



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY, INC.
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UKAEF NEWSLETTER

February 2023

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

By Sue Fosson



Demetrus Liggins, PhD
Superintendent Demetrus Liggins, who has led the Fayette County Public Schools since 2021, is a seasoned educator with more than 21 years of teaching and leadership experience in urban and suburban settings spanning three states including service as a principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Born the second child to an unwed teenage mother, Liggins credits his grandmother with

teaching him to work hard without excuses and a high school counselor with helping him dream bigger than he'd ever imagined. Called to do the same for others, he has dedicated his professional life to opening doors of opportunity and creating pathways to success for all children, regardless of circumstance.

Prior to joining FCPS, Liggins served for four years as superintendent of schools in Greenville Independent School District, an urban area outside of Dallas where he was credited with dramatic improvement in the district's academic and fiscal performance. Bilingual in English and Spanish, Liggins is a native of Longview, Texas, and the father of one son. He holds a bachelor's degree in education and master's degree in English from California State University, Fresno, a master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a doctorate degree in K-16 educational leadership and policy from University of Texas-Arlington.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful time over the Holidays. Our next luncheon is February 14 at the E.S. Good Barn. The gathering begins at 11:30am with the program starting at 12:15pm. Please complete the registration form in this newsletter so that we know your lunch choice. I encourage you to bring a spouse or friend.

Our speaker for the February meeting is Dr. Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools. He will talk about the future for Fayette County Public Schools and suggest ways that UK can collaborate with FCPS effectively.

We will also have short presentations by our fellowship winners.

I hope to see you in February!
Michael R. Reed, AEF President

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Place: E.S. Good Barn
1451 University Dr., Lexington, KY 40526

Social Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Program 12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Demetrus Liggins

Topic: "A New Way Forward"

Business Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 14 BOX LUNCHEON MENU FROM
BLUEGRASS BAYOU CATERING**

Remaining box lunches at the end of September luncheon were donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Be sure to make your box lunch selection on the form in this newsletter. Your choices include:

- ♦ **Mufaletta Sandwich (Salami, Ham, Provolone & Olive Salad)**
- ♦ **Triple Cheese Pimento Cheese Sandwich (White Cheddar, Gouda, and Mild Cheddar)**
- ♦ **Grilled Chicken Caesar (With House made Caesar Dressing)**

Each box will come with Cut Fresh Fruit and Cookie and Choice of Lemonade, Sweet or Unsweet Tea



Ronald McDonald House sent a thank you and picture for our donation of box lunches left from the September Luncheon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UKAEF FELLOWSHIP WINNERS, 2022-2023

By Lee Edgerton, Chair, Fellowship Committee

UKAEF awards three UK doctoral students \$2,500 fellowships made possible by donations to the Fellowship endowment fund. In addition, James and Ann Chapman generously donated funds for a fourth fellowship award again this year. Winners are currently enrolled at UK and selected, in part, based upon a desire to seek careers in college/university teaching. Our CONGRATULATIONS to these four deserving winners. This year's recipients, in alphabetical order are:



Sarah Carr

Sarah Nancy Carr is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. Her research involves several highly sophisticated cellular techniques as she investigates the mechanism by which Selenium affects fertility in beef cows. Her mentor states that "that Sarah has developed scientifically further than any of the other

graduate students I have mentored." Both of her reference letters note that her entire committee commented on her depth of knowledge ranging from cellular to whole animal physiology as demonstrated in her qualifying exam. This excellent progress in research has been accomplished while also completing a Certificate in College Teaching and Learning at UK. She is a sought-after guest lecturer in several classes at both UK and Berea College. She also served as the sabbatical replacement for two courses at Berea facing the challenges of teaching during the Covid Pandemic by teaching one in a hybrid mode and the second entirely online in both a synchronous and asynchronous mode. In addition to her research and teaching, she has served as President of the Animal and Food Science Graduate Student Association and currently serves as Secretary to the UK Graduate Student Congress. Her commitment to society is further illustrated by having served from 2016 to June 2018 as a Specialized Foster Parent, caring for at risk foster children ranging from infants to 12 years old for durations from 2 nights to 11 months. All this experience lends credence to her mentor's opening comment that Sarah "has proven herself to have the mind and thought processes needed to be successful in an academic situation" and that "she has the personality and mannerisms that reflect a teacher/advisor that cares."



Sami Lin Case

Sami Lin Case is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences. He has an impressive publication record and has established himself as a leader in the laboratory. He is co-PI on a project related to mechanisms of ageing that contribute to locomotor instability and single-handedly developed a protocol for imaging

cortical activity in ambulating mice. In addition, what impresses his Dissertation Mentor (Prof. Thibault), and DGS (Prof. Craven) is his strong drive and preparation to become a teaching professor in a medical school. He is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience Instruction. He has provided guest lectures in four different graduate courses at UK and is the adjunct instructor for BIO-137 and BIO-139 (classes in Human Anatomy & Physiology) at BCTC. He also provides Spotlight Instructional Sessions online to assist BCTC students with understanding difficult or complex class topics such as blood typing, ECGs, action potentials, etc. He is actively engaged in the broader academic community, serving as Secretary of the Nutritional Sciences & Pharmacology Student Association, and as Graduate Student Representative on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advancement Team. Currently, Sami is also serving on a committee reviewing the UK Integrated Biomedical Sciences curriculum and will begin serving this year as student representative on the UK Graduate Council. Given his extensive involvement in committees and organizations, Prof. Craven's notes

that "Sami will have a difficult choice between classroom teaching and educational leadership as he navigates his career, because he is outstanding at both."



Kelly Ferguson

Kelly Rae Ferguson is a Doctoral Candidate in Hispanic Studies. Her dissertation, titled "Truth in Horror: Cinematic Representations of Social Violence in Spain, Latin America, and the Latinx US" reflects her interest in film and media studies. Kelly believes that film, especially horror films provide an opportunity to engage students in critical thinking and lively discussion. More

importantly, she thinks: "cinema, and particularly its horror variant, can serve as vehicles for students to become media literate," an essential skill to evaluate information and misinformation on public health, politics, and current events. She sees film studies as a "powerful and accessible pedagogical antidote to misinformation" because students are pushed to analyze "sound, color, music, and lighting, etc.—in other words, all the cinematic elements that are designed to be persuasive." Skill gained in these discussions are transferable beyond the classroom where they are used to interrogate harmful, false, and/or insidious narratives, and to distinguish fact from persuasive messaging.

Kelly's commitment to scholarship, teaching, and service is illustrated by the fact that in 2020 she won the Department's highest honors for both course work and teaching. One reference says her teaching evaluations "read like a series of prose exclamation marks: "phenomenal," "absolutely amazing," "perfect," etc. The other reference says: "Kelly has the spirit of a true teacher, as she created an intellectually demanding learning environment that was at the same time kind for the students." She has twice served as Assistant Director of the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference and has held multiple offices in the Hispanic Graduate Student Association. In 2022, she received the Department award for Outstanding Service.

Her reference concludes: "An undoubtedly bright academic career awaits her, in which she will surely be known and admired as much for her kind generosity of energy and intellect as for her discipline-expanding scholarly work and inspirational teaching."



Jannell Parsons

Jannell Christine McConnell Parsons is a doctoral candidate in English. Her research interests include 20th-21st century American literature, Southern studies, critical whiteness studies, white feminism, and white supremacy. With such diverse interests, it would seem easy to entice students in English classes to write about materials with which she has knowledge.

But what impressed the English Faculty was her development of pedagogical approaches to drive students not only to develop independent interests, but to focus their efforts on goals they develop for themselves rather than to focus on what they think the person grading them wants. Jannell proposed a collaborative program with the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History. Her pilot program was completed in 2019 and Prof. Ridolfo, then Director of Composition, noted that "when the project was brought before our department for grant support, the faculty were completely in awe of her project." By 2021 she had worked with 36 sections of WRD 110, 16 different instructors, and "impacted the undergraduate

experience of 775 students,” with what Prof. Ridolfo describes as “one of the most significant pedagogical collaborations I’ve seen in my eight years as Director of Composition.” Jannell won the Graduate Schools initial competition of Grad Teach Live among 14 contestants and Dr. Grubbs, who directs the Graduate Student Professional Enhancement program at UK recommends you watch the video to get a sense of her talent. (<https://youtu.be/Yw8VVn6wW2M>) Dr. Grubbs writes “In my nearly 25 years of work in higher education, including ten years teaching at a liberal arts college, I have not encountered anyone with more enthusiasm for teaching, specifically the passion for innovations and continuous improvements.

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

President: Michael R. Reed
Vice-President: Sue Fosson
Treasurer: Claudia Heath
Recording Secretary: Bradley C. Canon
Executive Secretary: VACANT
Past President: Douglas A. Boyd

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Benefits: Michael Tearney
Fellowship: Lee Edgerton
Membership: VACANT
Programs: Sue Fosson
Newsletter: Sheila Woods
Administrative Consultant: Casie Clements

IN MEMORIAM

- ♦ Kenneth Cherry, Director of the Kentucky Universities Press
- ♦ George Herring, History
- ♦ Kathleen Jennings, spouse of Edward Jennings (School of Public Administration & Public Policy)
- ♦ Robert Lightfoot, Rheumatology and Director of Internal Medicine Residency Program
- ♦ Robert H. J. McKnight, College of Public Health
- ♦ Billie Carolyn Mitchell, spouse of George E. Mitchell Jr. (College of Agriculture, Food Science and Environment)

“Good teaching is forever and the teacher is immortal.”—Jesse Stuart

UK ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, 2022-2023 (Dues for 2022-2023 should be paid by November 2022)

NAME _____ SPOUSE’S NAME _____

Dept./Col. _____

Address _____

Zip+4 _____ Tel. _____

E-mail address (please include, if you have one) _____

2022-23 Dues are* \$25 (includes spouse or partner) **CHECK ONE:** New member _____ Renewal _____

MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FELLOWSHIP FUND*\$ _____

(CHECK ONE) in memory of _____ in honor of _____ Name: _____

**Make check for membership dues and /or fellowship donation payable to UK Association of Emeriti Faculty (UKAEF).*

Mail form and check(s) to: UKAEF, c/o Casie Clements, 4812 Trillium Pl., Lexington, KY 40514-1410

*(A few folks have already paid their 21/22 dues this spring/summer. **PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL, ON THIS NEWSLETTER, TO SEE IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY PAID YOUR 22/23 DUES**)*

UK ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY BOX LUNCHEON RESERVATION for TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

I plan to attend the luncheon. Enclosed is \$ _____ for # _____ reservation(s) at \$15.00 each.

NAME _____ GUEST’S NAME _____

Box Lunch Choice(s): _____ **Mufaletta Sandwich**

_____ **Triple Cheese Pimento Cheese Sandwich**

_____ **Grilled Chicken Caesar (with House made Caesar Dressing)**

Is transportation to UK’s E.S. Good Barn a problem for you? _____ Yes _____ No

If “Yes”, what is your address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

**Make check for luncheon reservation payable to UK Association of Emeriti Faculty (UKAEF).*

Mail form and check to: UKAEF, c/o Casie Clements, 4812 Trillium Pl., Lexington, KY 40514-1410

(call or email if close to deadline) 859-523-3460 or e-mail: casie.ukaef@gmail.com

Note: Deadline for making reservations or to cancel reservations is Wednesday, February 8, 2023.



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Association of Emeriti Faculty, Inc.
P.O. Box 8245
Lexington, KY 40533-8245

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