

PR 1

Office of the President
January 31, 2014

1. New Treatment Strategy Developed for Parkinson's Disease

Craig van Horne and his team in the Department of Neurosurgery are working to develop a new treatment strategy that could drastically improve symptom management and possibly halt or change the course of Parkinson's disease. They are conducting the first-ever clinical trial of a procedure to supplement deep brain stimulation (DBS) with a graft of patients' own peripheral nerve tissue into the brain, with the hope that the regenerative capacity of the peripheral nerve implant will stimulate the damaged parts of the brain to heal themselves. To date, five patients have undergone the combined DBS-nerve graft procedure and preliminary results are encouraging. If successful, this procedure could significantly change the treatment of Parkinson's disease and could have an impact on other neurodegenerative disorders as well. The trial is funded by the Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

2. \$11.3 Million NIH Grant Focuses on Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease

UK has been awarded one of the largest health grants ever made to the institution, an \$11.3 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant supporting research focusing on issues that plague the Commonwealth, obesity and cardiovascular disease. Lisa Cassis, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, and a faculty member of the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center, the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center and the College of Pharmacy, is program director of the grant that supports the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) focused on obesity and cardiovascular diseases.

3. AcoUstiKats Take the Center of National Stage

On December 9, UK's acoUstiKats began competing on NBC's "The Sing-Off" as one of the nation's top 10 a cappella groups. They were one of only two collegiate groups selected for the show. The acoUstiKats advanced to the second week of competition and were eliminated after the fifth night of the seven-night competition.

4. CAER Scientists, Duke Energy Demonstrate Algae-based Carbon-capture System

Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) researchers demonstrated a system that uses algae to absorb carbon dioxide emissions at Duke Energy's East Bend power station in Northern Kentucky. The pilot-scale system, built with \$1.8 million in funding from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet and UK with in-kind contributions from Duke Energy, is the only one of its kind currently operating in a "real-world" setting at a coal-fired power plant.

5. Top High School Students, Families Visit Lexington Campus

About 300 of the state's top high school students and their 600 family members now have a unique perspective on academics and the arts at UK, after attending UK's Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) and Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) Day. The annual event, which took place December 13, gives high school students who spent the past summer at GSP or GSA the chance to reunite while learning how UK can help them achieve their dreams at the next level. This year's attendees experienced a special treat, as they heard from the RockKats and the AcoUstiKats.

6. Financial Model Newsletter Created to Serve Campus

In a commitment to keep the University community informed and engaged in the process of transitioning to a new financial model, UK Provost Christine Riordan and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday have issued a newsletter with updates on the financial model.

7. UK Seeks Mysteries of the Aging Voice

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the UK College of Health Sciences and the College of Medicine have been awarded several grants, including a \$1,500,000 NIH grant to uncover the biology of the aging voice, a new line of translational research.

8. UK Tops State in Education Abroad Programs and Participants

The 2013 Open Doors report reveals that UK has more students participating in Education Abroad programs than any other institution in the state. UK also enrolls the most international students. This growth is due in part to curriculum integration, which aligns Education Abroad programming with the academic strengths of the university.

9. Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Study Draws Accolades

A cardiovascular risk reduction study conducted by a team of researchers at UK was recently recognized by the American Heart Association on the front page of its 2013 Special Sessions newsletter. The study found that self-care interventions that overcome environmental and personal barriers to reducing cardiovascular disease risk factors could be successful in rural, socioeconomically disadvantaged areas of the country and possibly other communities at high risk of cardiovascular disease.

10. UK Named Military Friendly School

For the fifth consecutive year, UK has been named a 2014 Military Friendly School by Victory Media, the publisher of G.I. Jobs magazine.

11. UK Chapter Sweeps Engineering Honor Society Awards

The Kentucky Alpha Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, achieved an unprecedented sweep of honors and awards at the society's annual convention in November at Iowa State University.

12. William T. Young Library Has Even More to Offer Students

Students have taken advantage of the new technology, unique spaces and thoughtfully designed furniture at the W.T. Young Library, one of the busiest buildings on campus. The \$350,000 project transformed areas of the second floor of the library into more active learning centers designed to facilitate collaborative learning and group study. The newly renovated reference area in the north wing and the learning space in the south wing now feature group study rooms that are not only more conducive to study, but also feature technology that allows students to share images and content with one another from their laptops. Students, faculty and staff were involved in planning the second floor renovation, and funding was made possible by annual gifts from friends of UK Libraries and UK alumni.

13. UK Impresses With Organ Donor Outreach

The University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital was among a select group of hospitals nationwide recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for reaching gold, silver and bronze levels of outreach for organ donation and registration.

14. Health Careers Camp Receives Innovation Award

The Health Careers Enrichment Camp offered each summer by the Center of Excellence in Rural Health and the Southeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center has received a 2013 Innovation Award from the Appalachian Innovation Collaborative, a group whose focus is on educational excellence and economic development in Eastern Kentucky.

15. UK Students' Satellite Flies Out of this World

A tiny satellite built by students at the University of Kentucky and Morehead State University is now orbiting about 300 miles above Earth, circling the planet every 90 minutes or so at speeds close to 18,000 mph. The satellite, dubbed KySat-2, was launched aboard a U.S. Air Force Minotaur I rocket from NASA's flight facility at Wallops Island, Va. KySat-2 was one of a record 29 satellites taken on the mission.

16. Unmanned Systems Consortium Announced

John Walz, dean of the College of Engineering, announced the formation of an Unmanned Systems Research Consortium to advance unmanned aerial, ground and underwater systems, and to explore commercial applications for the technology in Kentucky. The consortium will unite key faculty from engineering and other disciplines on campus, along with students and industry partners.

17. UK Celebrates Four Years Tobacco Free

UK celebrated its fourth anniversary as a tobacco-free campus November 21 as other college campuses and health groups across the nation celebrated the American Cancer Society's 38th Annual Great American Smokeout.

18. New Parking Structure Improves Lighting and Energy Efficiency

Soon the Rose Street Garage (Parking Structure #2), located off Hilltop Avenue, will shine not only brighter, but in a more energy efficient manner. Parking and Transportation Services will retrofit the facility with LED lighting, using one-third of the energy and lasting six times longer than the pre-existing metal halide fixtures. In addition to significantly reducing energy use in the garage, PTS will also experience a sizable reduction in lamp maintenance and an overall light level increase and stabilization as a result of this undertaking. This is the first in a series of new energy savings projects.

19. Special Collections to Preserve Prichard Committee Papers

On November 20, UK Special Collections accepted the donation of the papers of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and its former leader Robert F. Sexton. UK Libraries has now embarked on the task of organizing, archiving and preserving two of the state's most important collections on education policy. The Prichard Committee and Sexton collections together are more than 150 cubic feet and contain papers, photographs, oral histories and videos documenting all aspects of the history, growth and development of the committee and the important role Sexton played in its development.

20. Jazz Ensemble Performs at Midwest Clinic

The UK Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Miles Osland, was invited to perform at the Midwest Clinic. With more than 17,000 attendees from all 50 states and more than 30 countries, the Midwest Clinic features the top ensembles to showcase the newest ideas and talent in jazz. This is the ensemble's third invitation to perform at the prestigious event, the last one being in 2007.

21. Students Excel at Communicating Their Research

The Graduate School and Graduate Student Congress sponsored a "Three-Minute Thesis" (3MT) competition to give doctoral students practice at presenting their research concisely and engagingly to a public audience. The 3MT develops academic presentation and research communication skills and supports the development of research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

22. Sandoval Performs With UK Wind Symphony

Arturo Sandoval, an award-winning jazz trumpeter and classical pianist, artist and composer, performed in concert with the UK Wind Symphony, under the direction of Cody Birdwell. The concert was presented as part of the Singletary Signature Series on December 14. Sandoval was recently presented with the 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

23. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

UK recently recognized faculty and staff from across campus for excellence in furthering UK's philanthropic efforts at the annual Terry B. Mobley Development Awards ceremony. This year's award winners are James C. Albisetti (History), Randy Pratt (Gatton), Wayne Rogers (Development), Sharise Harrison (UK HealthCare), Cortney Decker (Student Involvement) and Michael Mayfield (Development).

Jayakrishna Ambati (Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and Physiology) is one of 11 recipients of the 2014 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Awards given by the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

Kimberly Ward Anderson (Center of Membrane Sciences, Chemical and Materials Engineering) was a winner of the 2013 SEC Faculty Achievement Award.

Rodney Andrews (Center for Applied Energy Research) was named to the Executive Board of the American Carbon Society.

Beth Barnes (Journalism and Telecommunications) has been appointed to serve on the Advertising Technical Committee of the Zambia Institute of Marketing.

D. Allan Butterfield (Membrane Sciences and Chemistry) was named by the Society for Free Radical Biology & Medicine as recipient of the 2013 Discovery Award.

Donald Case (School of Library and Information Science) was invited by the faculty of humanities at Oulu University, Finland, to act as an "opponent" in the public defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Al Cross (Journalism and Telecommunications) was recently honored by the Kentucky Psychological Association for his outstanding contributions to the health and mental health of Kentuckians through public service, the media and the profession of psychology.

Barbara Duncan (Proposal Development Office) gave a presentation at the 66th Annual Kentucky Congress of the NAACP in November 2013 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Frankfort, Kentucky. The talk titled "Targeting Ideas to Foundations" addressed PDO's community outreach mission by offering strategies for community groups to pursue foundation funding.

Mark Evers (Surgery), director of the Markey Cancer Center, has been elected the new president of the Southern Surgical Association.

Jason Hans (Family Sciences) was presented with the Patricia Brantley Todd Award of Excellence in Human Environmental Sciences-Teaching.

The College of Communication and Information held its 14th annual Awards Dinner in November, honoring outstanding faculty, staff, alumni and past award recipients. Outstanding Staff Awards went to June Horn (Journalism and Telecommunications), Mary Ann Nestmann (Library and Information Science) and Amy K. Triana (Communication). Outstanding Advisor Awards went to Traci S. Letcher (Communication) and Emily Sallee (Communication and Information). The Faculty Community Service Award was presented to Chike Anyaegbunam (Journalism and Telecommunications). Faculty Research Awards went to Brandi N. Frisby

(Instructional Communication and Research), Allison M. Scott (Communication) and Shari R. Veil (Communication). Graduate Teaching Excellence Awards recognized Bethney A. Wilson (Communication) and Laura E. Young (Communication). Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards went to Anthony M. Limperos (Library and Information Science), Cyndy Harbett Miller (Communication) and Allison M. Scott (Communication). Outstanding Alumnus Awards went to Judge Jennifer B. Coffman (MSLS '71) and Steven W. Newberry (TEL '84). The Friend of the College Award was presented to Alan Stein, founder of SteinGroup LLC and the Lexington Legends professional baseball team.

Kathy Doyle Grzech (Proposal Development Office) was one of three invited presenters for a webinar hosted by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development on mentorship strategies in research administration. The webinar was a component of the Biomedical/Biobehavioral Research Administration Development Award program's NIH Residency Training 2013 event.

Douglass Kalika (Membrane Sciences) was selected as a 2013-2014 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow.

Ani Katchova (Agricultural Economics) recently completed a fellowship awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Katchova worked as an AAAS fellow and visiting scholar at the Economic Research Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Youngseek Kim (School of Library and Information Science) was awarded the ASIST Best Information Behavior Conference Paper Award, as well as the 2014 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

Janet Kurzynske (Dietetics and Human Nutrition) was awarded the Patricia Brantley Todd Award of Excellence in Human Environmental Sciences - National Program Leadership.

Ying (Tracy) Lu (Retailing and Tourism Management) received a \$10,000 grant from Purdue University to develop an integrated multi-disciplinary framework for studying behavior of international business/convention travel market and provide research-based information about inbound Chinese business/convention travelers to the U.S. heartland.

Sarah Lyon (Anthropology) has been selected as the editor-designate of *Human Organization*, the flagship journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

David Mannino (Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health and Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) has been recognized as the number one leading expert in the U.S. for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He recently published a new study review published in "Translational Research" that examined the gender differences in the prevalence, pathophysiology and clinical presentation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and how this information may ultimately be used to identify areas for future work.

Huajing Maske (Confucius Institute) has received a 2013 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award, as one of the top 15 leaders of 430 Confucius Institutes worldwide.

Shannon Oltmann (Library and Information Science) was recently appointed to the Kentucky State Board for the Certification of Librarians. The board ensures that Kentucky's public libraries are administered by competent, professional, well-trained librarians who have partaken in continuing education.

Katharine Ott (Mathematics) has been chosen by the Association for Women in Mathematics to receive its annual service award for 2013.

Darrell Taulbee (CAER) was named incoming president to the Institute for Briquetting and Agglomeration at its 33rd biennial conference.

Kentucky poet laureate Frank X Walker's (English) book *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers* was selected as one of Slate magazine's 10 Best Poetry Books of 2013.

Martha Yount (Family and Consumer Sciences) won the Patricia Brantley Todd Award of Excellence in Human Environmental Sciences - Extension.

For the 12th consecutive year, the Council on Postsecondary Education has awarded federal grant funds to improve P-12 educator quality through professional development programs. UK has received three of these Improving Educator Quality grants. Two (\$120,000 and \$130,000) were awarded to Kimberly Zeidler-Watters (Partnership Institute for Mathematics and Science Education Reform). The third (\$130,000) was awarded to Rebecca McNall Krall (STEM Education). PIMSER and STEM Education are both programs in the UK College of Education.

Hongyan Zhu (Plant and Soil Sciences) received a USDA-AFRI grant for \$500,000 over three years to study the host genetic control of strain-specific nitrogen fixation in the legume-rhizobial symbiosis

James Ziliak (Microeconomics) was a panelist at a forum sponsored by The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The discussion focused on two new proposals for aiding America's lower-middle class.

An essay by Lisa Zunshine (English) appears in the December 13 edition of *The Chronicle Review*, published by the Chronicle of Higher Education. The essay, titled "Why Fiction Does it Better," argues that works of fiction are essential reading for preparing young minds for college.

24. Student Awards and Achievements

Teia Brandenburg, Brad Browning and Chris Terry (Pharmacy) placed in the top 10 of the 2013 Good Neighbor Pharmacy National Community Pharmacists Association's Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition.

The Office of Undergraduate Research has honored 18 students with the Oswald Research and Creativity Program awards. The winners were Manasi Malik and Raquel Hegge (Biological Sciences); Brittany Holian and Thompson Burry (Design); Roya Ramezankhani Benjamin Norton (Fine Arts); Heather Sims, Kathlyn Fisher, Autumn Murphy and Emily Furnish (Humanities: Creative); Autumn Murphy, Emily Furnish and Talia Henkle (Humanities: Critical Research); Tyler Jake Flynn and Matthew Fahrback (Physical and Engineering Sciences); and Olivia Smith, Sarah Hayden and Emily VanMeter (Social Sciences).

Whitney Myers and William Clay Thompson (Vocal Performance) were named winners of the Kentucky District Auditions of the Metropolitan (Met) Opera National Council Auditions held November 23. Myers and Thompson will compete next at the Mid-South Regional round of auditions being held February 8 at Germantown Performing Arts Centre in Memphis, Tenn.

Farah Sheikh (Psychology) won the senior ladies title at the annual U.S. Figure Skating Collegiate Championships.

25. Alumni Awards and Achievements

The College of Public Health presented its inaugural Outstanding Alumni Award to Yousuf J. Ahmad, a 2008 doctoral graduate of the college.

Michael Carozza received the 2012-2013 Outstanding Alumnus Award for the College of Communication and Information.

Holly Davis, a Lexington landscape architect, UK graduate and adjunct professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, has been named director of The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky.

Andrea Jones-Sojola (Opera Theatre) appeared in the recent live production of *The Sound of Music* on NBC.

Dan Liebman has been named editor of *The State Journal* in Frankfort.

UK alumnus and former president Lee T. Todd Jr. received the 2013 Flame of Excellence Award at the Leadership Kentucky 12th Annual Executive Forum and Luncheon in Lexington.