



# College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



June

Monthly College Newsletter

## Message from the Dean



On behalf of our college, I appreciate President Capilouto's continuing investment in our faculty and staff with the announcement yesterday, June 11, 2018, of a 1.5 percent salary increase for the university.

An additional strong sign of that commitment is President Capilouto and the administration's decision on how to handle the 6.25 percent budget cut to higher education included in the final state budget. Because of the great work across the university on student success metrics, that cut was reduced to 3 percent through the Council of Post-Secondary Education's (CPE) performance-based funding pool. President Capilouto and the administration then decided to cover the 3 percent

reduction of state appropriations centrally rather than passing that on to the colleges – a decision that has repeatedly been made during successive reductions in state support. As you know, President Capilouto also is continuing the employee education program used by many in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Again, we thank the UK Administration for their continuing commitment to faculty and staff.

However, the state budget poses challenges that we must address collaboratively. I will briefly detail some of those challenges and how we will work with the administration and within the College to address them.

Across the university, mandated programs must provide the 1.5 percent raise using their own funds. This decision affects the College's three mandated programs - the Division of Regulatory Services, the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and the Kentucky Small Business Development Center. Extension Field Programs this year will be treated similarly to mandated programs. Field Programs are included because they are not seen as directly affecting undergraduate education and thus, not eligible for use of tuition or funds from CPE's performance funding model for raises. Covering raises for these four programs will cost the College approximately \$400,000. The raises in these areas will be funded using unallocated personnel funds, vacancies, operating funds, and other funding sources and will not be associated with position eliminations.

We are continuing discussions with the university administration on the impact that funding salary increases internally will have on extension field programs and mandated programs. We are looking at new ways to both sustain and grow investments for these programs. I appreciate our administration's willingness to consider the challenges we face in meeting the three missions – teaching, research and service – of a land-grant institution and the way we integrate those missions in everything that we do.

As we move forward, the central UK administration has committed to working with us to review how tuition and other resources are allocated to the college, to ensure that funds are being used strategically and appropriately. Understandably, the administration wants to ensure that tuition dollars are dedicated to student-centered priorities.

We will provide specific details to all college units affected by this decision and we will work diligently to mitigate any negative impacts. As always, we will partner closely with the administration to find the best path to meeting our land-grant mission and continuing to provide an excellent student experience.

Thank you for all you do for our students, clients, stakeholders and the citizens of Kentucky. I am proud of the programs and opportunities we provide for the commonwealth.

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## News

### Hundreds of 4-H Teens are on campus this week

This week, we welcome 590 high school students and current 4-H members to campus for 4-H Teen Conference. Students from across the state will engage in educational activities, explore college and career options, learn how to work cooperatively in teams, and discover their leadership and communication styles during this week-long event. Multiple departments across the college will provide sessions for the youth and 30 local organizations will serve as community service sites. Additionally, many cross-campus

partners assist in making this event possible.

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## FY 2019 Barnhart Fund for Excellence recipients announced

The Charles E. Barnhart Fund for Excellence was created to honor Barnhart, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment from 1969-1988. The Barnhart Fund supports activities that enhance excellence in College of Agriculture, Food and Environment programs. We are happy to announce this year's recipients of the Barnhart Fund for Excellence grants, listed at this link: <https://administration.ca.uky.edu/barnhart-fund-for-excellence>.

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## Awards and Honors

**David Van Sanford**, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, received one of 14 University Research Professorships for the 2018-19 year. The program's aim is to recognize and publicize research accomplishments of scholars across the disciplines at UK. The award amount is \$10,000 for one year, to further the research, scholarship and creative endeavors of the awardee.

**Anissa Radford**, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition's Academic Coordinator, received a Certificate of Merit of the Outstanding Advising Award - Primary Advising Role by the National Academic Advising Association. The award program honors individuals and institutions making significant contributions to the improvement of academic advising.

**Michael Goodin**, Department of Plant Pathology, was selected to be the 2018 American Society for Microbiology Honorary Diversity Lecturer by the board of governors of the American Academy of Microbiology during its June Microbe Conference in Atlanta. Goodin's lecture reviewed his academic journey beginning in Jamaica to his current UK research. The aim of the ASM Honorary Diversity Lecturer program is to bring broader attention to the field of microbiology, to attract more under-represented minorities to the discipline.

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## CAFE Faculty Council

Mike Reed was elected chair and Lou Hirsch was elected secretary of the 2018-2019 CAFE Faculty Council. Other council members are Carmen Agouridis, Mark Farman, Alison Gustafson, Amy Kostelic, Clare Rittschof, Matt Springer, Bruce Webb and Scarlett Wesley.

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## University Senate members

Roger Brown and Jeff Lehmkuhler recently were elected to the University Senate. A record 44 percent of eligible faculty members voted in the election. Brown and Lehmkuhler join fellow college members Francis Agbali (student), Carmen Agouridis, Donna Amaral-Phillips, Andy Baily, Nancy Cox, Rebekah Epps, Bob Geneve, Dan Howe, Art Hunt, Ron Hustedde, Kim Miller-Spillman and Kristine Urschel.

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## In the News

4-H helps young man share love of animals with others - Jonathon Sink, 19, was born with a neurological condition called apraxia, which makes communication difficult for him. He has found comfort and calmness interacting with and caring for animals and he has successfully completed many 4-H and FFA livestock projects. Last year, he decided he wanted to share his love of animals with his peers, who may have developmental disabilities. Working with Janeen Tramble, the Trigg County 4-H youth development agent, they created a weeklong camp called 4-H Challenge Me that introduces students to animals and agriculture.



Kentucky scores major partnership with MIT to fuel innovation - Kentucky was chosen as one of nine regional members in the 6th Cohort of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Regional Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program. MIT REAP is an intensive process designed to engage partners from throughout the state in developing a plan to support entrepreneurs. Kentucky is the first cohort from the U.S. and is being led by Luke Ramsay, economic development extension specialist with Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky.

Lanternflies eat everything in sight. The U.S. is looking delicious. Entomology chair Reddy Palli was quoted in the New York Times regarding research in the college on RNA interference, or RNAi, to develop a novel insecticide. The technology works by silencing the expression of genes that are critical for vital functions like movement, but are also unique to a given species of insect.

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## Spotlight

### Tiffany Cochran

Production & Marketing Coordinator for the College

We asked Tiffany, who manages the college's social media, to share a little about her passions, her career path and what led her to us.

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

My background is pretty varied. I was always drawn to art growing up, so when I went to college, I decided I wanted to see where art could take me. That led me to earn three



degrees: journalism, communication design and creative advertising. When it comes to creativity in the marketing field, the possibilities are endless. In any given day, I find myself wearing a myriad of hats, and I morph from a writer to a designer to a mathematician. I appreciate the challenges that come with my job, because I'm always learning something new, which keeps my daily work flow exciting.

### **What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?**

I enjoy the diversity of my role, and the people I work with. I'm constantly shifting gears in the College of Agriculture, Food And Environment, from talking about bugs and fashion on social media, to working closely with writers about the latest research projects happening within our

college, to going out in the field with our videographers and photographers flying drones over Robinson Forest or photographing the Wildcat mascot. Not one day is the same when you're working in Ag Communications, and that's why I love what I do.

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

I've been rock climbing for 12 years and I spend most of my weekends out in the Red River Gorge. In 2012, I moved to Lexington so that I could be closer to world class rock climbing. Climbing has taken me to places all over the world and introduced me to some of the most fascinating and amazing people who have become some of my closest friends. To me, climbing isn't just a form of exercise, it's a community of likeminded individuals who choose to live this lifestyle. This sport has not only given me physical strength, but it has also given me confidence and mental strength. I see myself pursuing this extracurricular activity in some capacity for the rest of my life.

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## Calendar of Events

**June 11-14**

4-H Teen Conference

**June 17**

Father's Day

**June 14**

Flag Day

**June 21**

First Day of Summer

## Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

[The Ag Magazine](#)

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**June 21**  
2018 Kentucky Girl's STEM  
Collaborative Annual Conference

**June 28**  
Beef Field Day

**July 4**  
Independence Day

**July 12**  
Turf Field Day

**July 17**  
Spray School

**July 24**  
Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day



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.

