

PR 1

Office of the President
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1. DanceBlue Raises \$1,631,067.49

After 24 hours of dancing in anticipation, DanceBlue chairs and committee members revealed the 2016 grand fundraising total of \$1,631,067.49 to the nearly 800 student participants and crowd of supporters on February 28, 2016. DanceBlue is a yearlong fundraising effort that culminates in a 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon that benefits the Golden Matrix Fund and the DanceBlue KCH Hematology/Oncology Clinic at the Kentucky Children's Hospital.

2. UK Has Record Number of Students on Dean's List

For the first time, more than 7,000 students have made the University of Kentucky Dean's List. A record high 7,189 students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance by being placed on the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester. That's an increase of more than 800 since fall 2014 and over 1,000 more than spring 2015. To make a Dean's List in one of the UK colleges, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.6 or higher and must have earned 12 credits or more in that semester, excluding credits earned in pass-fail classes. Some UK colleges require a 3.5 GPA to make the Dean's List.

3. UK HealthCare Regains Prestigious Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Patient Care

UK HealthCare has achieved Magnet Status – the highest institutional honor awarded for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program. Out of nearly 6,000 health care organizations in the United States, less than 7 percent have achieved Magnet designation. UK HealthCare has 4,473 nursing services employees including 2,006 full-time registered nurses. Achieving Magnet Status is a process that culminates in a rigorous review to demonstrate the hospital's commitment to sustaining nursing excellence and improving professional practice. The status represents a solid commitment to continuing education and nursing specialty certification, a cultural transformation of the work environment involving a shared governance model, and laser focus on patient safety.

4. Kentucky Makes Progress Reducing Colorectal Cancer Rates

Startling statistics for colorectal cancer and colorectal cancer screenings in Kentucky spurred several major cancer groups in the Commonwealth into action, leading to the launch of a program encouraging primary care physicians to recommend and schedule colorectal screening. In rural areas of the state where access to primary care is limited, individuals from the community were recruited for screening and asked to encourage their age-eligible friends to also be screened. The Kentucky Cancer Consortium (KCC) brings together more than 60 state

agencies and organizations and is funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Control Program. Working together, the agencies and organizations participating in the KCC were able to introduce two successful policy initiatives and in the seven years following this new focus on colorectal cancer, the screening rates nearly doubled, from 34.7 percent of the age-eligible population receiving screenings to 63.7 percent. This raised Kentucky's rank from 49th in the country to 23rd compared to other states. No other state has had such a dramatic increase in colorectal screenings in such a short period of time.

5. UK Entomologist Leads Zika Solution Effort

A UK entomologist is leading an international effort to find long-term, sustainable control options to effectively manage a mosquito known to transport several potential deadly viruses, including the Zika virus. Grayson Brown, entomologist in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is a former president of the Entomological Society of America, the world's largest entomological organization. Brown, along with Luciano Moriera of Brazil, organized a meeting of the world's entomological societies March 13 in Maceió, Alagoas, Brazil. There, the world's leading mosquito experts discussed collaborative control options for *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that transmits Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

6. PTS Program Collects More Than 2,500 Pounds of Donations for Big Blue Pantry

Through a pilot program — Donations for Citations — University of Kentucky Parking and Transportation Services accepted more than 2,500 non-perishable goods from the campus community and donated those goods to the Big Blue Pantry - a program that serves UK students who are experiencing food insecurity or hunger. From February 29 through March 11, participants could donate goods in exchange for waiving one regular parking citation of \$25 or less. A total of 337 individuals - 228 students, 77 employees and 32 visitors - contributed a total of 2,441 pounds of food and 381 pounds of personal care items to the Big Blue Pantry. The donations are expected to fulfill the pantry's needs for the rest of the spring semester, throughout the summer and even into the beginning of fall 2016.

7. Community Transition Program Supports Stroke Survivors in Eastern Kentucky

The Community Transition Program provides education, resources and care coordination for individuals who are moving between care facilities and their homes in Perry and surrounding counties in Kentucky. As of July 2015, the program is jointly funded by the University of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Rural Health and Appalachian Regional Healthcare, a not-for-profit health system serving residents across Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. The group provides a supportive community and hosts speakers to address common comorbidities for stroke survivors (and often their caregivers), such as diabetes and blood pressure management. The need for coordinated care is especially acute in Kentucky. In 2014, the state ranked 47th in the country for incidence of stroke; in the eastern Appalachian region, stroke is especially prevalent. Concordantly, some of the highest rates of stroke risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease, are also found in the region. The program as

served 23 individuals since July 2015. None of the stroke survivors who participated in the program were readmitted to the hospital.

8. UK College of Social Work Students Serving Kentucky Today; Cultivating Leadership for Tomorrow

Students at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work have been working for Kentucky by working with the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens in child protection, hospitals, senior centers, veteran's programs, mental health centers, foster care, medical clinics, schools, juvenile and adult court programs, domestic violence programs, assisted living and developmental disability programs, and a wide variety of nonprofit and government programs. In turn, students are provided with learning environments that cultivate leadership, and connect the theoretical and conceptual contribution of the classroom to the realities of practice. Through field education internships they are able to increase knowledge, refine skills, and strengthen professional ethics and values in preparation for professional practice.

9. UK Markey Cancer Center Joins Nation's Top Cancer Centers in Endorsement of HPV Vaccination for Cancer Prevention

In response to low national vaccination rates for the human papillomavirus (HPV), the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center has joined 68 of the nation's top cancer centers in issuing a statement urging for increased HPV vaccination for the prevention of cancer. The 100 percent consensus among the nation's 69 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers demonstrates that these institutions collectively recognize insufficient vaccination as a public health threat and call upon the nation's physicians, parents and young adults to take advantage of this rare opportunity to prevent many types of cancer.

10. Breakthrough Clinical Trial Success Attributed to Dedicated Metabolic Team at KCH

After participating in a Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH) clinical trial testing an aggressive enzyme therapy to help Phenylketonuria (PKU) patients tolerate higher levels of protein, patient Gordon Lester is increasing his intake of protein without fear of the adverse effects of his disease. KCH is one of multiple sites around the nation participating in an experimental trial testing the safety and efficacy of a Biomarin pharmaceutical that reduces concentrations of phenylalanine in the bloodstream. In the time he's received incremental dosages of the potent therapy, Lester's tolerance for protein has increased from about 8 grams per day, or the amount of protein in an 8-ounce glass of milk, to 35 grams a day, or about the amount of protein in a small piece of meat.

11. UK HealthCare, Cincinnati Children's Finalize Agreement to Partner for Pediatric Heart Care Services

UK HealthCare and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center have finalized an agreement to partner for pediatric heart care and other services. A Letter of Intent for a partnership was announced between the two health care systems last September. The collaboration combines the strengths of the region's leading provider of advanced subspecialty care in UK HealthCare with

one of the country's leaders in children's health care, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and will enable more Kentucky children to receive care closer to home. The initial focus of the partnership will be pediatric heart care services with the goal of delivering outstanding surgical and clinical care, education and research in pediatric cardiology. In addition, the master services agreement will provide the option of extending the partnership beyond these services in the future.

12. UK Partnership Will Prepare STEAM Students for Geosciences Careers

A new partnership between the University of Kentucky Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, UK College of Education and STEAM Academy will prepare a diverse population of high school students for careers in geosciences. The program is being funded by a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and is expected to begin fall 2016. Through field work, hands-on activities and new curriculum, the "Full STEAM Ahead" program will expose all STEAM students to four career options in the geosciences during their first two years of high school. Interested students can continue the program with a semester-long internship in EES laboratories during their sophomore year. Students can then transition into a "geoscience career pathway" through dual-credit EES courses on the UK campus during their junior and senior years, while continuing a customized curriculum at the STEAM Academy.

13. UK Professor Designing More Sustainable Future for Appalachia

Gregory Luhan, the John Russell Groves Endowed Professor of Architecture in the UK College of Design, and students in his studios are helping design solutions for Appalachian communities rebuilding after natural disasters. After a massive tornado hit West Liberty, Kentucky, in 2012, Luhan worked with interdisciplinary design studios at both Texas A&M University and UK and teamed with industry partners and stakeholders from Lexington, Morehead, West Liberty and Morgan County, Kentucky, to develop prototypes for primary and secondary use products germane to the region. More recently, Luhan has brought his expertise to issues facing Johnson County, Kentucky, after severe flooding. For this community, his studio is looking for ways to build affordable residences outside of the flood plain on difficult sites at the base of the mountains.

14. UK Physicist Discovers New 2D Material that could Upstage Graphene

A new one atom-thick flat material that could upstage the wonder material graphene and advance digital technology has been discovered by a physicist at UK working in collaboration with scientists from Daimler in Germany and the Institute for Electronic Structure and Laser in Greece. Reported in Physical Review B, Rapid Communications, the new material is made up of silicon, boron and nitrogen — all light, inexpensive and earth abundant elements — and is extremely stable, a property many other graphene alternatives lack. Using state-of-the-art theoretical computations, Madhu Menon and his collaborators have demonstrated that by combining the three elements, it is possible to obtain a one atom-thick, truly 2D material with properties that can be fine-tuned to suit various applications beyond what is possible with graphene.

15. UK Researchers Find that Experimental Drug May Limit Harmful Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury

A new report by UK researchers Linda Van Eldik and Adam Bachstetter describes an experimental drug candidate that may aid patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The article appeared in the journal PLoS One, the world's largest biology journal. Van Eldik's laboratory identified and began testing the experimental drug MW151 in 2007. In initial testing, MW151 appeared to inhibit the release of the "bad" chemicals that caused inflammation while preserving immune cells' repair capabilities in a form of TBI known as a closed head injury. Further evidence of MW151's effectiveness was manifested in reduced cognitive impairment. MW151 represents an important next step in the process to help people with TBI, including soldiers, athletes, car accident victims and others. Van Eldik hopes to move MW151 into clinical trials in the next few years.

16. Community Collaboration Connects Lewis County High Schoolers with UK Scientists

In Lewis County, Kentucky, high school freshmen are integrating physics, health, communication and technology through a collaborative, web-based project with scientists and students at UK. The project is a joint venture of Sara Poeppelman, a 16-year science teacher and department chair at Lewis County High School, and Robin Cooper, associate professor of biology at UK. The two educators met through their work with the Partnership Initiative for Math and Science Education Reform. The two devised a web-based collaboration that gets students to use social media, smart phones and iPads — all while learning the physics and consequences of obesity and cardiovascular disease. The project is supported by a community grant from the UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science, which aims to accelerate discoveries for human health and focuses specifically on health disparities in Appalachia.

17. From 21c to NYC: UK Professor Building Art 'Empire'

From Lexington's newest hotel, 21c, to the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, and even on the nation's TV screens in the Fox hit "Empire," artwork by UK's own Ebony Patterson is catching the spotlight. Patterson's artwork raises questions about perceptions of masculinity within a Jamaican context and larger questions about beauty, gender ideals and constructs of masculinity within popular black culture. An artist in high demand, her career is taking her from one of her two home bases in Lexington, where she is an associate professor of painting at the UK School of Art and Visual Studies, all across the country and back to her home country of Jamaica. The Atlanta Contemporary is presenting her exhibition "Invisible Presence: Bling Memories," and in Chicago she opened a pop-up show with Sanford Biggers at the Monique Meloche Gallery. Patterson was also part of the opening of Lexington's 21c. Several pieces of Patterson's work are currently on display at the new hotel as part of the exhibition "Dress Up, Speak Up: Costume and Confrontation."

18. UK Shines at CASE District III Awards

The University of Kentucky received nine awards at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District III Conference held in February in Nashville. CASE District III advances and supports educational and professional institutions in the southeastern United States by enhancing the effectiveness of the alumni relations, fundraising, communications, marketing and other advancement professionals who serve them. UK received a Grand Award, the highest award given, for the Specialty Piece, “You Made Us Take Note,” in the Graphic Design category (UK Public Relations and Marketing). UK also took home two Awards of Excellence for “Why Wouldn’t You? Frank and Dorian” in the Commercial or Public Service Announcement category (UK Public Relations and Marketing); and for the “Kentucky Engineering Journal” in the Magazine/Tabloid Improvement I category (College of Engineering). The university also received six special merit awards, including projects from the Office of Philanthropy, Gatton College of Business and Economics and College of Engineering.

19. UK Student, UK Nursing Researcher Help Launch Citywide Substance Abuse Resource

Alex Elswick, a UK graduate student who is in long-term recovery from heroin addiction and advocates for the local nonprofit Voices of Hope-Lexington, and Amanda Fallin, an assistant professor in the UK College of Nursing and vice president for Voices of Hope-Lexington, joined a coalition of community members and city government officials to develop an online treatment database, GetHelpLex.org. The coalition leveraged an existing database at UK to build an online database of treatment resources and facilities around Central Kentucky. The user-friendly website was created in October 2015 to facilitate a customizable search for treatment resources based on a variety of features, including insurance coverage, gender, and preferences for inpatient or outpatient services. GetHelpLex was created with support from the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council Substance Abuse and Violence Intervention Program, Voices of Hope-Lexington, OpenLexington, LexLadiesCode and Code for Boston. David Maynard, an addiction specialist in the UK HealthCare trauma department, contributed data for the database.

20. First DanceBlue UK Staff/Faculty Mini Marathon Raises More than \$10,000

In just two weeks, University of Kentucky staff and faculty participated in a university-wide fundraiser that culminated in a DanceBlue Mini Marathon at the Hilary J. Boone Center on February 18. By the end of the event, \$8,274.94 was raised, but by the next day, the grand total increased to \$10,014.94, due to the generosity of the in-kind support of the Boone Center and The Club at UK’s Spindletop Hall. Approximately 130 faculty and staff participated in the event.

21. UK-UofL Executive MBA Program Achieves Tier One Global Ranking

With its first class graduating in December 2015, the joint University of Kentucky-University of Louisville Executive MBA program is already being ranked in the top tier. Recently, the UK-UofL EMBA became the only program in the region ranked in CEO Magazine’s Tier One Global EMBA programs for 2016. Drawing upon the top-tier faculty from UK’s Gatton College of Business and Economics and UofL’s College of Business, this first-rate Executive MBA

program is aimed at rising executives from regional organizations, and maximizes the industry expertise of the students in a dynamic, cohort-based learning environment.

22. College of Social Work Receives Grant to Train Students, Professionals in Substance Abuse Response

Under the direction of principal investigator Carlton Craig, associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work, the college has received a \$942,000 three-year grant to train social work graduate students, medical residents and community professionals in the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment evidence-based substance misuse model. This grant, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, marks the second federally funded collaborative effort between the College of Social Work and the Department of Family and Community Medicine to prepare social workers and health professionals to respond to contemporary workforce challenges in health care.

23. UK Linguistics Professors Create Language for New Video Game

Andrew and Brenna Byrd, assistant professors in the Department of Linguistics, brought to life a prehistoric-sounding language, Wenja, and other languages for the new video game "Far Cry Primal©" by Ubisoft, released in February. "Far Cry Primal" is a rarity in the gaming world. The 10,000-year-old world focuses on survival violence, without guns or cars. The Byrds created Wenja based on two lifetimes of researching ancient languages, including Proto-Indo-European. The couple created a true — though imagined — language of more than 40,000 words with established grammar, syntax and structure. Brenna, who focuses more on teaching foreign languages, then taught the language to a group of actors for the game's voiceovers.

24. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Kristin Ashford (UK College of Nursing) received the Sarah Bennett Holmes Award for a faculty member.

Craig N. Carter (UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory) recently took the helm of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society as president for a five-year term.

Raleigh Dailey (School of Music) won the award for Best Keyboardist at the Lexington Music Awards.

Donnie Davis (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) received a distinguished service award from the Research Center Administrators Society.

Christopher Doty (UK HealthCare) was awarded the Joe Lex Educator Award by the American Academy of Emergency Medicine.

Kate Eddens (College of Public Health) received a grant from the Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Program to investigate how social ties and communication networks influence Appalachians' lung cancer screening behaviors.

Jennifer Ellis (College of Arts and Sciences) received the 21st annual Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award for professional advisor.

Frank R. Etensohn (College of Arts and Sciences) was elected as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow.

Beth Fuchs (UK Libraries) began a three-year term on the Library Orientation Exchange Advisory Council, the premier information literacy organization in the United States.

James Griffioen (College of Engineering) has been appointed as director of the UK Center for Computational Sciences.

Maya Guglin (Gill Heart Institute) has received a grant from device manufacturer St. Jude Medical to explore effective ways of managing anticoagulation in patients who require procedures after their LVAD implant.

Ellen Hahn (College of Nursing) had her tobacco control research featured in the UK Research Challenge Trust Fund Annual Report.

Kevin Holm-Hudson (School of Music) won the Jay Flippin Music Education Award at the Lexington Music Awards.

Rick Honaker (College of Engineering) was awarded nearly \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory to develop a mobile pilot-plant facility for the recovery of rare earth elements from coal.

Zhaohui Hong (University Press of Kentucky) received the 2015 Academic Excellence Award from the Chinese Historians in the United States for his new book, "The Price of China's Economic Development: Power, Capital and the Poverty of Rights."

Jeff Huber (School of Information Science) was selected by the Medical Library Association (MLA) to receive the 2016 Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award.

Natasha Kyrpianou (College of Medicine) has been chosen as the 2016 Urology Care Foundation Distinguished Research Scholar Alumna.

Ronald Langley (UK Survey Research Center) has been named the 2016 recipient of the John M. Kennedy Achievement Award given by the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations.

Catherine A. Martin (College of Medicine) had her adolescent drug abuse research featured in the UK Research Challenge Trust Fund Annual Report.

J. Jay Miller (College of Social Work) was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice by the administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention.

Dave Moecher (College of Arts and Sciences) had his hot granite research featured in the UK Research Challenge Trust Fund Annual Report.

Reddy Palli (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) is co-leader of the Bed Bug Genome Consortium, a group of international researchers, and helped sequence the genome of the bed bug. The findings included more than 14,000 protein-coding genes and were recently published in Nature Communications.

Scoobie Ryan (School of Journalism and Media) received the 21st annual Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award for faculty advisor.

Shaunna L. Scott (College of Arts and Sciences) is co-editor of a book chosen as the 2015 Weatherford Award winner for nonfiction.

Brian Taves (University Press of Kentucky) received the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association's 2016 John G. Cawelti Award for the Best Textbook/Primer in Popular Culture, "Hollywood Presents Jules Verne: The Father of Science Fiction on Screen."

Travis Thomas (College of Health Sciences) is the lead author on a paper that is being hailed as the most important single source of information in the field of sports nutrition to date, released jointly by the American College of Sports Medicine, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Dietitians of Canada.

William E. Thro (Office of Legal Counsel) has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the National Education Finance Academy.

Mitzi R. Vernon (College of Design) presented at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook University.

Nicole Waite (UK HealthCare) received the Sarah Bennett Holmes Award for a staff member.

Stacie Williams (UK Libraries) now serves on the advisory board of “Documenting the Now: Supporting Scholarly Use and Preservation of Social Media Content.”

Manuel Gonzales, Hannah Pittard and 2016 writer-in-residence Helen Oyeyemi (College of Arts and Sciences) have been named to Buzz Book’s list of must-read books in 2016.

Gerald Smith, Karen Cotton McDaniel and John A. Hardin (University Press of Kentucky), co-editors of the Kentucky African American Encyclopedia, received the 2016 Legacy Award at the 13th annual Black History Month Celebration in Frankfort.

The Partnership Institute for Math and Science Education Reform (College of Education) was awarded the annual Dr. Samuel Robinson Award by the Kentucky Board of Education.

25. Student Achievements

Allison Burke and Caitlin Halliwell (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) of Team Serandu won the UK Venture Challenge and \$1,500 with their idea for custom-fitted riding boots.

Amy Hehre (College of Health Sciences) of Somerset, Kentucky, and husband are opening a medical clinic for orphans in Kenya.

Michael Reaves (College of Communication and Information) of Crestwood, Kentucky, the Kentucky Kernel’s photo director, was named Kentucky Student Photographer of the Year.

Abby Schroering (College of Fine Arts and College of Arts and Sciences) of Louisville, Kentucky, has been awarded an English-Speaking Union (ESU) Scholarship. It will cover Schroering’s expenses for summer study at the University of Cambridge.

The UK Appropriate Technology and Sustainability Group at the UK College of Engineering Paducah Campus sent thousands of pounds of textbooks to schoolchildren in Cameroon, a country in sub-Saharan Africa.

The UK Forensics team has placed second in the Commonwealth at the Kentucky Forensic Association state championship tournament.

The UK Forensics team won the Icebox Classic hosted by St. Cloud State University.

A team of undergraduate students from the University of Kentucky’s Gatton College of Business and Economics earned second place in the nation at the 2016 Wall Street Journal Business Challenge.

A group of University of Kentucky Honors students has been selected as a finalist for the second year in a row in the Knight Cities Challenge.

A team of University of Kentucky students who participated in the UK Venture Studio Bootcamp captured first place at the Georgia Bowl intercollegiate entrepreneurship competition.

Student-athletes from all of Kentucky's fall sports teams combined to earn a total of 81 spots on the Southeastern Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Twelve students were selected as new scholars for the University's Gaines Fellowship Program, including: Ben Childress (Economics and Political Science, of Lexington); Evelyn Hudson (Philosophy and Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies, of Benton, Kentucky); Jacob Kaylor (Philosophy and Classics, of Hickory, North Carolina); John Paul Larson (English, of Tinley Park, Illinois); Josiah Liew Liq Jong (Agricultural Biotechnology and Sustainable Agriculture, of Rawang, Malaysia); Natalie Malone (Psychology, of Smiths Grove, Kentucky); Aaron Mueller (Linguistics and Computer Science, of Louisville, Kentucky); Aya Omar (Biology and Animal Sciences, of Crestwood, Kentucky); Damien Phillips (English, of Lexington); Hayla Ragland (Art Studio and Psychology, of LaGrange, Kentucky); Katherine Stockham (Biology, of Somerset, Kentucky); and Connor VanMeter (Agricultural Biotechnology and Computer Science, of Lexington).

26. Alumni Achievements

Eugene Poole Jr. (College of Design, 1985) is serving as Project Manager and Capitol Jurisdiction Project Executive for the Architect of the Capitol, helping to restore the U.S. Capitol Building to its original splendor.

Osamah Rawashdeh (College of Engineering, 2000, 2003, 2005) invented the cutting-edge drone the Loon Copter, with the help of his research team, and won a \$1 million first place prize from the international Drones for Good contest.