

# PR 1

Office of the President  
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1. UK Awarded \$11.2 Million Grant to Launch New Center for Cancer and Metabolism

UK was recently awarded a prestigious Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence grant to study the metabolism of cancer from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health. The \$11.2 million grant will fund UK's Center for Cancer and Metabolism over the next five years. Kentucky has disproportionately high incidences of both cancer and metabolic disorders and leads the nation in cancer deaths and is in the top 10 for highest obesity rates in the country. While scientists have long known of a direct link between obesity and cancer, the need for further research into this field is a necessity for Kentuckians.

2. UK Representatives Confront Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse at National Summit

Addiction researchers, clinicians, intervention coordinators, and health policy leaders representing UK and UK HealthCare led workshops and discussed initiatives to combat the opioid crisis during the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, April 17-20, in Atlanta. The annual summit is the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state, and federal agencies, business, academia, treatment providers, and allied communities impacted by prescription drug abuse and heroin use. UK is leading the charge to combat prescription drug abuse and heroin addiction in America. Last year alone, investigators in the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research received \$9.6 million for projects dedicated to substance abuse and addiction. Since 2010, the National Institutes on Drug Abuse has awarded more than \$92 million to UK research projects. UK HealthCare supports the summit through sponsorship.

3. Ceremony Recognizes Renaming of UK Building for Lee T. Todd Jr.

A ceremony was held May 8 to recognize the renaming of the Biological-Pharmaceutical Building for UK's 11th president, Lee T. Todd Jr. The building at 789 South Limestone, Lexington, Kentucky, was constructed during Todd's tenure 2001-2011.

4. UK Celebrates the Class of 2017

UK honored its newest alumni Friday, May 5, and Sunday, May 7, at what is expected to be the largest commencement in UK's history. Of the 3,680 undergraduate and 1,767 graduate and professional degrees approved, more than 2,500 undergraduates and 600 graduate and professional students participated in the ceremonies.

5. Danville Native Doesn't Let Disability Disrupt Dreams of Graduating From UK

Danville native and architecture graduate student Jennifer Harris always dreamed of graduating from UK. However, as a deaf woman, she has faced many barriers along the way. With the help of the Disability Resource Center coordinating interpreters and working with her professors, Harris' dream became a reality in May. The Disability Resource Center serves nearly 2,000 students every year, ensuring that they receive the appropriate accommodations to help them succeed.

6. UK Student Overcomes Surgery During Every School Break to Graduate Magna Cum Laude

Lexington native Moran Nickodem has endured nearly 40 surgeries in her 21 years, missing many school breaks. At age 17, infections left her critically ill and she was not expected to live a normal life past high school. Proving many wrong, she not only attended UK, but graduated magna cum laude. As she celebrates her bachelor's degree in integrated strategic communication, she's excited to announce that for the first time, in her 21 years of life, she does not have a surgery planned.

7. UK Establishes Twitter Account for Off-campus Safety Notices

UK Police and students have been talking for months about how to provide even more information about safety issues – both on campus and off. The result of those conversations and feedback is the creation of a new Twitter account for off-campus safety issues in densely populated student residential areas. These tweets are not the same as UK Alerts and will not replace UK Alerts. However, as UK safety officials become aware of off-campus incidents in high-density student residential areas, notifications will be posted to @ukyoffcampus. Students are encouraged to sign up for mobile notifications to receive text alerts any time the account tweets of an off-campus incident.

8. Donations for Citations Stocks Big Blue Pantry's Shelves With 2,500 Pounds of Goods

For the second year, UK Transportation Services accepted donations of nonperishable goods over a two-week period in exchange for waiving one regular parking citation of \$25 or less under the Donations for Citations program. The goods were donated to Big Blue Pantry, an on-campus resource which assists UK students who are experiencing food insecurity or hunger. The program was once again a resounding success, as participants donated 2,156 pounds of food and 280 pounds of personal care items.

9. UK Helps Fifth Graders Learn How to 'Adult' at JA BizTown

In partnership with Fayette County Public Schools, Junior Achievement (JA) of the Bluegrass recently transformed nearly 13,000 square feet into a state-of-the-art facility where students from throughout Central Kentucky will experience a living lesson in economics, community, and financial literacy. The facility is known as JA BizTown. In addition to businesses such as Keeneland, Kentucky Utilities, and Toyota, the University occupies a storefront in

BizTown. Students who visit UK in BizTown are given the opportunity to earn their degree and pay their tuition.

10. Students Team Up to Spread the Word About Lifesaving Overdose Tool

UK School of Journalism and Media students teamed up with UK College of Pharmacy students to produce public service announcements about a lifesaving drug overdose tool developed by UK College of Pharmacy's Daniel Wermeling. The students, led by Kakie Urch, multimedia storytelling professor, created two PSAs on how to obtain and administer the nasal spray application of naloxone. Urch and her students hope to air the PSAs on the Lexington Public Access Channel, the UK Student News Network on Channel 16, local network stations, and at the Kentucky Theatre as movie previews. Lexington Community Radio, on 93.9 FM and 95.7 FM, is also running Spanish and English audio versions of the PSAs.

11. College of Nursing Students Achieve 100-Percent Pass Rate on Licensure Exam

For two consecutive semesters, students from the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 classes in the UK College of Nursing Bachelor of Science in nursing program graduated with a 100-percent, first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

12. NASA Sends Satellite Developed by UK Students, Faculty to Space

A tiny satellite developed by UK College of Engineering students and faculty arrived at the International Space Station in April. The satellite was launched April 18 on NASA's OA-7 Space Station cargo resupply mission from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Eventually, the satellite will be launched into orbit from the International Space Station. The CubeSat Stellar Gyroscope System captures images of star fields to keep itself in orbit and tests new software that predicts the satellite's path as it experiences atmospheric drag. The technology could open doors for small satellites, which are cheaper than large satellites, but have been limited due to the difficulty in determining their movement in space.

13. UK Dining, UK Recycling Implement New Composting Program

UK Dining and UK Recycling have partnered with Seedleaf — a community organization — to implement a new composting program at K-Lair and Freshii. The new composting program will divert fruit and vegetable waste from the landfill, sending them to Seedleaf. Seedleaf composts locally and provides the finished materials free of charge to Lexington gardeners.

14. UK Chandler Hospital Named Among the 100 Great Hospitals in America by Becker's Hospital Review

UK HealthCare's Albert B. Chandler Hospital has been named among the 100 Great Hospitals in America by Becker's Hospital Review, a monthly publication offering business and legal news and analysis relating to hospitals and health systems. The hospitals included on the list are renowned

for excellence. They are industry leaders in innovation, quality patient care, and clinical research, and have received recognition across various publications and accrediting organizations.

15. Researcher Establishes Link Between Threats and Abuse in Domestic Partner Violence

A UK behavioral scientist has found threats aren't empty in intimate partner relationships. For many women victimized by intimate partners, explicit threats of harm occur with physical and sexual violence. A professor of behavioral science in the UK College of Medicine, TK Logan, studies domestic partner violence, stalking behaviors, and female substance abuse. She discovered frequent threats to victims of domestic partner violence correlated with increased abuse, violence, distress, and fear. Her study, titled "If I Can't Have You Nobody Will": Explicit Threats in the Context of Coercive Control," appeared in the journal *Violence and Victims*.

16. Marketing Professor Finds New Connections Between Body Image and Spending

New research by Adam W. Craig, assistant professor of marketing in UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics, finds new parallels between idealized body images in advertising and consumer spending. Craig, along with co-author Marisabel Romero (Colorado State University), will have their article published in the June 2017 issue of *Journal of Consumer Research*. According to the study, "Costly Curves: How Human-like Shapes Can Increase Spending," even subtle reminders of idealized bodies can encourage overweight consumers to overspend.

17. Health Policy Researcher Finds Drug Monitoring Reduces Opioid Prescriptions, Medicaid Costs

UK College of Public Health researcher Hefei Wen has found state drug-monitoring programs are effective in reducing the number of opioids prescribed to Medicaid recipients. Her research, published in the April edition of *Health Affairs*, provides evidence that state mandates for provider participation in prescription drug-monitoring programs have influenced safer prescribing practices in providers who treat Medicaid patients. The analysis suggests state prescription drug-monitoring program mandates are associated with a reduction in opioid prescriptions received by Medicaid patients and Medicaid spending on opioid prescriptions by as much as 10 percent.

18. Linguist Creates Languages for National Geographic's 'Origins: The Journey of Humankind'

After creating prehistoric languages for the video game "Far Cry Primal," UK linguist Andrew Byrd has added his knowledge and creativity to National Geographic Channel's new series "Origins: The Journey of Humankind." Unlike conventional historical documentaries, "Origins" explores how humans evolved from apes to astronauts. Byrd created dialogue suitable in settings ranging from 2,000 to 50,000 years ago in locations all around the globe.

19. Geophysicist Helps Develop High-Res Map of Earth's Magnetic Field

A UK geophysicist was part of an international team of scientists to reveal dramatic new information about the Earth's magnetic field. Dhananjay Ravat, who is a professor in the UK Departments of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Physics and Astronomy, was asked by the leader of the Swarm Satellite Constellation Application and Research Facility of the European Space Agency to collaborate with their team to create a map of the magnetic features of the Earth's lithosphere. His involvement ultimately led to the development of the highest resolution map of the planet's magnetic field from space to date.

20. Researcher Purports Massage Therapy Benefits for Chronic Low Back Pain

UK Family and Community Medicine researcher William Elder and collaborators at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis have published evidence that shows clinical massage therapy can relieve chronic lower back pain. The results from the Kentucky Pain Research and Outcomes Study appeared in the March edition of the journal *Pain Medicine*. The researchers tested the effectiveness of massage therapy intervention to reduce pain and disability and improve quality of life in patients with chronic lower back pain.

21. Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital Joins UK Markey Affiliate Network

Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset, Kentucky, has announced a new affiliation with the UK Markey Cancer Center, the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center. By becoming a UK Markey Cancer Center Affiliate, Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital will now be able to offer their patients access to additional specialty and subspecialty physicians and care, including clinical trials and advanced technology, while allowing them to stay in south central Kentucky for most treatments.

22. Four UK Teams Win NCAA Academic Progress Rate Award

UK tied a school record with four teams – men's basketball, men's golf, softball, and volleyball – that received awards for their Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores, the NCAA announced. The Wildcat squads received the honor for placing in the top 10 percent of Division I schools in their respective sports. The APR provides a real-time look at a team's academic success by the progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR measures academic eligibility, retention and graduation. The scores are a four-year composite, covering the 2012-13 through the 2015-16 school years.

23. UK Athletics Reaches 3.0 GPA for 10th Straight Semester

For five consecutive years, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has achieved its goal of a 3.0 department-wide grade-point average. This time, Wildcat scholarship athletes combined for a 3.178 GPA during the recently concluded spring semester, which is the 10th straight semester with a GPA above 3.0. The Department posted a 3.143 GPA during the fall semester and has reached a GPA of at least 3.14 in each of the last four semesters.

24. UK Lands 70 Student-Athletes on SEC Winter Academic Honor Roll

Student-athletes from all of UK's winter teams combined to earn a total of 70 spots on the Southeastern Conference Winter Academic Honor Roll, the league announced this week. UK had the fourth-most honorees in the conference and ranked in the top three in men's basketball and men's swimming and diving representatives.

25. Faculty and Staff Achievements

T. John Balk (College of Engineering) has been named a 2017 Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award winner.

Molly T. Blasing (College of Arts and Sciences) has been awarded a 2017 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, one of only two conferred this year in Kentucky.

Christia Spears Brown (College of Arts and Sciences) won the faculty Sarah Bennett Holmes Award for promoting the growth and well-being of women at the University and across Kentucky.

Matthew L. Bush (College of Medicine) has been selected as a recipient of a 2017 Dissertation Fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Brenna Reinhart Byrd (College of Arts and Sciences) was named the Teacher of the Year by the Southern Conference on Language Teaching.

Deborah Crooks (College of Arts and Sciences) has been awarded the 2017 Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award by the Human Biology Association.

Francie Chassen-Lopez (College of Arts and Sciences) was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens (Greece).

Mark Evers (Markey Cancer Center) was recently elected into the Association of American Physicians.

Beth Guiton (College of Arts and Sciences) has been selected as a Scialog Fellow by the Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement.

Michael Jacobs (College of Design) has been elevated to the American Institute of Architects prestigious College of Fellows.

Peter Joseph Kalliney (College of Arts and Sciences) received a Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Julie Ossege (College of Nursing) was inducted as a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.

Kimberly Sayre (College of Engineering) won the staff Sarah Bennett Holmes Award for promoting the growth and well-being of women at the University and across Kentucky.

The UK College of Design's School of Interiors was recently honored by the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) with the IDEC Teaching Excellence Award.

John Thelin (College of Education) was named Routledge's author of the month in celebration of his new book, "American Higher Education."

Richard Underwood (College of Law) received two Independent Publisher Book Awards for his book, "CrimeSong: True Crime Stories From Southern Murder Ballads."

D. Stephen Voss (College of Arts and Sciences) is the 2017 recipient of the William E. Lyons Award.

## 26. Student Achievements

Paidin Dermody (Journalism and English, of Louisville, Kentucky) has been named the Kentucky Kernel's editor for the 2017-2018 school year.

Grace Greenwell (Law, of Louisville, Kentucky) and Alex Magera (Law, of Palatine, Illinois) finished in the top 8 of the 25th annual Duberstein Moot Court Competition.

Irvin Henriquez-Guerrero (Law, of Sacramento, California) and Philip Padron (Law, of Louisville, Kentucky) recently traveled to Vienna, Austria, to compete in the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Beau Revlett (Philosophy, of Georgetown, Kentucky) has received the John Lewis Fellowship from Humanity In Action.

Benjamin Riley (Mathematics and Physics, of Louisville, Kentucky) has been awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

The UK Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter was named National Chapter of the Year at the recent 32nd annual MANRRS conference.

The UK Mock Trial Team earned a spot to compete in the American Mock Trial Association's National Championship Tournament.

A UK sociology class won the #VoiceofJustice video contest, announced by Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear and director of the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs Eileen Recktenwald.

The UK Speech and Debate Team placed in the top 10 at the Pi Kappa Delta national tournament.

Twelve UK undergraduate students were recently selected for the university's Gaines Fellowship Program for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years: Hadeel Abdallah (Political Science and Arabic and Islamic studies, of Lexington); Margaret "Meg" Coppala (English and Gender and Women's Studies, of Scott Depot, West Virginia); Nathaniel Cortas (English and Music, of Louisville, Kentucky); Sophia Decker (Classics and Linguistics, of Los Angeles, California); Benjamin Jones (History, of Harlan, Kentucky); Meghana Kudrimoti (Biology and Political Science, of Lexington); Alyssa Mertka (English, of Geneva, Illinois); Eric Poore (Political Science, of Williamsburg, Kentucky); Michael Regard (Public Health, of Lexington); Beau Revlett (Philosophy, of Georgetown, Kentucky); Stephanie Smith (Political Science and Sociology, of Lexington); and Amaris Wade (Foreign Language and International Economics – Chinese, of Lexington).