

## Wethington Timeline

### 1989-1990

- Charles T. Wethington Jr. becomes interim president of UK in December 1989. He is named the tenth UK president in September 1990 following UK's 9th President, David P. Roselle, who became the president of the University of Delaware.
- Nearly 68,000 students enroll at UK campus in fall 1989; 14 UK community colleges enroll 36,000 students around the state.
- UK provides more than \$1.7 million in merit scholarships to Lexington campus.
- UK Fellows program records its 2,500 fellow in June 1990.
- J. John Harris III is named dean of the College of Education and becomes the first African American dean at the University.
- A \$1.2 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation helps launch UK's rural development initiative in 49 counties in Eastern Kentucky.
- UK wins the 1989 College Football Association Academic Achievement Award, given to the university whose football team has the highest graduation rate.
- Bill Curry is hired to replace Jerry Claiborne as football coach.
- UK Women's Basketball team wins the National Women's Invitational Tournament.
- The UK yearbook, the "*Kentuckian*," is awarded 1st place nationally by the Associated Collegiate Press and the National Scholastic Press Association.
- UK establishes a Center on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- A team of UK researchers develops a test to detect small quantities of illegal drugs in race horses.
- The UK library system becomes one of just 14 libraries connected for access to the databases of the Library of Congress.
- Buildings opened or under construction: The Center for Robotics and Manufacturing Systems. The Agricultural Engineering Building, The Bruce Poundstone Agricultural Regulatory Services Building. The Southern Kentucky Rural Economic Development Center is under construction on the Somerset Community College campus.
- Jay Brumfield, director of Alumni Affairs, retires.

## 1990 – 1991

- The total enrollment on the Lexington campus and at the Medical Center is 23,081 students.
- The fall 1990 freshman class has 26 National Merit Scholars.
- The UK College of Medicine is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in primary care
- Planning begins on developing the scope and site for a state-of-the-art library in the new central part of the Lexington campus.
- A study on the status of minorities contains 17 recommendations for a renewed commitment to cultural diversity. A study of the economic, political and social status of women by the University Senate Council Ad Hoc Committee contains more than 30 recommendations for consideration.
- UK receives \$4.9 million from IBM to significantly upgrade its supercomputing capacity.
- Two new buildings are authorized: one for civil engineering and the other for medical research.
- The UK Board of Trustees agrees to a settlement with Arch Mineral Corporation over boundary lines, enabling the company to mine 81 acres outside Robinson Forest, operated by UK for research and teaching. UK also signs a contract with Addington Resources giving Addington the right to mine coal on some 3,700 acres of land owned by UK outside the main Robinson Forest tract.
- Hughes Aircraft Co. becomes the first company to locate on UK's new Coldstream Research campus on Newtown Pike, breaking ground for a 130,000-square-foot research and manufacturing facility.
- University Hospital performs its first heart transplant and its first lung transplant.
- The UK Board of Trustees unveils a new and updated master plan for the entire Lexington campus. The plan envisions the orderly physical development of UK over the next 25 years.
- The College of Home Economics changes its name to the College of Human Environmental Sciences.
- The College of Business and Economics establishes the nation's first electronic bulletin board for alumni to communicate via computer with the college and with other alumni.
- The \$12 million Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Economics building is dedicated.
- The third part of the Lucille Parker Markey Cancer Center is completed with the Margrite Davis and Ralph E. Mills Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Facility.

- Two new computer labs open: one in the Medical Center library and one in the Main Library.
- The beginning of basketball season marks the end of UK's two year NCAA probation.

### **1991 – 1992**

- A new library is authorized by the Governor and the Kentucky General Assembly. Individuals unite to raise \$17 million in private funds by the end of the fiscal year for the \$58 million building project and supporting endowments.
- The University endures a 5 percent budget cut in state appropriations due to the statewide revenue shortfall. This necessitates a hiring freeze, the elimination of 475 positions, and no salary raises for faculty and staff in the 1992 – 93 fiscal year. This launches a University self-examination, which leads to a new strategic plan consistent with economic realities.
- The UK Art Museum receives a valuable donation of the extensive art collection of the late George and Susan Proskaver who owned a Thoroughbred operation.
- A non-invasive treatment for brain tumors and blood vessel abnormalities of the brain is initiated at the University Hospital and is called the Gamma Knife Stereotactic Radiosurgery program.
- New regulations to help UK evaluate faculty teaching are adopted. Called a “teaching portfolio,” the new procedures expand on existing regulations.
- The UK ROTC program celebrates its 75th anniversary in March.
- A Student Ambassadors Program begins and is supervised by the staff of the Dean of Students Office.
- UK's Office of Minority Affairs celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the inauguration of the new Lyman T. Johnson Alumni group, an affiliate of the UK Alumni Association.
- Boyd Hall is scheduled to become a co-ed dorm in 1992.
- Ground is broken for the 70,000-square-foot Civil Engineering and Transportation Facility and the ASTeCC project on land at the rear of McVey Hall.
- The College of Business and Economics dedicates its \$10.5 million enlargement and remodeling project. The addition includes a dozen classrooms and the Ashland Oil Information Center, equipped with 100 computer terminals that constitute a virtual bookless library.
- The UK men's basketball team captures the SEC championship.

## 1992 – 1993

- UK announces the official start of a fund-raising campaign for a new building to jointly house the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and the College of Allied Health Professions.
- A Boston firm is chosen to design the new university library to be located in the Columbia Circle area off Rose Street.
- The UK Board of Trustees approves a revised strategic plan that sets purposes, goals, and strategies for the university for the rest of the decade.
- UK's first heart/lung transplant is performed in April.
- University Hospital opens a \$6 million state-of-the-art Birthing Center in February, designed to accommodate the family-centered care concept in addition to high-risk pregnancies.
- The College of Library and Information Science and the College of Communications merge to form the College of Communications and Information Studies. The college consists of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications, the School of Library and Information Science, and a department of Communications.
- UK and the University of Louisville form a joint center for the Study of Educational Policy to conduct research on Kentucky Education Reform and other issues affecting public education in Kentucky.
- UK takes occupancy of its new field house. The 132,000-square-foot structure is located behind the south end zone of Commonwealth Stadium and provides an all-weather practice facility for several sports teams.
- Some major renovations on campus include the Gillis Building, Miller Hall, and a new floor in Alumni Gym.
- UK men's basketball team makes it to the Final Four in New Orleans.
- Jenny Hansen, a freshman gymnast, becomes the first UK athlete to win an individual NCAA National Championship title.
- An automated, voice response registration system is installed and is expected to be operational for the fall 1993. The system enables students to register for classes and pay certain fees by telephone, eliminating much paperwork and waiting in long lines.

## 1993 – 1994

- The number of African Americans in the freshman class in Lexington climbs to 197, or 7.4 percent of the freshman class.
- There are 68 National Merit Scholars in the freshman class.
- The UK Community College System celebrates its 30th anniversary, having grown from five colleges to 14.
- The UK campus telephone system is completely digitized.
- For the third consecutive year, UK is included in the book, *“The Guide to 101 of the Best Values in American’s Colleges and Universities.”*
- The 1994 graduating class of the College of Dentistry ranked among the top 10 dental schools in the nation on the national dental board exam results.
- College of Education students have a 96 percent pass rate on the National Teachers Examination.
- Graduate Fellowships totaling some \$1.8 million were awarded in 1993-94 to 295 students.
- In cooperation with Telecable of Lexington, 14 closed-circuit channels for instructional programming are set up on the Lexington campus.
- Computer labs are opened in law, chemistry and physics, and in civil engineering, bringing the total library microlabs on campus to 11.
- UK School of Music celebrates its 75th anniversary.
- The UK Institute of Mining and Minerals Research is dissolved and the Consortium for Fossil Fuel Liquefaction Science becomes an administrative center within the College of Engineering.
- The College of Dentistry’s mobile dental van serves more than 1,600 children in seven counties.
- President Emeritus and Mrs. Otis A. Singletary establish an endowment for the Singletary Center for the Arts on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.
- For the second year in a row, Jenny Hansen, a sophomore gymnast from Wisconsin, wins the all-around title at the NCAA championships.
- The \$11.6 million civil engineering/transportation center is opened.

- Lexington Community College dedicates a \$4.8 million classroom and office building.
- The E. J. Nutter Fieldhouse opens and the baseball stadium is named in honor of former UK Athletics Director Cliff Hagan.
- Former men's basketball assistant Coach Bernadette Locke-Mattox is named assistant athletics director.
- John H. Clark gives a 160-acre Woodford Co. farm to the University to eventually be sold and the proceeds destined for use by the UK Equine Research Foundation.

### **1994 – 1995**

- Construction starts on the new William T. Young Library after the Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Government agrees to authorize a sale of tax free bonds under its name when the Kentucky General Assembly approves, by does not fund, the library project. The UK Athletics Association agrees to pay debt service on the bonds, the Kentucky Medical Services Foundation adds a guarantee of debt service payment, and the UK Alumni Association agrees to build the facility and give it to the University upon completion.
- The College of Nursing, in partnership with the Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Government, provides a health clinic at the Hope Center for the homeless.
- The College of Fine Arts Institute offers non-credit, community education classes in art, music, dance and architecture for adults.
- UK vocal student Greg Turay II is one of ten winners in the Metropolitan Opera national auditions.
- The student newspaper, the *Kentucky Kernel*, and the student yearbook, the "*Kentuckian*," celebrate their 100th anniversary.
- The UK Career Center starts a telephone job line so that students and alumni may call to learn of job opportunities.
- The \$19.5 million Health Sciences building opens in April. The four-story building has 110,000 square feet of lab and office space for molecular and multidisciplinary research.
- Elisabeth Zinser is named chancellor of the Lexington campus, succeeding Robert Hemenway.
- Janice Friedel is named president of Lexington Community College.
- The College of Business and Economics receives the largest gift ever presented to UK. C. M. "Bill" Gatton of Tennessee donates \$14 million to the college.

## **1995 – 1996**

- The average ACT score for entering first year students is 24.8, four points above the national average.
- UK faculty and staff attract more than \$114 million in contracts, gifts and grants during 1995-96.
- Construction continues on the new W. T. Young Library, with its distinctive cupola being raised in November 1995.
- UK Hospital performs its first liver transplant.
- The UK men's basketball team brings home the sixth NCAA championship. Tony Delk is named SEC Player of the Year and Rick Pitino is named Coach of the Year by The Associated Press.
- UK Cooperative Extension Service agents make more than 5 million contacts with people to provide them with information and services from the College of Agriculture.
- Diving Coach Mike Lyden earns SEC and NCAA Coach of the Year honors.
- Fifty-six bronze sculptures designed by John Tuska, a 30-year veteran art professor at UK, are installed along the façade of the College of Fine Arts Building.
- Ron Eller, director of the Appalachian Center at UK, is appointed chair of the newly-created Kentucky Appalachian Commission.
- The online edition of the *Kentucky Kernel*, the student newspaper, is named the nation's best Internet student publication at the National College Media Convention.
- A five-story addition to the Kentucky Clinic opens, adding 50,000 square feet of clinic and office space.
- A survey of UK's doctoral graduates shows the 55 percent entered academic positions.

## **1996 – 1997**

- A commitment is made to make UK a top 20 public research institution.
- The University remains in the top 10 among all public colleges and universities in the country in the number of freshman National Merit Scholars.
- A 10 percent increase over the previous year in the number of contracts, grants and gifts to the University brings in a record \$125.6 million.

- Anthropology Chair Tom Dillehay leads a team of scientists in an archaeological excavation in Chile who confirm that there was human habitation in the New World 12,500 years ago, 1,300 years earlier than previously believed.
- UK is ranked No. 26 in the top 50 “national universities” by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- The UK Department of History is one of just two departments nationwide to have two Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to its professors during the past year.
- The new Robinson Scholars program announces that 162 eighth graders from 29 Eastern Kentucky counties have qualified as recipients of full scholarships to UK.
- ASTeCC, designed to help incubate new businesses with strong research links to the University, is filled to capacity — just two years after its inception.
- Orlando “Tubby” Smith is hired as the new men’s basketball coach, and Hal Mumme is named the new football coach.
- The state’s first joint degree program, a Ph.D. in social work, is approved by the Council on Higher Education to begin in the Fall 1997 with 10 students from UK and U of L.
- The College of Social Work provides the first course that UK offers on the Internet.
- Researchers and students in the College of Engineering design a pedestrian bridge made of lighter-weight composite materials and install it near Cave Run Lake. At 60 feet, it is the longest composite materials bridge in the world.
- The Chandler Medical Center opens Kentucky Clinic North to provide primary care in an area that is medically underserved, according to the Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Government. A permanent building will be constructed within two years.
- A new parking structure opens on the Lexington campus to accommodate up to 1,000 vehicles.
- Rebecca Langston, a police officer for 24 years, is named UK Police Chief.

### **1997 – 1998**

- The Kentucky General Assembly authorizes a \$100 million Research Challenge Trust Fund. UK is eligible for two-thirds of these dollars by raising matching funds. This funding is in addition to \$4 million in recurring research dollars made available by the state in 1997-1998 and also matched by the University.
- The UK Board of Trustees approves a new five year Strategic Plan for UK. It pinpoints goals and objectives for 1998 through 2003.

- The transfer of the day-to-day management of 13 of the 14 community colleges from the University to the newly formed Kentucky Community and Technical College System takes place. The management of Lexington Community College remains with the University.
- UK implements “It’s About Staff,” a new personnel system involving an improved and streamlined evaluation, job classification, and compensation system.
- The Athletics Association renegotiates a more equitable lease for the continued use of Rupp Arena.
- James Kerley becomes president of Lexington Community College.
- Lexington Community College’s dental hygiene students have a 100 percent pass rate of May graduates taking the national board exams.
- The UK chapter of the Society of Women Engineers is named the best chapter in the nation.
- The UK men’s basketball team captures its second NCAA championship in three years, the school’s seventh. Coach Tubby Smith is named Coach of the Year by *Basketball Weekly*.
- UK cheerleaders win their fourth straight Universal Cheerleaders Association national title, their eight overall.
- UK Food Services win the grand prize given by the National Association of College and University Food Services.
- Philip Landfield, pharmacology, is selected for the prestigious MERIT award, which carries \$1.2 million in funding over the next five years for research on aging. The award is made by the National Advisory Council on Aging.
- The William T. Young Library opens on April 3. The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, attends the event. The facility includes 57 group study rooms, a 150-seat auditorium, 3,000 seats at tables and carrels, and an additional 1,000 lounge-type seats.
- The \$10.6 million UK Children’s Hospital opens with a staff of 70 pediatric specialists, as well as pediatric nurses, respiratory therapists, dietitians, social workers, and pharmacists. The 115-bed facility includes a pediatric intensive care unit and 38 private acute patient care rooms and parent sleeping rooms.
- UK Hospital physicians at the Birthing Center help welcome into the world “one-in-a-million” quadruplets born to a Somerset couple.

## 1998 – 1999

- UK meets the goal set by the Kentucky General Assembly by raising \$66.7 million that the state will match, enabling endowed chairs to climb from 23 in June of 1998 to 66 in June of 1999. Endowed professorships rose from 52 to 126 during the same period.
- The Research Challenge Trust Fund is the initial phase of the University's first-ever comprehensive fund-raising campaign.
- UK Board of Trustees approves the creation of a new School of Public Health to focus on disease control and prevention. It's the first of its kind in the Commonwealth.
- Louis Swift, dean of undergraduate studies, convenes a committee to study ways to improve undergraduate programs.
- The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education approves a new list of benchmark institutions that UK will be measured against.
- UK has a team of Y2K experts to fully address and resolve any identifiable computer problems faced by the coming of the year 2000.
- UK's World-Wide-Web site is completely redesigned and averages more than 25 million "hits" a month.
- Construction projects in progress on campus include The Stuckert Career Center and the Hardyman Building.
- UK dedicates a \$9.4 million, 34,000-square-foot addition to the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging that includes 20 new research labs.
- The \$27 million expansion of Commonwealth Stadium from 58,000 to 68,000 seats, including 40 new skyboxes, is built on-time and on-budget.
- The Embassy Suites Hotel opens at Coldstream Research Park.
- UK becomes one of only a few universities in the nation to completely ban the use of alcohol anywhere on campus, including on-campus student housing and sorority houses.
- UK is one of 29 partners in the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University, the first online institution of its kind in the state.
- Allan Butterfield, a UK chemistry professor and director of the Center of Membrane Sciences, receives from the White House the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

- English Professor Steven Weisenburger's book, *“Modern Medea: A Family Story of Slavery and Child-Murder from the Old South,”* is named Best Non-Fiction Book for 1998 by Publisher's Weekly. His book inspired Oprah Winfrey's fictional movie, *“Beloved.”*
- The College of Allied Health Professions is ranked first in the nation in the clinical laboratory science division by *Clinical Laboratory Science*.
- The internationally known “Nun Study” at UK's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging finds that folic acid, or folate, may retard the destruction of the brain in Alzheimer's disease.
- UK kicks off “Commemoration of Fifty Years of African Americans at UK” in March.
- James H. “Jimmy” Glenn III becomes the first African American president of the Student Government Association.
- The King Alumni House receives its first comprehensive face-lift in 36 years.
- UK announces an agreement with University Clubs of America to open the University Club of Kentucky, an exclusive golf club with a 36-hole course. The club will be located about seven miles from downtown Lexington.

## **1999 – 2000**

- Enrollment at UK and Lexington Community College was 30,549 students. The freshman class included 65 National Merit Scholars.
- The Kentucky General Assembly renews its Research Challenge Trust Fund, again offering a \$66.7 million matching fund-raising challenge.
- In September 2000, UK officially announces the first comprehensive capital campaign in its history. The \$600 million campaign is the largest fund-raising effort ever conducted in the state of Kentucky and will support the General Assembly's challenge to UK to become a top 20 public institution by the year 2020.
- In response to a challenge to become a top 20 university, UK launches a new marketing communications campaign entitled “America's Next Great University.”
- C. M. Newton retires as athletics director and Larry Ivy assumes the director's position.
- The German department opens the Max Kade House and Cultural Center.
- Building activity on campus: The James W. Stuckert Career Center opens during the summer, the James F. Hardyman Center for Communications and Network Services opens in September. Some other construction activity includes a new plant sciences facility, a

mechanical engineering building, an allied health professions building, and the Gill Heart Institute and Surgery Center.

- Nearly 1,200 students each semester are learning from UK professors through distance learning.
- With the installment of ResNet, UK residence halls offer students complete high-speed Internet access.
- Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu leads the convocation celebrating “50 Years of the UK African-American Legacy.”
- UK boasts 41 national rankings for quality education and research, including seven academic areas ranked in the top quartile of their respective fields: Pharmacy (3<sup>rd</sup>), Patterson School of Diplomacy (top 4), Martin School for Public Administration (11<sup>th</sup>), Spanish, Geography, Anatomy and Surgery (top 20).
- The UK College of Architecture and the University of Louisville establish the Urban Design Studio, dedicated to the refurbishment of the greater Louisville metropolitan area.
- The College of Law is ranked among the nation’s friendliest to women, based on the number of tenure-track female academic faculty members, the percentage of female students, and their professional success.
- UK’s Young Women in Science program promises to increase the number of female students who focus on drug abuse research.
- Family Studies professor Greg Brock spends the summer bicycling coast-to-coast while teaching his summer course via the Internet.
- John Connolly, director of the Center for Computational Sciences, is appointed vice chair of the U. S. Department of Energy Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee.
- The UK cheerleading squad wins its sixth consecutive national championship and 10th overall.

— *Compiled from University of Kentucky Annual Reports between 1989 and 2000.*