In this issue of our newsletter, you’ll learn of some of the many ways that the staff in Undergraduate Education have worked to support the success of all UK’s undergraduates. Building on their success in the Commons, the staff of Academic Enhancement are opening new, specially designed facilities on the north side of campus to support the tremendous growth in LLPs. The several programs in the Academy for Undergraduate Excellence are finding ways to share resources and extend the impact of their work to a record number of high-performing students. Two years of planning and a $150,000 matching grant resulted in UK GEAR-UP, a specially-designed academic preparation program for rising tenth-graders from across Kentucky. These stories are just a few of the ways that UGE staff contribute to the campus and help shape the future of undergraduate education. Read more on page 3.

The mission of the Academy for Undergraduate Excellence is to establish meaningful collaborations among UK’s premier academic enrichment programs to use efficiently university resources and talents for the benefit of all undergraduates. The beneficiaries of the Academy are highly motivated students seeking a rich educational experience. The Academy of Excellence emphasizes the interconnections among the constituent programs. The functional collaborations among the Honors Program, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Chellgren Student Fellows Program, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, the Gaines Humanities Fellowship Program, and First Generation Initiatives, as well as other special educational opportunities, afford all students individualized paths to academic excellence. Learn more: www.uky.edu/Academy

FROM ASSOCIATE PROVOST DR. BENJAMIN WITHERS

SPOTLIGHT: THE ACADEMY

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Connect with UGE online: www.uky.edu/UGE/connect.html
THE STUDY NORTH

Academic Enhancement will be opening a new location for free peer tutoring this semester in the first floor of Champions Court I. This location, called The Study North, was created in response to student demand for a location on north campus. Students said through various surveys and focus groups that they would be more likely to utilize free peer tutoring providing that there was a location on north campus.

The Study North will have a soft opening on September 22nd at eight hours per week. During the soft opening, tutoring will be offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. On October 20th, The Study North will be fully operational at 24 hours per week. After the full opening, peer tutoring will be offered Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Academic Enhancement will host a university-wide open house to celebrate the grand opening of The Study North.

Subjects that will be offered at The Study North include: Math 113, Math 114, Chemistry 105, Chemistry 107, Physics 231, Physics 232, Math 213, Math 123, Accounting, Economics, Math 162 and Math 110. The Study North will also be home to Presentation U, a new program developed to help UK students enhance their communication skills for presentations. Consultations with Presentation U tutors will be available.

The Study North will feature DIRTT wall systems with floor-to-ceiling writable surfaces and large built-in screens for collaboration. The space will be furnished with brand new furniture in The Study’s signature colors, including seats that are capable of charging electronic devices. In addition to new furniture and technology, The Study North will share their space with the new campus location of Common Grounds Coffee Shop.

The mission of Academic Enhancement is to enhance the academic experience of all students at the University of Kentucky by providing programs and services that support students in mastering the skills needed to become successful lifelong learners.

Services are student-responsive and programs are purposefully student-centric and intentionally designed to foster interactions that promote learning strategies and attitudes towards academic life that are characteristic of successful college students. Academic Enhancement considers student success to mean that those who enroll in the university remain enrolled, persist through a program of study and graduate with a degree.

Learn more: www.uky.edu/AE

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Continued from page 1. Certainly, this is an exciting time to be involved with Undergraduate Education at the University of Kentucky. The investment in new residence halls, the expansion of living-learning programs, and the increase in size and quality of the incoming class create unprecedented opportunities for us to shape the future. I am proud of the ways that the staff in Undergraduate Education have responded to these opportunities. This last year has been a record-breaking year. The First Scholars Program graduated their first cohort and is on their way to an 80% 6-year graduation rate. We’ve seen a record number of students apply through the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards for various prestigious external scholarships and impressive number of success… including UK’s first Truman Award since 2008 and two Goldwater Fellowships. The Office of Undergraduate Research planned, organized and hosted the nation’s largest ever gathering of undergraduate students at NCUR in April. Academic Enhancement provided over 22,000 tutoring sessions in The Study, the highest number in their history. The UK Honors program saw an unprecedented number of applications, over 3,200, for its 480 slots. With nearly 1,400 students and almost 400 in its LLP, Honors is the largest it has ever been… even as the quality of the students continues to improve. With these successes behind us, we all look forward to even more opportunities to help students in the coming year.

Pick up the Tab

The Ronald McDonald House regularly collects pop tabs that can be easily pulled off soda cans (or many other items including vegetable and soup cans, pet food cans, etc.) and takes them to a local recycling center where the tabs are converted into cash. The money received from the tabs are used to support Lexington’s “home away from home” for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at Lexington area hospitals, as well as, the RMH “Family Emergency Fund” to help guests with unexpected expenses such as purchasing groceries, personal hygiene items, clothing, and even car seats for infants.

Students participating in First Scholars, Robinson Scholars and the 1GLLC have been collecting for some time now and have volunteered numerous hours in preparing and serving meals at our local Ronald McDonald House. This is a small way that you, too, can contribute.

Departments may create and decorate their own special collection containers or containers may be provided by the Office of First Generation Initiatives, please speak with Martina Martin for details. She may be reached at 257-3532 or martina.martin@uky.edu. Tabs may be dropped off to the Office of First Generation Initiatives at the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters.
WELCOME DR. HARLING

Dr. Phil Harling, a Distinguished Service Professor in UK’s History Department, has accepted the offer to become the next Director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities. Dr. Harling was selected from a strong, national field of applicants. From this field, the search committee identified four finalists, each with impressive records of accomplishment in teaching, research, and service.

Dr. Harling has taught at UK since 1992. Building on his doctoral work at Princeton University, he has developed an international reputation as a scholar of British history, witnessed by his appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2012. At UK, he was promoted to full professor in 2002, and has held the Chellgren Endowed Chair for Undergraduate Excellence and the Theodore Hallam Professorship in the College of Arts and Science. He is one of this year’s recipients of the Provost Teaching Award, one of UK’s highest honors. In addition, he has served as Associate Dean of Faculty and as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

It is this combination of recognized excellence in research and teaching, combined with his extensive service to UK and his knowledge of the administrative workings of our university that makes Dr. Harling an ideal Director for the Gaines Center. His skills and background fit closely with the needs of the Center as identified in the unit’s last External Review. Using his knowledge of the faculty and staff at UK, he will work to improve the visibility of the Gaines Center on campus at the same time as he builds the already solid reputation of the Center in the community and extends the academic opportunities of the Gaines Scholars. He will contribute to the growing sense of community in the Academy of Undergraduate Excellence even as he maintains the unique sense of purpose that defines the Gaines Center. He will help us all make sure that the Gaines Center remains one of UK’s defining features, providing an unparalleled opportunity for undergraduates to explore ideas, discover their own voices, and learn from UK’s best faculty and staff.

THE GAINES CENTER
The Gaines Center for the Humanities functions as a laboratory for imaginative and innovative education on the University of Kentucky’s campus. Devoted to cultivating an appreciation of the humanities in its students and faculty, the Center embraces varied paths of knowledge, and particularly strives to integrate creative work with traditional academic learning. The Center is part of the Academy for Undergraduate Excellence. Learn more: www.uky.edu/academy.

NCUR A SUCCESS!

After years of preparation by hundreds of faculty, staff, and students, the University of Kentucky proudly hosted the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the premier undergraduate research conference, on April 3-5, 2014. The theme for NCUR 2014 was Readiness for the Future: Maximizing Undergraduate Research. As part of the Washington, DC-based Council on Undergraduate Research, the mission of NCUR is to promote undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity, conducted in partnership with faculty or other mentors, as a vital component of higher education. Data supports that undergraduate research is a high impact practice that leads to greater learning, increased student engagement, improved retention, higher graduation rates, and greater success in our students’ personal and professional lives.

NCUR 2014 consisted of plenary talks by successful and fascinating KY VIPs - Dr. T. Pearse Lyons, Kris W. Kimel, Nicky Finney, and Dr. Ernest Bailey; oral (1482) and poster (1583) presentations; performing and visual arts presentations (76); a graduate school fair (120 colleges and universities represented), a career gallery (11 companies participated); workshops for faculty and administrators in higher education; open houses across campus, and fun activities and excursions throughout the greater Lexington area. In all, there were 4,133 registrants including presenters from 47 US states and 8 additional countries outside the US, representing research in all disciplines. UK is always represented at each annual NCUR by ~20-30 students, but given ‘home turf’ this year, 275 students from UK were able to present their research. Well done UK students!

The response to NCUR was overwhelmingly positive as indicated not only by numerous FB entries, tweets, letters, and comments, but also by the fact that some NCUR participants indicated an interest in coming to UK for their future education and met with Enrollment Management staff to get information! Welcome ‘New Blue’!!

The NCUR 2014 Executive Committee consisted of: Chelsea Brislin, Matthew Deffendall, Bessie Guerrant, Lynn Hiler, Danica Kubly, Evie Russell, Sue Scheff, Diane Snow, Jennifer Strange, Hannah Trusty, Jenny Wells, and Kathryn Wong. A long list of faculty and staff served as Team Leaders, and many more as members of those teams, making the planning of the event a cross campus, highly cooperative effort.

Thanks to all who prepared and/or participated in NCUR 2014.
THE OFFICE OF NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AWARDS

The Office of External Scholarships is now the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards. Under the direction of Dr. Pat Whitlow, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards is dedicated to working with young scholars on the application process for scholarships and fellowships that are funded by sources independent of the University of Kentucky. Students who are interested in these opportunities are encouraged to begin work with the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards well in advance of the award deadline.

Learn more: www.uky.edu/competitive-awards.

GROWTH & CHANGE

Fifteen University of Kentucky students recently returned from London, England, where they participated in the “First Adventures in a Global Marketplace” customized education abroad program in partnership with UGE’s Office of First Generation Initiatives, International Studies Abroad and UK’s International Center. Students enrolled in COM 390, Global Workplace Communication, through the Department of Communication in the College of Communication and Information from June 10-July 2, 2014. The program, in its second year, is specifically designed for first generation college students at UK. Less than 9% of the students who study abroad at UK are first generation.

Led by Director of First Generation Initiatives and adjunct Communication faculty member Matthew Deffendall, the three week summer program examines how multinational corporations communicate in a 21st century global marketplace. The course is taught in London, England, and includes a mix of in class discussion and business site visits including the BBC, Cockpit Arts, Chelsea Football Club, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Alltech, and Coca-Cola.

Senior Emily Griffin reflected “we can never replicate this time abroad again, however, no one can ever take this away from us — and that is truly the most rewarding part of my time abroad.”

Planning is underway for the 2015 version of the program. Interested students can apply at the Education Abroad Fair on September 17th or online this fall. Applicants are encouraged to also apply for an education abroad scholarship. For more information, contact Matthew Deffendall at mbdeff2@uky.edu, 859-257-1925 or visit www.uky.edu/1G.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

Lots of exciting new things have been happening over the summer in Transformative Learning beginning with our name! Transformative Learning embodies the programs and services offered in Academic Enhancement and Presentation U! Here are a few highlights. Over the course of the summer, Jim Breslin and his team oversaw the construction plans for the tutoring space on the first floor in Champions I on the north campus. The space is going to provide academic tutoring support from staff at The Study and multimodal communication tutoring support from staff at Presentation U! The grand opening for services are scheduled for September 22nd. In addition to hiring permanent faculty and staff at Presentation U!, the remodeling is nearly complete in the Presentation U! Center @ the Hub in the William T. Young library. Stop by anytime to welcome new colleagues and check out the space. Dr. Molly Reynolds is the newly hired Faculty Fellows and Student Tutoring Coordinator. Dr. Jami Warren is the new Assessment Coordinator and Mary Ann Nestmann is the new Instructional Technology Manager.

Respectfully,
Dr. Deanna Sellnow
Assistant Provost for Transformative Learning & Faculty Director, Presentation U!
GEAR UP REPORT

GEAR UP Kentucky SUMMER ACADEMY@UK (http://www.uky.edu/UGE/gear-up.html) was a summer of learning and fun on the campus of the University of Kentucky and sponsored by the GEAR UP Kentucky program (http://gearupky.org/) funded through the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. For three weeks, from June 22 through July 12, 2014, twenty courses taught by thirty UK instructors across the curriculum gave 63 high school students the opportunity to see what skills and attitudes are critical for learning at the state’s premier research university. The courses were presented in a hybrid mode, using the free and open Canvas Instructure learning system alongside the face-to-face classes. An online Homeroom for the students and their student development advisors and residence advisors offered tutorials, a centralized calendar and announcements to the students. Successful completers of these courses earned digital badges – these badges are archived in the Open Passport System (hosted by Purdue University) and can be published as a Mozilla Open Badge.

Coordinated by Dr. Randolph Hollingsworth, the Academy served as a college readiness project in which seven colleges and nine support units participated. Dr. Laurie Henry in the College of Education organized the scheduling of all the courses while Kelsey Carew from First Gen Initiatives organized the evening and weekend scheduling. All students took the General Studies Core courses that included research skills, information literacy, argumentative writing and public speaking, visual literacy, digital citizenship, video editing and web publishing. This rich core of learning experiences came from a collaboration between a dozen different faculty and staff instructors from the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Communication & Information, and Education. In addition, staff from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), Kentucky Educational Television (KET) Media Lab, UK Libraries Special Collections, and the Office of Sustainability supported the student learning outcomes for the General Studies Core digital badge. In addition to the General Studies Core, all students were required to participate in four other courses: the Introduction to Business & Economics course, offered by the Gatton College of Business and Economics; and, three courses from the College of Fine Arts designed from the UK Core Program’s Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity: Performing World Music, Creativity and the Art of Acting, Introduction to Photographic Literacy and Image Analysis.

Students also got to choose from 12 electives, all of which related in some way to the UK Core Program. The International Center organized offerings addressing global citizenship: focusing on a different culture each week. Visual literacy and creativity was emphasized through object-based learning in UK art museums and with 3D design and fabrication. Check out the great remix videos a few of the students created - visit the UGE Flickr set at www.flickr.com/photos/undergrad-educ. Other electives included robotics, computer programming, and biology. All students participated in the co-curricular programming in the residence hall. This college/career readiness component to the curriculum took place in the evening or on the weekends to give students the opportunity to discuss the culture of college in a fun, relaxed setting. Similar to UK undergraduates, Summer Academy@UK included a UK FUSION (UK For Unity and Service In Our Neighborhood) service event, a Common Reading Experience, and Sustainability tours of the campus. Of the 85 students assigned to the University of Kentucky by GEAR UP KY, 72 students signed in on the first day. Summer Academy@UK students earned, on average, a little more than seven digital badges each, and a total of 478 digital badges were awarded by the instructors. 61 students (out of the 63 who persisted all three weeks) successfully completed all their courses and earned the digital badges for the courses they took.