

# UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



June/July

Monthly College Newsletter

## Message from the Dean

People in our college work hard every day to advance our partnerships with the industries we serve. In recent weeks, we received important gifts that represent two of the state's signature industries and allow us to build on our efforts in these important areas – literally and figuratively.

We are honored to be the recipient of the largest philanthropic gift in the history of Beam Suntory. The gift for the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits allows us to expand work already underway in the college across all three of our mission areas. It is also testament to what we can do when we collaborate across departmental and college lines as well as with external stakeholders.



This institute, under the leadership of Seth DeBolt, is driven by an interdependence between the industry and the university and part of our land grant mission to serve the economy of the state. Through this institute, we hope to aid in the continued growth and development in this industry through sustainable practices. Our initial partners in this effort are the UK colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Gatton.

With this gift, coupled with other generous philanthropic gifts and college funds, we will soon see work on the Cooper House that will restore the home and provide

a wonderful front door for the college. As part of that project, a new spirits building will be constructed behind the home to house a research still, classroom and office space. Additional pieces of this project are still being discussed, but we are excited to see the project beginning to move forward with plans for a groundbreaking in September.

The equine industry equally represents an iconic part of the state's fabric. We are proud that our longtime partner, the Keeneland Association, has gifted the college an additional \$1.3 million to the Keeneland Endowed Chair in Equine Veterinary Science. This gift brings the fund to \$3 million and will allow the College's Gluck Equine Research Center to launch a world-class equine drug research and testing program under the direction of Scott Stanley.

In keeping with the theme of equine safety, a gift of \$100,000 from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Charities will be used to renovate existing lab space in the Barnhart building for the Equine Surfaces and Safety Research Laboratory. This lab will allow us to further support research on equine surfaces and safety under the direction of Mick Peterson, director of UK Ag Equine Programs.

Ensuring the health and safety of horse and rider are paramount. The work provided by these labs are pieces of the cumulative work we do within the college for the equine industry. Of course, all of our work in the equine field involves a team approach.

As a land-grant university program with over 150 years under our belt, we like to say that we were multidisciplinary before it was cool. Our college thrives on many cross-departmental and college collaborations. When our industries show confidence in our programs, we trust that it is because our college understands and lives the land-grant mission every day. We must also recognize our excellent philanthropy team whose efforts support our important collaborations.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US AT A

# Celebration

for  
*Dr. Larry Grabau*

AND HIS 8 YEARS OF SERVICE AS OUR  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR INSTRUCTION

MONDAY JULY 22  
3:30 - 5:00  
LOBBY / GROUND FLOOR OF  
AG SCIENCE CENTER NORTH  
IN COMMON GROUNDS AREA

UK College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Associate dean for instruction search

Finalists have been selected for the associate dean for instruction position. They are Tammy Stephenson, associate professor, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, Brian Lee, professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, and Carmen Agouridis, associate extension professor, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

Students, faculty and staff will have opportunities to hear from each finalist next week. For information on each candidate and opportunities to provide feedback, please visit <https://administration.ca.uky.edu/adi-candidates>. Those who will be out of town or on nine-month appointments may participate via Zoom. Information for participating is also available on the website.

We would like to thank the search committee, led by Reddy Palli, Department of Entomology chair, for their hard work in this important task. Committee members include, Jamie Dunn, assistant dean for advising and student support; Krista Jacobsen, associate professor and past Master Teacher award recipient; Kristen Wilson, academic coordinator, Equine Programs; Mia Farrell, interim director of diversity; Susan Campbell, finance director; and Tricia Coakley, assistant director of planning and assessment.

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## New faces/transitions

Pam Edwards has joined the dean's office as college project manager senior. She began her duties May 20.

Nick Carter will be moving to his new role as county and local government relations director July 1. Nick is currently the Fayette County agriculture and national resources extension agent.

Laura Stephenson will join the college as associate dean and director of Cooperative Extension Aug. 1.

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## Promotion and tenure

Congratulations to faculty who were promoted in the past two cycles.

Those attaining the rank of full professor include:

- Cynthia Gaskill, Veterinary Sciences
- Sam McNeill, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
- Sharyn Perry, Plant and Soil Sciences
- Kiersten Wise, Plant Pathology
- Jennifer Hunter, Family Sciences
- Min-Young Lee, Retailing and Tourism Management

Those attaining the rank of associate professor include:

- Krista Jacobsen, Horticulture
- Laura Kennedy, Veterinary Sciences
- Carrie Knott, Plant and Soil Sciences
- Tracy Lu, Retailing and Tourism Management
- Olga Tsyusko, Plant and Soil Sciences
- Yuqing Zheng, Agricultural Economics
- Jayoung Koo, Landscape Architecture
- John Cox, Forestry and Natural Resources

- Christopher Sass, Landscape Architecture
  - Michael Sama, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
  - Joe Dvorak, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
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## China/Alltech delegation

The college recently hosted approximately 30 agricultural delegates from China who were attending the Alltech ONE conference. Guests toured the Gatton Student Center and heard presentations on research taking place in the college. Presenters were Youling Xiong, professor, Department of Animal and Food Sciences; Xuguo "Joe" Zhou, associate professor, Department of Entomology; and Yang Jia, postdoctoral scholar, Department of Animal and Food Science.

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## Awards/honors

- Merlin Lindemann – 2019 Animal Industry Service Award, American Society of Animal Science
  - Robert Coleman – 2019 Distinguished Teacher Award, American Society of Animal Science
  - Suman Surendranath – 2019 International Lectureship Award, American Meat Science Association
  - Jacquie Jacob – 2019 Phibro Extension Award, Poultry Science Association
  - Lauren Nolan – Maurice Stein Fellowship Award, Poultry Science Association
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## In the news

### **Extension helps producers improve operations**

David Coffey, Jackson County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources

### **UK and Whitley County students help rebuild an ecosystem**

Laurie Thomas, extension forester and Matt Springer, assistant extension professor, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

### **Farmers, Economists See More Economic Pain from Trump's Increased Tariffs**

Will Snell, professor, Department of Agricultural Economics

### **The trick to getting rid of ants for good (it's not a spray)**

Michael Potter, professor, Department of Entomology

### **Mini Farm Helps Bring Agriculture Back to Eastern Kentucky**

Keith Center, Elliott County extension agent for agriculture and natural resources

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## Spotlight

### Kim Henken

Acting Director, School of Human Environmental Sciences

We asked Kim 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?**

I am an alumnus of the college with both a B.S. and M.S. in agricultural economics. I was active in several student organizations and was selected as a member of the college's first ambassador team. After completing my master's degree in 1994, I worked for one semester as an instructor and extension assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics. I was fortunate to begin a full-time career in extension in May 1995 as an extension associate for environmental and natural resource issues. In June 2002, I became extension associate for environmental issues in Family and Consumer Sciences. Four years later, I accepted a position as a program coordinator in the School of

Human Environmental Sciences with responsibilities in both the School's administrative unit and Family and Consumer Sciences Extension. I currently am a senior program manager in Family and Consumer Sciences Extension and serve as acting director of the School of Human Environmental Sciences. I have served as state advisor to the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association for the past 13 years. I have been fortunate to have opportunities to grow my skill set and move into new positions that broadened my horizons throughout my UK tenure.

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

My favorite thing about working in CAFE is definitely the people. I was fortunate to have outstanding interactions with faculty, staff and administrators during my student days – amazing professionals like Dean Oran Little, Joe Davis, Loys Mather, Lori Garkovich, Louann Waldner, Mike Richey and Grace Gorrell just to name a few. Early in my career, I had mentors who were a positive influence in countless ways – Steve Isaacs, Linda Heaton, Bill Thom, Jenny Cocanougher and Doug McLaren are all high on that list, along with dozens of others. My colleagues in Family and Consumer Sciences Extension and the School of Human Environmental Sciences are top-notch. Our alumni care about the continued success of our programs and they invest in that success. Extension personnel across the state understand, value and improve our Kentucky communities. Extension clientele benefit from our programs, but they also give back through volunteer service and local leadership roles. Students in the college are outstanding – and always have been. It is truly a blessing to be surrounded by the best and brightest.

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

I come from a family farm background, and my husband and I are fortunate to own the farm where I grew up in Metcalfe County. The original 20 acres have been in my family since the early 1900s, and my father grew the farm to its current 140 acres. We spend countless weekends, along with a few 'farmcations,' enjoying the woodlands and stream and working on the farm. While the land is leased to dear family friends, we are gradually improving the farm infrastructure with new fencing. I have become quite good at driving steeples and stretching barbed wire. We eventually plan to retire there, and I hope that my son will someday be the fifth generation to own the land.

**June 3-6**

Southern Forest Tree Improvement  
Conference

**June 10-13**

KY 4-H Teen Conference

**June 11-13**

90th State FFA Convention

**June 13**

KATS Mid-Season Corn & Soybean  
Considerations

**June 14**

Flag Day

**June 16**

Father's Day

**June 21**

First Day of Summer

**June 22**

Hundred Acre 5K at the Arboretum

**June 26-July 14**

Bluegrass Area Woodturners Annual  
Display

**June 30**

Last Day to Apply for December Degree

**July 2**

Pest Management Field Day

**July 4**

Independence Day

**July 11**

UK Turf Field Day

**July 18**

KATS - Spray Clinic

**July 20**

West Woodland Owners Short Course

**July 22**

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Celebration for Larry Grabau

**July 23**

[UK Corn, Soybean and Tobacco Field Day](#)

**July 30**

[High School Crop Scouting Competition](#)

