

Office of the President
June 17, 2021

1. UK Part of Study to See if Moderna Vaccine Prevents COVID-19 Transmission

The University of Kentucky has been selected as a site for PreventCovidU, a new study evaluating COVID-19 infection and transmission among post-secondary students vaccinated with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Students aged 18 to 26 who are enrolled in any post-secondary education, including colleges, trade schools, technical schools, and online education, may be eligible to participate. This study will help definitively answer whether the FDA-authorized Moderna COVID-19 vaccine prevents the spread of the virus, not just illness in the person who's vaccinated. Researchers hope the study results will allow more science-based decisions about mask use and social distancing after vaccination, especially as new variants emerge.

2. More COVID-19 News

The university finished the Spring 2021 semester with these rates of vaccination: more than 60% of students; over 70% of staff; and more than 80% of faculty. The Kroger Field COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic that was open to the public closed May 14 following a substantial decrease in demand. The operation transitioned to UK HealthCare clinical and pharmaceutical settings at Alumni Park Plaza and University Health Pharmacy on South Limestone beginning May 19. Other public vaccine clinics UK partnered with around the state continued to operate. As students were getting vaccinated, the rate of COVID-19 cases on campus declined, prompting the university to announce that residence halls will operate at normal capacity during the Fall 2021 semester, and plans are in process to return to a more robust in-person class operation.

To celebrate the successful completion of an unprecedented academic year, UK Dining treated all UK faculty, staff and students to a complimentary thank-you lunch at Fresh Food Company and Champions Kitchen on April 28. On May 13, officials announced that campus community members (non-UK HealthCare faculty, staff and students) who had received the COVID-19 vaccine would not be required to complete the daily screener during the summer. Meanwhile, the university has continued its community service in an effort to end the pandemic. UK and UK HealthCare, in partnership with local faith leaders and SHARE Lexington, a social services and advocacy center, held a COVID-19 Vaccine Community Town Hall on April 24 to provide experts to answer questions about the safety, efficacy and long-term effects of the vaccine. Also, UK Cooperative Extension Service offices in Henderson and London partnered with local, state and federal agencies to serve as host sites for COVID-19 vaccine clinics. They also served as a base for mobile vaccination units run by Wild Health Medical, which deployed

across the region. In all, the two sites were able to administer 7,000 vaccines each week.

3. UK Commencement Celebrated With 10 Smaller In-person Ceremonies

Around 4,400 graduates participated in 10 Commencement Ceremonies held Friday through Sunday, May 14-16, in Rupp Arena. Open to both May 2021 graduates and 2020 graduates, the in-person events marked the first UK graduation ceremonies at Rupp Arena since December 2019. About 1,000 of the participants were 2020 graduates whose in-person ceremonies were canceled due to the pandemic. Five student speakers addressed two ceremonies each in a pre-recorded speech. They were: Sy Bridenbaugh, from Richmond, Kentucky, graduating with a doctoral degree in educational policy studies and evaluation from the College of Education; Lauren Sammons, from Gurnee, Illinois, graduating with a bachelor's degree in clinical leadership and management in the College of Health Sciences; Bilal Shaikh, from Louisville, Kentucky, graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science from the College of Arts and Sciences; Abbi Woodcock, from Bowling Green, Kentucky, graduating with a bachelor's degree in economics from the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics; and Cameron French, from Wolfe County, Kentucky, graduating with a bachelor's degree in community leadership and development from the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

4. Three Wildcats Awarded 2021-22 Goldwater Scholarship

The University of Kentucky Office of Nationally Competitive Awards announced that three biology students, Kayli Bolton, of Corbin, Kentucky; Zoe Hert, of Louisville, Kentucky; and Carly Karrick, of Cold Spring, Kentucky, were awarded a 2021-22 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. The UK students are among 410 students nationwide selected to receive the scholarship. This year's Goldwater Scholars were selected based on academic merit from a field of 1,256 math, science and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of 438 of the nation's colleges and universities.

5. Markey Center Studies Certain Coffee's Effect on Cancer Recurrence

The UK Markey Cancer Center has officially launched a unique new clinical trial to test whether *Artemisia annua* extract can prevent ovarian cancer recurrence. Markey will be the first site worldwide to initiate a cancer clinical trial that evaluates its anti-cancer activity in humans using ArtemiLife™ Inc. coffee products, which are made using the leaves of the *Artemisia annua* plant. Ovarian cancer patients who participate in the trial must have completed their initial treatment, which is usually surgery and chemotherapy. When ovarian cancer recurs, it often comes back within the first two years following treatment. Participants will drink ArtemiLife coffee up to four times daily for five months, beginning one month after treatment ends with the intent to delay or eliminate cancer recurrence. Dr. Frederick Ueland, a gynecologic oncologist with the Markey Cancer Center, says he's hopeful this treatment could become a new and innovative therapy for advanced-stage cancer.

6. UK Named a 2021 'Best Employer for Diversity' by Forbes

The University of Kentucky has been ranked on the Forbes list of "Best Employers for Diversity" in 2021. Partnering with market research company Statista, Forbes' annual list recognizes businesses with at least 1,000 employees who demonstrate a strong commitment to inclusive workplace practices. UK ranked No. 81 on the list. A survey asked some 50,000 Americans to identify companies they believe are most dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion. The final list ranks the 500 employers that not only received the most recommendations but also boast the most diverse boards and executive ranks, as well as the most proactive diversity and inclusion initiatives. Last summer, President Eli Capilouto announced the formation of an extensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative — spanning nearly 20 projects and more than 500 people across campus.

7. UK HealthCare Named One of America's Best Large Employers

UK HealthCare has been ranked No. 34 on Forbes magazine's list of 500 of America's Best Large Employers. It ranks seventh out of the 25 employers in the Healthcare & Social industry category and is the leading health care employer in Kentucky. In collaboration with the market research firm Statista, Forbes selected America's Best Employers by surveying more than 50,000 U.S. employees working for companies employing at least 1,000 people in their U.S. operations. This is UK HealthCare's first appearance on the list.

8. UK's HDI Involved in Major Federal Grant Awarded to State Government

On May 6, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, President Eli Capilouto, and UK Human Development Institute (HDI) Director Kathy Sheppard-Jones announced the state had received a \$21.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to boost efforts to help Kentucky's newly injured and ill employees remain at or return to work. The Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) Phase 2 funding is the largest federal grant awarded to date to the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The federal funding will enable RETAIN Kentucky, led by Sheppard-Jones and HDI, to expand implementation statewide to serve over 3,000 employees; address enduring implications that COVID-19 will have on the physical and mental health of the workforce; expand a multisystem leadership team across health care, public health and employers that will advise on policies and practices that promote an inclusive, healthy Kentucky workforce; and develop pre-professional and continuing education training in Return-to-Work/Stay-at-Work strategies.

9. UK Women's Volleyball Wins NCAA Championship

UK became the first school in the history of the Southeastern Conference to win a national championship in volleyball on April 24, defeating Texas 3-1 in four sets at the CHI Health Center in Omaha. Junior Alli Stumler had a match-high 26 kills and Madison Lilley had 53 assists in the match. Lilley was also named the 2020 NCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, with Kentucky's Avery Skinner and Alli Stumler also being named to the 2020 NCAA All-Tournament Team. A welcome home celebration for the

team was held on April 25 at Memorial Coliseum.

10. UK Professor Awarded \$1.9M for Sepsis Research

A College of Medicine professor has been awarded a \$1.9 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for his research on the body's immune response to sepsis, which could potentially help to improve therapies for the common disease. Xiangan Li, a professor in the Department of Physiology and the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center, received the prestigious R35 grant from the NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which will fund sepsis research in his lab over the next five years. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that occurs when an infection triggers a chain reaction throughout the body. Without timely treatment, it can quickly lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 270,000 Americans die as a result of sepsis every year, and one in three patients who die in a hospital has sepsis.

11. UK, Makers Mark Introduce World's Largest American White Oak Repository

On Earth Day, April 22, UK announced the establishment of the world's largest repository of American white oak as part of their groundbreaking effort with Maker's Mark® to conserve, explore and secure the future of American white oak. The massive effort at Star Hill Farm, home to the iconic Maker's Mark Distillery, represents the most comprehensive natural range of white oak to date anywhere in the world. The American white oak repository is part of a larger mission to transform the conservation of a species critical to many American industries, including Kentucky bourbon that is aged in white oak barrels and to prioritize the present and future of forests and rivers. UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources tree improvement specialist Laura DeWald is leading a project collecting more than 300 unique families of white oak from across the United States to plant at Star Hill Farm. This American white oak repository is the second phase of an unparalleled collaboration between UK and Maker's Mark, which also includes the world's first comprehensive effort to map the white oak genome.

12. Research Scholars Program Created to Sustain Inclusive Research Success

A new program aimed at ensuring diversity and inclusion in research by promoting faculty success began in April with the first cohort of junior faculty from six UK colleges. The Research Scholars Program (RSP) was created by the Office of the Vice President for Research, with support from the Office for Faculty Advancement, Center for Health Equity Transformation, Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the six participating colleges. RSP has three aims: 1) to provide professional development curricula to support the cohort's academic and professional research success; 2) to engage UK's collaborative scientific community through multilevel mentorship, sponsorship and coaching and to embed the cohort in research environments committed to inclusive excellence, collegiality and productivity; 3) to establish a scientific and social networking structure for the cohort. The first cohort of faculty are: Adebola Adegboyega, College of Nursing; Joseph Benitez, College of Public Health; Jean Fry, College of Health

Sciences; Cetewayo Rashid, College of Medicine; Michael Samaan, College of Education; and Lauren Whitehurst, College of Arts and Sciences.

13. 10 Inducted Into Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame May 4

Ten journalists with careers that covered some of the biggest stories of the late 20th and early 21st centuries made up the 41st class of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held online on May 4. Inductees are: Michael Collins, who covers economic issues and the White House for USA Today; the late Bill Cox, who served as an editor at The Honolulu Star-Bulletin and The Courier-Journal; Monica Dias, senior counsel for content and intellectual property at The E.W. Scripps Co. and former reporter for The Cincinnati Post/The Kentucky Post; John Lansing, president and CEO of National Public Radio and former managing editor at WAVE-3; Keith Lawrence, a longtime reporter and columnist with the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer; the late Chuck Olmstead, who was a longtime reporter with WHAS-11; the late Bill Powell, who was a reporter for the Paducah Sun; Keith Runyon, former editorial page editor of The Courier-Journal and editorial writer of the Louisville Times; Pam Spaulding, a former photographer with The Courier-Journal; and Melissa Swan, a former reporter and anchor for WHAS-11. Created by the UK Journalism Alumni Association in 1981, the Hall of Fame honors achieving journalists who are Kentucky natives or have spent a significant portion of their careers working for Kentucky media organizations.

14. Magnet Status Achieved for UK HealthCare, Eastern State Hospital

UK HealthCare and Eastern State Hospital have achieved Magnet status, the highest institutional honor and a gold standard for nursing excellence granted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program. Hospitals must reapply for Magnet status every four years and complete a thorough and lengthy process that demands widespread participation from leadership and staff. The process includes an application and written documentation demonstrating qualitative and quantitative evidence regarding patient care and outcomes. Then, an on-site visit is held to thoroughly assess the applicant. After the on-site review process, the Commission on Magnet reviews the completed appraisal report to determine whether Magnet recognition will be granted. UK HealthCare first reached Magnet status in 2001. This is the first Magnet recognition for Eastern State Hospital, a state-owned facility managed by UK HealthCare since 2013.

15. 10 UK Alums Earn NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

Ten recent graduates have been selected to receive government-funded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships. As part of the five-year fellowship, recipients receive a three-year annual stipend of \$34,000 along with a \$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees for a research-based master's or doctoral degree in a STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics) field. In 2020, the NSF awarded around 2,000 fellowships from an applicant pool of over 13,000. UK's newest NSF fellows and the areas of research they will be pursuing are: Rosemary Alden,

May 2021 electrical engineering graduate from Nicholasville, Kentucky, will pursue her doctorate at UK; Shelby Rae Buckman, a 2019 economics and mathematics graduate from Henderson, Kentucky, will pursue research in economics at Stanford University; Matthew West Coile, a 2019 chemical engineering graduate from Gaithersburg, Maryland, will pursue research in chemical engineering at Northwestern University; Benjamin Farmer, a 2019 biology graduate from Lexington, will pursue research in ecology at Louisiana State University; Benton Girdler, a 2020 mathematics graduate from Lancaster, Kentucky, will pursue research in artificial intelligence; Donovan Denis Lewis, a May 2021 electrical engineering graduate from Paducah, Kentucky, will pursue research in electrical and electronic engineering and his doctorate at UK; Jordan Ashlee McCray, a May 2021 master's degree recipient from Alexandria, Virginia, will pursue research in geography and her doctorate at UK; Evan Thomas Miller, a pharmaceutical sciences doctoral student, from Worthington, Ohio, will pursue research in biochemistry at UK; Kristen Juranda Price, a 2019 mechanical engineering graduate from St. Charles, Missouri, will pursue research in mechanical engineering and her doctorate at UK; and Ronald Justin Vogler, a May 2021 chemical engineering graduate from Mason, Ohio, will pursue research in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

16. 'One Day for UK' in April Generated Over \$3 Million in Gifts

For 24 hours on April 21, more than 50 colleges, programs and causes at UK participated in the third university-wide giving day, "One Day for UK." Donors contributed 3,639 gifts for a total of \$3,251,169 to more than 350 different funds at UK. This year's digital giving day more than tripled the first year's total. More than 300 UK faculty and staff made a gift online or by giving through payroll deduction to contribute to the total.

17. International Center Announces 2021 Global Impact Award Winners

Global Impact Awards are given to UK faculty, staff and alumni who have significantly contributed to the university's global engagement through education, research and service, as well as fostered a culturally diverse, welcoming environment that is conducive to comprehensive campus internationalization. This year, the International Center recognized five individuals. College of Medicine alumnus Mosoka Fallah received the UK Alumni Global Impact Award for his efforts in fighting the Ebola epidemic in Africa; Sherali Zeadally, associate professor in the School of Information Sciences in the College of Communication and Information, received the UK Global Impact Award for Distinguished Faculty Achievement in International Research and Scholarship for his impactful research in the areas of cybersecurity and privacy. Larry Grabau, professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), received the Global Impact Award for Distinguished Faculty Achievement in Education Abroad for his dedication to expanding education abroad opportunities for students in CAFE. Sharon Brennan, associate professor in the College of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, received the Global Impact Award for Distinguished Faculty Achievement in Internationalizing the Curriculum for her leadership in the Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching program that has enabled more than 375 UK education majors to complete student teaching requirements abroad.

Patricia Bond, senior assistant dean in The Graduate School's Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment received the Global Impact Award for Distinguished Staff Achievement in Campus Internationalization for her dedication to supporting international graduate students at UK.

18. NBA 2K League's Gen.G Tigers of Shanghai Relocate to University of Kentucky

Global esports organization Gen.G announced May 11 that it relocated its NBA 2K League franchise, the Gen.G Tigers of Shanghai, to facilities located at the University of Kentucky to compete virtually in its second season in the league as well as join the new 12-team Eastern Conference. The team will practice and compete in the University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union Esports Lounge at The Cornerstone and will also have access to UK campus services including dining and recreational facilities. The team will have opportunities to interact with UK esports players and students as the esports community continues to grow on campus. Gen.G hopes to be able to make tickets available to watch live games in The Cornerstone theater if the public health situation allows for live attendance during the season.

19. Governor's School for the Arts to Return to UK Campus This Summer

Kentucky Performing Arts announced in May that the statewide arts education program for high school students, the Governor's School for the Arts (GSA), will return to in-person and traditional instruction at UK this summer with numerous COVID-19 safety measures and protocols in place. One of many events and educational programs impacted by the pandemic, GSA was successfully shifted to online instruction in summer 2020 following an in-person, on-campus program at UK in summer 2019. The three week, arts-immersive program for rising high school sophomores and juniors across the state has for 34 years traditionally gathered hundreds of students on a Kentucky college campus to learn, collaborate and study various art forms.

20. UK, Cityscape Break Ground on New Residential Village

On May 26, representatives from the University of Kentucky, Cityscape Residential and the city of Lexington broke ground on what will become a residential village on the Coldstream Research Campus. The 260-unit, multi-family residential complex will offer Coldstream's high-tech workforce the ability to live, work, play and innovate all within the research campus. The residential village will be named FIFTEEN51 Apartments, based on the address at 1551 Aristides Boulevard. The university selected Indianapolis-based Cityscape Residential as its ground lessee, based on their award-winning luxury multi-family residential communities. Cityscape will construct and operate the 13-acre complex.

21. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Jeff Cain (College of Pharmacy) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.
Fanny Chapelin (College of Engineering) was named a 2021 Scialog: Advancing Bioimaging Fellow.

Marc Cormier (College of Education) received the 2021 Early Career Practitioner Award from the Association for Applied Sport Psychology and received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

The radio news report "Keeping The Faith" by Karyn Czar (WUKY) won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence.

Olivia Davis (Gatton College of Business and Economics) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Jennifer Doerge (College of Engineering) received the 2021 Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award for a professional advisor from the UK Advising Network.

Larry Goldstein (College of Medicine) has been elected to serve on the board of directors of The American Academy of Neurology.

Ren Guerriero (College of Arts and Sciences) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Patrick Hannon (College of Medicine) received an Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from UK Undergraduate Research.

Heather Hardesty (College of Health Sciences) received the NACADA Aligned Award for Outstanding New Advisor from the UK Advising Network.

Melinda Ickes (College of Education) received an Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from UK Undergraduate Research.

Eric King (Federal Relations) received the Jennifer Poulakidas Outstanding Achievement Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Katie McClain (College of Arts and Sciences) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Margaret Mohr-Schroeder (College of Education) has been elected president of the School Science and Mathematics Association for 2022.

Darshak Patel (Gatton College of Business and Economics) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Raven Piercy (College of Medicine) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Sara Police (College of Medicine) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Casey Shadix (College of Health Sciences) received the NACADA aligned Award for Outstanding Advising Administrator from the UK Advising Network.

Vincent L. Sorrell (College of Medicine and Gill Heart & Vascular Institute) will become editor-in-chief of CASE, the American Society of Echocardiography's international online cardiovascular imaging case reports journal.

Nathan Vanderford (College of Medicine) received an Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from UK Undergraduate Research and the NACADA Aligned Award for Innovative Advising from the UK Advising Network.

Cassandra Jane Werking (College of Arts and Sciences) received a 2021 UK Outstanding Teaching Award.

Sherali Zeadally (College of Communication and Information) received an Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from UK Undergraduate Research and

the 2021 Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Award for a faculty advisor from the UK Advising Network.

22. Student Achievements

Jacob Concolino (Chemical Engineering) of Allison Park, Pennsylvania, was selected to receive a Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE) from the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) to participate in research at Technische Universität Dortmund in Dortmund, Germany.

Benjamin Cortas (Physics, Mathematics) of Louisville, Kentucky, was selected to receive a Research Internship in Science and Engineering (RISE) from the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) to perform physics research at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz and in conjunction with the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland.

Michael Di Girolamo (Foreign Language and International Economics/Chinese) of Lexington, Kentucky, was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study Chinese.

Kayden Jenson (Law, Diplomacy) of Lexington, Kentucky, received a 2021 Boren Fellowship to study Turkish.

Mihir Kale (Political Science) of Louisville, Kentucky, received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Swahili.

Clarissa Somers (Food Science) of Bolivia, North Carolina, received a Fulbright Award to pursue a Master of Science in food microbiology at University College Cork in Ireland.

Ashley White (Biology) was named the 2020-21 Student Employee of the Year by UK Human Resources for her work in the College of Medicine's Department of Physiology.

Madeline Williams (Sociology, Political Science) of Louisville, Kentucky, received a Fulbright Canada-MITACS Globalink Research Internship to conduct research in the social sciences.

23. Alumni Achievements

Schuyler Baas (Management) of Louisville, Kentucky, received a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to teach English in Madrid, Spain.

Reginald Smith Jr. (Political Science) of Atlanta, Georgia, has been selected to represent the United States in the 20th BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition for outstanding rising stars in international opera.