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Office of the President
March 7, 2006

1. President Announces Legislative Priorities

On January 10, 2006, University of Kentucky President Lee T. Todd, Jr. announced the university's legislative priorities to help hire more faculty and researchers, alleviate a significant shortage of pharmacists, and greatly improve health care in Kentucky. The top priority for the legislative session that continues through the end of March is a request for additional operating funds for the university to add faculty, increase staff and faculty salaries, and hold down tuition increases. With the additional operating dollars, UK will begin hiring additional faculty to lower class sizes and continue making strides to increase the amount of research being conducted into areas such as Parkinson's disease, lung cancer, and heart disease. Increasing the number of faculty and researchers is the cornerstone of UK's 15-year, Top 20 Business Plan announced in December.

2. University Unveils New Advertising Campaign

In February, the university unveiled a series of television ads designed to show the impact UK has on Kentucky in the areas of education, economic development, and health care. The three ads, which will run statewide for several weeks, examine different programs at UK, highlighting the university's mission of education, research, and service. Similarly themed radio and newspaper ads will run statewide over the next several months. The first ad – titled "Commitment" – focuses on UK faculty and students who are excelling in fields as diverse as engineering, medicine, social work, chemistry, and business. The second ad – titled "Lemonade" – describes the university's largest federal grant, a \$22 million initiative to work on improving math and science curriculums in Appalachian middle schools. The third ad – titled "Smile" – describes the College of Dentistry's mobile outreach efforts, which have helped improve the oral health of more than 250,000 Kentuckians in the last 25 years.

3. College of Pharmacy Collaborates with Norton Healthcare

The UK College of Pharmacy and Norton Healthcare are partnering to bring a unique Clinical Education Center (CEC) to Louisville that will help address the area's pharmacist shortage. Norton Healthcare has pledged \$1.15 million over five years to establish the first CEC in Louisville, based on Norton Healthcare's downtown campus. Some 20 to 25 fourth-year UK pharmacy students will be based in Louisville beginning this fall. The College of Pharmacy hopes the agreement with Norton Healthcare will be a model for future partnerships in developing Clinical Education Centers in other medical centers throughout the Commonwealth.

4. NEH Awards Gaines Center for the Humanities a \$220,000 Matching Grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the UK Gaines Center for the Humanities one of only four challenge grants presented to colleges in December 2005. The Gaines Center for the Humanities was the only public higher education program to garner such funding. The NEH grant recognizes UK's strong performance in its undergraduate programming in the humanities. The \$220,000 grant, to be matched four-to-one by private fundraising over a four-year period, will create an endowment of almost \$1.1 million to enhance public programming and to create the John R. Gaines Endowed Chair in the Humanities. The primary role of the occupant of this chair will be to serve as director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities.

5. School of Management Ranked Among Top 20

The information systems faculty of the School of Management in the Gatton College of Business and Economics has been ranked among the Top 20 in the world for research productivity in a 2005 study published by the Association for Information Systems.

6. DanceBlue Raises \$123,323 for Pediatric Oncology Clinic

After a single year of fundraising that ended with a 24-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon, 180 UK students accomplished an inspiring achievement – \$123,323 for the Pediatric Oncology Clinic. DanceBlue, the UK Student Volunteer Center's new student-run philanthropy, involved thousands of students in more than 50 student organizations raising money on behalf of the Golden Matrix Fund. The fund provides families who have a child with cancer with emotional support and financial aid, and supports pediatric cancer research at UK. In addition to doing fundraising, 15 of these organizations also participate in the Adopt-A-Family program, which pairs students with the families of pediatric cancer patients. Students provide emotional support for the families and organize fun activities for the patients and siblings.

7. Grant to Fund Study of Health Issues in Rural Kentucky

The Kentucky Institute of Medicine, staffed by the UK Office of Health Research and Development, has received a grant for \$214,500 from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Inc. The grant was awarded for a project to develop a comprehensive report on the status of rural health in Kentucky. The faculty and staff conducting this research will be guided by a task force of distinguished Kentuckians representing a broad array of health professions and services. Health issues to be covered by the task force include demographics, prevention and public health, chronic diseases, health insurance, health work force, health institutions, economics, and social services.

8. Governor Funds Scholarships for Mining Engineering Students

Governor Ernie Fletcher announced \$170,000 in grants to invest in Kentucky's coal workforce, including \$50,000 in scholarships for 30 mining engineering students at UK College of Engineering. The scholarships will target students from Kentucky's traditional coal counties.

9. First Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies Funded

The Catholic Newman Center announced the creation of the university's first endowed chair in Catholic studies. The position was funded by a gift from UK pediatric cardiologist Dr. Carol Cottrill and her husband, Tom Rolfes, a retired religion teacher. The announcement is a significant step toward the creation of a Catholic Studies program at UK. Such a program will support public lectures, a wide range of interdisciplinary courses for undergraduate students, visiting distinguished professors, and travel and research opportunities for students. The College of Arts and Sciences will begin searching for a prominent scholar to fill the position for the 2007-08 academic year. The Cottrill-Rolfes Chair will be placed in an academic department such as philosophy, history, or English, depending on the faculty member's area of expertise.

10. Nursing Graduates Surpass National Average

The 2005 College of Nursing Bachelor of Sciences graduates achieved a 98 percent pass rate for first-time takers of the National Council Licensure Examination, surpassing the national average of 84.1 percent. The exam is administered through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

11. Center of Minimally Invasive Surgery Opens New Facility

UK HealthCare held a grand opening of its new education and research facility for the Center of Minimally Invasive Surgery in February. The 1,500-square-foot complex will house education, research, communication, and training resources for the multidisciplinary minimally invasive surgery group. During the weeklong showcase, surgeons offered hands-on demonstrations to health professionals, as well as the public, in the new multidisciplinary facility.

12. Ovarian Cancer Screening Program Announces Research Results

The UK Ovarian Cancer Screening Program presented results from an ongoing, 18-year research study that demonstrate that annual screening improves early detection and can save women's lives. In recognition of the findings of this research trial, Kentucky women were encouraged to participate in free ovarian cancer screening. Screening is performed at UK HealthCare's Markey Cancer Center's Whitney-Hendrickson Building, and outreach screening sites in Elizabethtown, Prestonsburg, Maysville, Somerset, and Paducah.

13. Ambati's Findings Could Have Far-reaching Effects

Dr. Jayakrishna Ambati, vice chair of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, announced a discovery from his lab that will affect the future of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) treatment and research. The earliest clinical indicator of AMD is the presence of drusen, or extracellular deposits that accumulate beneath the retinal pigmented epithelium. It has been unclear if or how drusen can provoke the development of the wet form of AMD. Drusen in patients with AMD contain components known as complement C3 and C5. Ambati's lab has

identified that bioactive fragments of these components, known as C3a and C5a, are present in patients whose AMD progresses beyond the early dry stage and into the later wet stage. Ambati's research concludes that the presence of the C3a and C5a components in drusen are not only markers of AMD that will develop into the late-stage form of the disease, but that they are in fact causal. The presence of these components stimulates the progression of AMD. In the future, patients with early-stage AMD may be screened to determine if these effectors exist in their drusen. If they are present, then these patients could be considered at "high risk" for progression to advanced AMD. The next step for Ambati's research is to develop a substance that can block the effectors, halting the progression of AMD from the dry to wet stages. His lab is already testing such substances that could potentially be used in patients with "high-risk" drusen. Ambati's research, which was supported by the National Eye Institute, is published in the current issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

14. UK Joins Global Effort to Study Infectious Animal Diseases

UK researchers will join more than 40 scientists from universities, institutes, and U.S. Department of Agriculture labs and industry researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and other institutions in a global effort to develop the tools needed to create vaccines and tests for infectious animal diseases that threaten agriculture and the food supply. The USDA noted that the effort is designed to accelerate the characterization and treatment of a range of ailments such as mad cow and avian influenza. Research will focus on six economically important species and their relatives: cattle, poultry, horses, swine, catfish, and trout.

15. IHDI Focuses on Disability Law

The Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute will conduct a spring seminar lecture series focusing on topics related to all persons with disabilities. Topics range from disability law to information on the criminal justice system and individuals with disabilities. In addition, IHDI will conduct a series of seminars aimed at helping families with children who have developmental disabilities plan for their future. The Hope for Tomorrow project, a collaborative initiative between IHDI, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, and the Retirement Research Foundation, seeks to provide valuable information to families of individuals with disabilities so they are able to navigate resource and financial planning.

16. Artist Inspires a New Coalition on Campus

A new partnership between the African American Forum, Inc., the UK Art Museum, and the Department of Art brought internationally renowned artist Willie Cole to Lexington in January. Cole presented a public lecture, "The Iron Chose Me," at the Downtown Arts Center. Later, he spoke to UK art students in an art professions class and provided critiques as part of the Distinguished Visiting Artists and Scholars Series. Cole attended the 2006 African American Ball as the ball's featured artist. The artist's work is currently on display at the UK Art Museum as an exhibition titled "Afterburn – Willie Cole: selected works 1997 – 2004" running through March 19.

17. Journalism Inducts Six into Hall of Fame

Six journalists will be named to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame on April 11 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. The next day the UK School of Journalism and Telecommunications will hold its 29th annual Joe Creason Lecture at 6 p.m. in the Singletary Center for the Arts. This year's presenter of the Creason Lecture is David S. Broder, national political correspondent with *The Washington Post*. The 2006 Hall of Fame inductees to be named 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*.

18. Student Awards and Achievements

Andrew Bozio, English senior and Gaines Center for the Humanities fellow, presented the 12th annual Edward T. Breathitt Undergraduate Lectureship in the Humanities in the William T. Young Library. Bozio's lecture, titled "This Machine Kills Fascists: The German Film Industry from 1919 to 1934," focused on how film pre-exposed the Germans at the time helping the Nazis gain power.

Karen Greenough and Dejene N. Debsu, Anthropology doctoral students, were awarded grants from the National Science Foundation for their dissertation research. Greenough received a grant for her study titled "Becoming Mobile Pastoralists: Desedentarization among the Ful'be of Tanout, Niger." Her research focuses on the nomadic pastoral people in West Africa who have changed their livelihoods from settled cultivators to nomadic pastoralists. Debsu is currently in Ethiopia conducting his dissertation research on "Land Tenure and Conflict Dynamics in Pastoral Areas of Southern Ethiopia." Debsu's research examines the changes in systems of land tenure, conflicts over the land, and the resolution of these conflicts among pastoralists.

19. Faculty and Staff Awards and Achievements

Alessandra Bauman and Rebecca Flanagan, Public Health, were recently honored as recipients of the College of Public Health Employee of the Year Award for their ongoing contributions and commitment.

Daniel Breazeale, Philosophy, delivered the 2005-06 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor Lecture.

Darren L. Johnson, Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, was named Sports Medicine Person of the Year by the Kentucky Athletic Trainer's Society.

Robert Olson, Middle East Politics, published *The Goat and the Butcher: Nationalism and State-formation in Kurdistan-Iraq since the Iraqi War*. Olson's book analyzes the competition and struggle between nationalism (the goat), capitalism (the butcher), and ethnonationalism (the Kurds), and the processes of state formation using Kurdistan-Iraq as a case study.

Jeffrey Peters, French, was recently awarded the Modern Language Association of America's 13th annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Literary

Studies. The award was given for his book *Mapping Discord: Allegorical Cartography in Early Modern French Writing*, which was published by the University of Delaware Press in 2004.

Erik Reece, English, published his first book *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness, Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia*. In addition, Reece has been awarded the John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism by Columbia University in New York for his essay "Death of a Mountain."

Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, Art, recently received three awards in recognition of his work. Sandoval was presented with the Al Smith Fellowship in Visual Arts from the Kentucky Arts Council; won the Jo Ritz Memorial Merit Award at the 39th Mid-States Craft Exhibition in Evansville, Ind.; and was selected as a finalist for the 2005 Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder's Prize in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gerald Smith, History, is one of three scholars in Kentucky to compile a multi-year project for The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia. The encyclopedia, a first of its kind, is due for publication in 2011 from the University Press of Kentucky. UK has joined the effort to develop the publication, pledging support and creating a Web site (www.uky.edu/kaae) for the project.