

Office of the President
June 13, 2006

1. Medical Center Judged among Top 15 in the Nation for Consistent Improvement

UK HealthCare's Chandler Medical Center was ranked among the top 15 academic medical centers in the nation for having faster and more consistent organization-wide improvement than most other teaching hospitals during the past five consecutive years. It is the only academic medical center in Kentucky to make the list. Solucient, an organization that has been identifying America's top-performing hospitals since 1993 and is well-known in the health care industry, determined UK to be among the top 15 major teaching hospitals in the nation and the top 100 among all hospitals. The hospitals on the list made the greatest progress in improving hospital-wide performance over five years (2000-04) and set national benchmarks for consistent improvement in clinical outcomes, safety, hospital efficiency, financial stability, and growth.

2. Center for Pharmaceutical Science, a Boon to Biotech Industry

The \$17 million Center for Pharmaceutical Science & Technology facility was officially unveiled May 1 in a ceremony led by Gov. Ernie Fletcher, Mayor Teresa Isaac, and UK President Lee T. Todd, Jr. The 20,000 square foot building is the largest sterile pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Kentucky. Located at the UK Coldstream Research Campus, the new CPST facility will provide analysis, formulation, and manufacturing of sterile drug products for early phase clinical trials. It will be staffed by 25 professionals with experience in the global pharmaceutical industry who bring expertise in the technical and engineering aspects of pharmaceutical manufacturing, as well as in the regulatory and scientific realms. Todd pointed out that the state-of-the-art facility will be a boon to Kentucky's pharmaceutical and biotech industries, creating the type of knowledge-based jobs, innovations, and opportunities that will allow this state to compete in the global economy. The new CPST facility is unique among others worldwide as it is the first pharmaceutical manufacturing facility to produce cytotoxic and non-cytotoxic drugs in the same room at the same time. Current pharmaceutical industry practice dictates separating cytotoxic and non-cytotoxic drug manufacturing by entire buildings. By using custom-made mobile isolators, the new facility will be able to manufacture potent and more conventional drugs in the same room at the same time, revolutionizing the industry and making classical clean-room processing obsolete. These isolators will allow CPST scientists to switch quickly from one project to another, eliminating the risks of cross-contamination. Other features of the new facility include the ability to manufacture sterile liquids for injection and the capability to freeze dry injectables, a service rarely found outside of large pharmaceutical companies.

3. Special Police Patrols along Cat's Path Enhance Campus Safety

As part of the UK Safety Imperative, Cat's Path, a centralized walkway through campus with enhanced lighting and landscape improvements, was unveiled in April by President Todd, UK Police Chief McDonald Vick, and Carol Jordan, director of UK's Center for Research on Violence Against Women. The Cat's Path is marked by 80 blue-and-white Wildcat paw prints on sidewalks and designated signage on light poles. With special patrols, the UK Police Department will enhance safety for students, faculty, and staff walking along the path. After Todd announced the plan to create the Cat's Path, Jordan and Lance Broeking of Campus Services identified the most heavily traveled sidewalks and walkways and then designed the path to cover those areas. The Physical Plant Division prioritized improved lighting and pruning of large bushes along the Cat's Path, and signage was designed to allow students to identify easily the designated route. In the future, a curb cut will be added to Rose Street to make the path accessible to all students. As more funds become available, input from students will be sought to identify how the path can be expanded.

4. Classroom Renovation Effort Includes 74 Projects

President Todd unveiled a 74-project initiative to renovate, repair, and upgrade classrooms and other facilities as part of a significant effort to improve the learning and student environment on the UK campus. The \$4.2 million facilities improvement plan represents one-time, non-recurring dollars that have been reallocated internally, largely through cost-savings and efficiencies. In addition to cost-savings, Todd said, the one-time, non-recurring dollars were available for the upgrades because of UK's brighter overall fiscal picture resulting from the increase in general fund dollars approved by state legislators. Work on some of the projects already has begun and will continue in earnest throughout the summer. Highlights include renovation of the large lecture hall in the Chemistry/Physics Building, one of UK's most-used classroom and lab facilities; creation of "smart classrooms" across campus; refurbishment of carpet, classrooms, and student lounges in several buildings; upgrades to equipment and replacement of furniture in several classroom buildings; and new furniture in the Student Center and refurbishment of the Cat's Den.

5. UK Featured as Cover Story in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

The cover story of the April 28 *Chronicle of Higher Education* profiled UK's efforts to reach the ranks of the Top 20 public research universities in the nation. Including an in-depth discussion of the Top 20 Business Plan as well as a profile of President Todd, the article cites legislators, faculty members, and administrators on the feasibility of the Top 20 goal. The *Chronicle* article brings attention to UK's national recruitment of faculty and administrators from top academic and government posts, and UK's intention to contribute to a healthier, wealthier, and better-educated Kentucky.

6. First Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars Described as a Success

UK presented its first Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars on April 25. The showcase included events and displays promoting undergraduate study and achievements. The showcase featured public displays, performances, presentations, and demonstrations of designs, developments, research, and achievements. The Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars is sponsored by the Office of Experiences in Undergraduate Research and Kreative Activities (eUreKa!); Society for the Promotion of Undergraduate Research (SPUR), an undergraduate research club; and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research.

7. Industry Partnership to Advance Research into Animal Nutrigenomics

UK and Alltech Inc., a multinational biotechnology company based in Nicholasville, have joined forces to advance research into animal nutrigenomics, a relatively new area of science that could improve the diet and health of livestock. The partnership was announced recently in conjunction with the awarding of a \$1 million state grant to help Alltech build the Center for Animal Nutrigenomics and Applied Animal Nutrition in Nicholasville. In presenting the grant, Gov. Ernie Fletcher not only hailed the advancement of Kentucky's biotechnology industry but also praised "the collaboration of our biotechnology companies with our major universities."

8. President Todd Presents Diversity Awards

President Todd presented the fourth annual President's Awards for Diversity to six individuals and one unit within the university in honor and appreciation of those who have demonstrated outstanding efforts toward advancing UK's mission of embracing diversity while maintaining academic excellence. Todd joined Jaime Nebbitt and Ricardo Nazario-Colon, co-chairs of the President's Commission on Diversity, in the award presentation. The winners in their individual categories are: UK Department/Unit: James W. Stuckert Career Center; UK Student: Willie W. Craft Jr., doctoral candidate, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry; Liria Morrell, undergraduate, College of Pharmacy; and Ignacio David Acevedo-Polakovich, doctoral candidate, Psychology; UK Administrator: William H. Turner, vice president for University Engagement and associate provost for Multicultural and Academic Affairs; UK Faculty: Keith K. Schillo, associate professor, Animal and Food Sciences; and UK Staff: Deborah Danner, director of the African American Dementia Outreach Partnership, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging.

9. Research Partnership to Study the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases

E.ON U.S. and UK recently announced a three-year research partnership to study technology that could improve air quality worldwide. E.ON U.S. is committing \$1.5 million over three years to UK's Center for Applied Energy Research for research into the reduction of greenhouse gases. Specifically, researchers will examine technologies to separate, capture, and store carbon dioxide emitted by coal-fired power plants. The

impact of climate change and the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions is both an environmental and an economic issue. Kentucky is the country's third-largest producer of coal. As the most cost-effective fuel, coal is used for about 50 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States and about 90 percent of the electricity consumed in Kentucky. At the same time, carbon dioxide is a principal greenhouse gas and controlling emissions of that gas represents a critically important environmental issue.

10. Markey Cancer Center Participates in Groundbreaking Clinical Trial

Initial results of the Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, or STAR, show that the drug raloxifene, currently used to prevent and treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women, works as well as tamoxifen in reducing breast cancer risk for postmenopausal women at increased risk of the disease. The Markey Cancer Center participated in this clinical trial, one of the largest breast cancer prevention trials ever conducted.

11. UK Libraries to Take Part in Exchange Program

The UK Libraries will take part in an exchange program that will match five southeastern libraries with leaders at libraries at historically black higher education institutions. The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance and the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) announced April 25 the selection of five associate-level librarians from the Library Alliance Leadership Program to participate in a pilot exchange program with UK Libraries and four other member libraries of ASERL during the summer of 2006. The exchange program, funded by a \$20,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, hopes to provide HBCU librarians with an opportunity to address specific issues of strategic importance to their respective libraries with the assistance and expertise of ASERL library leaders and to foster additional collaboration between ASERL and HBCU libraries.

12. Supplier Diversity Fair Promotes Minority- and Women-owned Businesses

In an ongoing effort to bring more diversity to its vendor relationships, UK hosted its annual Supplier Diversity Fair May 17. The goal of this year's fair was to promote minority- and women-owned business participation at UK and within the local community. Representatives from the businesses that participated were available to discuss their products and services with university business managers, office managers, and others responsible for making purchases. Other local organizations and companies that wanted to increase their vendor business with minority- and women-owned businesses were also invited.

13. UK Hosts Annual Hispanic Health Fair

UK hosted its annual Hispanic Health Fair May 21. Free physical exams, women's exams, diabetes screenings, blood pressure screenings, vision screenings, and more services were offered. The event was free and open to the public.

14. Study of Near-death Experiences Published in *Neurology*

UK HealthCare neurologist, Dr. Kevin Nelson, claims that people who have had near-death experiences have different arousal systems controlling the sleep-wake states from people who have not had a near-death experience. Nelson's new study, published in the April 11, 2006, issue of *Neurology*, the scientific journal of the American Academy of Neurology, garnered national and international media interest. Among those reporting on his study were ABC News, BBC News, and United Press International.

15. Fund for Endowed Chair in Women's Health and Rheumatology Established

Supporters of women's health research have the chance to contribute directly to advances in the understanding and treatment of diseases affecting women through a new research partnership between Central Kentucky Research Associates Inc. (CKRA) and UK HealthCare – the Jacqueline Y. Smith Endowed Chair in Women's Health and Rheumatology. For every dollar given or pledged toward the Smith Endowed Chair, the Kentucky Research Challenge Trust Fund will contribute matching funds. If CKRA and UK reach their fundraising goal of \$500,000, the remaining \$500,000 required for the endowment will come from RCTF and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

16. Sports Marketing Academy Attracts National Audience

For the ninth consecutive year, people from across the region and around the nation converged for the annual UK Sports Marketing Academy. The academy explored the dual concepts of marketing of sports, and marketing through sports, in a sophisticated yet practical forum held May 8-11. The academy, which offers professional certification to attendees in a three-year intensive program cycle, is presented through a partnership between UK's Center for Sports Marketing within the Gatton College of Business and Economics, UK Athletics, and Host Communications.

17. Language Festival Promotes Intercultural Understanding

Up to 2,000 of the best language students in Kentucky competed at the Kentucky World Language Festival May 13 at UK. Students in 4th through 12th grades competed in categories ranging from Oral Proficiency to Drama and Chorus. Each year, the festival brings together avid language learners from across the state, promoting language learning and intercultural understanding in the state's primary and secondary schools.

18. Ballantine Symposium Focused on Supervision

The College of Social Work hosted the third annual John R. Ballantine Symposium on Supervision on May 9. Drawn from professional literature and practice wisdom, the symposium discussions focused on how supervision can effectively impact practice.

19. Corner on Classics Series Features Grammy and Tony Winners

The Singletary Center for the Arts has announced the line-up for the 2006/07 Corner on Classics Series. One of the most diverse series ever presented, the series includes both Grammy and Tony winners and selections ranging from opera to African drumming and classical tap to folk dance. Corner on Classics opens Oct. 6 with *An Evening of Chamber Music* with Mark O'Connor and the Appalachian Waltz Trio. O'Connor, a Grammy winner, is recognized as one of the most gifted contemporary composers in America. He has been hailed as "brilliantly original" by the *Seattle Times* and as "one of the most talented and imaginative artists working in music – any music – today" by the *Los Angeles Times*. To reserve tickets, call 257-4929 or visit www.uky.edu/scfa.

20. "Shopping" for a Better Future at UK

The university hosted a one-day college awareness program for high school sophomores and juniors interested in math, science, and technology careers. The program "Shopping for a Better Future" focused on providing families information on how students should plan to continue their education, why math and science are important subjects, and how parents can help their children prepare for their college careers.

21. Golf Classic Benefits Disabled Job Seekers

The Kentucky Business Leadership hosted its first Celebrity Golf Classic April 29 at Kearney Hill Golf Links near Lexington. Proceeds from the event will directly benefit job seekers with disabilities, expand the labor force for Kentucky businesses, and impact economic growth in the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Business Leadership Network, housed and supported by the UK Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute, is a business-led organization that serves as a clearinghouse for Kentucky employers who want to hire or retain qualified employees with disabilities. The network is supported by area businesses including Chase, Lexmark, Toyota, Keeneland, Holiday Inn North, the UK Federal Credit Union, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and UK.

22. Trauma Service Addresses Risky Behavior Among High School Students

UK HealthCare's Trauma Service Injury Prevention Program sponsored a "Ghost Out" on May 12 at East Jessamine High School, Nicholasville. Ghost Out is supported by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Drive Smart Program, which targets the high school student population. The program addresses issues such as drug and alcohol use, making risky decisions, and the consequences associated with these behaviors. Ghost Out is a community effort involving Jessamine Emergency Medical Services, Jessamine Police Department, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and UK Emergency Department nurses.

23. Center for Literacy Development Attracts National Leaders in the Field

The UK Collaborative Center for Literacy Development sponsored the Kentucky Literacy Research Symposium May 11-12. The event brought the foremost thinkers and researchers in the field of literacy research to Kentucky to address issues of national, state, and local importance. The event served as a springboard for future initiatives in which Kentucky is showcased and viewed nationally as a literacy “think tank” where scholars, researchers, and practitioners come together to critically examine and discuss issues in literacy research and practice.

24. UK Art Students Dominate the First University Open

Submissions from UK Department of Art students dominated the first University Open, a juried competition between undergraduate fine arts students at colleges and universities in Kentucky presented as part of the Best of the Bluegrass. Seventeen UK students were among the 33 finalists displaying artwork in the event’s free exhibition that ran through June 4 at the ArtsPlace Gallery in downtown Lexington. The 33 finalists were selected from 190 entries that represented 11 public and private colleges in the state. The finalists from UK were Cara Dee Grandy, Kristina Griesshaber, Ryan Habeeb, Caitlin Heinz, Matthew Herron, Rachael Kerley, Michael Martinez, Andrew McCowley, Michelle McGeary, Brandon Nicholas, Libby Purcell, Eric Rickert, Cassie Stokes, James Ryan Summers, David Tucker, Catherine Van Kempen, and Matt Wiseman. Purcell, a senior from Cynthiana, took second place honors for her chromogenic print, *Military Jacket*. Martinez, a senior from Versailles, received third place honors for *Cargo*, a piece made from wood and porcelain.

25. Straus Building to Serve Behavioral Science Research

UK increased research space by approximately 5,000 square feet with the recent dedication of the Robert Straus Behavioral Science Research Building at 515 Oldham Court. The facility, named for former department chair Straus, will house laboratory space for Department of Behavioral Science investigators and their research teams. Straus came to Kentucky in 1956 to work on the planning and development of the UK Chandler Medical Center and founded the UK College of Medicine Department of Behavioral Science in 1959. He served as chair of the department for 28 years.

26. Southern States Communication Association Accept Students Research Papers

Several research papers from undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Communications and Information Studies were accepted for the annual Southern States Communication Association conference. UK had the largest number of undergraduate papers accepted at the conference.

27. Grant to Address Critical Shortage of Language Teachers in Kentucky

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages received a \$143,000 grant to address the critical shortage of highly qualified world language teachers in Kentucky's primary and secondary schools. The grant, titled "Developing and Assessing Communicative Competence in the World Language Classroom," falls under the Improving Educator Quality program and is directed by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and supported by federal "No Child Left Behind" funds.

28. New Members of Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame Named

Six journalists were named to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame during a ceremony sponsored by the UK Journalism and Telecommunications Alumni Association. The 2006 Hall of Fame inductees are: Don Neagle, owner/operator of WRUS-AM in Russellville; Larry Spitzer, a retired *Louisville Courier-Journal* photographer; Claude Sullivan, longtime Kentucky Wildcat announcer for WVLK and the Standard Oil Network (posthumous induction); David Thompson, executive director of the Kentucky Press Association; Ferrell Wellman, former WAVE-TV Frankfort bureau chief and now ECU faculty member; and Bob White, retired as "Mr. High School Sports" with the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. The six new honorees join 142 other journalists inducted into the Hall of Fame since its 1981 inception.

29. Student Awards and Achievements

UK Football linebacker Terry Clayton, a junior majoring in kinesiology in the College of Education, received the Carol S. Adelstein Outstanding Student Award. The award is presented annually to the student with a disability who best serves as an inspiration to the university community.

Graduate student Ester Dittert received a three-year, \$120,000 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Dittert, who works with Sue Nokes, associate professor in biosystems and agricultural engineering, is developing a mathematical model of the metabolism of a bacterium that could be used to increase the efficiency of ethanol fermentation.

At the 2006 UK Honors and Recognition Awards Program over 100 students were recognized for their achievements during their academic careers. The Otis A. Singletary Outstanding Female Senior Award went to Monica L. Hobson, and the Singletary Outstanding Male Senior Award went to William L. Nash. Ellen H. Sawyer received the Outstanding Student Junior Award, Nicholas C. Phelps received the Outstanding Student Sophomore Award, and Hilary C. Morton received the Outstanding Student Freshman Award.

A Lexington youth advocate, a Robinson Scholar and a fraternity president received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion at UK's 139th Commencement on May 7 in recognition of their commitment to community service. Graduating female senior Monica Leigh Hobson of Hi Hat, a participant in Robinson Scholars program, has served as a mentor to other program participants, as a College of Arts and Sciences student ambassador, and as an intern in the Floyd County Family Court. Graduating male senior

Daniel Stephen Turner of Kevil, president of UK's Phi Delta Theta fraternity and a student in the UK Honors Program, was cited for his leadership in the Honors Program, his social activism regarding educational and economic inequality, and his summer work with disabled children in an impoverished town outside Lima, Peru.

30. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Dr. Joseph R. Berger was named treasurer of the American Neurological Association. Berger is the Ruth L. Works Professor and chair of the Department of Neurology. He previously served as the chair of the membership committee and as councilor for the ANA.

Four professors and two teaching assistants were singled out as outstanding teachers with the Provost Awards for Outstanding Teaching. Suketu P. Bhavsar, director of the Honors Program and associate professor of physics and astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the award for tenured faculty with more than 10 years at UK. John R. Thelin, professor of educational policy studies in the College of Education, received the award for tenured faculty with less than 10 years at UK. William C. Robertson Jr., a neurologist and professor in the clinical title series in the departments of neurology and pediatrics, received the award for non-tenured faculty with clinical titles. Czarena Crofcheck, assistant professor of biosystems and agricultural engineering, received the award for non-tenured faculty. Mami Hayashida, teaching assistant in the keyboard department in the School of Music, received the teaching assistant award. Gilbert Lepadatu, teaching assistant in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the teaching assistant award.

Lois Mai Chan, professor in the School of Library and Information Science, was named the recipient of the 2006 Beta Phi Mu Award to be presented in June at the American Library Annual Conference in New Orleans. This award is sponsored by Beta Phi Mu, the international Library and Information Science Honor Society. It is a prestigious, international honor established to recognize outstanding contributions by faculty to library and information science education and research.

The Politics of Education Association has awarded UK College of Education Dean James G. Cibulka with the prestigious Stephen K. Bailey Award. Stephen K. Bailey was a prominent political scientist from Syracuse University who was instrumental in founding the politics of education as a field of study in the 1960s. The Bailey Award recognizes scholars and theorists who have shaped the intellectual and research agenda within the field of politics of education. Cibulka has written extensively on the politics and policy of urban education, interest groups, and education accountability. He has been active in education policy issues in Kentucky and other states.

Dr. John Conklin Jr. recently became the first ophthalmologist in the Lexington area to perform the Visian Implantable Collamer Lens (ICL) surgery for nearsightedness. The Visian ICL is a foldable, single collamer-lens that can be inserted through a small self-healing incision. The Visian ICL procedure is an excellent option for patients who do not qualify for laser refractive surgery alone because of an extreme refractive error or corneas that are structurally inappropriate.

The Ken Freedman Outstanding Advisor Awards were presented during a ceremony April 19. Amy Craiglow, an academic counselor in the Center of Academic

and Tutorial Services in UK Athletics, received the Professional Advisor Award. Lisa Broome-Price, assistant director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities and for External Scholarships, received the Faculty Advisor Award. The awards recognize exceptional academic advising.

The National Association of College Auxiliary Services-South appointed Ben Crutcher, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services, as professional development coordinator during the 2006 annual conference held recently in Galveston, Texas.

Dr. Diane Davey, professor and director of cytopathology and the Cytopathology Fellowship Program at the Chandler Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was recently accepted into the highly prestigious Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program. The ELAM Program for women is the nation's only in-depth program focusing on preparing senior women faculty at schools of medicine to move into positions of institutional leadership where they can effect positive change.

Several faculty members from the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition made presentations during Digestive Disease Week, May 20-25, in Los Angeles, Calif. The conference is considered the premier international gastroenterology meeting with approximately 15,000 in attendance. Presenters were Dr. Willem de Villiers, division chief and director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program; Dr. Liz Selby, Dr. Trevor Winter, Dr. Houssam Mardini, Dr. Erik Eckhardt, Dr. Helieh Oz, and Dr. Jian Zhong. Topics included disease pathogenesis in Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and research findings related to anti-inflammatory protection of green tea extracts and other antioxidants in the liver.

Gatton College of Business and Economics Management area professor Walter Ferrier was recently recognized as having published one of the "most interesting" management research articles of all time. In a 2004 survey, members of the editorial board of the Academy of Management Journal were asked to nominate up to three empirical articles related to management research published in any academic journal over the past 100 years that they regarded as particularly interesting. The results of the survey were published in a recent Academy of Management Journal editors' forum, "What Makes Management Research Interesting, and Why Does It Matter?" Ferrier is the Gatton Endowed Associate Professor of Strategic Management at UK. His 1999 article, "The Role of Competitive Action in Market Share Erosion and Industry Dethronement: A Study of Industry Leaders and Challengers," was identified as one of the top 20 most interesting articles.

The American Educational Research Association presented Thomas R. Guskey, professor in the College of Education's Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, with one of its major awards during the organization's recent annual conference in San Francisco. Guskey accepted the Relating Research to Practice Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions individuals have made toward increasing practitioner and lay-group understanding of how education research can improve education practice.

Ellen Hahn, professor in the College of Nursing, was selected to receive the William E. Lyons Award for Outstanding Service presented by the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration and the Department of Political Science.

Dr. James W. Holsinger Jr., the Wethington Chair in the Health Sciences and professor of medicine, received the Kentucky Hospital Association's 2006 Award of Excellence. Holsinger is chancellor emeritus of the UK Chandler Medical Center and past secretary for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Dr. Darren Johnson, chair of the Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine Department, has been named the team physician for the Lexington Wanderers FC soccer team and the department will be the official clinic of the team. The Wanderers are a USASA amateur soccer team based in Lexington.

Craig S. Miller recently became the youngest recipient of the American Academy of Oral Medicine's Abraham Reiner Diamond Pin Award. It is the highest award presented by the AAOM, and is given for outstanding and lifetime service to the academy and the field of oral medicine. Miller is a professor of oral medicine at the College of Dentistry and a professor of microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics at the College of Medicine. He also serves as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health.

Ramona Rush, professor/dean emerita of communications of the College of Communications and Information Studies, received the 2006 Master Conservationist Award from the Menifee County Soil and Water Conservation District. Rush has been the owner of a tree farm for 10 years in Menifee County on which she has worked to improve its appearance and natural resources by adding wildlife ponds, boxes, and cover; planting thousands of trees and appropriate grasses; retiring erosive roads; stocking ponds and other conservation practices.