

PR 1

Office of the President
April 30, 2019

1. UK Takes National Championship in Debate

The University of Kentucky Debate Team defeated the University of Georgia to become the 2019 National Debate Tournament (NDT) champions. The NDT was hosted by the University of Minnesota. Dan Bannister, Anthony Trufanov, Jacinda Rivas, and Genevieve Hackman traveled to Minneapolis for the four-day event. They were joined by 76 other teams from across the country. Over the course of eight highly competitive preliminary debates, Bannister and Trufanov won all 24 ballots to claim victory. This is the second win at the NDT for UK and the first in 33 years. The debate program, directed by David Arnett, is housed in the UK College of Communication and Information.

2. UK's David A. Brennen, Sonja Feist-Price Named Prestigious ACE Fellows

David A. Brennen, Dean of the College of Law, and Sonja Feist-Price, Vice President for Institutional Diversity at the University of Kentucky, have been selected to participate in the American Council on Education's (ACE) Fellows Program, the longest running leadership development program in the United States. Brennen and Feist-Price are two of 39 emerging college and University leaders chosen for the 2019-20 class of ACE Fellows. Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and staff for senior positions in college and University administration through its distinctive and intensive nominator-driven, cohort-based mentorship model.

3. Eight Commitments to Turn Shared Goals into Common Ground

For more than two hours on April 2, University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto met with approximately 100 students. In an effort to turn shared goals into common ground, he made eight commitments, based on issues put forward by the Black Student Advisory Council and the Basic Needs Campaign. In summary, the challenges center on ensuring that basic needs, such as housing and food security, are met and that the University is doing everything it can to create a community of belonging for everyone.

4. Taskforce Formed to Assess Mental-Health on Campus

A taskforce has been formed to assess mental health services related to student well-being on campus. The taskforce, chaired by Donna Arnett and Margaret Pisacano, will work to assess the current range of support services provided to students and make recommendations. Further, the

taskforce will remain in place over the long term to gather feedback on campus and throughout the country and continue to provide input to senior administrators about these critical issues.

5. UK, Partnering for Progress in \$2.1 Billion Campaign

Citing Louisville's importance as an economic engine for the state, the University of Kentucky kicked off *Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign* in front of more than 250 people in Louisville on March 19. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer launched the regional kickoff, welcoming the crowd at the city's new Omni Hotel downtown. In early November, the Campaign began its regional and national push in front of a packed house of donors, alums, and other members of the UK family at Anderson Pavilion in Cincinnati. These, and future regional kickoff events, are strengthening partnerships as part of UK's \$2.1 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign.

6. 'One Day for UK' Dedicated to 24 Hours of Giving

On April 17, the University of Kentucky rallied alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students, and fans to support the campus community through "One Day for UK." During the 24-hour Campaign, donors were encouraged to support the college, unit, or cause of their choice. "One Day for UK" also supports the University's comprehensive campaign, *Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign*, which increases opportunities for student success, funds innovative research, improves health care, strengthens the alumni network, and enhances athletic programs.

7. UK Celebrates 14 Years of 24 Hours for the Kids

In its 14th year, DanceBlue raised a total of \$1,880,954.88, money that will be used to support the children and families battling pediatric cancer in the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic. DanceBlue is UK's largest student-run philanthropy — a yearlong fundraising effort involving thousands of UK students, culminating in a 24-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon. Since the organization's launch in 2006, DanceBlue has raised more than \$15.3 million.

8. College of Social Work Launches Suicide Prevention and Exposure Lab

The College of Social Work's new Suicide Prevention and Exposure Laboratory (SPEL) is explicitly dedicated to examining suicide and its impact. More specifically, SPEL will focus on research related to exposure, prevention and the understanding of this phenomenon. Generating empirical knowledge will also allow for a broader and deeper understanding of suicide. Professor Julie Cerel, who will serve as the lab's director and principal investigator, currently oversees a number of national and international studies related to suicide.

9. UK Receives ACUI Facility Design Award of Excellence

The University of Kentucky has been selected by the Association of College Unions International to receive the 2019 ACUI Facility Design Award of Excellence for the Gatton Student Center. The ACUI award recognizes excellence in the design of student-centered

facilities that support campus community building and student learning. Five campuses received the award this year. The Gatton Student Center was created with the idea of building a bridge to the next generation as a mix of tradition and modification providing opportunities for faculty and students across the campus and the Commonwealth to interact and grow.

10. \$2.3 Million NIH Grant Aims to Improve Diversity in Science and Health Care

Through a five-year, \$2.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Don Frazier and Brett Spear will partner with faculty from qualified minority-serving institutions across the U.S. and Puerto Rico to help improve diversity in science and health care. The money will enable the creation of Innovative Programs for Enhancing Research Training, focused on mentoring these faculty in grant-writing and teaching skills. In addition to Frazier and Spear, the project is led by a campus wide team of grant specialists and research faculty. The new grant will allow for an extension of this help into an ongoing mentorship program. After coming to UK's campus, faculty members will be connected to others in their areas of interest. As they return to their own institutions and work on drafts, they will receive continual help and support.

11. PATHways Receives Grant to Expand Services

The PATHways program at UK HealthCare's Polk Dalton Clinic was awarded a grant from the March of Dimes to expand group prenatal education for pregnant women with opioid use disorder in the medically assisted treatment program. PATHways currently provides services to nearly 50 women, and more than 395 women have completed the program. PATHways provides guidance and support to women in early recovery throughout pregnancy but also after delivery to help ensure a healthy lifestyle. A new component of the program, which is being funded in part by the \$20,000 grant, is the opportunity to participate in more individual sessions of Jin Shin Jyutsu. The proven techniques of Jin Shin Jyutsu can potentially reduce anxiety and aid in the efforts to decrease or stop smoking.

12. UK Aims to Eliminate New HIV Infections Through Collaboration

A collaborative program aimed at preventing new HIV infections in Kentucky, as well as expanding education and care for persons living with HIV, is being launched in Northern Kentucky and throughout the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Department for Public Health and the University of Kentucky have established the Kentucky Income Reinvestment Program to improve health care delivery via disease education, prevention, treatment, and professional services for persons living with HIV through collaborations with existing Ryan White HIV/AIDS funded programs and harm reduction programs at our local health departments. The initiative will include pilot programs to fund innovative projects throughout the state to address access to care and supportive services for people living with HIV and those at highest risk.

13. Program Offers Hepatitis C Screening for Emergency Department Patients

With funding from Gilead Focus, Dr. Daniel Moore has established a non-targeted screening program in the UK HealthCare emergency departments at Chandler Hospital and Good

Samaritan Hospital. Every patient, over the age of 18, who comes in for treatment is tested for the hepatitis C virus when they have a routine blood draw. Patients are informed about the additional test and given the opportunity to opt out. However, about 85 percent of patients consent to having the test done. Since July 2018 when the program began, 14,500 had routine blood draws and had the test performed with 1,560 patients or 10.8 percent testing positive for the hepatitis C virus. In the 20 to 40-year age group, the prevalence of hepatitis C is 20 percent.

14. NCAA Awards Grant for Mental Health Research

A research team in the College of Education, has been selected to receive funding from the National Collegiate Athletic Association for a project related to college athletes' psychological well-being and mental health. The purpose of the project is to create a culturally and developmentally appropriate measure for college student-athletes that has the capacity to serve as both a screening and treatment outcome measure. The project will consist of three phases that include student-athlete and athletic staff input on content domains, follow-up feedback on the resulting measure, and an initial psychometric evaluation. UK's project was one of six selected from among 87 proposals.

15. Making Progress Toward Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target

In December of 2016, the University of Kentucky made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2025 compared to 2010 levels. The University is on track to meet or exceed this target. UK's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017-18 were 4 percent below the 2010 baseline. A report from the UK Office of Sustainability says substantial reductions were attributed to a campus wide energy conservation initiative that is coordinated in partnership with an external energy solutions company, and investments in the utility infrastructure, including the addition of new, more efficient equipment used to produce the chilled water used to cool campus buildings.

16. UK's Robinson Forest Important to Our Path Forward

As part of the Our Path Forward initiative, Robinson Forest is helping preserve the environment and protect UK's fiscal future. UK is working with The Nature Conservancy's Working Woodlands program, which allows Eastern Kentucky landowners to certify conservation efforts of forests. The conservancy calculates how much carbon is in the forest and then helps convert it into carbon credits that can be purchased by others who want to offset pollution that may be attributed to them. The effort could ultimately yield several million dollars over several years that would help meet the mission of Robinson Forest to serve Eastern Kentucky, while generating revenues for UK's efforts in the region.

17. 2019 Donations for Citations Drive Breaks Record

University of Kentucky Transportation Services' 2019 Donations for Citations drive to collect food and personal care items for Big Blue Pantry set a new record for donations to stock pantry shelves. The UK community responded by donating 3,200 pounds of food and personal care items. Over the last four years, Donations for Citations has collected 10,579 pounds of pantry

staples. Through the program, UK students and employees who have a parking citation can pay the fee by donating to the Big Blue Pantry. This year's drive was February 25 through March 8.

18. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Kristin Ashford (College of Nursing) has received the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award.

Stanley Brunn (College of Arts and Sciences) has been named a fellow in the American Association of Geographer 2019 class.

Richard Jefferies (College of Arts and Sciences) was honored with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the Southeastern Archeological Conference.

Gurney Norman and Ed McClanahan (College of Arts and Sciences) have been inducted into the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame by the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning.

Melynda J. Price (College of Law) has been named director of the John R. Gaines Center, making her the first woman and African American to lead the center.

Michael Reed (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Allan Richards (School of Art and Visual Studies) has been elected world councilor for the North American region of the International Society for Education through Art.

Brent Seales (College of Engineering) is the recipient of a \$325,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for his ground-breaking project, "Reading the Invisible Library: Rescuing the Hidden Texts of Herculaneum."

Himanshu Thapliyal (College of Engineering) has received a prestigious five-year, \$568,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award to develop circuit design techniques for energy-recovery circuits.

Carol Thompson (College of Nursing) was designated a Master of Critical Care by the Council of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

19. Student Achievements

Matthew Boggs (Law of Whitesburg, Kentucky) and Madeline Moss (Law of Covington, Kentucky) were named regional champions at the National Mock Trial Competition.

Asia Seidt (Education of Louisville, Kentucky) has been named Arthur Ashe Female Sports Scholar of the Year, selected out of 1,000 nominees.

The University of Kentucky Society of Physics has won an Outstanding Chapter and a Chapter Research Award from the Society of Physics National Office.

Ben Boutell (of Louisville, Kentucky), Michael Castlen (of Lexington, Kentucky), Zack Dalton (of Waco, Kentucky), Brady Ekman (of Louisville, Kentucky), David Foster (of Marietta, Georgia), Larkin Gensheimer (of Lexington, Kentucky), Kaleb Hilton (of Henderson, Kentucky), Harrison Hornsby (of Springville, Alabama), Joe McMullen (of Lexington, Kentucky), Drew Pungratz (of Lexington, Kentucky), Nick Rowan (of Louisville, Kentucky), Kason Speir (of Lexington, Kentucky), Charlie Starzman (of Frankfort, Kentucky), and Michael Sudduth (of Frankfort, Kentucky) have been named to the National Men's Honor Choir.

20. Alumni Achievements

Laura Schwab (College of Law) has been named president of Aston Martin the Americas, making her the first female president in the company's 105-year history.

