,500 per year for up to two years of undergraduate study. Junior Jenna Shapiro was named a Goldwater Scholar for 2010. Shapiro, who is pursuing a chemical engineering major and biology minor, is among 278 students nationwide awarded the scholarship this year. This year's scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,111 mathematics, science, and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. Additionally, senior Jake Gamsky and junior Jason Rexroat received honorable mention recognition by the esteemed scholarship program. Gamsky is pursuing a physics major and Rexroat is pursuing computer engineering and electrical engineering majors and a minor in mathematics.

10. Psychology Class Offers Help to Improve LexTran's Communication Tactics

In a class with important town-gown implications, 16 students in a UK psychology class presented proposals for making Lexington's public transit system's website and information-

distribution system more rider-friendly. The students in psychology professor Melody Carswell's human-technology interaction course presented ideas like more readable maps, easily understandable routes, two-sided bus-stop signs, and easily navigable website pages. Since the start of UK's 2010 spring semester, the class, which includes a mix of psychology and engineering students, studied LexTran's communication methods. They suggested a number of changes to the public transit system's website that Lextran has adopted. LexTran general manager Rocky Burke and other LexTran managers attended the presentations at the UK Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments (Vis Center) and said the students' proposals will be considered. In addition to serving on the College of Arts and Sciences' psychology faculty, Carswell is assistant director of the Vis Center, which is part of the UK College of Engineering.

11. PBS Series on Appalachia's Environmental History Features Two UK Professors

UK Professors Ronald Eller, history, and Gurney Norman, English, joined other leading experts on Appalachia's history and topography to tell the region's story from the ground up in "Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People," a four-part series that aired this spring on PBS, including Kentucky Educational Television. This was America's first environmental history series, according to the network.

12. College of Design Students Present Contemporary Designs at Year End Show

The UK College of Design and LOT (Land of Tomorrow) Gallery presented the Year End Graduation Show, an exhibition of student work from the College of Design. The show looked at contemporary design issues at a variety of scales and present works from selected graduate and undergraduate seminars in the Schools of Architecture and Interior Design. The exhibition showcased projects from the four architecture graduate studios that seek to redefine the role and efficacy of design in contemporary cultures, politics, and economies. Studio research areas include the continued development of the "River Cities Project," a multi-year design initiative focusing on the revitalization of industrial cities located on the Ohio River; experimentation with responsive devices and their productive capacity as design tools to generate novel formal, structural, and programmatic relationships; the adaptation of the regional houseboat industry to fabricate energy-efficient, low-cost housing; and policy as a form of design to optimize urban, suburban, and rural planning. The students presented their findings using animation, drawings, videos, and models. The Year End Graduation Show also featured works from design seminars dealing with material research, digital fabrication, surface effects, and innovative structures.

13. President Obama Recognizes UK for Student Involvement in Community Service

The University of Kentucky has received national recognition from President Obama for its commitment to community service. UK has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. Last year, nearly 9,500 UK students

participated in nearly 90,000 hours of service. Volunteerism at UK is coordinated through the Center for Community Outreach.

14. College of Medicine Marks 50th Anniversary with Symposium Looking to Future

The UK College of Medicine, in conjunction with its yearlong 50th anniversary, hosted an academic symposium, "Preparing Physicians for the Next 50 Years," for its faculty, staff, students, and community in late April. The symposium featured nationally acclaimed speakers with diverse backgrounds, such as Dr. Pauline Chen, Paul O'Neill, and Dr. Dennis O'Leary who shared their visions for the future of physicians and the health care system. During the four-hour symposium, the speakers focused on the future of medical education and the practice of medicine from various perspectives. O'Leary, the president emeritus of The Joint Commission, relayed to the audience the importance of patient safety. O'Neill, co-founder of the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, shared his experience in the health care industry and stressed the need for radically improving health care delivery. Chen, a surgeon, author, and online columnist for *The New York Times*, highlighted the benefit of interprofessionalism within medicine and the health care industry. More than 400 faculty, staff, students, and alumni attended the event.

15. Student Is Named 2010 Beckman Scholar, Gets \$19,300 to Support Research

Agricultural biotechnology junior Philip Houtz has been named the 2010 Beckman Scholar at UK and will be given \$19,300 over 14 months to support his own scientific research project under faculty mentorship. Houtz, a junior from Winchester, is performing his project under the mentorship of Bruce Webb, a professor in UK's entomology department in the College of Agriculture. Houtz's research involves the study of polydnviruses (PDVs), which are found in parasitoid wasps that characteristically lay their eggs in or on another organism. Houtz has recently co-discovered a second virus, identified as a "cypovirus," in this parasitoid-host relationship that mirrors the PDV and actually causes considerable mortality in the wasp larvae that become exposed to it. His research of this cycle provides a chance to study the complex relationship that exists between these two viruses and their development as biological weapons. Houtz is also a Chellgren Fellow, National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) poster presenter, UK AMSTEMM student, UK Beyond Coal member, Honors Program student, and a UK Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research poster presenter. While classified as a junior by credit hours, Houtz is only in his second year at UK.

16. Four Are Inducted into College of Engineering's Hall of Distinction

The UK College of Engineering inducted four alumni into its Hall of Distinction on April 23. The four are Paul F. Boulos, who earned three degrees in civil engineering from UK (Bachelor of Science, 1985; Master of Science, 1986; Ph.D., 1989); John R. "Dick" Lyon, Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, 1958; Fred T. May, Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, 1958; and, Roosevelt "Red" Maynard Jr., Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering, 1958.

17. UK Office of Adult Student Services Hosts Record Crowd at Back to School Workshop

A record 85 prospective adult students recently attended the UK Office of Adult Student Services' Back to School Workshop. The event was designed to inform and answer questions for those who want to come back to college or want to start from scratch later in life. The Office of Adult Student Services is also the point of contact for Project Graduate, a statewide program which is a partnership between UK and the Council on Postsecondary Education and supported by the Lumina Foundation. Its mission is simple: to bring Kentucky adults who earned 90 or more credit hours but never finished their degrees back to college. Universities across the state are involved. Since the partnership's inception nearly 2 years ago, 44 Project Graduate students have returned to UK to complete their degrees.

18. Law, Business Students Assist Lexington Residents with 2009 Tax Returns

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, housed in the UK College of Law, was recently recognized for its participants' hard work and commitment in helping Lexington residents complete and turn in their 2009 tax forms. VITA won a collegiate challenge in the statewide tax assistance project that several schools competed in. They won based upon their number of returns filed in the tax season. About 30 students from the College of Law and the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics volunteered for the program this year. The VITA program began operations February 1 and ran through April 15 at the College of Law. This program helped the students prepare for their required 12 to 18 hours of federal income tax courses along with two tax certification tests from the Internal Revenue Service.

19. CAER, Gatton Students Reaches Finals in 2010 Global Venture Challenge

Graduate students from UK's Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) and undergraduate students from the Gatton College of Business and Economics teamed up to make the finals of the 2010 Global Venture Challenge hosted by Oak Ridge National Lab recently. The challenge, touted as the Department of Energy's premier commercialization competition, brings together students who are developing new technology with venture capital groups and business development companies. The University of Kentucky team, NuForm Thermal Management, included Anne Oberlink (chemistry), Tristana Duvallet (materials science), Dallas Rose (finance), and Hamid Sheikh (finance and accounting). The team developed and presented a commercialization plan for new insulating foam materials manufactured from polyurethane foam and ceramics recycled from coal combustion ash. This technology, developed by UK CAER and NuForm Materials LLC, was judged as part of the advanced materials for sustainable energy track while the other track focused on Homeland Security technologies. More than 40 teams from around the world applied for the competition, but only a select few were invited to Oak Ridge to present their plans. The University of Kentucky team was one of six finalists to reach the last day of competition in the energy track. The UK team came away with an honorable mention receiving a \$1,000 award. Team advisers included Brock Marrs (NuForm Materials LLC), Chris Clifford (Gatton College), and Rodney Andrews (UK CAER).

20. Two UK Students Head Overseas Under U.S. State Department Program

UK international studies students Amber Davis and Ashley Meredith are furthering their knowledge of Chinese and Arabic, respectively, with two of the approximately 575 Critical Language Scholarships awarded by the U.S. State Department this summer. Davis and Meredith will spend seven to 10 weeks in intensive language training in China and Jordan, respectively, two of 13 critical need areas, which include Arabic, Persian, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. This year's CLS Program received nearly 5,300 applications. Students from a wide range of academic disciplines and U.S. colleges and universities from all 50 states were selected for scholarships through a merit-based selection process.

21. University Press Book on Keeneland President Wins Award

The University Press of Kentucky book *Keeneland's Ted Bassett: My Life* by James E. "Ted" Bassett III and Bill Mooney has been awarded the fourth annual Dr. Tony Ryan Book Award by Lexington's Castleton Lyons farms and *Thoroughbred Times*. The award, named for the founder of Castleton Lyons, is presented annually to the best book published about the thoroughbred industry. Written by Bassett, former president, chairman of the board, and trustee of Keeneland and former president of Breeders' Cup Limited, and two-time Eclipse Award-winning journalist Bill Mooney, the book presents readers with a comprehensive autobiography of the man behind the racetrack, exploring all aspects of his life both on and off the track. After serving as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific theater during World War II and as the head of the Kentucky State Police during the tumultuous 1960s, Bassett began his career in the horse industry, pushing Keeneland to the forefront of the racing business.. The book's co-author, Bill Mooney, has covered racing for *The New York Times*, the *Thoroughbred Record*, and *The Blood-Horse*, and is currently a contributing editor for *Thoroughbred Times*. He is also the author of *The Complete Encyclopedia of Horse Racing*, a comprehensive reference book about the "Sport of Kings."

22. College of Social Work Inducts Patrick Yewell into Hall of Fame

The UK College of Social Work inducted Patrick R. Yewell as the 15th member of its prestigious Hall of Fame. Yewell, executive officer of family and juvenile services at the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, was chosen for his strong efforts to help the state's most vulnerable children. Yewell graduated from UK with his bachelor's degree in social work in 1988 and later received his master's from the College of Social Work in 1992. Starting out as a child protective services (CPS) worker for the state, he quickly moved up the ranks to become a supervisor and mentor to other young CPS workers. After that, Yewell created numerous projects and programs around the state including the first adolescent parenting class in Fayette County, as well as the first juvenile sex offender program in Fayette County. The Kentucky Court of Justice Guardian ad Litem program that Yewell spearheaded has trained over 10,000 attorneys, social workers, and advocates in child development, legal, and protection issues. This training is now required for all attorneys before practicing in court, thereby improving representation for children in and out of home care.

23. Student Awards and Achievements

Ming Hong, art studio, took first place honors at “University Open 2010,” a juried competition of undergraduate fine arts students at Kentucky colleges and universities. Hong was recognized at an opening reception held during Gallery Hop on April 16 at Lexington’s Downtown Arts Center. Michelle Combs, art history and art studio, took honorable mention recognition at the show. The 42 pieces of art selected from 168 submissions to the exhibition represented 11 public and private colleges in the state.

Ridvan Peshkopia, political science doctoral student, will spend the summer investigating whether international philosophy on ethnic conflict needs to be revised through a Western Balkans Regional Research Promotion Programme grant awarded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and University of Fribourg. The grant, supervised by the University of New York, Tirana, Albania, is worth over \$80,000. Peshkopia will have the opportunity to renew the grant for 2011.

A number of African-American UK Students were recognized at the 29th annual Lyman T. Johnson Awards Banquet for outstanding student achievement in scholarship, leadership, and service. Sponsored by the UK Black Student Union with assistance from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center, the Lyman T. Johnson Awards Banquet is dedicated to the legacy of Lyman T. Johnson, the legendary educator whose efforts to enroll at UK in 1948 resulted in the landmark case which ended state-sanctioned racial segregation in Kentucky’s colleges and universities. The students recognized for their special achievements included Outstanding Freshman Unique Young, Gatton College of Business and Economics; Outstanding Senior Christopher Chance, Agricultural Biotechnology; the John T. Smith Award for Outstanding Graduate/Professional Student Valerie Clay, education; the Doris Wilkinson Award for the Outstanding Female Undergraduate Student Kaelysia Woods, accounting; the Lyman T. Johnson Award for Outstanding Male Undergraduate Student Dwight Lacy, Community Communications and Leadership and Journalism and Telecommunications.

The UK School of Music recognized several students with scholarships at the McCracken Awards and Honors Ceremony held April 29 at the Hilary J. Boone Center. Students recognized and their awards are: Daniel Arnold, Ralph McCracken Theory Scholarship; Don LaFleur, McCracken Musicology Scholarship; Marcie Wright, McCracken Music Ed Scholarship; Andrew Jarvis, McCracken Performance Scholarship; Leigh Dixon, McCracken Performance Scholarship; Melanie Erena, O. Helton Memorial Acres Scholarship; Laura Fallon, Jane Lee Forrest Scholarship; Eldia Farias, Jean Marie McConnell Chrisman Memorial Piano Scholarship; Samantha Sizemore, Nathaniel Patch Piano Scholarship; Holly Flack, Phyllis Jenness Vocal Scholarship; Lauren Collins, Mildred S. Lewis Music Education Scholarship; Brittany Ford, George Hurst Scholarship; Katie Marsh, Francis Arnold South Award; Christina Camardo, Thelma Greene Scholarship; Aaron Sexton, Flossie Minter Greene Scholarship; Seunghye Lee, Ford M. Montgomery Memorial Piano Scholarship; Alex Harmon, Adrian Jones Percussion Scholarship; Byron McChord, John Barnes Chance Memorial Scholarship; Phil Smith, Lynn Markowitz Struttman Scholarship in Oboe; Kristyn Brey, Tommy Sandusky Memorial Band Scholarship; Aaron Meacham, William Harry Clarke Alumni Band Scholarship; and Megan Lineberry, the Friends of Music Scholarship.

24. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Gwenda Adkins, Extension agent for Elliott County, recently was honored by the statewide organization Women Leading Kentucky. Adkins was one of three finalists for the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award which was presented at the group's 11th annual Women's Business and Leadership Conference held in Lexington.

Kerri Lynn Ashurst and Laura Stephenson, family and consumer sciences, received a \$50,000 grant through Kansas State University for Operation Military Kids Camp Initiative. Due to the successful military family camps held in Kentucky in 2009, this grant will provide for two additional free weekend-long camps to be held in 2010.

Rebecca Comage, Diversity Education and Community Building, received the Evelyn Black Award for Outstanding Faculty or Staff Person at the 2010 Lyman T. Johnson Awards Banquet.

Alison Davis, agricultural economics, received the Outstanding New Extension Faculty Award from the Kentucky Association of Extension Professionals. She is also the co-principal investigator on "Project HOME (Helpful Opportunities for Medical Care Enhancement), funded through the Office of Rural Healthy Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration. The \$85,000 grant provides for the creation of a rural health network based out of Lee and Estill counties. The goal is to improve access to health services in the region.

Mark Goodman, doctoral student in entomology, received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, a highly competitive national program. Only four graduate students in the United States studying entomology received one of these fellowships. Goodman researches the interactions of bed bugs with the bacteria and microorganisms that live inside them.

Jason Hans, family studies, has been selected for a Fulbright Award. Hans will be spending the upcoming academic year at Odessa National University in Odessa, Ukraine where he will teach classes and pursue research collaborations to examine family and sexuality issues in a fragile post-Soviet society.

George C. Herring, Alumni Professor Emeritus of History, is the 2010 recipient of the UK Libraries' Medallion for Intellectual Achievement. Herring is an internationally recognized historian of the Vietnam War.

Richard S. Levine, design, received the Passive Solar Pioneer Award from the American Solar Energy Society for his achievements in solar architecture and sustainability. The award recognizes those who have contributed significant innovations to the environmentally responsive use of direct solar energy for lighting, ventilation, heating, and cooling.

Gregory Luhan, design, was elected regional director for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Luhan's three-year term will begin July 1, 2010. As director, Luhan will serve as the executive officer of the East Central regional constituent associations and chair meetings of their respective regional councils. The region covers Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada.

Ernest Yanarella, political science, was presented the 2010 William E. Lyons Award for Outstanding Service by the UK Martin School for Public Policy. The award is given each year to an individual associated with UK who has contributed significantly to the university, the people of Lexington, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.