

Office of the President  
January 22, 2008

1. NIH Awards College of Nursing \$1.3 Million for Biobehavioral Research Center

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded the UK College of Nursing \$1,285,376 to establish an exploratory research center. The Center for Biobehavioral Research in Self-Management of Cardiopulmonary Disease is funded for five years and will mentor faculty as they develop expertise in biobehavioral cardiovascular research. The center will fund three pilot studies initially. The center's director, Debra Moser, professor and Linda C. Gill Endowed Chair in Nursing, said the center is comprised of a diverse group of UK health professionals with an established reputation of research and mentoring. Chronic cardiac or pulmonary diseases comprise three of the top four causes of death: heart disease, cancers, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. At least one in three Americans lives with chronic cardiovascular disease; this percentage increases with age, and ultimately, one in two dies of cardiovascular disease, usually after living years with the challenge of engaging in self-management of the chronic condition.

2. Architecture Students Present Concepts for Revitalizing Downtown Lexington

Architecture students at the College of Design examined the revitalization effort that envisions a "college town" design for downtown Lexington, encompassing an area of downtown that runs from Chandler Hospital to Transylvania University. Students taking part in this project, under the direction of design faculty members Greg Luhan and Adam Wiseman, presented concepts to the public as part of an exhibit titled "Expanding Boundaries – Envisioning Collegetown" at November's Gallery Hop in Victorian Square.

3. UK Pharmacy Residency Program Wins Top National Honor for Training

UK HealthCare's pharmacy residency program has been awarded a top national honor for demonstrating superb abilities in the training of pharmacy residents. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), a national professional organization representing practicing pharmacists, recently presented the ASHP Research and Education Foundation's 2007 Pharmacy Residency Excellence Award at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas. Accepting the award on behalf of UK HealthCare was Kelly M. Smith, director of the first-year residency program from 1998 through 2007; George Davis, new program director; John Armistead, director of pharmacy services and assistant dean at the UK College of Pharmacy; and Katherine Mieure, second-year critical care pharmacy resident. The Pharmacy Residency Excellence Awards program was created with the intent of recognizing excellence and leadership in the training and mentoring of pharmacy residents – training that is crucial to the development of future leaders and raising the level of practice.

4. SEC Names Jacob Tamme Its Scholar-Athlete of the Year

UK football team tight end Jacob Tamme has been named the Southeastern Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year in a vote of the league coaches. This marks the second consecutive season that a Wildcat has been chosen SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, as Tamme joins 2006 winner Hayden Lane. It is the first time in the history of the award that one school has had back-to-back winners. Tamme completed his bachelor's degree in only three years in Integrated Strategic Communication with a 3.82 GPA. He is now in his second year of study for his Master's in Business Administration and has a 3.83 graduate school GPA. On the field, Tamme has been named first-team All-SEC two years in a row. Tamme, along with punter Tim Masthay, also was voted to the 2007 Academic All-America Team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America and sponsored by *ESPN The Magazine*.

5. UK Updates Design for Collegiate License Plate for Vehicles

Alumni, students, friends, and fans of the University of Kentucky can now show their Wildcat spirit with an all-new UK collegiate license plate. The plate features the interlocking UK athletics logo in blue against a white background and features the slogan "Go Big Blue" across the bottom. The design update is the first since the UK collegiate plate appeared in 1988. Any owner of a non-commercial motor vehicle required to be registered for Kentucky highways can request a UK license plate. The purchase and renewal of each UK plate includes a \$10 contribution to the university's general scholarship fund. UK's license plate revenue is now averaging more than \$170,000 annually.

6. UK Engineering Students Participate in KySAT Rehearsal Rocket Launch

Five UK College of Engineering students, led by faculty sponsor James Lump of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, traveled to White Sands, New Mexico, in early December to launch a test rocket in the KySAT project backed by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation. The students, who are part of a multi-university team that includes peers from Murray State University, Western Kentucky University, Morehead State University, the University of Louisville, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, were testing whether a rocket would have enough power to send a small package into a suborbital position. The test rocket failed, but it provided the team with valuable knowledge in advance of their intention to send a small cube satellite with communications capability into permanent orbit sometime in the next 18 months.

7. UK Opera Singers Advance in Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions

Vocalists from UK Opera Theatre (UKOT) sang their way to the top of district auditions for the Metropolitan Opera in November. Three of the four finalists selected at the event, the opening level of competition in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, were from UKOT. Sopranos Afton Battle and Hannah Smith and counter-

tenor Christopher Conley were selected for three of the four Kentucky District Auditions finalist positions that advanced to regional competition at the Tri-State Regional held at UK's Memorial Hall last weekend. All three finalists are pursuing master's degrees at UK. A fourth UKOT student, soprano Amanda Balltrip, took home honors as recipient of the Encouragement Award at the Kentucky District Auditions. Balltrip is an undergraduate at UK. Meanwhile, Brandy Lynn Hawkins, a graduate student in UK Opera Theatre, excelled at Tennessee's auditions for the Metropolitan Opera taking one of three finalist positions at the auditions held in Nashville, Tennessee. The mezzo-soprano advanced to regional competition at the Mid-South Region Finals in Memphis. She also was selected as a participant for the Washington National Opera (WNO) Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, a program under the leadership of Plácido Domingo and patronage of First Lady Laura Bush known for working with young singers on the verge of international careers. Hawkins, who is currently pursuing a master's degree, will start her nine-month residency at WNO in August 2008.

8. West Virginia Resident Trumpets His Appreciation for UK Liver Transplant

Charles Armistead has a lot to say, especially about his liver transplant at UK Chandler Hospital. Armistead is so enthusiastic about his experience and how it changed his life that he drives around his native West Virginia hoping people ask him about it. His license plate proudly reads "UK 300th." On Thanksgiving Day 2005, Armistead, of Elkview, West Virginia, was UK HealthCare Transplant Center's 300th liver transplant. Armistead says several people have stopped him, inquiring about the message behind the plate. He is passionate about the cause because two years ago his life was much different. His wife of 37 years awoke to find him unresponsive, in a near comatose state, slumped over in a bathroom. Doctors knew he needed a transplant soon. That is when his journey brought him to UK Chandler Hospital. Armistead received a donor liver in a 10-hour procedure, performed by Dr. Dinesh Ranjan and Dr. Thomas Johnston, that ended early on Thanksgiving Day 2005.

9. UK Jazz Ensemble Is Selected for 2007 Midwest Clinic Concert

The UK Jazz Ensemble traveled to Chicago to perform at the 2007 Midwest Clinic 61st Annual Conference. Chosen through a highly selective process, UK Jazz Ensemble is the only college jazz ensemble and one of only seven jazz ensembles of any level selected from worldwide applicants to present a concert at the international band and orchestra conference held December 18 through 22. On their way to the Midwest Clinic, the musicians held two other performances in the vicinity. The ensemble booked concerts at an Indianapolis high school and a Chicago jazz club. All the UK Jazz Ensemble performances on the trip were recorded. The ensemble is directed by Miles Osland.

10. Children's Hospital Chooses 14-year-old's Artwork for 2007 Holiday Cards

UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital chose artwork by Charlotte Eckmann, 14, daughter of Lynne and David Eckmann of Lexington, for the design for the

Department of Pediatrics' 2007 holiday cards. The holiday cards were sent to the friends and families of the Kentucky Children's Hospital as well as many physicians outside of the city of Lexington. The contest required that drawings display Stitches, the kitten mascot of the Kentucky Children's Hospital, and possess a timeless holiday theme. Stitches has represented Kentucky Children's Hospital since the summer of 2005.

11. Study Finds Transcendental Meditation May Help Reduce High Blood Pressure

People with high blood pressure may find relief from Transcendental Meditation, according to a definitive new meta-analysis of 107 published studies on stress reduction programs and high blood pressure, which was published in the December issue of *Current Hypertension Reports*. The Transcendental Meditation technique produces a statistically significant reduction in high blood pressure that is not found with other forms of relaxation, meditation, biofeedback, or stress management. The new meta-analysis reviewed randomized, controlled trials of all stress reduction and relaxation methods in participants with high blood pressure that have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Blood pressure changes for the Transcendental Meditation technique included average reductions of 5.0 points on systolic blood pressure and 2.8 on diastolic blood pressure, which were statistically significant, according to the review. The other stress reduction programs did not show significant changes in blood pressure. The new meta-analysis was conducted by researchers at the NIH-funded Institute of Natural Medicine and Prevention at Maharishi University of Management and the UK College of Medicine.

12. UK Theatre Department Presents One-act Plays by Student Playwrights

The UK Department of Theatre presented the UK Theatre One Act Play Festival in early December in the Lucille Little Black Box Theatre. The festival offered four new one act plays by student playwrights developed in the Playwriting II course taught by Herman Farrell, an assistant professor of playwriting. The student playwrights were paired with directors from the UK Department of Theatre and the directing class taught by Richard St. Peter, an adjunct faculty member and artistic director of Actors Guild of Lexington. Plays receiving workshop productions at the 2007 One Act Play Festival were *Sunrise with Esther* by Charles Baldwin, directed by Ashley Smith; *Almost* by Dan Bernitt, directed by Carolyn Sesbeau; *Service* by Ashe Farley, directed by Monica Sepulveda; and *Last Rites* by Rebecca Wright, directed by Chandano Fuller.

13. Rural Journalism Director Is Quoted in National Magazines on 2008 Senate Race

Al Cross, director of the UK Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, was recently quoted nationally discussing the political direction Kentucky could take next year. *The New Republic* and *Congressional Quarterly*, two highly acclaimed political publications, quoted the former *Courier-Journal* chief political writer as an expert on Kentucky political issues. Cross specifically discussed this year's U.S. Senate race, in which Senator Mitch McConnell is seeking a fifth term. Cross is emphasizing the need for rural journalists to follow the race and understand its importance, because it will play a key role in determining the political future of the state.

14. Informational Meeting Organizes Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative Project

School teachers, administrators, business people, civic leaders, and local government leaders met in an informational meeting to help organize the Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative Project in early December. The project brings together organizations and individuals who are committed to encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The project, currently operating in California, Florida, North Carolina, Missouri, Oregon, and Washington, has received a National Science Foundation grant to expand to additional sites across the nation. The five-year initiative will provide mini-grants and other resources to project participants.

15. Theatre Department, Stuckert Career Center Present Art Business Workshops

The UK Department of Theatre and the James W. Stuckert Career Center, in conjunction with Transylvania University and Bluegrass Community and Technical College, presented workshops titled “Learn the Business of Being an Artist” with David Diamond, theatre consultant and career coach. Two workshops were presented for freshmen and sophomores, and juniors and seniors in November in UK’s Fine Arts Building.

16. UK Chandler Hospital Security Officers Don New Uniforms

Visitors to the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital and UK HealthCare facilities will notice a change in some of the first people they see when they arrive. Security officers are wearing new uniforms designed to make them more recognizable for patients, staff, and visitors. The change was implemented to improve officers’ professional appearance and make sure visitors realize who these officers are and how they are here to help them. Currently 33 officers are assigned to provide security in and around UK HealthCare facilities.

17. Student Awards and Achievements

Mandee McGee, Dietetics, has received UK’s first Student Employee of the Year Award. She has been employed at the UK Visitor Center since 2004 as a tour guide and office worker.

Elizabeth Towles-Reeves, Educational and Counseling Psychology doctoral student, received the Alice H. Hayden Award at the annual TASH Conference for demonstrating potential for leadership in teaching, scholarship, and service on behalf of people with significant disabilities. TASH is an international membership association leading the way to inclusive communities through research, education, and advocacy.

18. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Kay Bradford, Human Environmental Sciences, Carole Gnatuk, Family and Consumer Sciences, and James Douglas Burnham, Family and Consumer Sciences,

received a \$134,713 Health Education through Extension Leadership grant for their project “Raising Kentuckians: A Nurturing Program for Families.”

Susan Cantrell, Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, Katherine McCormick, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, and Kristen Missall, Educational and Counseling Psychology, received a \$150,000 grant from the Kentucky Department of Education for their project “Early Childhood Teacher Academy – Undergraduate Project.”

Joseph L. Fink III, Pharmacy, recently received the American Society for Pharmacy Law (ASPL) Award for Best Legal Research Paper. The ASPL Legal Research Award is designed to encourage scholarly legal writing on topics relevant to practicing pharmacists or attorneys, such as pharmacy law, health law, health policy, drug policy, and other similar topics.

Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, received a \$165,145 grant from the Kentucky Department of Education for her “Deaf/Blind Project.”

Hyungsoo Kim, Human Environmental Sciences, received a \$322,205 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Health and Safety grant for the Mental Healthiness Aging Initiative.

Linda Levstik, Curriculum and Instruction, received the Jean Dresden Grambs Distinguished Career Research in Social Studies Award from the National Council for Social Studies.

Katherine McCormick, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, received a \$217,903 grant from the Kentucky Health Services Cabinet for her project “UK First Steps Technical Assistance Team.”

Ann Peden, Mary Kay Rayens, Lynne Hall, and Elizabeth Grant, Nursing, received a Best of *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* Award in the Clinical Scholarship category for their paper “Testing an Intervention to Reduce Negative Thinking, Depressive Symptoms and Chronic Stressors in Low-Income Single Mothers.” The *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* is a widely-read and respected journal featuring peer-reviewed, thought-provoking articles representing research by some of the world’s leading nurse researchers.

Kristen Perry, Curriculum and Instruction, received the J. Michael Parker Award from the National Reading Conference for her contributions to adult literacy research.

Terri Postma, Medicine fourth-year resident, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., M.D., Neurology Public Policy Fellowship, sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology. The award is given to one neurologist annually, and candidates are evaluated on the basis of their professional achievement, experience, and potential for leadership in the neurology community. The fellowship offers an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in federal policy and develop the kind of political relationships that help promote neurological interests. Postma will work in Washington, DC, for up to a year, as part of a congressional staff, committee of Congress, or in the executive branch.

James Rinehart, Education Leadership Studies, received a \$117,612 grant from the Kentucky Department of Education for his project “CEO Superintendent Network.”

Carrie Saunders, Social Work, received the Betty Triplett Award from the Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children. The award is presented to an

outstanding professional who demonstrates exceptional achievement in offering services, leading a program, advocating, and/or going beyond the call of duty for children and families.

Felicia Cumings Smith and Susan Cantrell, Center for Literacy Development, received \$312,151 for their project “Kentucky Adult Education Literacy Institute.”