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Office of the President
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1. UK Named Top School for LGBTQ* Students

The University of Kentucky recently ranked among the top 25 campuses in the nation for LGBTQ* inclusion and safety. UK received five out of five stars for overall campus climate from Campus Pride Index, a national benchmarking tool for colleges and universities that self-assesses LGBTQ*-friendly policies, programs, and practices, conducted by and for LGBTQ* experts in the field of higher education. The index includes more than 235 colleges and universities. The rating places UK as the only campus in the Southeastern Conference to receive five out of five stars. Additionally, UK and the University of Louisville are the only two schools in Kentucky to receive the five out of five star rating.

2. DanceBlue Raises More Than \$13.4 Million in 13 Years

In its 13th year, DanceBlue and its more than 900 student dancers raised \$1,804,068.77 in pursuit of finding the cure to pediatric cancer. 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. All the money raised by DanceBlue goes to the Golden Matrix Fund and cancer research. Since the organization's launch in 2006, DanceBlue has raised more than \$13.4 million for the kids, providing financial and emotional support for children and families living with childhood cancer. DanceBlue students also volunteer approximately 1,000 hours in the clinic each year. UK junior Bradley Wilson has experienced the impact of DanceBlue firsthand as a two-time pediatric cancer survivor. During his battle against cancer, Wilson, a chemical engineering major from Simpsonville, Kentucky, received treatment at the Kentucky Children's Hospital DanceBlue Hematology/Oncology Clinic, where he enjoyed seeing the DanceBlue Family Relations Committee volunteering. He has been involved with DanceBlue since his freshman year — dancing and serving on committees — and this year, he took on the role of family relations chair.

3. UK Cheerleading Team Represents USA at Winter Olympics

In November 2017, USA Cheer announced the United States would be represented in the 2018 Winter Olympics by UK's varsity squad. USA Cheer (UK team) was part of a seven-country delegation invited by the Korea Cheerleading Association, the Gangwon Province, and the Pyeongchang 2018 Organizing Committee to provide crowd support at the Olympic Games. They appeared at different events and venues throughout the weeklong tour supporting athletes from all

countries and supporting cheerleading in its push to become an Olympic sport. At the end of the week, the team competed with other nations in an exhibition cheerleading competition.

4. UK Recognized for Support of Community College Transfer Students

UK is one of 112 colleges and universities named to the Phi Theta Kappa 2018 Transfer Honor Roll, which identifies the top four-year colleges and universities creating dynamic pathways to support transfer students. Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. Open to all regionally accredited baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, Phi Theta Kappa's Transfer Honor Roll recognizes excellence and success in community college transfer pathway development.

5. UK College of Medicine Receives Prestigious \$3.7 Million Grant to Investigate Vascular Disease

The American Heart Association has awarded a UK and Baylor College of Medicine research partnership \$3.7 million to study aortic disease. UK and Baylor were one of four teams nationwide to receive the honor, which coincides with the establishment of the American Heart Association's Vascular Research Disease Network. The grant will underwrite the work of the UK-BCM Aortopathy Research Center, which will focus on the impact of sex differences related to aortic diseases. Aortic disease can cause the expansion and rupture of a vessel wall in the chest or abdominal area, leading to potentially deadly internal bleeding.

6. \$2.9 Million NIDA Grant Awarded to UK Researcher to Study Cocaine Use Disorder

William Stoops, professor in the UK College of Medicine and director of regulatory knowledge and support for the UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science, has received a \$2.9 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to research the health effects of reducing use of cocaine, but not abstaining from the substance entirely. Stoops hopes his research will contribute to the evolving knowledge of treatment for cocaine use disorder, a substance use disorder that currently has no well-established treatment methods.

7. \$2.7 Million Grant Gives Teachers Tools to Support English Learners in the Classroom

As Kentucky's immigrant population continues to grow, a new \$2.7 million grant awarded to the UK College of Education will assist teachers with educating children who are learning English in the classroom. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition, the grant will provide funding for 125 teachers from Fayette, Scott, and Clark counties to participate in yearlong professional learning designed to increase teachers' expertise in teaching in culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms. Twenty-five of those teachers will earn a graduate certificate from the UK College of Education and will receive training to become school leaders who help sustain these strategies by sharing them with other teachers throughout their schools. The project is being led by Susan Cantrell and Kristen Perry, associate professors in the UK College of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

8. UK Biology Research May Lead to Treatment for Blinding Disorders, Including Glaucoma

Jakub Famulski, an assistant professor of biology in the UK College of Arts and Sciences, has received a grant for more than \$1.8 million from the National Institutes of Health to study the early formation of the anterior segment of the eye. The research has the potential to lead to more treatment options for patients with blinding disorders. The project will be funded by the National Eye Institute over the next five years. Famulski and his team will study the anterior segment of the eye, which is critical for collecting and projecting light onto the back of the eye. Deficiencies in these tissues are considered anterior segment dysgenesis blinding disorders, and the tissues are also a critical regulator of intraocular pressure, a major indicator for glaucoma.

9. \$1.2 Million Grant Targets High-Intensity Learning and Behavior Needs

A new \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will allow the UK College of Education to uniquely prepare school personnel who are in high demand — those prepared to work with students with high-intensity learning and behavior needs. The grant, awarded through the Office of Special Education Programs, provides funding for master's level scholars who will partner with one another — one with a focus on challenging behavior and the other with a focus on instructional strategies. Academic and behavior challenges often go hand-in-hand, yet special educators and behavior analysts typically do not receive training in the same program. This grant will make interdisciplinary training possible. Amy Spriggs, an associate professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling, will serve as the grant's principal investigator.

10. Video Interpreters Close the Language Gap in UK Pediatric Clinics

Nine Video Remote Interpreter (VRI) units in UK HealthCare's pediatric clinics are used for interpretation for non-English speaking patients and their families. In 2017, there were more than 130,000 visits across UK's eight pediatric clinics, 8 percent of which required language services. With the success of the VRI units in the Twilight Clinic, UK's after-hours primary care clinic for children and adolescents, the units were introduced in UK's other pediatric clinics. Because the VRI units are on wheels, language services can be delivered more consistently as the patient moves, for example, from the exam room to X-ray without any lapses in communication. Staff members have given the VRI units names and costumes to make them more fun and engaging for children.

11. Study: Two Drugs Prevent Heart Failure in Breast Cancer Patients

Data released in a large multi-center study, led by Dr. Maya Guglin of UK's Gill Heart and Vascular Institute, provides a view into the effectiveness of two drugs used to prevent heart problems resulting from breast cancer treatment. The data was presented at the American College of Cardiology's 67th Annual Scientific Session, one of the most influential medical symposia on heart-related topics. Chemotherapy drug Herceptin was first approved by the FDA in 1998 to treat an aggressive form of breast cancer called HER2-positive. Its stunning success at reducing cancer recurrence and improving survival came at a cost, however: one in four women develop potentially

dangerous heart problems. The multi-arm, placebo-controlled study explored whether two classes of drugs — ACE inhibitors and beta blockers — preserved a patient's cardiac function during chemotherapy. The data showed that ACE inhibitors and beta blockers did not help preserve ejection fraction in patients receiving Herceptin alone. However, there was a significant reduction in cardiotoxicity for patients on beta blockers or ACE inhibitors who received doxorubicin before Herceptin.

12. Training Kentucky's Next Generation of Cancer Fighters

Launched in 2016 with a \$200,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute, the Career Training in Oncology Program (CTOP) is a two-year training program designed to prepare UK undergraduate students from Appalachian Kentucky to pursue cancer-focused careers. The program provides its students with research and clinical experience through UK's Markey Cancer Center and UK HealthCare. CTOP offers specific, real-world training to the next generation of health care providers, cancer researchers, and cancer education specialists early in their collegiate career. Students in the program can begin as early as their first freshman semester.

13. New Study Shows Repurposing Leukemia Drugs May Prevent Melanoma Metastasis

Results of a new study led by UK Markey Cancer Center researchers show that repurposing drugs used to treat leukemia has promise for preventing melanoma metastasis. Published in *Science Signaling*, the study showed new evidence linking the activation of ABL kinases – cancer-promoting genes – to the secretion of pro-metastatic cathepsins in melanoma.

14. Markey Launches Precision Medicine Clinic, Expands Catalog of Early Phase Clinical Trials

In its ongoing efforts to offer Kentuckians the latest, most innovative cancer treatments available, the UK Markey Cancer Center recently launched the Precision Medicine Clinic, a new space dedicated to providing patients with increased access to phase I and phase II clinical trials. Before a new drug can be approved by the Food and Drug Administration for widespread use, it must first be proven safe and effective in clinical trials. When patients are enrolled in phase I trials, they are often among the first people to receive a promising new drug or treatment. Phase II trials build on the information gathered in a phase I trial and often compare its efficacy with the current standard treatment for that specific cancer. Many of the early phase clinical trials offered at the Precision Medicine Clinic will be investigator-initiated trials from Markey physician-scientists, as well as national clinical trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute and Early Therapeutic Clinical Trials Network.

15. UK and Space Tango Join Forces to Boost Commercialization

The University has partnered with Space Tango Inc. to send UK research into space. An agreement between Space Tango and UK's Office of Technology Commercialization formalizes shared income from technology resulting from microgravity research. By working together, the company and university seek to maximize commercial pathways for UK inventors in life sciences and biomedicine. Space Tango enables research and development, bioengineering, and manufacturing

in microgravity with the mission to create significant new industries to improve the lives of people on Earth.

16. UK's Scholarly Work Accessed Over 5 Million Times Worldwide

Launched by UK Libraries in December 2010 as a digital gateway to the research and scholarship from UK, UKnowledge has blossomed into a resource that enables free worldwide access to UK's scholarly outputs ranging from theses and dissertations to annotated virtual exhibits. It has recently reached a milestone with its contents downloaded over 5 million times.

17. UK Grad 'Sleighs' Expectations, Makes History at Winter Olympics

In February, UK alumna Simidele "Simi" Adeagbo made history as Nigeria's first female skeleton athlete, Africa's first female skeleton Olympian, and the first black female skeleton Olympian. While earning her journalism degree at UK in the early 2000s, Adeagbo was also breaking records on the UK Track and Field team. She was a four time All-American and remains the outdoor school record holder in the triple jump. She was also an Academic All-American and Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar, and an NCAA and Southeastern Conference scorer. After earning her bachelor's degree and a master's degree in communication from UK, she began a new journey working as a marketing manager for Nike in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ten years later, she came out of retirement and finished her trailblazing Olympic debut in the Women's Skeleton with the third best start time and 20th place overall. She was also selected to lead Team Nigeria as the flag bearer in the closing ceremonies.

18. UK Alumnus Completes Marathon on Every Continent

Many people can say they've been "around the world," but only a few of those have actually set foot on all seven continents. UK alumnus Jason Darnall, who earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the UK College of Arts and Sciences in 1999, can beat that boast by miles ... at a jog. From a standing start, it has taken less than six years for Darnall to run around the world, touching foot on all seven continents, including ice-bound Antarctica, one marathon at a time. Along the way, he has earned about \$10,000 in charitable contributions for cancer and asthma research.

19. Former Attorney General Eric Holder Shares His Experiences With UK Students

Much like UK College of Law students, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, the first African American to hold that office, saw law as a way to make an impact. Holder spoke to a crowd of UK students, faculty, staff, and alumni as well as community members on campus in February. Holder's visit was part of the College of Law's Roy R. and Virginia F. Ray Lecture Series. During the talk, moderated by UK College of Law Professor Melynda Price, Holder weighed in on current issues and shared his experiences as a law student, a black man in the profession, and attorney general. Earlier in the day, Holder also met with UK Law's Black Law Students Association and members of the local John Rowe Chapter of the National Bar Association at a luncheon celebrating Black History Month.

20. UK Alumnus Engineers Entertainment

From automated giant drawbridges to multi-story audience structures, if Hollywood needs a spectacular set or special effects, UK College of Engineering alumnus James Casalino and his colleagues at All Access Staging Productions in Los Angeles get the call. TV shows like "Dancing with the Stars" and "Love Connection," and concert tours for Eminem, Jay Z, Rihanna, and Rascal Flatts, not to mention Super Bowl halftime shows, are just a few of the projects Casalino has worked on over the years. More than a diploma on his office wall, Casalino's degree was an experience of merging two distinct interests and creating his own path to success, although he wasn't always sure where that would lead him. He grew up involved in theater and loved television shows and movies but chose to study mechanical engineering. When the time came to complete an internship for credit, he realized he could find a career that drew from both of his passions, with help from professors, advisors, and the James W. Stuckert Career Center.

21. College of Dentistry's Saturday Morning Clinics Benefit Students, Community

Protecting the oral health of children is an investment that pays lifelong dividends. Unfortunately, many families in Central Kentucky face barriers that prevent children from receiving the treatment they need. To improve access, students, faculty, and staff from the UK College of Dentistry gather once a month to provide free dental care to underserved children in the Lexington community via the Saturday Morning Clinic program. The clinic program was created by student dentists over four decades ago as an opportunity to promote oral health and awareness while giving back to the community. Currently, the program provides care to children ages four to 12 and operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

22. UK Medical Students Open New Eye Clinic at the Salvation Army

When the UK Department of Ophthalmology began the process of moving their clinic into the new Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center, now located on the UK campus, the opportunity to acquire donated equipment and supplies from the old space arose. Medical students Paras Vora and Riley Bylund jumped at the opportunity to increase volunteer opportunities at the Salvation Army Clinic and help underserved patients receive vision care. The pair had their proposal for a new ophthalmology clinic at the student-run UK College of Medicine Salvation Army Clinic approved. A portion of the space at the clinic, located on West Main Street in Lexington, was modified to create a hybrid exam room, which could function both as a traditional exam room as well as a specialized eye examination space.

23. Impressive Undergraduate Researchers Take Work to State Capitol

The University was represented by 16 undergraduate students and their 14 research projects at the Posters-at-the-Capitol event in February at the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort. Posters-at-the-Capitol is an annual event that showcases undergraduate researchers representing colleges and universities throughout Kentucky. The collaborative event was created to educate Kentucky state legislators of the importance of undergraduate research and scholarly work. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, members of the General Assembly, representatives from students' hometowns, and other guests toured the exhibitions and engaged directly with some of the state's best young scholars.

24. Two Nationally Recognized Artists Present Art Concepts for UK's Memorial Hall

Two nationally recognized artists, Karyn Olivier and Bethany Collins, traveled to UK in March to present concepts for art to be featured in two vaulted spaces in the vestibule of Memorial Hall. As part of their visits, Olivier and Collins also gave talks on their proposals. Olivier and Collins' proposals are the final selections in a process of seeking artwork from artists across the U.S. by the UK Memorial Hall Art Committee, who are looking for site-specific installations that will establish a rich aesthetic and conceptual dialogue with the building itself and the mural by Ann Rice O'Hanlon that occupies a large wall in the main lobby. Over the years, the O'Hanlon mural has been one of many topics in several important discussions on inclusion.

25. UK Police Welcomes First Certified Therapy Dog

The UK Police Department has a new addition to its canine unit, its first certified therapy dog. Research has shown that the act of petting a therapy animal is linked to a decrease in heart rate, blood pressure, and reduction in anxiety. Their ability to provide nonjudgmental affection and comfort has positively benefited veterans with postwar stress and trauma, children with intellectual disabilities, and victims of trauma. Therapy dogs are also great at facilitating social interaction, especially when it comes to speaking with law enforcement officers.

26. WRFL Celebrates Three Decades of Bringing People Together With Music

For 30 years, a small studio staffed by talented UK students has filled the Lexington airwaves with unique tunes not often heard elsewhere. WRFL, UK's student-run radio station and a mainstay on campus and in the local arts scene, celebrated its 30th anniversary in March. Since it began broadcasting, students studying journalism, music, engineering, and other fields have manned the DJ chair 24/7. From film producers to regional on-air talent and reporters, artists to the current assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, WRFL alumni have found success across industries and the nation.

27. WUKY Completes Move to New Location

WUKY 91.3 FM started broadcasting from its new studios March 19 on Spurr Road in Lexington. The programming and announcers are the same, but the modern facility differs from the station's old home on the third floor of McVey Hall on UK's campus – studios that were originally built in 1939. WUKY now has more than double the square footage in this new facility, which had been a professional recording studio and living quarters. The property was acquired by Lexington businesswoman Ann Bakhaus, who in turn, with her son Michael Russell, made a gift of the building to UK for the benefit of WUKY and [UK's Opera Theatre](#) program, which will share the recording studio with WUKY.

28. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Sen-ching Samson Cheung (College of Engineering) represented UK as a panelist at the SEC Academic Conference, "Cyber Security: A Shared Responsibility."

Raleigh Dailey (College of Fine Arts) won the award for Best Keyboardist at the Lexington Music Awards.

Micaha Dean (College of Engineering) won an Aspirations in Computing Educator Award from the National Center for Women & Information Technology.

Kathleen Driskell (University Press of Kentucky) was named the winner of the 2018 Judy Gaines Young Book Award for her book "Next Door to the Dead: Poems."

Stephen Duncan (UK HealthCare) has been selected for the John N. Insall Traveling Fellowship.

Michelle Lofwall (College of Medicine) was among the experts who assisted the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in developing and publishing a new set of guidelines regarding the use of opioid maintenance therapies in the treatment of opioid use disorders.

Justin "Jay" Miller (College of Social Work) received the "Dedicated and Deserving" Recognition Award from Social Work Today magazine.

Miles Osland (College of Fine Arts) won the award for Best Wind/Brass at the Lexington Music Awards.

Ebony G. Patterson (College of Fine Arts) has won the Stone & DeGuire Contemporary Art Award from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts; the 2017 Biennial Grant from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation; and the 2018 United States Artists Fellowship Award in Visual Arts.

Melissa Pittard (College of Arts and Sciences) received the Best Speed Session Award from the American Statistical Association.

Karen Rignall (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and College of Arts and Sciences) has received a \$50,000 Whiting Foundation Public Engagement Fellowship.

Chad Risko (College of Arts and Sciences and Center for Applied Energy Research) has been selected to receive a 2018 Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award and named a 2018 Cottrell Scholar by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

Brent Seales (College of Engineering) spoke at the Library of Congress in February about his digital restoration initiative.

John Thelin (College of Education) briefed Congress in February as one of two speakers on a National History Center panel on the Higher Education Act.

DeBraun Thomas (WUKY) received the Best Radio DJ honor at the Lexington Music Awards.

Guoqiang Yu (College of Engineering) has been awarded a two-year, \$420,750 R21 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health.

WUKY, UK's NPR station, received six nominations in multiple news categories for the 2017 Kentucky Associated Press Broadcasters Awards.

Jane Kleinert (College of Health Sciences) and Margaret Bausch (College of Education) received a \$1,153,016 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Keh-Fei Liu, Terry Draper and Yi-Bo Yang (College of Arts and Sciences) were featured in the American Physical Society's "Physics Highlights of the Year" for 2017.

Six UK educators were named recipients of the UK Alumni Association 2018 Great Teacher Award: Gabriel Dadi (College of Engineering); Rodrigo Fuentealba (College of Dentistry); Milena Minkova (College of Arts and Sciences); Robert D. Paratley (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment); Leon Sachs II (College of Arts and Sciences); and Bruce A. Swetnam (College of Design).

The Central Kentucky Job Club program, managed by the UK Alumni Association, Fayette County Cooperative Extension Services and UK Human Resources Staff Career Development, was recently awarded the 2017 Creative Excellence Award by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

29. Student Achievements

Grace Greenwell (Law, of Louisville) has been selected as the American College of Bankruptcy's Distinguished Law Student for the Sixth Circuit for 2018.

Heather Hyden (Community and Leadership Development, of Louisville) received the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools' 2018 Master's Thesis Award in the Social Sciences, Education and Business category.

Joshua Preston (Biology, of Nicholasville) was awarded the Astronaut Scholarship from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation.

Matthew Boggs (Law, of Whitesburg, Kentucky) and Caleb Taylor (Law, of Union, Kentucky) of the UK Trial Advocacy Board Mock Trial team, won the 2018 Texas Young Lawyers Association Regional Trial Competition and advanced to nationals with their teammates Madeline Moss (of Covington, Kentucky) and Vince Taormina (of Chesterfield, Missouri).

Tyler May (of Lexington), Joseph Back (of Versailles, Kentucky), and Joy Gilfillan (of Marlton, New Jersey) (Finance) won the national stock pitch competition hosted at the University of Georgia.

The UK Debate Team placed first in the Naval Academy Tournament and second in the Dartmouth Round Robin tournament.

Student-athletes at UK combined to earn a total of 80 spots on the 2017 Southeastern Conference Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll.

30. Alumni Achievements

Jahi Chikwendiu (Mathematics and Math Education, B.S. '96, M.S. '97) is a 2017 Governor's Awards in the Arts recipient, winning the National Award.