

Office of the President  
December 9, 2008

1. UK Gets \$10.5 Million Grant to Study Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease Links

University of Kentucky researchers received a \$10.5 million, five-year federal grant to establish a center of excellence to study the links between obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Lisa A. Cassis, professor and chair of the UK Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences, will be principal investigator of the UK Center of Biological Research Excellence (COBRE) in Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease. She will lead a team of five junior investigators, comprising a mix of physician and basic scientists, and senior researchers who will serve as mentors, advising and overseeing research projects. Cassis' laboratory focuses on identifying the biological mechanisms that cause obese people to develop cardiovascular disease, of direct relevance to the theme of the COBRE. This research is especially important in Kentucky, where rates for obesity, diabetes, and heart disease are well above the national average. Funding for the center will come from the National Center for Research Resources, a part of the National Institutes of Health that supports thematic, multidisciplinary COBREs across the country through its Institutional Development Award program. The proposal for the COBRE in Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease was submitted from the Division of Endocrinology in the UK College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine. Cassis has a joint appointment in this unit, a partnership intended to promote diabetes and obesity-related clinical care and research on campus.

2. Governor Beshear Announces EPSCOR Funds with Lion's Share to UK

In mid-October, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear announced two major federal grants totaling over \$14 million – with \$7 million coming to the University of Kentucky – to fund high-tech research at Kentucky universities and efforts to increase Advanced Placement education in high schools. Beshear announced the grants – from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Education (USDoe) – on UK's campus. The NSF grant, which totals \$12.5 million over five years, will fund university research in three key technological areas: biotechnology, nanotechnology, and cyber-technologies. Several universities will be involved in the research efforts. The major recipients are UK and the University of Louisville. Other institutions involved include Kentucky State University, Northern Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Centre College, Berea College, and Morehead State University. The five-year award made through Kentucky's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is expected to be matched with an additional \$5 million from the Commonwealth over the life of the grant. Beshear announced another \$2 million from the USDoe to support advanced placement programs.

3. Gatton Student Team Excels in *Wall Street Journal*'s National Biz Quiz

Jeffrey Howard of Louisville, a sophomore majoring in accounting in the UK Gatton College of Business and Economics, captured first place as an individual in the nation in the Wall Street Journal National Biz Quiz in mid-November. Howard was a member of a Gatton student team that finished fourth in the event at The Ohio State University. Gatton's other team members were Mark Spurlin, a senior from Danville who is double majoring in finance and management, and Ryan Hayes, a senior from Frankfort who is majoring in decision science and information systems with a minor in international business. Spurlin, Hayes, and Howard qualified by garnering the top three scores on a rigorous, rapid-fire 100-question current events test covering all sections of the *Wall Street Journal* over a recent eight-day period. Greg Curtin, a senior finance major from Atlanta, Georgia, qualified as the Gatton team's alternate. Gordon Holbein, a Gatton senior lecturer in strategy and leadership, served as the team's coach. Now in its third year, the competition features a fast-paced quiz show format conducted in front of television cameras. Only 24 undergraduate teams from universities across the country received invitations to participate. Also invited were squads from Southern California, Texas, Emory, Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Notre Dame, Penn State, and host Ohio State.

4. Phi Kappa Phi Charters UK Chapter of All-discipline Honor Society

The nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, has approved UK's petition for a charter to start a chapter. Following the action by the organization's board, UK joins nine other Southeastern Conference universities with Phi Kappa Phi chapters. Students from all disciplines can now be recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and be eligible to participate in the society's annual fellowship and study abroad grant programs. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students, and to the top 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also may qualify. The UK steering committee which spearheaded the university's petition to create a chapter included Al Lederer, professor of decision science and information systems in the Gatton College of Business and Economics; Philipp Kraemer, professor of psychology and Chellgren Endowed Chair; Douglas Scutchfield, professor of public health and medicine; and David Sogin, professor of music and division coordinator, music education. Phi Kappa Phi has more than 300 chapters in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, and each year approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni are initiated into the society. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and is now headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

5. UK HealthCare Launches Kentucky Children's Heart Center

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital recently established the Kentucky Children's Heart Center, a full-service center that provides inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment services for children with congenital or acquired heart disease.

Treatment also encompasses patients who have advanced into adulthood, providing the consistency of comprehensive care important to favorable long-term outcomes. Kentucky Children's Heart Center is co-directed by pediatric cardiology chief Louis Bezold and Mark Plunkett, chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery. Both are associate professors in the UK College of Medicine.

6. UK Signs Agreement with BCTC to Streamline Transfer Process

Bluegrass Community and Technical College and UK have announced a new dual enrollment agreement and a new program aimed at streamlining the transfer process from BCTC to UK. BCTC President Augusta Julian and UK President Todd signed the dual enrollment agreement during a news conference on the BCTC campus. It is the first formal relationship that allows students to take classes at both schools simultaneously since BCTC joined the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The dual enrollment agreement sets the stage for the new BCTCblue+ program which is designed for students who plan to complete an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree from BCTC and then transfer to UK to pursue a bachelor's degree. Students who enter the BCTCblue+ program will be eligible to take classes at a reduced tuition rate at UK while enrolled at BCTC, and when they successfully complete the associate degree (BCTC students must have a 2.0 GPA to graduate), the students will be guaranteed admission to UK upon application by the appropriate deadline.

7. UK Alumna Beverly Perdue Wins North Carolina's Gubernatorial Election

UK alumna Beverly Eaves Perdue will become North Carolina's first female governor. Perdue, who had previously served as lieutenant governor of the state, won the gubernatorial election held November 4, defeating Charlotte mayor Pat McCrory by three percentage points. Perdue, who earned a bachelor's degree in history from UK in 1969, was inducted into the UK College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2006. Perdue is a former public school teacher and a former director of geriatrics at a community hospital. Before becoming lieutenant governor, Perdue also served in the North Carolina House of Representatives for two terms and the North Carolina Senate for five terms. During Perdue's last six years in the Senate, she served as one of the state's chief budget writers—the first woman to hold this position. Under her leadership, the General Assembly made teacher pay a priority. She was a key leader in the fight for clean water and clean air and was the legislator who led the debate that created the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

8. Infrastructure Additions Enhance Coldstream's Marketing Advantages

UK's Coldstream Research Campus will gain a considerable marketing edge in attracting new business when redundant electrical power and fiber optics is available in early third quarter 2009. A second substation on Georgetown Road is currently under construction and the transformer has been purchased, according to Len Heller, UK vice president for commercialization and economic development. As president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Technology Inc., Heller is managing the \$6.5 million

project for UK. The Coldstream master development plan, which will include both sustainable architecture and landscape guidelines for future growth, is also being updated under the direction of EDAW Inc., an international planning, environmental, and design firm.

9. Company with Coldstream Lab Signs Agreement to License its Technology

Allylix Inc., a technology leader in the science and production of terpenes with a focus on high value flavors and fragrances, has licensed its technology to a leading clean technology company, which plans to develop and commercialize terpene fuels and fuel additives. Allylix's proprietary technology makes it possible to produce terpenes – natural chemicals that hold tremendous promise across a wide range of industries – and their derivatives at very low cost. UK licensed the original technology, developed in the College of Agriculture, to Allylix. Lexington's Bluegrass Angels were one of the original investors. The Allylix development lab is located at UK's Coldstream Research Campus.

10. UK's Diversity Chief Is Named Chair of Lexington Panel on Mortgage Lending

Judy "J.J." Jackson, vice president for institutional diversity at the University of Kentucky, was recently named chair of the new Mayor's Commission on Mortgage Lending Practices. Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry created the commission in early November to make recommendations concerning the findings of a recent report by the Lexington-Fayette County Human Rights Commission titled "Regardless of Income, African-Americans in Lexington Remain at Risk of Receiving High-Cost Home Mortgage Loans." The report ranked Lexington first in the state in racial disparities between loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers.

11. UK Startup Mersive Technology Attracts \$5 Million in Venture Capital

Mersive Technologies Inc. has completed a \$5 million B-round of investment led by Hopewell Ventures from Chicago with participation from Adena Ventures, the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, the Bluegrass Angels, and the Bluegrass Angel Venture Fund. Founded in 2004 and based on technology developed in the College of Engineering by Chris Jaynes, Mersive creates ultra-high resolution and flexible digital displays for simulation and training, retail advertising, command and control centers, sports and entertainment venues, museums, movie theaters, gaming, and more using off-the-shelf projectors, computers, and cameras. Jaynes, an electrical and computer engineering professor, left UK in 2006 to advance Mersive's prospects.

12. UK Licenses Technology to Faculty Startup Companies

Three UK-affiliated start-up companies have licensed technology from the university: Merloc LLC, founded by chemistry professor David Atwood, which is developing multidentate sulfur-containing ligands for binding heavy metals; Scout Diagnostics LLC, launched by chemistry professors Mark Lovell and Burt Lynn, which is working on biomarkers of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's Disease; and NuForm

Materials LLC, started by Tom Robl of the UK Center for Applied Energy Research, which is developing methods for processing coal combustion ash and for isolating specific fractions useful as polymer fillers, metal matrix materials, and high performance pozzolans.

13. Student Organization Brings Experts in Inclusiveness to Campus

The UK student organization Interfaith Dialogue Organization organized two events – an awards dinner and a panel discussion – to bring together people from different professions and walks of life in order to talk about diversity and inclusiveness. The events included local and national experts, including Mehri Niknam, executive director of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation of Britain; Ibrahim Kalin of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; Jena Luedtke, director of the Washington-based Center for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue; the Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches; and Ali Yurtsever, president of the Rumi Forum. Interfaith Dialogue Excellence Awards were presented to Chester Grundy, director of Multicultural Student Programming at UK; to Rabbi Marc Kline of the Lexington Temple Adath Israel; to David Bettez, director of external relations in the UK Office of International Affairs; to Marian Guinn, chief executive officer of God’s Pantry Food Bank; and to Peter Berres, assistant dean for student affairs in the UK College of Health Sciences.

14. Kernel Wins ‘Pulitzer’ for College Newspapers

*The Kentucky Kernel*, UK’s independent student newspaper, won the 2007-08 Pacemaker award, a prize commonly referred to as the “Pulitzer Prize of college journalism.” The *Kernel* was one of nine daily papers to win a 2007-08 Pacemaker award at the Associated Collegiate Press convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The award, judged by editors at the *St. Petersburg Times* in St. Petersburg, Florida, was given based on five issues the *Kernel* published during the last school year. Those included the *Kernel*’s coverage of students celebrating Ramadan, a profile of a UK professor who fought in Vietnam and returned in 2008 with his students, a profile of a man struggling for more than 20 years with AIDS, and a post-Super Bowl profile of former UK quarterback Jared Lorenzen, formerly the third-string quarterback for the New York Giants. The *Kernel*’s editor-in-chief for 2007-08 was Keith Smiley.

15. UK’s Landscape Architecture Department Is Ranked 15th Nationally

The UK College of Agriculture’s Department of Landscape Architecture is ranked 15th in the nation in the 2008 DesignIntelligence’s publication *America’s Best Architecture & Design Schools*. The ranking is created by surveying 270 firms and organizations nationwide.

16. Environmental Champion Leads First Sustainability Lecture Series

With funds from the Office of the President, the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee created a new Sustainability Lecture Series to serve as a catalyst for increased discussion and debate about sustainability issues on campus. Organizers hope the lecture series will foster a culture of sustainability on campus that balances ecological integrity, economic vitality, and social justice. The inaugural lecture, held November 17, featured Thomas J. FitzGerald, environmental attorney, graduate of the UK College of Law and recent recipient of the Heinz Award in the Environment.

17. UK Retools University Drive to Make It More Bicycle- and Pedestrian-Friendly

At the start of the fall semester, UK made temporary changes to University Drive in an effort to enhance the University's bicycle network and improve pedestrian safety. The changes – which included reducing University Drive from four lanes to two lanes and installing bicycle lanes – will now be implemented on a permanent basis. The changes to University Drive came as the result of recommendations by several outside agencies. In 2005, the Toole Design Group, a nationally recognized planning and design firm specializing in multi-modal transportation, recommended adding bicycle lanes to University Drive as a significant step toward expanding the campus bicycle infrastructure. In 2006, the Kentucky Transportation Center concurred with Toole's recommendation while studying pedestrian safety along the University Drive corridor.

18. Faculty Entrepreneurs Network with Investors at the 'Bench2Business' Fall Event

UK President Lee Todd hosted more than 100 faculty, community leaders, investors, and business service providers at the Boone Center for the second "Bench2Business" networking event. Following a welcome by Mayor Jim Newberry and Commerce Lexington President and CEO Bob Quick, attendees heard presentations on UK emerging technologies. The presenters included Audra Stinchcomb, College of Pharmacy and a principal in the startup AllTranz Inc.; Patrick Sullivan, College of Medicine and a principal in the startup Nano-Mite Technologies LLC; Stephen Dobson, College of Agriculture; Bert Lynn, College of Arts and Sciences and a principal in the startup Scout Diagnostics LLC; Uschi Graham, College of Engineering and a principal in the startup Topasol LLC; and Drura Parrish, College of Design and a principal in the startup PARRISH Industries Inc. The B2B event was sponsored by the Office for Commercialization and Economic Development and the Bluegrass Business Development Partnership (BBDP) formed by the Mayor's Office, Commerce Lexington, and UK. Recently, the BBPD received an award for its trendsetting partnership from the International Economic Development Council.

19. UK Alumna Wins 2009 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award

Karen Gill, an alumna of the UK College of Education, was named the 2009 Kentucky Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Department of Education and Ashland Inc. in ceremonies at the Capitol rotunda in Frankfort. Gill, who received her master's degree in secondary education from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was named an Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award Winner in September, her second such honor in the past two years. In early October, she also was named a finalist for the High School Teacher of the Year Award. For 16 of her 18 years in education, Gill has taught at Henry Clay High School in Lexington. She is a physics teacher, research agent, a national certification candidate mentor, chairperson of the Henry Clay Pathways Committee, and a presenter at Modeling Instruction Program workshops.

20. University Press Book Wins Appalachian Book of the Year Award

University Press of Kentucky book *My Appalachia: A Memoir* by Sidney Saylor Farr was awarded the Appalachian Book of the Year award presented by the Appalachian Writers Association. The Appalachian Writers Association was founded in 1983 with the mission of preserving Appalachian literary heritage by promoting new works and authors, as well as by continuing to celebrate established ones. Each year, the association presents the Appalachian Book of the Year awards at its annual conference to works of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and children's literature.

21. Student Awards and Achievements

Brian Lee, Landscape Architecture, and his fifth-year studio capstone course class received an Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects, which recognizes community service by students who demonstrate sound principles and values of landscape architecture.

22. Student Center Grand Ballroom Is Named for Frank Harris

The Grand Ballroom in the UK Student Center has been named for Frank H. Harris, who served as the Student Center's director from 1966 to 1973 and again from 1980 to 1997. He also was the first chairman of the board of directors of the National Entertainment Conference, a national organization with more than 1,000 members comprised of colleges, universities, and agencies that provide entertainment, products, and services to colleges and universities. Harris also was the Student Government advisor for many years. The National Association for Campus Activities named an award in his honor: the Frank Harris Outstanding Student Government Advisor Award, presented annually to an outstanding professional in the field.

### 23. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Kerri Lynn Ashurst, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension, received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for “Kentucky Operation: Military Kids,” to raise community awareness of issues of military youth and families throughout the state; build local community capacity to provide sustainable support services to military youth and families; and to implement educational, recreational, and social outreach programs wherever military children, youth, and families live.

Paul Bertsch, Jason Unrine, and Olga Tsyusko, Plant and Soil Sciences, have been tapped by the national Center for Environmental Implications of NanoTechnology to contribute to understanding the transformations of nanomaterials in soil as well as the environmental toxicology and ecosystem biology of nanomaterials released to the environment. The core research team of the Duke University-based center is composed of internationally recognized leaders in the field.

Carol Cottrill, Pediatric Cardiology, was named the 2008 recipient of the Roman Catholic Church Extension Society’s Lumen Christi Award for her lifesaving ministry in mission areas of Appalachia and her generous presence in caring for poor families in desperate need of medical care. The national award (which means “Light of Christ”) is presented annually to recognize outstanding missionary work in America.

Lori Garkovich, Community and Leadership Development, was awarded the Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southern Rural Development Center for her commitment to the community, students, research, and extension.

Eric Grulke, Chemical and Materials Engineering, was elected to a three-year term (2008-2010) on the board of directors of the Engineering Research Council. The ERC, composed of elected members from academia, industry, and government, addresses engineering research issues for the American Society of Engineering Educators, which is the organization representing all engineering disciplines.

Edward D. Hall, Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center, has been inducted into the National Spinal Cord Injury Association’s Hall of Fame.

John Huntley, Earth and Environmental Sciences, had an article highlighted as an “Editor’s Pick” in a mid-October issue of *Science*. The article, “Testing Limiting Similarity in Quaternary Terrestrial Gastropods,” examined the size and shape of Quaternary endemic land snails from the Canary Islands through the past 42,500 years. Their results suggest that limiting similarity, as seen in both ecological character displacement and communitywide character displacement, is a transient ecological phenomenon rather than a long-term evolutionary process.

William R. Markesbery, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, was presented Alltech’s Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his outstanding career and contributions leading to the elucidation of pathogenic mechanisms in Alzheimer’s disease, its early detection, and prevention.

Barry Russell, Auxiliary Services, was recently honored as UK’s first Supervisor of the Year by UK Work-Life. Russell was recognized for his leadership, as well as for the supportive practices he has implemented on behalf of the employees he supervises.



Charles D. Smith, UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, received Alltech's Scientific Medal of Excellence in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of presymptomatic Alzheimer's disease neuro-imaging.

Diane Snow, Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center, has been named the Distinguished University Scientist for 2008 by the Kentucky Academy of Sciences.

Ronald J. Werner-Wilson, Family Studies, received a \$192,662 grant from the Kentucky Health Services Cabinet for the Healthy Marriage Child Support Community Demonstration Project to facilitate a variety of research, education, and awareness activities designed to help those who choose marriage be successful in that pursuit.