

# PR 1

Office of the President  
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1. UK Alumni Association Names Six as 'Great Teachers' for 2007

Six University of Kentucky professors have been honored for their excellence in the classroom as the UK Alumni Association announces the recipients of its 2007 Great Teacher Awards. The 2007 recipients are: Jeffrey Osborn, Arts and Sciences; Jeffrey Okeson, Dentistry; Kim Woodrum, Arts and Sciences; Russell Mumper, Pharmacy; Jerry Skees, Agriculture; and John Watkins, Public Health and Arts and Sciences. Started in 1961, the Great Teacher Award is the oldest continuous award to recognize teaching at UK. The nominations are made by students. Selection of the award recipients is made by the UK Alumni Association Great Teacher Awards Committee, in cooperation with student organizations Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board. Great Teacher Award recipients each receive a citation, an engraved plaque, and a \$2,000 cash award. The recipients were honored at the Great Teacher Award reception and dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Lexington on February 20.

2. Kentucky's Athletes Score Second Place on SEC Fall Honor Roll

Fifty UK student-athletes won placement on the Southeastern Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll, ranking second among the league's 12 schools. South Carolina led the SEC with 51 student-athletes on the list. The 2006 SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll is based on grades from the 2006 spring, summer, and fall semesters.

The Wildcats on the SEC Fall Sports Honor Roll are:

- Football:  
Michael Aitcheson, senior, Social Work;  
Patrick Barnette, senior, Communications;  
Terry Clayton, senior, Kinesiology;  
Jason Dickerson, senior, Biology;  
Dallas Greer, senior, Secondary Education-English;  
Bradley Hart, sophomore, Finance;  
Jon Housley, junior, Pre-Pharmacy;  
Hayden Lane, Graduate School, History;  
Rocco Maragas, senior, Integrated Strategic Communication;  
Timothy Masthay, sophomore, Economics;  
Robert McAtee, junior, Sociology;  
Martin McPherson, senior, Agricultural Communications;  
Lamar Mills, Graduate School, Patterson School of Diplomacy and International  
Commerce;  
Austin Moss, sophomore, Marketing;  
Thomas Richey, sophomore, Kinesiology;  
Michael Schwindel, sophomore, Mechanical Engineering;

Brian Scott, senior, Geology;  
 Travis Slaydon, senior, Agricultural Communications;  
 Jacob Tamme, Graduate School, Integrated Strategic Communication;  
 Durrell White, senior, Agricultural Communications;  
 Trai Williams, senior, Agricultural Communications; and  
 Wesley Woodyard, junior, Social Work;

- Men's soccer:  
 Andrew Alexander, sophomore, Finance;  
 Mathew Baum, senior, Management;  
 Patrick Conyee, sophomore, Management;  
 Bradley Frederick, sophomore, Biology;  
 Joseph Grigsby, senior, Economics;  
 Ryan Jones, senior, Mechanical Engineering;  
 Nathan Li, junior, Kinesiology;  
 Matthew McAlpine, senior, Journalism;  
 Adam Midkiff, senior, Finance;  
 Aaron Sheffield, senior, Foreign Language and International Economics-Russian;  
 Matthew Troop, sophomore, Management; and  
 Masumi Turnbull, sophomore, Pre-Physical Therapy;
- Women's soccer:  
 Kelsey Fenix, junior, Kinesiology;  
 Sarah Gaunt, junior, Management;  
 Cheryl Gilligan, sophomore, Marketing;  
 Tara Herold, sophomore, undergraduate studies;  
 Nicola Holdsworth, sophomore, Psychology;  
 Megan Jones, junior, Accounting;  
 Kristin Kover, sophomore, Merchandising, Apparel and Textiles;  
 Ashley Menick, junior, Elementary Education;  
 Kate Rowlands, junior, Elementary Education;  
 Laura Speer, sophomore, Pre-Physical Therapy; and  
 Rachel Ulrich, sophomore, Anthropology;
- Volleyball:  
 Kathleen Bowler, junior, Elementary Education;  
 Tess Edwards, sophomore, Communication;  
 Julie Gagnon, senior, Elementary Education;  
 Melissa Popp, senior, Marketing; and  
 Erin Turner, sophomore, Pre-Physical Therapy.

### 3. Gatton College Alumni Hall of Fame Inducts Two New Members

The UK Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame inducted its two newest members in a ceremony on February 9, in the atrium of the college on the UK campus. Inducted were the managing director and head of investment banking with Navigant Capital Advisors, LLC, a NASD broker-dealer, Gerald R. Benjamin; and the executive

director of God's Pantry Food Bank in Lexington, Marian F. Guinn. They make up the 14th class of inductees to the college's hall of graduates who have distinguished themselves both in their professional careers and in civic and community leadership.

4. UK Symphony Orchestra Lands Recording Contract

The UK Symphony Orchestra under the direction of John Nardolillo has landed a recording contract on the strength of UK's talented student musicians, recent CD recordings and Nardolillo's leadership. UK has become one of only a few college orchestras in the nation, even the world, to have been signed to a recording contract with Naxos, the world's largest classical label. Music for UK's first recording for the classical label was presented at the UK Symphony Orchestra's concert on February 9, in the Singletary Center for the Arts Concert Hall. The concert by the UK Symphony Orchestra featured music from Concerto Competition winners at UK, as well as composer George Frederick McKay's ballet score, *Epoch*. The UK Concerto Competition winners performed a horn concerto by Strauss and a saxophone concerto by Tomasi. A performance by the orchestra of this piece will be recorded as part of Naxos' American Masters Series. The recording contract was offered to UK Symphony Orchestra upon suggestion of McKay's son Fred, a fan of Nardolillo, and the strength of the group's work on its "Music of the Horse" CD, recorded last year for Keeneland. UK Symphony Orchestra will also be part of a spring CD release, as legendary folk singer Arlo Guthrie releases his CD recordings with the group from his concert at UK last spring.

5. Fossil Fuel Consortium Wins \$1 Million Defense Department Contract

The Consortium for Fossil Fuel Science, a College of Engineering research center with participants from UK, West Virginia University, University of Utah, University of Pittsburgh, and Auburn University, has received \$1 million from the Department of Defense through the U.S. Army National Automotive Center for the first year of a three-year military fuels research contract. The program will develop new technology for the production of improved battlefield fuels (jet and diesel fuel) from domestic resources, particularly coal, using fuel synthesis methods based on C1 chemistry. It is anticipated that total funding for the three-year program will be approximately \$4 million.

6. UK Alumnus Derek Keeling Makes the Finals for Lead in *Grease*

Derek Keeling, a UK alumnus, has made the finals of NBC's new reality television competition *Grease: You're the One that I Want*. Keeling, who earned his bachelor's degree in theatre, is one of six finalists for the lead of Danny Zuko in the Broadway musical revival of *Grease* to open in July 2007.

7. Center for Manufacturing Joins Group to Drive Kentucky's Economic Growth

The UK Center for Manufacturing has joined with industry and business groups, state agencies, and other Kentucky colleges and universities to form an Advanced Manufacturing Work Group. The group's purpose is to help drive the Commonwealth's current and future economic development by targeting advanced manufacturing as a crucial engine for growth and competitive advantage. Group members are combining resources and coordinating their

efforts in order to attract federal economic development funding; to increase science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) majors; to make worker training more flexible, accessible and industry-driven; and to show Kentuckians that manufacturing is an exciting high-paying career field and a vital part of their economy as well. The group's vision and mission were presented to a broad audience of more than 500 Kentucky manufacturers at "Prosperous Kentucky 2007," the statewide manufacturing summit hosted by The Kentucky Association of Manufacturers February 12 in Frankfort. Attendees heard leaders from state government, industry and academia present ideas on how to protect and nurture Kentucky's manufacturing industry.

8. English Professor Jane Gentry Vance Is Named Kentucky's Poet Laureate

English and Honors Program Professor Jane Gentry Vance has been named the next poet laureate of Kentucky. Vance, whose most recent book of poems is titled *Portrait of the Artist as a White Pig*, will be installed in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort April 20. She will serve for two years as the 23rd poet laureate of the state.

9. UK Hosts Meeting for National Leaders in Aging Research

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Center on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) will hold a directors meeting on aging research on Thursday, March 8 in the Main Building's Lexmark Public Room. The meeting will emphasize grant support mechanisms and new science initiatives. NIA and NCCAM staff will describe initiatives designed to recruit and keep emerging investigators in aging and complementary and alternative medicine research, with an emphasis on Alzheimer's disease research. NIA and NCCAM are also interested in addressing needs and barriers to research careers for students, junior faculty, and investigators from underserved and underrepresented groups. The meeting is designed for faculty and students with an interest in aging, Alzheimer's disease, complementary and alternative medicine research, and health disparities among older adults as well as for individuals interested in developing the careers investigators with interest in the underserved and underrepresented of our population. Dr. William R. Markesbery, director of the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, is the local host.

10. UK Students Urged to Complete National Survey on Student Engagement

About 6,000 freshmen and seniors at the University of Kentucky recently received an e-mailed invitation from President Lee T. Todd, Jr. to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). NSSE developers say the results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college. A number of research projects have shown a link between student engagement and academic success, as measured by grades and retention. College administrators can use the data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience – both inside and outside the classroom – that can be improved through changes in policies and practices more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education, according to the NSSE Web site. Administered every two years at UK since 2001, the nationwide survey is designed to obtain information "about student participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development," according to NSSE. The survey was first administered in a 1999

pilot project at about 70 colleges and universities. To date, roughly 1,000 different colleges have participated in NSSE. This year, students at all public universities in Kentucky will have the opportunity to complete the national survey.

11. Children's Author Kevin Henkes Delivers Special Lecture

Children's author and illustrator Kevin Henkes delivered the 2007 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture on Sunday, March 4, in UK's Memorial Hall. Henkes has won numerous awards including the 2005 Caldecott Medal, awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children published in the United States. He is best known for the irrepressible mouse heroine of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (Greenwillow, 1996). His lecture was sponsored by the McConnell Center for the Study of Youth Literature at UK's School of Library and Information Science and funded by the Association for Library Service to Children.

12. Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame Announces Newest Inductees

Four journalists and a journalism educator will be inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame on Tuesday, April 10, at the Radisson Plaza hotel in Lexington. The five will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a luncheon ceremony sponsored by the UK Journalism and Telecommunications Alumni Association. The same day, the UK School of Journalism and Telecommunications will hold its 30th annual Joe Creason Lecture at 6 p.m. in the Singletary Center for the Arts Auditorium. This year's Creason Lecture will be given by photojournalist Molly Bingham. The 2007 Hall of Fame inductees are the late Ron Boone, a long-time radio news reporter in Elizabethtown; Nancy Green, vice president of circulation for Lee Enterprises Inc. and publisher of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls (Iowa) *Courier*, and a former UK student publications adviser; Ron Jenkins, long-time editor of *The (Henderson) Gleaner*; Glen Kleine, founder of Eastern Kentucky University's journalism program; and Ken Kurtz, former news director at television station WKYT in Lexington.

13. Kernel Wins Kentucky Press Association's Top College Award

*The Kentucky Kernel* was the winner of the 2006 General Excellence Award for college and university newspapers in the Kentucky Press Association's annual competition. It is the third straight year the *Kernel* has won the top award in the student newspaper category. The *Kernel* took first-place honors in 13 of the 27 categories, including a sweep of the top three prizes in the categories of photo essay and business/agribusiness story. *The Kernel* and *Kernel* staffers won 39 awards out of 83 given in the college/newspaper category.

14. Students Dance Non-stop to Raise Money for Pediatric Oncology Clinic

Student volunteers for DanceBlue, the annual dance marathon that raises money for the Golden Matrix Fund, which supports the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic held their event last weekend at Memorial Coliseum. Anyone interested in donating to DanceBlue and the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic is encouraged to do so by visiting [www.danceblue.org](http://www.danceblue.org) and clicking the "Donate to DanceBlue" secure link. All donations are handled directly through the UK Development Office and are tax deductible.

15. Major Journalists Participate in Richard Wilson Symposium

Two award-winning reporters who oversee coverage of the White House, a Kentucky newspaper editor who covered the Watergate scandal in Washington 30 years ago, and a recent graduate who interned in Washington were the featured panelists for the fifth annual Richard Wilson Journalism Alumni Symposium Feb. 7. Terence Hunt, William Neikirk and Carl West, all Kentucky natives and members of the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, and 2005 graduate Steve Ivey participated in the program, "Dateline Washington." Susan Straub, a former reporter and editor who is the communications director for Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry, moderated the program. Hunt is the chief White House correspondent for the Associated Press. Neikirk is the chief Washington correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*. West is the editor of the *Frankfort State Journal*, a position he has held since 1979.

16. UK, Central Kentucky Blood Center Win Drive against Arkansas

Central Kentucky Blood Center and its partner, the University of Kentucky, out-collected Community Blood Center of the Ozarks and the University of Arkansas in the 13th annual Game for Life Blood Drive. The contest pitted the two blood centers and universities against each other in a three-day drive to see who could collect the greatest number of donations. The traveling trophy was awarded to CKBC because it had a higher percentage of donors when applied to the total enrollment at UK. The two blood centers staged the contest to overcome low blood supplies brought on by a combination of bad weather and the flu. Hospital blood transfusions have also been outpacing blood collections recently.

17. UK Art Museum Hosts Major Exhibition of Color Photos from 1930s, 1940s

The UK Art Museum opened a major exhibition of rare color photography called "Bound for Glory: America in Color 1939-43" on January 21. The photographs from the 1930s and 1940s were taken by leading members of the legendary Farm Security Administration photography unit. "Bound for Glory," which runs through April 15, was organized by the Library of Congress and has embarked on a five-city tour that takes the show throughout the United States and to Amsterdam.

18. UK Stuckert Career Center Assistant Director Wins Documentary Award

The National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) recently awarded UK employee Christine Amerman the 2007 Best Biography Documentary Award for her PBS documentary "Life with Passion: Raising Egyptian-Arabian Horses." The documentary is a beautifully told story intertwining the rich heritage of Egyptian-Arabian horses with the lives of the two women who raise them on the world-famous farm Arabians LTD., in Waco, Texas. Amerman directed and produced the 30-minute documentary to air on Central Texas PBS-affiliate KWBU while a work-study master's student at Baylor University. Since its broadcast, the documentary has garnered much attention, including winning a Telly last fall in the highly competitive documentary category. The Telly Award is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. As an assistant director at UK's James W. Stuckert Career Center, Amerman works with communications students, encouraging them to gain valuable experience while still in school.

19. Spring Issue of *Odyssey* Highlights UK's Research on Ending Oil Dependence

The spring edition of *Odyssey*, UK's research magazine, shows how UK is targeting our country's oil addiction by playing up Kentucky's agricultural strengths—turning timber waste and crop residues into fuel. UK researchers are creating a more stable form of bio-oil, designing new catalysts to produce premium biodiesel, targeting a new way to make ethanol with cornfield leftovers, packaging fine coal and sawdust together in a potent briquette, and looking for cheap ways to capture solar energy with devices spray painted onto rocks or tents. *Odyssey* also features an all-star team of cancer researchers that have conducted three landmark trials in the past 20 years, studies that have resulted in a new standard of care for patients with metastatic cancer. The magazine is available in print and online at [www.research.uky.edu/odyssey/](http://www.research.uky.edu/odyssey/).

20. Niles Center for American Music Opens Series with 'Visions of Kyrgyzstan'

The John Jacob Niles Center for American Music opened its Niles Gallery Series with "Visions of Kyrgyzstan," which explored the culture of the small central Asian country. UK professors who traveled to the country to share American studies with the Kyrgyz people reflected on their visit and lessons they learned abroad. The concert and talk on February 2 was free and open to the public. Six members of UK's faculty presented, including, Stan Brunn, geography; Alan DeYoung, education policy studies and evaluation, as well as sociology; Donald Gross, political science; Robert Olson, history; Karen Mingst, political science and Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce; and Ron Pen, musicology in the School of Music and director of the Niles Center.

21. High School Juniors, Seniors Invited to Health Professions Summer Camps

Two University of Kentucky summer camps open to rising high school juniors and seniors are recruiting participants. The camps, for students interested in health careers, are part of the UK Area Health Education Center's (AHEC) Health Careers Program. AHEC is taking applications for its six-week summer enrichment camp that will be held at UK June 10 through July 20. The program will give qualified high school juniors insight into college life; classes in biology, chemistry, and anatomy; a look at various health careers; and a connection to lifelong friends from across Kentucky. AHEC also is taking applications for its two-week Health Researchers Youth Academy that will be held at UK July 8 through July 20. The program will give high school juniors and seniors exposure to research careers while learning about research methodology, areas of research, and basic science concepts. The UK Area Health Education Center has received \$300,000 in state funding for the biennium for the AHEC Health Careers Program. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of disadvantaged and under-represented students who successfully pursue educational programs and careers in the health professions.

22. UK Art Museum Presents Lecture by *Life* Photojournalist Larry Towell

The UK Art Museum's Robert C. May Lecture Series presented a free public lecture by photojournalist Larry Towell on January 19. Towell is an accomplished photographer whose work has been published in such popular publications as *The New York Times* and *Life*

magazine. The lecture discussed his work and included original music and poetry. Towell was accompanied by harmonica player Mike Stevens, a regular with the Grand Ole Opry.

23. Singletary Center to be Featured on Yellow Pages Cover

The Singletary Center for the Arts has been selected for the cover of the 2007-08 edition of the AT&T Real Yellow Pages. Delivery of the directory began in January. AT&T estimates more than 280,000 copies of the directory will be delivered to area homes and businesses.

24. UK Libraries Joins Effort to Develop Search Engine Interface

UK Libraries has joined Innovative Interfaces, Inc. in developing Encore, a next-generation library interface that expands UK Libraries' current search-engine capabilities and makes for an easier searching experience for students and faculty. UK joins 13 other partners that are engaged in development partnerships to create this new library technology product. Encore will become available to the UK community in 2007.

25. Student Awards and Achievements

Megan Boehnke, Journalism and Telecommunications and *Kernel* editor, won first place in the 47th annual William Randolph Hearst Foundation's Editorial/Columns of Opinion writing competition. Megan won for her November 17 *Kernel* editorial, "Remember the Lives but Ask Why They Were Lost," a piece on her decision to write and publish the controversial *Kernel* story on the role of alcohol in the deaths of several UK students this past fall. Her win means she will have the opportunity to compete in the Hearst National Writing Championship in San Francisco in June. She received a \$2,000 scholarship for her win.

Vanessa Hunn, Center for Poverty Research postdoctoral student, received the Council on Social Work Education's national Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Research funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Hunn's fellowship runs through August 2007. The funding will help advance her research, "Depression, Self-Efficacy, Income, and Child Outcomes in African American Welfare Recipients."

Ashley S. Westerman, Political Science and Journalism, and Walter T. Mattox, Communication, have begun a chapter of STAND at the University of Kentucky. The STAND Coalition, a student anti-genocide coalition and its partner, the Genocide Intervention Network, share a vision of the world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence. This coalition was born to fight the stop of genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student organization that actively fights genocide. Westerman and Mattox were inspired to start the group after Nick Clooney spoke on the issue last semester. Buck Ryan, Journalism and Telecommunications, is the faculty advisor.

26. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Jonathan Cardì, Law, has been invited to present a proposed amendment to the Copyright Act at the Modest Proposals Conference being held next month at Cardozo Law



School in New York. He also is co-editing a book titled *Race, Psychology, and the Law* that is being published by the New Press. He is writing a chapter for the book as well.

Roberta Harding, Law, has been invited to present “Empirical Studies, Race, Racism, and the Criminal Adjudication Process” at the Fordham Law School on April 3, 2007. Other speakers in this lecture series will include members of the law faculties at Yale, Columbia, and New York University.

Richard Labunski, Journalism and Telecommunications, had an essay on the significance of James Madison’s first election to Congress published in the *Washington Post*. The essay, “How Virginia Saved America, and Why February 2 Should Be a Holiday,” appeared in the *Post*’s Outlook section on February 4. Labunski is also the author of *James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

David Mannino, Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health, has been named the recipient of the 2007 Sheldon Siegel Memorial Lectureship. The honorary lectureship is presented by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) in recognition of his outstanding service to the specialty and science of allergy and immunology. Mannino was recognized for the lectureship in San Diego during the AAAAI annual meeting in late February.

Hatim Omar, UK HealthCare Pediatrics, was chosen as a Sexual Assault Awareness Month “SAAMy Award” winner for 2007. The SAAMy Award is given by the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs to honor those who have made outstanding contributions and who have pioneered Kentucky’s movement against sexual violence.

Melanie D. Otis, Social Work, and her colleague Andrew Grogan-Kaylor, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, recently published research titled “The Predictors of Parental Use of Corporal Punishment” in the January issue of the journal *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*. The research studied what factors, independent of others, predict whether or not a parent is likely to use spanking as a punishment.

Lori Ringhand, Law, was invited to serve on the planning committee for the Association of American Law Schools 2008 Conference on Constitutional Law. This committee is chaired by Harvard Law Professor Mark Tushnet.

Carrie Saunders, Adoption Support for Kentucky (ASK) at the UK College of Social Work Training Resource Center, received an Excellence in Service Award from the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services at Kentucky’s first Adoption Conference last fall. Saunders was presented with the award for her work in promoting and supporting Kentucky’s adoptive families.

Robert Schwemm, Law, had legal research cited in the *New York Times*, “Fair Housing, Free Speech, and Choosy Roommates” on January 22, 2007.