

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



August

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean



As fall approaches, I look forward to seeing our students return from their summer break and am excited to welcome the class of 2022. Our freshman enrollment has increased 5.3 percent from Fall 2015 to Fall 2018. Our percentage of incoming students from underrepresented populations continues to remain steady at 16 percent. We celebrate the diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints and learning opportunities as we prepare our students for the world.

We are pleased that our fall to fall retention rate for our students is also tracking well, with preliminary fall 2017 to fall 2018 retention at 84.5 percent. Final figures won't be in until October. And to assist our students with the financial costs of higher education, we have been able to provide more than \$2 million in scholarships in the past three years.

It takes many hands to assist our students along the paths that they have chosen to tread. I appreciate the hard work of Associate Dean Larry Grabau and his team in the Center for Student Success, as well as the academic coordinators and all faculty and staff who assist our students along the way. It is the people within this college that make it shine; as a land-grant university program, we try to be better with each day that goes by.

Fall is a time of transition for students and their families as many leave their

homes for the first time to pursue the next phase of their lives. It is also a time of transition for our college. New faces will be joining our faculty and staff while others will move on to other positions here or elsewhere or transition into retirement.

There have been transitions in the college's administrative team as well. Associate deans Steve Workman and Lisa Collins are retiring and Rick Bennett has moved to the Department of Plant Pathology. Dr. Collins continues to work in a post-retirement capacity. Dr. Bennett is pursuing his academic interests, but will continue his important work to enhance faculty success through grant development and facilitating collaborative opportunities.

New to the team but not new to the college are Bob Houtz, associate dean for research, Orlando Chambers, associate dean for administration, and Sandra Bastin, associate dean for faculty resources, planning and assessment. Additionally, Tim West's role has continued to expand in the college and he has been named my chief of staff.

The remainder of the administrative team are Larry Grabau, associate dean for instruction, Gary Palmer, interim associate dean for extension, Susan Campbell, finance director, Drew Graham, senior assistant dean, external affairs and government relations director, Pamela Gray, senior director of philanthropy, Laura Skillman, agricultural communications director, Mia Farrell, interim diversity director and Kim Henken, interim director, School of Human and Environmental Sciences.

As we move into fall, I am excited to see new faces and renew old acquaintances as we all work together to provide the very best experiences for our students, stakeholders and clients. Remember – It starts with us.

News

Chairs and unit directors group

Richard Coffey, chair of the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, is leading the monthly chairs' and directors' meetings. He is replacing Bob Houtz, who is now the Associate Dean for Research. If you have anything you wish to discuss with the group, please contact Dr. Coffey at richard.coffey@uky.edu.

Additionally, Mark Williams is serving as interim chair of the Department of Horticulture and Janet Tietyen Mullins is serving as interim chair of the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. Ling Yuan and Anne Jack will be taking on additional leadership roles in the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center.

New faculty orientation

The CAFE New Faculty Orientation is August 31 with a reception for all faculty in the E.S. Good Barn afterwards. Watch for announcements about the time and please be sure to

stop in for refreshments and a chance to meet the new CAFE faculty members.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment welcomes the following new faculty members who have joined us in the past year:

- Barry Barnett, Department of Agricultural Economics
- Laura Rice, Department of Community and Leadership Development
- Lindsay Shade, Department of Community and Leadership Development
- Robin Shoemaker, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
- David Gonthier, Department of Entomology
- Zainulabeuddin Syed, Department of Entomology
- Carlos Rodriguez Lopez, Department of Horticulture
- Rachel Rudolph, Department of Horticulture
- Hanna Poffenbarger, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
- Travis Shaddox, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
- Christopher Shepard, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
- Emma Adam, Department of Veterinary Science

Extension update



Congratulations to the **2018 CES Summer Interns!** This year, we had 37 interns working and learning throughout the state. The internship program serves as a pipeline to strengthen knowledge and skills, and to prepare interns for future full-time positions within our system and beyond. Thank you to the intern supervisors for giving these college students the opportunity to learn how the Cooperative Extension Service makes an impact at the local, state and national levels.

The **Community Assessment** process has officially begun with five pilot counties: Boone, Christian, Clark, Madison and McCracken. These counties are testing the process, before rolling out the Community Assessments statewide in September.

Thanks to the 4-H agents and staff that helped make this year's **4-H camping season** one of the best yet. Agents and staff have diligently worked to increase the number of attendees. So far, more than 8,000 youth have attended camp this summer. That's an increase of more than 12 percent from last year. Final numbers will be available soon.

Stacy E. Miller joined Extension as the Human

Resources Director. Miller is a licensed attorney with more than 12 years of experience advising human resource professionals in public and private organizations. Most recently she was with the law firm of Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC. Miller graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law and earned a master's degree from UK's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce.



Awards and Honors

Seth DeBolt, Department of Horticulture, was awarded a five-year UK Alumni Professorship. The award highlights faculty who have been recognized for their influential scholarly contributions, sustained excellence in teaching and outstanding career or public service.

Ronald Hustedde, extension professor in the Department of Community and Leadership Development, received the Distinguished Community Development Career Award from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals.

Kenneth Haynes, a professor in the Department of Entomology, was recently named a fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

In the News

- Blake Newton, Department of Entomology, was quoted in National Geographic, [Meet the Single Dads of the Animal World](#).
- Les Anderson, Animal and Food Sciences, was quoted in Canadian Cattlemen, [Keep your cattle breeding season short](#).
- Lee Townsend, Department of Entomology, was quoted in Prevention and House Beautiful magazines, [How to Get Rid of Mosquito Bites ASAP](#).
- Chris Barton, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, was quoted in Scientific American, [From Defiled to Wild—Can a Spent Coal Mine Be Reborn as a Nature Conservation Center?](#)
- Paul Lenhart, Department of Entomology, was quoted in the New York Times, [Ladybugs, Aphids and the Toxic Combat That Might Be Happening in Your Garden](#).

Spotlight

Bob Houtz
Associate Dean for Research

We asked Bob, associate dean for research, to share a little 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?

I have three degrees in Horticulture, two from Michigan State and one from the University of Florida. I came to UK Department of Horticulture in 1985. I started a research program in basic aspects of photosynthesis and focused on a class of enzymes known as protein methyltransferases. In 2009, I became chair of the department but continued my research program as well as my involvement in the agricultural biotechnology program. I have always had a keen interest in research, especially the discovery aspect. In July of this year, I became the Associate Dean for Research.

What is your favorite thing about working in

CAFE?

No doubt about it, my favorite things are the people, faculty, staff and students and the opportunity to make a difference in Agriculture.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

I am an amateur astronomer and a fishing nut.

Calendar of Events

August 4

[Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course, West](#)

August 6

Equine Farm and Facilities Expo

August 15-16

"see blue" U Orientation

August 16

Living Learning Program Move-In

August 16-26

[Kentucky State Fair](#)

August 17-21

[K Week](#)

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

[The Ag Magazine](#)

[The Ambassador](#)

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August 18

Kentucky Woodland Owners Short
Course, East

August 21

College Welcome

August 22

First Day of Fall Semester Classes

August 28

Last Day to Add a Class

August 6-September 3

UK SAB "Labor Stay" Weekend



We've got Maple Fever! Click the image above to read about the maple syrup industry in Kentucky, as well as a myriad of other exciting things happening within the college, in the latest issue of The Ag Magazine.

