



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



May

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean



As we close out another semester, spring finally has arrived, and it is gratifying to see how our students have grown and flourished during their years here at the college. On Friday one of our largest May graduating classes with contain 424 degree applicants. We awarded 401 degrees in May 2017 and 398 in May 2016. Thanks to the graduates for "starting with us."

For these students, the transition from the classroom to the workplace will hopefully be made easier thanks to the preparation they have received through the many efforts of faculty and staff. From class work that stretched their minds to internships that stretched the possibilities, students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment are prepared for whatever lies

ahead.

The college must also prepare for the future. Our instructional arm is consistently evaluating and reevaluating courses, program offerings and degree opportunities. New degree and certificate programs are under consideration and one area of significant interest and need is for online master's level courses and degrees that would benefit our extension agents throughout the state.

This is particularly important due to recent legislation amending statutes affecting postsecondary education and the employee education program. Under this change, faculty and staff employed at Kentucky's public institutions are no longer able to take classes at another institution without paying tuition. We have a number of employees affected by this change and we are looking at options to assist them through a transitional period. We take this seriously and will work closely with UK administration in seeking ways to help.

In particular, a team of dedicated faculty is accelerating development of an online master's program geared toward the needs of extension agents and others. We will work with that team to do all we can to move this program forward at a rapid pace to ensure that you have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed and serve. Other course, certificate and degree programs are also under review for possible online offerings as well.

At the time of this publication, we are still studying the scenario concerning next year's budget and do not have information as of yet from university leadership. They are working very hard to sort through the budget itself and the funding model that will be announced by the body that allocates performance funding, the Council on Postsecondary Education.

News

Extension update

Extension continues to make progress on items identified in the action plan with the goal of making the system more accountable, efficient and responsive.

- **Needs Assessment:** The Needs Assessment Committee finished its work in mid-April and rebranded the assessment as a "community assessment" to better reflect the goal of the process. The committee developed a comprehensive, standardized method that will complement the Plan of Work and deepen our understanding of each county and the communities within them. We are still finalizing details, but training for Extension staff on conducting the community assessment will begin soon. Thank you to Lori Garkovich and Rick Maurer for leading the committee and to each member for their work.
- **TRIP:** Eight pilot county offices are currently using TRIP. Rather than full implementation by July, TRIP will be phased in by district. District 3 will be the first to make the switch with the goal of having all District 3 employees using TRIP by Aug. 1. Implementing the changes this way will allow for better understanding of the district level workload and ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness, before adding more districts. You may find information on TRIP, policies and procedures, training resources, county budget resources and more on the new Extension Financial Operations website [here](#).
- **Fiscal Compliance Officer:** We are working to fill the second fiscal compliance officer position covering Districts 5, 6 and 7. Ty Back covers Districts 1, 2 and 3. Tina Ward covers District 4. Extension Financial Operations is continuously looking to improve all financially related processes and systems to make things move as smoothly as possible.
- **County Managers:** We are conducting interviews to fill two county manager

positions that will join current county managers in Boone, Clark and Madison counties. We anticipate having these positions filled by June 1. District Directors continue to explore opportunities in other counties across the state. Professional development modules have been developed to equip county managers in their new role. We will share these modules beginning this summer.

Wifi change reminder

Don't forget that ukyedu will no longer be the campus Wifi network at the end of the semester and we are switching to eduroam. This will go into effect May 8. Any devices not migrated by that time will lose connectivity. For more information about the wireless network switch and how to migrate your devices, please visit <http://www.uky.edu/wifihelp/>.

Awards and Honors

Roger Brown, professor in Agricultural Economics, is a recipient of the 2018 UK Outstanding Teaching Award. The Outstanding Teaching Faculty and Teaching Assistant Awards annually recognize faculty and graduate teaching assistants who demonstrate special dedication and outstanding performance in the classroom or laboratory. Recipients were selected via nomination and reviewed by a selection committee based in the Office for Faculty Advancement.

Lisa Collins, assistant dean for academic administration, received the 2018 Sarah Bennett Holmes Award. The award recognizes one female faculty member and one female staff member who promote growth and well-being of women at the university and across Kentucky. Created by the UK Women's Forum, the Sarah Bennett Holmes Award has been among the most esteemed recognitions bestowed at the University of Kentucky.

UK MANRRS was named the top chapter in the nation for the sixth consecutive year. Additionally, the group received the 2018 Student Organization of the Year Award and Diversity & Inclusion Award from the UK Office of Student Organizations and Activities.

Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals Award recipients:

- M.D. Whiteker Award for Excellence in Extension– Tim Woods, Department of Agricultural Economics
 - Outstanding New Extension Faculty – Heather Norman-Burgdolf, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
 - Outstanding Extension Associate – Kimberly Leonberger, Department of Plant Pathology
 - Outstanding Extension Specialist – Louie Rivers Jr., Kentucky State University
 - Outstanding Project – Ask the Experts: Mindy McCulley, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Brian Volland, Agricultural Communications Services
 - Outstanding Program – Small and Backyard Flocks: Tony Pescatore, Department of Animal and Food Sciences
 - Friend of KASEP – Darlene Mylin, UK Cooperative Extension administrative services
 - Friend of KASEP – Jackie Owens, KSU Extension
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Student project could make

international impact - A student-developed, wind-powered grain drying system that could improve grain quality and people's health in sub-Saharan Africa has garnered lots of media attention. The student team is known as the UK Windcats. Akinbode Adedeji, an assistant professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering is the group's advisor. Francis Agbali, a BAE doctoral student, is the Windcats' leading member. UK students on the project included John Jerrod Mays, Chase Mahoney and David Cline. William Adams, UK senior engineer associate, also contributed to the project.



From The Ground Up – a weekly series hosted by Jeff Franklin, Agricultural Communications Services, and featuring horticulture Extension agents from central Kentucky has resumed for this growing season. The program runs each week on WUKY and you can also find it on the college's news [website](#).

UK Extension works to get kids ready for kindergarten - A kindergarten-ready program offered through the Cooperative Extension Service from Carter County was highlighted and featured Whitney Morrow, Carter County family and consumer sciences extension agent and David Weisenhorn, senior extension specialist for parenting and child development.

Spotlight

Pamela A. Gray
Senior Director of Philanthropy



We asked Pamela 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 grew up on a dairy in Wisconsin and came to the University of Kentucky as a first generation student in 1987. I graduated in 1992 from the College of Communications. As I built my career in public relations, marketing and philanthropy, I worked for the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, University of Denver, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Alzheimer's Association and Rice University. The positions led me to Colorado for 17 years and then to Texas for six years. I always wanted to return to

Kentucky and to the university I passionately

support. GO CATS! About six years ago, I started conversations with Mike Richey about my interest in coming back to UK. I do attribute Mike with identifying what he thought would be the best fit for me and I am so thankful to him for his sage advice. In that timeframe, I spent the last three years at Rice University in the Department of Gift Planning where I raised more than \$20 million in commitments and gifts. I also attained my master's degree in professional studies, emphasizing leadership in organizations from the University of Denver. Overall, from the time I stepped onto the UK campus for my official visit in the summer of 1986, I knew I was home and I knew I would make it back someday.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I feel like I am finally doing what I've worked for and attained my education for—to help students that looked like I did when I came to UK. I am very passionate about agriculture overall being a past vice president of the Mile High Cattle Women's Association. Being passionate about what you are raising funds for is very important to being a successful philanthropy officer. I know I am in the right place. The perks of working with so many other passionate like-minded people helps too.

What is one thing about you that might surprise people?

This is a tough one. I received a Presidential Volunteer Service Award for my work with homeless animals. I do natural dog training and I was part of the Kitty Committee to work with shelter cat behavior while I was in Denver. I haven't had time to get involved locally here yet ... but maybe someday soon. I think everyone knows what an avid Green Bay Packer football fan I am and how I'm always using Vince Lombardi quotes and analogies. I am also an avid hiker and a landscape photographer in my spare time.

Calendar of Events

May 1-4
Finals Week

May 1-5
National Small Business Week

May 4
Graduation

May 4
First Friday

May 5
Derby

May 8
Wheat Field Day

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)
[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)
[College Weekly for Students](#)
[The Ag Magazine](#)
[Contact Us](#)

May 13
Mother's Day

May 14-18
[Ride Your Bike to Work Week](#)

May 28
Memorial Day

