



## Message from the Dean



December is a transition time in academic life, wrapping up classes and projects before the holiday break. Friday is the last day of classes for the fall semester, followed by finals week. We wish all students and professors success during this busy time. I am proud to report that we have 185 bachelor's degree applicants for December, and the graduation ceremony for our students is at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at Rupp Arena.

While this time of year can be hectic, I did not want the year to end without a chance to reflect on a few successes from 2017.

We are wrapping up a big review of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service that will make an already great system even more responsive to serving Kentucky. Changes recommended in the review and an audit report are being finalized and will to be rolled out in the coming months. Thanks to the review team and all those who gave comments to help shape a greater culture of financial accountability and service.

We welcomed more students to campus this fall as our enrollment continues to increase. And to help our students combat the cost of an education, we continue to work to provide as many scholarship opportunities as possible. This year, we were

able to award more scholarships to deserving students than in previous years. For the 2017-18 year, more than \$1 million were awarded to 490 students. This compares to the previous year when \$625,213 were awarded to 425 students.

Infrastructure needs are critical in the college, and we made advancements with the development of a master plan for the agriculture precinct on campus. The plan calls for new and renovated spaces for the college with the first building being the Cooper House. There is nothing more important to me as your dean than improving our physical facilities.

Improvements were made to the teaching pavilion at the equine farm thanks to a generous benefactor. Additionally, with the help of many benefactors especially the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, we will soon be breaking ground on the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence in Princeton.

As we wrap up 2017, I'd like to thank everyone for their dedication and wish you a restful holiday season.

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## News

### Staff Council Update

The college's [Staff Council](#) collaborated with UK's Circle of Love project and provided 46 Fayette County children with holiday gifts purchased by staff and faculty. Many of the contributions included grocery cards so the families may also purchase food. Staff Council members coordinated the collection and delivery of gifts.

Last month, the Staff Council coordinated 22 Thanksgiving food baskets for the Wildcats for Housing, Opportunity, Mentorship, Employment, and Services (H.O.M.E.S.) project. The mission of the organization is to provide structured experiences, in part by developing sustainable campus and community partnerships, that motivate students to learn about, think through and take action against homelessness.

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### Mosquitos

Multiple national media outlets including Time, Newsweek and the Boston Globe reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given biotechnology start-up MosquitoMate approval to use lab-grown mosquitos in the fight against mosquito-borne diseases. College entomologist Stephen Dobson is the founder of the company.

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### Chocolate

Ag Economics student Willie Bedell and Professor Michael Reed were recently quoted in Forbes.com for their work on chocolate prices with organic, non-GMO and fair trade labels. The duo found a price

premium on bars labeled organic and non-GMO (though most ingredients in a chocolate bar—including cocoa—are not genetically engineered); however, chocolates marked as fair trade sell at a discount. Bars sold under the fair trade logo support the agricultural and economic development of cocoa farmers in developing countries. Their preliminary findings show that more work needs to be done in promoting fair trade, especially among consumers.



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## Congratulations

Arthur Hunt, professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, and Subba Reddy Palli, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology, are among the newest Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society.

Ned Crankshaw, chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture, was recognized for his accomplishments and contributions to the field when the American Society of Landscape Architects recently named him to their Council of Fellows.

Anna Lucas, a former Kentucky 4-H youth development specialist, was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame for her lifetime achievements and contributions to the nation's young people.

Peter Timoney, professor at the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, received the American Association of Equine Practitioners' 2017 Distinguished Educator – Academic Award for his influential contributions to the body of knowledge on equine infectious diseases.

Recipients of the biennial Patricia Brantley Todd Awards of Excellence in Human Environmental Sciences are Judy Hetterman, Owen County extension agent for family and consumer sciences; Liz Combs, lecturer, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition; and Jason Swanson, associate professor, Department of Retailing and Tourism Management.

Carol Hinton, Breckinridge County Extension Agent for agriculture and natural resources, received the 2017 Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Farm Public Relations Award.

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## Spotlight

### Michael Reed

Professor, Department of Agriculture Economics and Director, Office of International Programs for Agriculture



We asked Mike 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 grew up in Kansas and first came to Kentucky to interview for an assistant professor position. The faculty members were very welcoming, and it was clear I could chart my own research path. I had no international experience at all, but one of my areas for research was international trade. I received a large grant as an associate professor to lead a project that helped farmers and agribusinesses export through research, education and technical assistance. The Center for Agricultural Export Development was housed in Bradley Hall on central campus, which led to interactions with the Office of International Affairs (now known as the International Center). When

the directorship of that office was vacated, I applied and became the director. After four years in that position (which was a part-time post), I returned to the college full-time and took over the Office of International Programs from Herb Massey, who had just retired.

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

I enjoy being a faculty member and international programs director because it provides an opportunity to work with talented people from very diverse backgrounds. I particularly enjoy my interactions with international faculty members, students and visitors. I have visited over 50 countries, have former students in more than 20 countries and professional friends in over 30 countries. It is nice to have a job where I get to learn something interesting every day.

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

I arrived at the University of Kentucky in 1978, so I am about to begin my 39<sup>th</sup> year of service. That even surprises me.

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## Calendar of Events

**December 5-6**  
Senior Turn-Out

**December 8**  
Last Day of Classes

**December 11-15**  
Finals Week

**December 15**

## Helpful Links

- [Giving](#)
- [College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)
- [College Weekly for Students](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Commencement

December 25-29

University Closed



Click the image above to view the latest issue of The Ag Magazine.

