

University of Kentucky Alumni Association

KENTUCKY

Alumni

SUMMER 2015

UK[®]
UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY[®]
Alumni Association

2015
Hall of Distinguished Alumni



In Recognition of Personal
and Professional Achievements

UK Alumni Association 2015 Hall of Distinguished Alumni

By Linda Perry



It's with great pride that we have this opportunity to share with you the most recent inductees to the UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

The first official recognition ceremony of the members of the UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni took place in 1965. Thus, the year 2015 is special because it

marks the 50th anniversary of the formal celebration of the hall. However, some individuals were selected as early as 1963, publicly announced in 1964, but only officially recognized in the first ceremony of 1965. Since then, the recognition ceremony has been held roughly every five years, although this wasn't always the case. One recognition

took place in 1967 when three members were inducted, and also in 1989, when 13 members were inducted a year early to coincide with the UK Alumni Association celebrating its centennial anniversary.

Welcome to our 2015 UK Alumni Association Hall of Distinguished Alumni recipients!

Can you match the following facts to our distinguished alums?

- Founding partner of largest network of independent public relations firms
- Three honorary degrees from Thailand and Korea
- First African American to receive degree at UK
- Minister, psychologist, college professor and governor of Ohio
- Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Beverly Hills Supper Club fire
- Founder of Family Heritage Life Insurance Company of America
- Won more than 60 multimillion-dollar verdicts & settlements for clients
- First female governor of North Carolina
- Directed planning for \$12 billion urban rail system in Washington
- Chairman and CEO of The Kroger Co.
- Participated in over 100 clinical replantation operations to reattach amputated body portions
- First inductee to National Housing Quality Hall of Fame
- First female African American to earn Ph.D. from UK
- Associated Press deputy chief of bureau in Washington
- First female federal judge in Kentucky
- Responsible for installation support functions at 166 Air Force bases
- Scientist who worked with NASA Apollo space program
- President of American Medical Association
- Wrote textbook used in most U.S. dental schools
- Air Force fighter pilot, engineer, family doctor, lay minister, state legislator and U.S. Congressman
- Holds 47 U.S. patents related to gas turbine combustion and controls
- Received the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award
- First female board member of Rolls-Royce PLC in London, England



Joyce Hamilton Berry
M.A. '67 – Special Education,
College of Education
Ph.D. '70 – Guidance & Counseling,
College of Education

Joyce Hamilton Berry, now retired, had a career as a prominent clinical psychologist with her own practice in the Washington area. The first female African American to earn a Ph.D. from UK in 1970, she regularly contributed to magazines such as Ebony and Essence and has appeared on television to give advice and counsel. She was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality, and she is a life member of the Urban League and has a history of speaking out against discrimination.

She taught at Dunbar High School for two years and also held professional positions at the Fayette County Children's Bureau, Kentucky State (College) University, Hunter Foundation for Health Care, and the National Medical Association Foundation in Washington. Berry later became a school psychologist with the Montgomery County Public Schools. As a licensed psychologist, she began a private practice with offices in Washington and Columbia, Maryland.



Amy L. Bondurant
B.A. '73 – Telecommunications,
College of Communication
& Information

Amy L. Bondurant served as the U.S. ambassador to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

in Paris, France, from 1997-2001, following a professional career spanning more than 30 years in government and private legal practice. Her tenure spanned the Clinton and Bush administrations. As an attorney, Bondurant's diplomatic and policy skills enabled her to champion successfully the first set of international corporate governance principles adopted by the organization.

She also served for 12 years in the legislative branch of the U.S. government and has been on the Council of Foreign Relations and the Council of American Ambassadors.

Bondurant was a practicing attorney from 1987-1997 and has served on a number of boards, such as the American Hospital of Paris and Rolls-Royce PLC in London, England, where she was the first female board member. She is a general partner of Bozman Partners, a private investment firm in Paris, France, and Washington.



Stephen B. Bright
B.A. '71 – Political Science,
College of Arts & Sciences
J.D. '74 – Law, College of Law

Stephen B. Bright is president and senior counsel at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia, a public interest law program focusing on human rights, such as those facing the death penalty and unconstitutional practices in the criminal justice system. He served as the center's director from 1982 until 2005 and has been its president and senior counsel since 2006.

Bright was a legal services lawyer with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, a trial lawyer with the Public Defender Service in Washington and director of a law school clinical program in Washington. He has also been a Fellow or visiting lecturer in law at Yale Law School since 1993. In addition, he has taught at the law schools at Harvard, Georgetown,

Chicago, Emory and other universities. He received the American Bar Association Thurgood Marshall Award in 1998 and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.



Timothy A. Byers
B.S. '81 – Civil Engineering,
College of Engineering

Timothy A. Byers is a retired U.S. Air Force Major General and was the civil engineer at U.S. Air Force headquarters in Washington. He was responsible for installation support functions with a 54,000 engineer force at 166 Air Force bases worldwide. He has over 30 years of experience and with an \$18 billion annual budget, led installation engineering support including operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other combat zones and natural disasters. Byers received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, The Society of American Engineers Newman Medal for outstanding contributions to military engineering by a civilian or military member and the Army Corps of Engineers Bronze deFleury Medal.

He is the senior vice president and federal defense sector director for Atkins North America, responsible for the business development, sales and operations of all federal defense accounts, including the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, National Guard and other federal defense agencies.





Jennifer Burcham Coffman

**B.A. '69 – English,
College of Arts & Sciences**
**M.S. '71 – Library Science, College of
Communication & Information**
J.D. '78 – Law, College of Law

Jennifer Burcham Coffman was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky in 1993 and elevated to chief judge of the Eastern District in 2007. She was the first female to hold these positions within the Commonwealth. Coffman retired in 2013. She was also appointed in 2011 to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which oversees requests by the U.S. national security community for surveillance of suspected foreign intelligence agents. She retired from that position in 2013.

Coffman had been a trial lawyer whose practice focused on education, employment and constitutional law. She lectured frequently, served on various law-related committees, and chaired the 1992 Kentucky Bar Association Convention. She is an adjunct instructor at the UK College of Law, where she directs the Judicial Externship Program. Coffman has been the recipient of the Kentucky Bar Association Distinguished Judge Award, Kentucky Bar Center Award and the Lexington YWCA Women of Achievement Award.



L. Berkley Davis Jr.

**B.S. '66 – Mechanical Engineering,
College of Engineering**
**M.S. '70 – Mechanical Engineering,
College of Engineering**

**Ph.D. '72 – Mechanical Engineering,
College of Engineering**

L. Berkley Davis Jr. is the chief engineer for systems/performance in the Chief Engineer's Office for General Electric (GE) Energy in Schenectady, New York, with responsibility for GE Energy products worldwide. He is known internationally for innovations leading to the development and worldwide implementation of low-nitrous-oxide-emission gas turbines for electric-power generation. For more than four decades, his contributions to combustion evolution have made their mark at GE and in the power industry. Davis holds 47 US patents related to gas turbine combustion and controls, with 33 more pending. In 2006 he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his work on low emissions combustors for gas turbines.

Davis has received many professional honors, including the GE Steinmetz and Edison Awards in 1991 and 2011. He became a Fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 2000. In 2009 he received the ASME/IGTI Industrial Gas Turbine Technology Award.



Brady J. Deaton

**B.S. '66 – Agricultural Economics,
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment**
**M.A. '68 – Diplomacy &
International Commerce,
Graduate School**

Brady J. Deaton is chancellor emeritus at the University of Missouri, where he was chancellor from 2004-2013 and held numerous other positions, such as provost, chief of staff and chairman of the Agricultural Economics Department. He is also director of the Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development at Missouri. Deaton has worked in many countries to strengthen their capacity for agricultural and economic development, and has received three honorary degrees from universities in Thailand and Korea. He was elected to the Missouri Co-

operatives Hall of Fame and received the Missourian Award in 2014.

Deaton served as chairman of the Academic Affairs Council of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and participates in advisory roles with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was appointed chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development by President Barack Obama in 2011 and reappointed in 2012 for a four-year term.



Thomas B. Deen

**B.S. '51 – Civil Engineering,
College of Engineering**

Thomas B. Deen was the executive director of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a division of the nonprofit National Research Council of the National Academies of Science and Engineering. He was also a partner and president of Alan M. Voorhees & Associates, a worldwide transportation engineering company. Earlier he directed the planning for the \$12 billion urban rail system that serves the Washington region. During this period he pioneered the development and application of methods analyzing urban transportation problems and designing urban transit systems that have since been used by successive generations of transportation planners worldwide.

At TRB, Deen presided over policy initiatives such as the 55 mph speed limit, school bus safety, air passenger service and safety. He is currently working on a national study on the policy and technical issues surrounding the construction of a U.S. high-speed rail system. In 1998 he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.



*Holloway Fields Jr. **

**B.S. '51 – Electrical Engineering,
College of Engineering**

The late Holloway Fields Jr. was the first African American to receive a degree at UK. Upon graduation, he joined General Electric, where he became an expert in signal processing, displays, high performance radio and data acquisition systems. His career had increasing technical and managerial responsibilities, designing, developing and testing the advanced communications, sonar, and radar systems that were key to this nation's defense during the cold war and beyond. Much of this work remains classified.

Fields was active in many organizations, such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Sigma Xi, the Syracuse Chapter of the General Electric Elfun Society, the American Defense Preparedness Association, the Onondaga County Human Rights Commission, the Urban League, the United Way, the NAACP and his church. He received numerous awards, including the Syracuse Black Leadership Congress Award, the Onondaga Human Rights Commission Award and the UK Lyman T. Johnson Alumni Association Award.



Dr. Ernest Lee Fletcher

**B.S. '74 – Mechanical Engineering,
College of Engineering
M.D. '84 – Diplomate - Family
Practice, College of Medicine**

Former Kentucky Gov. Ernest L. Fletcher has been an Air Force fighter pilot, engineer, family doctor, lay minister, state legislator and U.S. Congressman. Today, Fletcher is founder and CEO of Alton Healthcare and LiveOn Medical Centers which focus on the prevention and treatment of microvascular disease in order to prevent heart attack, stroke and dementia.

Fletcher was a family practice physician in Lexington for 12 years, and served for two years as CEO of the Saint Joseph Medical Foundation. In 1995, he represented the state's 78th district, and in 1998, he represented the 6th Congressional District of Kentucky. Fletcher was elected governor of Kentucky in 2003, becoming Kentucky's first Republican governor since 1971. A top priority was economic development, and the number of jobs created during his administration ranked Kentucky 4th best among states. He streamlined state government, condensing the number of cabinets from 14 to nine, and dissolved the former Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and created the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority. Fletcher rolled back burdensome Medicaid requirements and unveiled a plan to modernize Medicaid.



John R. Guthrie

**B.A. '63 – Journalism, College of
Communication & Information**

John "Jack" R. Guthrie of Louisville is the former chairman and founder of Guthrie/Mayes Public Relations, a firm that served national and international corporations including Toyota, CSX Corp. and Philip Morris. He began his career in 1964 in the public relations department of Philip Morris Inc. in New York. Guthrie is also one of the founding partners of the Worldcom Public Relations Group, the largest network of independent public relations firms in the world.

During his years at UK, he was editor of the Kentucky Kernel and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. Maintaining strong connections to his alma mater, Guthrie also served a six-year term as Alumni Trustee on the UK Board of Trustees from 1996-2002. He became president of the UK Alumni Association in 1988 and is on its board of directors. Guthrie also served eight years as president of the UK School of Journalism and Telecommunications Alumni Association.

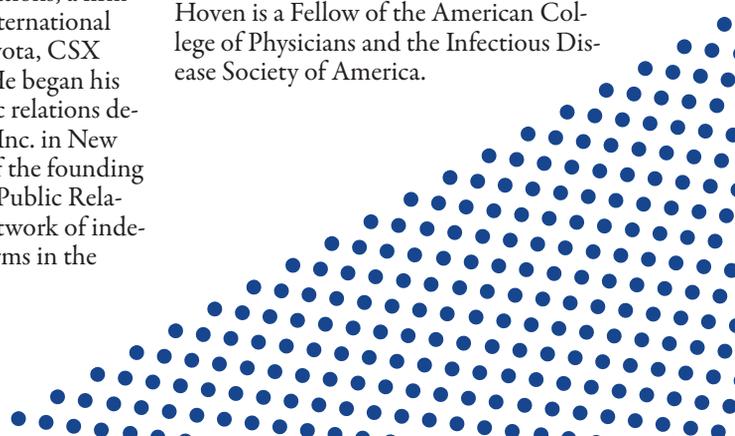


Dr. Ardis D. Hoven

**B.S. '66 – Microbiology,
College of Arts & Sciences
M.D. '70 – Doctor of Medicine, Col-
lege of Medicine**

Dr. Ardis D. Hoven, an internal medicine and infectious disease specialist in Lexington, served as president of the American Medical Association (AMA) for 2013-2014. She has been a member of its board of trustees since 2005, its secretary for 2008-2009 and chairwoman of the board for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Hoven was also president of the Kentucky Medical Association from 1993-1994.

She served as interim chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, and medical director at the Bluegrass Care Clinic as part of UK HealthCare until 2012, when she became president-elect of the AMA. Hoven has spent her career caring for patients with infectious diseases, including HIV and AIDS. She was motivated to get involved in organized medicine at the local, state and national levels during the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. Hoven is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Disease Society of America.





Robert Milton Huffaker

**B.S. '57 – Physics,
College of Arts & Sciences**

Robert Milton Huffaker is a scientist who has worked with NASA on the Apollo space program. His lunar physics included the creation and direction of laser Doppler systems. Huffaker's first position at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center lasted 15 years. He then became chief of the Physics Section and project manager, directing programs such as specifying the thermal environment of the Saturn launch vehicles, as well as areas in lunar physics involving re-entry fluid mechanics. Huffaker moved to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as project manager in 1976 when the design of space-based systems for global wind-field mapping was established.

In 1984, he founded Coherent Technologies Inc. (CTI) to develop Doppler laser radar technology and systems for meteorological and military applications. CTI grew about 30 percent per year before being acquired by Lockheed Martin Co. in 2005. In 2006, Huffaker founded Coherent Investments LLC, where he now serves as manager.



Terence Hunt

**B.A. '67 – Journalism,
College of Communication
& Information**

For more than two decades, there was no better-known Associated Press byline than that of Terence Hunt. He covered Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton and

Bush — through Cold War showdowns and peacemaking attempts in the Middle East. His dispatches were carried around the world as all eyes looked toward the United States in uncertain times. Hunt currently serves as deputy chief of bureau in Washington, the agency's largest bureau.

As AP's chief White House correspondent, Hunt logged hundreds of thousands of miles on Air Force One flying to more than 90 countries and all 50 states. He stood at the Brandenburg Gate which symbolized divided Germany as Reagan demanded, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Hunt tracked Bill Clinton's presidency on a roller coaster of surprises — from recession and turbulent politics to the Monica Lewinsky scandal. He also documented George W. Bush's presidency after the 9/11 attacks, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the financial meltdown and the Great Recession.



Howard L. Lewis

**B.B.A. '70 – Business Administration,
Gatton College of Business
& Economics**

Howard L. Lewis is the chairman, founder and CEO of Family Heritage Life Insurance Company of America. He began his professional career in the financial services industry with Central Trust Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio, and succeeded over the years in companies such as Picker International Corp., Progressive Insurance Co., and Capitol American Life Insurance Co., where he was promoted to president of Capitol Consumer Marketing and became responsible for a third of the company's overall sales.

In 1989, Lewis secured financing for a new venture and founded the Family Heritage Life Insurance Company of America. He built the company on the principles of service and integrity, and it has grown at a compounded rate exceeding 20 percent annually since its inception. Lewis has positioned the company

for continued growth by expanding its territory, broadening the product portfolio and attracting new talent to the home office operation and national sales force.



Thomas W. Lewis

**B.S. '71 – Mechanical Engineering,
College of Engineering**

Tom Lewis is the founder, owner and CEO of T.W. Lewis Company, a Phoenix, Arizona, based real estate investment company that has received industry awards including America's Best Builder in 1998 and the National Housing Quality Gold Award in 2009.

Individual awards earned by Lewis include the Arizona Real Estate Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 1994; Arizona Business Leadership Award in 2006; and the Arizona "Good Scout" Award from Boy Scouts of America in 2007. He was also honored as a Significant Sig by the Sigma Chi Fraternity in 2007, and received the University of North Carolina MBA Alumni Merit Award in 2011. In 2013 Lewis received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Professional Builder Magazine and the National Housing Quality Award Committee, and was named the first inductee into the National Housing Quality Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the World President's Organization and CEO International.



Dr. James W. May Jr.

**B.A. '65 – Chemistry,
College of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. James W. May Jr. is internationally known for his groundbreaking work in reconstructive surgery and has served as president of the most prestigious associations of reconstructive surgeons in the world. He is professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, where he has taught for 32 years, and is chief, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

May was chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery in 1992 and is a member of the Academy of the Harvard Medical School. He was recognized by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in 2006 with the lifetime Educational Award. May has participated in more than 150 visiting professorships in the United States and overseas. May has been involved in many clinical milestones, including carrying out over 100 clinical replantation operations reattaching amputated portions of hands, faces and other body parts through traumatic amputation. He has also edited seven books and monographs.



W. Rodney McMullen

**B.S. '81 Accounting –
Gatton College of Business
& Economics
M.S. '82 Accounting –
Gatton College of Business
& Economics**

Rodney McMullen is chairman and CEO of The Kroger Co., having started in 1978 as a part-time stock clerk while attending UK. He held increasingly responsible positions, including financial analyst; chief financial officer; executive vice president of strategy, planning and finance; and president and COO. McMullen is responsible for 3,700 supermarket, convenience and jewelry stores operating under two dozen names across the United States. Kroger also operates 37 U.S. food processing plants.

He played a pivotal role in implementing Kroger's leveraged restructuring in 1988, which kept the company public and rewarded shareholders. McMullen led the integration of Kroger's \$13 billion merger with Fred Meyer Inc. in 1999. He has also been involved with several startups for Kroger, including dunnhumbyUSA and Kroger Personal Finance. McMullen is a member of the board of directors of Cincinnati Financial Corp., Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation, Cincinnati Business Committee and Consumer Goods Forum.



Dr. Jeffrey P. Okeson

**D.M.D. '72 Orofacial Pain –
College of Dentistry**

Dr. Jeffrey P. Okeson is a full professor in the UK College of Dentistry Department of Oral Health Science, where he is also chairman, as well as director of the Orofacial Pain Center, which he established in 1977. He is an accomplished teacher, clinical investigator, mentor and clinician who has presented more than 1,100 invited lectures on orofacial pain in all 50 states and in 54 different countries. Okeson has published more than 230 peer reviewed articles and chapters and authored two textbooks on temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and orofacial pain. The seventh edition of his textbook, "Management of Temporomandibular Disorders and Occlusion," is used in most of U.S. dental schools, as

well as in many other countries, and has been translated into 11 languages.

Okeson has received many professional awards, including the International Dentist of the Year Award from the Academy of Dentistry International. He is also a former editor of the Academy's Guidelines.

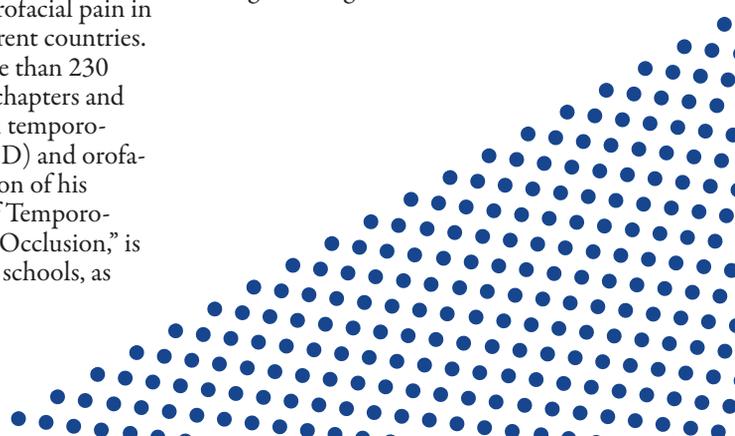


*Beverly Moore
Eaves Perdue*

**B.A. '69 – History, College of
Arts & Sciences**

Former North Carolina Gov. Beverly Moore Eaves Perdue, whose term of office was from 2008-2012, was the first woman to lead that state. Her administration was dedicated to creating jobs, protecting and strengthening education, accountability and transparency, and shepherding the state through the worst economic climate since the Great Depression. Perdue began her career as a public school teacher, director of geriatric services at a community hospital in New Bern, North Carolina, and she also earned a doctorate in education administration.

She led the transformation of classrooms by investing in innovative education technology and creating public-private partnerships. Perdue also created the state's first Virtual Public School. In 2013, she served as a Resident Fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics and also was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy. Perdue is founder and chairwoman of the Digital Learning Institute, dedicated to accelerating digital learning for all ages.





Peter Perlman

**B.A. '59 Philosophy –
College of Arts & Sciences
J.D. '62 – College of Law**

Peter Perlman has worked toward making a safer society by challenging defective and dangerous products. His cases have received national exposure, and he has won more than 60 multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients. Perlman served as an adjunct professor at the UK College of Law for 25 years and has authored numerous publications on behalf of his profession. He has also been inducted into many invitation-only professional associations, including the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and he has served two terms as a trustee of the National Judicial College.

Perlman is a past president of the American Association for Justice, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, the Civil Justice Foundation and the Litigation Counsel of America. In 2012, the American Association of Justice awarded him the Leonard M. Ring Champion of Justice Award, given to a person whose life and career epitomizes a true champion of justice.



Ted Strickland

**M.A. '66 Guidance & Counseling –
College of Education
Ph.D. '80 Educational &
Counseling Psychology –
College of Education**

Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland is the past president of the Center for American Progress Action Fund and counselor to the Center for American Progress. He served six terms in Congress and became Ohio's 68th governor in 2006. He has also been employed as a minister, psychologist and college professor. In 2013, President Barack Obama nominated Strickland to be a public delegate to the 68th U.N. General Assembly. He also served as a senior adviser to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Leading the state during the Great Recession, Strickland worked with legislators to jumpstart the economy, prioritize Ohio's education system, expand health care, and usher in advanced energy and energy efficiency standards. During his six terms in Congress, he expanded access to health insurance for children, ensured that America kept its promises to its veterans, and brought home millions in investments for roads, technology, economic development and health care initiatives.



*Richard E. Whitt**

**B.A. '70 Journalism –
College of Communication
& Information**

Richard E. Whitt received the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for local general news reporting for his coverage in The Courier-Journal of the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire that killed 165 people. He was a reporter for more than 30 years, starting at the Middlesboro Daily News and then was assistant state editor at the Waterloo Daily Courier in Iowa.

Whitt later became assistant managing editor at the Kingsport Times-News in Tennessee, and then was a reporter for The Courier-Journal in Northern Kentucky. After receiving the Pulitzer Prize, he became chief of the Frankfort Bureau, later working on the special-projects unit of the paper. He retired in 2006 after working for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Whitt received the John Hancock Award in the early 1980s and was a finalist for the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for a series on Kentucky coal mine safety and again in 1988 for a series on public service.

**Deceased*



**UK Alumni Association
Hall of Distinguished Alumni**

**50th
Anniversary**

1965-2015