You are cordially invited to become a part of the University of Kentucky's history and help build its future as a member of The University of Kentucky Fellows Society
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From its early days as an agricultural and mechanical college to its prominent place today as one of the nation’s leading educational institutions, the University of Kentucky has enhanced the lives of countless individuals within the state’s borders and far beyond.

To achieve its reputation for academic excellence, the university has had to supplement state support with private gifts since its founding over 150 years ago.

The University of Kentucky Fellows Society was created to encourage greater private support for the institution and to recognize donors who are helping the university advance its mission of education, research and creative work, service and healthcare. The Fellows Society honors those alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and organizations that provide generous support for the university, its important programs and its many deserving students.

The commitment of these special benefactors continues to make the difference between adequacy and excellence for the University of Kentucky.
A tradition of generosity

With the private support of many Kentuckians, a great university was built in the Commonwealth out of the ashes of the Civil War. John Bryan Bowman – the force behind the founding of the institution that was to become the University of Kentucky – rode on horseback through the Central Kentucky countryside in 1865 inspiring others to join his quest to establish an educational institution equal to any in America.

Bowman was an attorney and farmer from Harrodsburg, and in less than two months, he secured more than $100,000 in gifts and pledges. With the personal commitment of more than 150 farmers and townspeople, Bowman amassed the financial capability to purchase the grounds and erect the buildings for the new university in Lexington.

These philanthropic gifts from Kentucky citizens began the university’s distinguished tradition of private support. During the many decades that have followed, the university has continued to grow in size and prominence due in no small measure to the generosity of those who believe – as Bowman and others did – in the limitless potential of the University of Kentucky.

John Bryan Bowman
Regent of Kentucky University, 1865-1878
His vision and securing of private gifts helped establish the institution which would become the University of Kentucky.
The University of Kentucky philanthropy program had its beginning in the university’s centennial year of 1965. The institution’s 100th anniversary was cause for celebration as well as for contemplation of the future and how to enhance the university as it entered its second century of service.

Then, as now, securing support for the university from the private sector was given priority. Alumni and friends from throughout the country were recruited to help in the effort. The UK Development Council was created and before 1966 had passed, the council formed the UK Fellows program to recognize donors for significant contributions to the university. Between December 1966 and June 1968, the university enrolled 41 Fellows who committed a total of $2,500,000 in gifts.

This magnificent beginning grew into a program that has been a mainstay in the university’s fundraising effort for more than 45 years. In 1992, the program was broadened to include corporate and foundation donors. Because of the continued and increasing need for private support, three new levels of recognition – Frank LeRond McVoy, Frank G. Didney and Commonwealth Fellows – were created. These additions signaled a new era in the university’s continuing quest to recognize in a meaningful way all who provide generous and enduring support.
There are now seven recognition levels within the UK Fellows Society:

Frank LeRond McVey Fellows give $25,000 - $49,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $125,000 or more. Alumni and friends may be recognized as McVey Fellows. This new minimum for Fellows recognition was established to correlate with the university’s endowment funding minimum.

Henry Stites Barker Fellows give $50,000 - $99,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $250,000 or more. Recognition of corporations, foundations, trusts and organizations begins at the Barker Fellows level.

Frank G. Dickey Fellows give $100,000 - $249,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $500,000 or more.

John Bryan Bowman Fellows give $250,000 - $499,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $1,250,000 or more.

James Kennedy Patterson Fellows give $500,000 - $999,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $2,500,000 or more.

Presidential Fellows give $1,000,000 - $4,999,999 in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $5,000,000 or more.

Commonwealth Fellows give $5,000,000 or more in cash or cash equivalent, or put in place a deferred gift of $25,000,000 or more.
Membership considerations

• You may apply the total of past gifts made to the University of Kentucky toward membership in the Fellows Society.
• You may designate future gifts and pledges to the UK college or program of your choice, or make unrestricted gifts to the university to be used where the need is greatest.
• Spouses may be recognized as joint Fellows with no additional commitment.
• Your Fellows Society pledge may be fulfilled over a five-year period.
• Through your gift, you may confer the honor of Fellows Society membership upon another person. Similarly, you may also name a deceased person as a Fellows Society member in memoriam.
• You may designate your gift for immediate use or as an endowment for any college or program within the university. Gifts earmarked for immediate use give the university maximum flexibility to respond to pressing needs and special educational opportunities.
The greatest benefit of membership in the University of Kentucky Fellows Society is the knowledge that through your generosity, the university will continue its quest for excellence. However, as a member of the Fellows Society, you will also receive certain courtesies and benefits as a way of recognizing the special position you hold within the university community.

Upon joining the University of Kentucky Fellows Society, you will receive an engraved Fellows Society plaque and a lapel pin noting your membership level. And you will receive special invitations to future select university events. Fellows Society members are also eligible to become members of the Hilary J. Boone Center and Spindletop Hall (the university’s faculty, staff and alumni clubs).

Each Fellows Society member recognized at the Presidential or Commonwealth level receives a personalized memento.
A word from the President

Our responsibility and our commitment to make Kentucky an even better place—a stronger and healthier state—grow each year. From finding new treatments for cancer to educating the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs to launching new technologies and companies that will create jobs and strengthen our economy, UK is truly the University for Kentucky.

The work we must do is not possible without private giving and philanthropy.

The University of Kentucky, today, is one of the country’s pre-eminent public research institutions. But resting on laurels is unacceptable. The challenging times in which we live—and our responsibility and duty to the Commonwealth—sound a clarion call to do more...more to educate our students to compete in a global economy...more to create access to lifesaving health care...more to cultivate appreciation for the arts...more to push the boundaries of research and discovery.

Our mission is based on a profoundly important idea: that a nationally and internationally renowned university can be the catalyst for change and growth for Kentucky in the 21st century. That mission—and the vision that gives it life—has never been more vital. We need your help to do the work Kentuckians need us to do. Your partnership with us will have an indelible impact on our future success.

To our friends who share this vision and provide an increasing measure of support, we are pleased to extend an invitation to membership in the University of Kentucky Fellows Society as an expression of our deep appreciation.

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My membership will be:
☐ Individual  ☑ Joint  ☐ Corporate

My gift will be:
☐ Cash/Cash equivalent  ☑ Deferred

Please print preferred name(s) of member(s) for plaque and publication:

Name(s) for Individual or Joint membership:
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Name for Corporation, Foundation, Trust or Organization membership:
____________________________________________________________________________

Corporate representative
Street ______________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________  State __________  ZIP ________________
Home phone ___________________________ Mobile phone _______________________
Email _______________________________________________________________________
Signature _________________________________________ Date  ____________________

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- - - - - - - - - - - Please detach and return in the envelope provided. - - - - - - - - - - -