

# UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

AUGUST

Monthly College Newsletter

## Message from the Dean



The college is getting ready to welcome back our upperclassman along with the incoming class of 2021. Enrollment continues to grow in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and our students continue to be among some of the best and brightest to enter this university.

Final figures are weeks away, but our college is set to see a double-digit percent increase in enrollment as well as an increase in underrepresented and minority students. Nearly half of our new students have grade point averages of 3.5 or better and nearly half come from out of state. Obviously this college is doing something right to continue to grow our class size!

Our students and their families place their trust in us to prepare them for a successful future in a diverse world and complex global economy. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, lecturers and others, that trust is well founded.

We have updated several classrooms. Seay Auditorium is being renovated and becoming a classroom that will be scheduled through the UK Registrar's office. A new state-of-the-art classroom is being built in the Ag Information Center. UK

Information Technology has updated to the latest, cloud-based version of the Echo 360 software, which allows for on-demand videotaping of lectures in several CAFE classrooms.

As we begin this semester, I am reminded that what we do impacts the world. It starts with us.

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## News

### Extension Review listening sessions

The Extension Review was shared with Provost Tim Tracy and an overview will be shared on Aug. 8 with the State Extension Council and at 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. on Aug. 16, for chairs, faculty/extension specialists at a yet-to-be-determined location.

Agents will receive the first full release of the review prior to the following listening sessions scheduled across the state for agents and county staff:

- September 7 – District 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Gorham Hall
- September 8 – District 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and District 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Elizabethtown
- September 12 – District 2 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; District 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Quicksand
- September 18 – District 7 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST and District 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. CST – Princeton
- October 9 – “Catch-all” session via Lync from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT from 249 Barnhart

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## New Faces

With fall classes just around the corner, the Office for Student Success is busy preparing to meet the needs of our present and future students. To that end, several new faces have been added in recent months. Please welcome Deb Ramey, scholarship and budget, Emily Brenzel, administrative support, and Lesli Hall, exploratory advisor.

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## 4-H to host Solar Eclipse Camp for historic event

The West Kentucky 4-H Camp in Dawson Springs is in the direct path of the total solar eclipse that will occur Aug. 21. [Kentucky 4-H](#) is taking this rare opportunity to host a Solar Eclipse Camp so young people may view the historical event and learn the science behind it. The Solar Eclipse Camp occurs Aug. 18-21 and is open to young people ages nine through 18 from across the United States. Campers will learn about space exploration, astronomy, drones, weather, rockets and telescopes. They will also hear from special guest speakers including meteorologists,



astronomers and a NASA scientist. Campers will also participate in traditional 4-H camping activities including swimming, canoeing and hiking.

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## Worklife survey

In 2015, the university conducted a survey designed to provide useful information on measures of UK job satisfaction. This fall, the university plans to repeat this survey, using the same questions as in 2015 resulting in comparable data sets.

Approximately 30 percent of the college's faculty and staff completed the 2015 [UK@work Survey](#), and unit leaders with 10 or more responses from their unit, received unit-specific results of the survey. In general, average scores of job satisfaction were higher for our college than the overall "provost units" average, and were higher for staff than for faculty. Unit leaders have been working on at least one measure identified as important to the staff and faculty in the unit. To see all the departmental reports, as well as the college-level reports, go to <https://administration.ca.uky.edu/ukatworkreports>.

Please plan to participate in the upcoming survey.

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## Spotlight

### Stephen Sizemore Chief Financial Officer



We sat down with Stephen, who oversees all financial activity within the college, to learn a little more about his passions, his career path and what led him to us.

#### **Tell us about your background and what led you to your current role at UK?**

After graduating from UK, I worked for Lexmark for about 10.5 years in a variety of analyst positions in procurement, finance and corporate strategy. I left there to do some consulting with Hedge fund managers for a couple of years and then came to UK in 2008 as the business officer for UK Libraries. My role evolved into the associate dean for administration for UK Libraries, before coming over in the newly created chief financial officer position in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

#### **Share your favorite thing about working in CAFE?**

My favorite thing about my position is working with the team we have built in business services. It feels like the USA 1992 Olympic basketball team. I do feel like we have the human resources/financial dream team with the people we have been able to bring together to support the college. It's a great group to work with every day and tackle the challenges of the college.

### What is one thing about you that might surprise people?

Not sure what would surprise people. I have had twohole in ones while playing golf. I have been playing since I graduated from college. It is something that both my wife and I enjoy doing and I try to get out and play whenever I can. Golfing is the time I can go relax and hang out with friends and family outside under the sun.

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## Calendar of Events

**August 16**

[Big Blue Move-In](#)

**August 17-27**

[Kentucky State Fair](#)

**August 18-21**

[4-H Solar Eclipse Camp](#)

**August 16 & 21**

See Blue U Orientation

**August 21-25**

[K Week](#)

**August 23**

First Day of Fall Classes

**September 1**

First Friday

## Helpful Links

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[College Calendar for Faculty & Staff](#)

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