The Big Blue Pantry, a food pantry serving UK students, opened this fall in Alumni Gym 103. A program of the Center for Community Outreach, the Big Blue Pantry was created from a proposal put forth by a work team of students, faculty and staff during the 2013-2014 school year. We discovered that campus food pantries are a national trend and that UK was overdue for such a service to help retain our students who are struggling financially.

The Big Blue Pantry is staffed by five trained student coordinators with oversight by Jillian Pyatte, an Assistant Director for Community Outreach in the Office of Student Involvement. The Big Blue Pantry is currently open Mondays 11am-2pm, Thursdays 5-8pm and Fridays 2-5pm. Students must show their UK student ID and fill out a short intake form but do not have to provide any income or tax statements. We are seeing between 10-20 students a week, many of whom return weekly. As we know, hunger affects a cross section of the US population, and our students are no different. Among our clients are international students, students with families, freshman living on campus with only the basic (one meal a day) food plan, first generation college students, and upper-class students living off campus struggling to pay their bills.

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Office of Student Conduct

by Dr. Denise Simpson

The Office of Student Conduct’s mission is to ensure our campus is safe, healthy, student-centered, inclusive, and students are getting the best educational experience they can. We do this by having a student conduct process that is educational, consistent, and fair – our meetings involve conversations with students about the University’s expectations, redirecting misconduct, and reentering students back into the UK community in a positive way.

The student conduct process at UK is not a criminal process and is very different from criminal proceedings. We employ the facilitator model, which creates a less legalistic system and is one where students can learn to make responsible decisions for themselves (Lake, 2009). A facilitator university seeks to strike a balance in the issue of power, walking away from in loco parentis and the bystander university, and coming to the place where UK takes on responsibility for educating students, providing services, support and the students who engage with the student conduct process learn to take responsibility for their education and actions (Lake, 2013).

To this end, we are moving toward offering a spectrum of resolution options to resolve issues of student misconduct. Our process still includes the formal hearing, which is still appropriate in cases of sexual misconduct, potential suspension and dismissal-level outcomes, and when a student is unwilling to accept responsibility for his/her actions and engage in a meaningful one-on-one conversation with a conduct officer. However, we are focused on providing more informal opportunities to resolve misconduct, including: informal meetings, coaching, mediation, and restorative circles. When you or others have questions about the student conduct process, please visit our website, www.uky.edu/studentconduct or give our office a call, (859) 257-3755.

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We would be unable to serve these students without the support of so many people across campus. We have an outstanding Advisory Board, chaired by Kathryn Gould in the Counseling Center with representation from students, faculty and staff from across campus who guide our overall policy development and serve as ambassadors to their parts of campus. Many departments and organizations have hosted food drives for us including Student Affairs, Undergraduate Education, University Health Services, Family Weekend, Student Dietetics and Nutrition Association, Mr. and Ms. Black UK and many more. These drives have brought in over 1,000 pounds of food, with an additional 300 pounds of food purchased with donated funds. We have also received fresh produce to distribute through Campus Kitchens.

There are several ways you can support the Big Blue Pantry:

1. Spread the word and refer students in need to us
2. Donate non-perishable items or funds (cash or check made payable to UK CCO)
3. Follow us on social media facebook.com/BigBluePantry @BigBluePantry on Twitter®
Ashley’s Experience at UK

by Ashley Ellington

Lexington Kentucky, known as the horse capital of the world to some, and home of the Big Blue Nation to others, is such a unique place. Coming from a small town in Eastern Kentucky, moving to Lexington was an adjustment. Living in Lexington has introduced me to new experiences, a great number of opportunities, and allowed me to become familiar with being around diverse groups of people.

Going to college has had such a major impact on my life. Growing up, I did not know a lot of individuals who attended college. Being awarded several scholarships towards my college expenses, going to college to further my education was not a question. While being a student at the University of Kentucky, I saw myself mature in so many different areas. I met some of my best friends and built relationships with a variety of individuals. Going to college has motivated me to develop as an individual and has increased my desire to give back to the community.

Working on campus has been such a great experience. While attending the University of Kentucky, I was given the opportunity to work in Student Involvement as well as Student Affairs. While working I have been able to network and build connections with some of the most influential people on campus which has made a huge impact on not only myself as a person but also my future career. I have been able to work with students and assist them in different areas. It has been such a great feeling to give back and provide help, as help was provided to me when I first came to the University.

Overall, my experience here at the University of Kentucky has been nothing short of amazing. I have grown over the years and become involved in several organizations on campus. I have been able to travel and meet other colleagues from the University and build connections. Moving to Lexington and attending UK has not only had a major impact on myself, but also my family and friends who have been able to watch the growth that has occurred over the years as a result of moving to Lexington and attending the University of Kentucky.
Family Weekend Highlights

by Christie Baughman

The University of Kentucky Parent Association was excited to celebrate another fantastic Family Weekend from October 10–12, 2014. The schedule of events for Family Weekend 2014 included open houses, Lexington activities, athletic events, a tent party at the UK Football game, a locally made doughnut breakfast, and a lunch at historic Spindletop Hall. A welcome reception Friday night at the Boone Center on UK’s campus kicked off the weekend’s festivities where families enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, and information from various campus offices. Later that night the Student Activities Board hosted magician Derek Hughes in Memorial Hall!

The annual tent party continued to be the most popular event of the weekend, with around 1,200 students and families in attendance. Families enjoyed free t-shirts, a cookout-style meal, a fun DJ, and lots of free giveaways!

Many families attended DNT 101: A Taste of the Kentucky Doughnut Trail to sample the best local doughnuts Lexington has to offer. Lunch at historic Spindletop Hall featured a delicious meal and gave families the opportunity to interact with UK administrators, faculty, and staff.

We hope you were able to take part in Family Weekend 2014 in some way. Thank you to our friends in Student Affairs who participated in this fun and important tradition! For more information on Family Weekend 2014, visit www.uky.edu/FamilyWeekend.

Do you have ideas for next month’s Newsletter? Please send them to csturgeon@uky.edu.