

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Stephanie Simmons, Executive Associate Athletics Director







SAE LEADERSHIP & PRINCIPLES

To Develop Leaders of
**CHARACTER,
COMPETENCE, &
CONSEQUENCE... FOR LIFE!**



Stephanie Simmons
Executive Associate AD

- Established Summer 2018.
- Focused on Student-Athletes' current & future success as they prepare to launch as a PRO.



Dr. Paul Downey
CATS



Amanda Brown
SA Development &
Professional Advancement



Shawn Umbrell
Impact Leadership

Andrew Hall
Director of Data Analytics
& Professional Strategy

Whitney Holmes
Director of Learning Services

WE WILL...

- **Empower people** (coaches, students, and staff) to achieve the **extraordinary**.
- Provide a **transformative student-athlete experience**.
- Create a **competitive advantage** for our coaches, teams, and student-athletes.

1. Development is a **deliberate, continuous, and progressive** process and a **mutual responsibility**.
2. Be **bridge builders**...strengthen relationships and leverage resources.
3. Better people make **better Wildcats**.
4. The **degree** is the starting





ALIGNING EFFORTS WITH OUTCOMES

Synchronized effort to take advantage of all resources available to our students.

Line of Effort 1: CATS

Line of Effort 2: SA Development & Prof. Advancement

Line of Effort 3: Impact Leadership

GRADUATES

Earn a degree or have a plan to do so.

THINKERS

Think critically and creatively.

LEARNERS

Pursue excellence and life-long learning.

TEAMMATES

Communicate and collaborate with others.

WINNERS

Be resilient and have a winner's ethos.

CITIZENS

Make a positive impact where you serve.





WILDCAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Engaging with role models and mentors to build relationships rooted in trust.

ENGAGE

EQUIP

Equipping team members with the education and training necessary for learning.

Examining team member performance and potential through purposeful feedback and reflection.

EXAMINE

EXPERIENCE

Providing challenging opportunities and developmental experiences that promote understanding and growth.





WILDCAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

FOR Coaches & Staff

- Coach's Vision and Philosophy
- Staff Roles/Responsibilities
- Established Battle Rhythms
- Ideal Athlete Model
- Iron-to-Iron Advising

ENGAGE

EQUIP

- Staff Processes
- Assistant Coach Workshops
- Staff Development
- Team Readiness Report

- Coach/Staff Evaluations
- After Action Reviews

EXAMINE

EXPERIENCE

- Coach Development Program
- Assistant Coach Development Course
- The eXchange

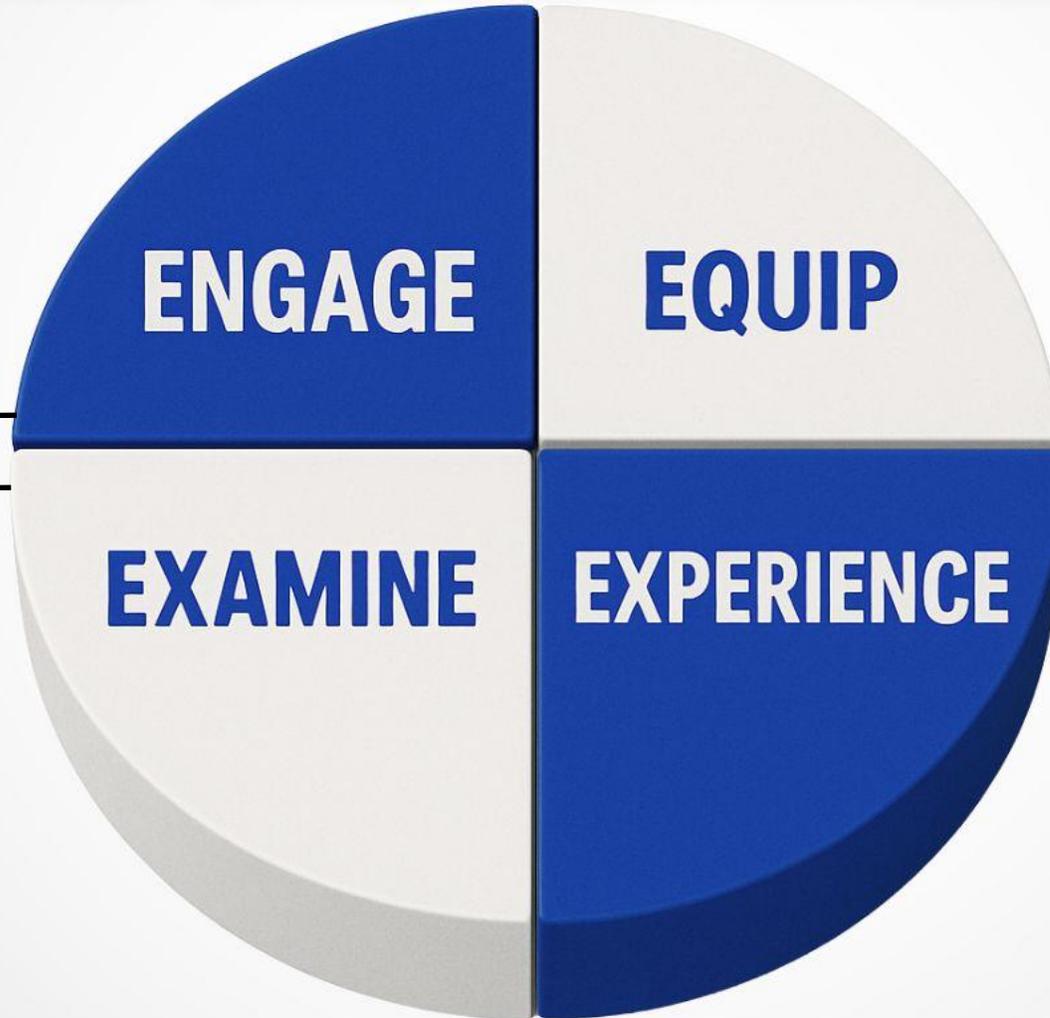




WILDCAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

For Athletes

- Crosswalk
- 1:1 Introductory Sessions
- Alumni, Employer, and Community Partners
- My New Kentucky Home



- CATS
- UK Invests
- Career Preparation Tools
- UK SA Mental Health Initiative
- Emerging Leaders Course

- Whole Person Evals
- DISC Assessments
- Behavioral Observations Tool
- Student-Athlete Resume
- Initial Launch

- My New Kentucky Home
- Career Combine
- SA Advisory Committee
- PRO Career Institute
- Community Engagement
- MNKH Ambassadors
- Team Building





ENGAGE: Alumni & Employer Connections



Crosswalk
+
Alumni Connection
Survey
+
Initial Launch
+
Employer Information
Survey

**TRANSFORMATIONAL
CONNECTIONS &
EXPERIENCES**





ENGAGE: Alumni Connections

Mollie Roden
23 posts 32,000 followers 120 following

Cross Country
Class of 2025
Marketing & Political Science
Major

SPRING 2025
PCI COHORT

PRO CAREER

UK Alumni Association

KENTUCKY

Mike Knox
23 posts 32,000 followers 120 following

Football
Class of 1989
Healthcare Business Development &
Sales Leader

PRO CAREER

SEC ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Johnson & Johnson

UK FOOTBALL





EQUIP



Emerging Leaders & Team Captains



Student-Athlete Advisory Committee



Professional Development Workshops



Career Combine Prep Series

CAREER COMBINE 2025
WELCOME!

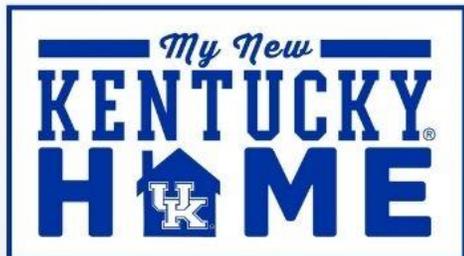




EXPERIENCE



COMMUNITY SERVICE



UK ATHLETICS
FALL 2025
PRO CAREER INSTITUTE

 Tazari Key UKAD Student-Athlete Development	 Cadence Gornrley UKAD Sports Wiso	 Emma Green UKAD Marketing	 Ely Heine UK Track & Field UKAD Sports Video
 Madison Clark UK Alumni Association	 Margen Dick UK Track & Field UKAD Strategic Communications	 Alyssa Arkina UK Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass	 Alex Burns UKAD Operations
 Lyllie Herten UKAD Strategic Communications	 Jan Plem UKAD Ticket Office	 Kaylee David UK Track & Field Breakers' Cup	 Etta Boyle Family Health Group





EXAMINE

Whole Person Feedback

This and other performance feedback tools powered by Horizon Performance and GideonSoft

Core Values Assessment (Spring 2025) - Athlete Report (Basic)

Expand to Sections

17 Proctor

Know Your JUC

19 Proctor

Know Your JUC

Jane Doe

Attribute Assessment

Coach/Staff Attribute Comments

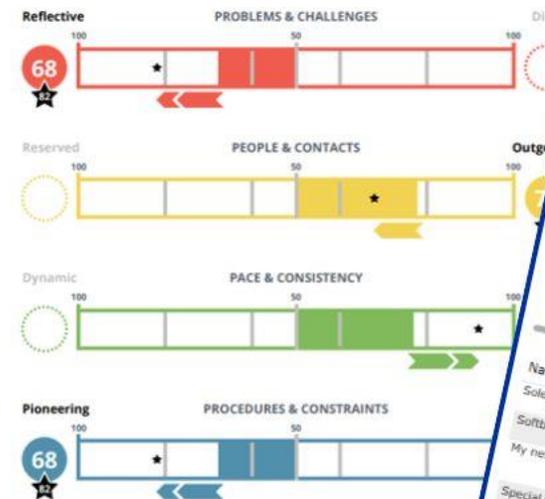
Peer/Staff Attribute Comments

Nominations

Questions

Behavioral Continuum

Everyone has a varying level of the four main behavioral factors that create their own personal style. Each side of those factors lives on a continuum, and the combination influences individuals' levels of engagement in different situations. The graph below is a visual representation of where JT falls within each continuum.



DISC Assessment

TKR Digital Resume

SCRATCH WILDCAT

Major: Health Sciences

Expected Graduation: Spring 2026

Sport: Softball

Work Experience

Name of Organization	Description of Activity	Year	Hours Served
Soles4Souls	I organized and conducted a shoe drive for Soles4Souls within athletics. I collected, packaged, and shipped shoes to SAS.	2024	30.00
Softball	Coached children through softball drills to raise money for Eastern KY softball teams.	2022	9.00
My new Kentucky home	I interacted with and led incoming athletes through different stations. I made athletes feel welcomed and answered any questions they had.	2024	6.00
Special Olympics	I assisted in a Special Olympics event at Lakeside Golf Course. I helped set up and run an event for the Big Brothers and Sisters program through My New Kentucky Home.	2024	3.50
Big Brother Big Sister	I attended a 12U softball practice and was able to offer my input to the younger players and help them with drills.	2023	3.00
Mojo Travel Softball Team	I shadowed an art therapist and bonded with patients at the hospital.	2025	3.00
UK Healthcare	I shadowed art therapy and interacted with child patients at the hospital.	2023	3.00
UK Healthcare	At the Keeneland Girls on the Run event, I assisted in the	2023	2.50
Girls on the Run			
Total			117.50

Awards

Award/Section	Year
SAAC President	2025-2026
SAAC Vice President	2024-2025
Frank G. Ham Society of Character	2024-2025
SEC Academic Honor Roll	2024-2025
SEC Academic Honor Roll	2022-2023
SEC Academic Honor Roll	2023-2024
SEC SAAC Leadership Council	2024-2025
SEC SAAC Leadership Council	2024-2025
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee	2025-2026
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee	2023-2024
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee	2024-2025

Events

EVENT NAME	Year
August Community Gathering	2021
Campus Ruckus	2021
Career Combine 2023	2023
Career Combine 2024	2024
Career Combine 2025	2025
Catspy's 2023	2023
CATSPY'S 2024	2024
Complete 20 Hours of Community Engagement	2025
Emerging Leaders Session #1 2024-2025	2024
Emerging Leaders Session #2 2024-2025	2023
	2024
	2024





STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 Annual Report

2654
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
HOURS

26 STRAIGHT
SEMESTERS
WITH **3.0+** GPA

13K+
ACADEMIC
SERVICE
SESSIONS
COMPLETED



65 SAE
EVENTS
HOSTED

97%+
POSITIVE
FEEDBACK FOR
SAE EVENTS

INITIAL PRO LAUNCH

37% STUDENT
35% CAREER
28% ATHLETE



149
GRADUATES



SEC 423
SEC HONOR ROLL
ACADEMIC
AWARD WINNERS



22 PCI PARTICIPANTS



POST GRAD MONEY
AWARDED
\$55K+

2574
STUDENT-ATHLETES
ATTENDED PREMIER
SAE EVENTS

9 EXTERNAL
LEADERSHIP &
CAREER
ENRICHMENT
PARTICIPANTS

34



4



14 STAFF
LEADERSHIP
& STRATEGIC
DEVELOPMENT
SESSIONS



KENTUCKY





QUESTIONS

