

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



October

Monthly College Newsletter

Message from the Dean



This week we welcome alumni and friends to campus for our 44th annual Roundup event. Roundup is a premier event for the college and it highlights the wonderful relationships we have built and continue to build. Roundup is the largest alumni event at UK, and it is one that others seek to emulate. We thank our Ag and HES Alumni Association and the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni for making this event stronger every year.

In addition to the activities around the Good Barn and Roundup tent, several departments and organizations use the time to reconnect with their own alumni. Prospective students also come to campus to visit and perhaps solidify their plans to one day join the ranks of our alumni.

This is a busy week, but it is one that allows us to highlight so many wonderful things about our college. Not only do we relish our relationships with our alumni, we take the opportunity to highlight our college to local businesses and to our elected leaders. We will again host the Kentucky General Assembly's Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture as well as the Lexington Rotary Club, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation and Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council.

One of the biggest highlights of this week is Staff Appreciation Day and the annual Outstanding Staff Awards. It is always an honor to help hand out awards to individuals who are the backbone of this college. If you have not been to Roundup in a while, please come and enjoy time with your colleagues.

News

Enrollment

Enrollment continues to climb thanks to our quality instruction and family atmosphere. Students and their families trust in the valuable education we provide that leads to a successful future. The fastest growing program is agricultural and medical biotechnology, which saw an increase of 74.4 percent in first-year enrollment. Additionally, the college's first-year cohort contains 31 percent first-generation students.

New Chairs

We have recently had leadership changes in various departments. Our newest chairs include:

- Michael Montross, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, effective July 1. He joined the department in 1999, after he graduated with a doctorate from Purdue University. He also holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University.
 - Barry Barnett, Agricultural Economics, effective Jan. 1, 2018. A Woodford County native, Barnett has earned three UK degrees including a doctorate in agricultural economics. He is currently a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University and he is a visiting scholar at Humboldt University in Berlin.
 - Rebecca McCulley, Plant and Soil Sciences, effective Jan. 1, 2018. She received a doctorate from Colorado State University and she has been a member of the department since 2006. McCulley currently serves as director of the Tracy Farmer Center for Sustainability and the Environment.
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CATchment Cleanup

Students, faculty and staff are invited to help trim, mulch and mow the rain garden on Farm Road from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13. CATchment Cleanup, a service activity led by Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering students, will cap off UK Water Week activities. Water Week is a collaborative effort between the colleges of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering as



School of Human Environmental Sciences and Family Consumer Sciences interim leadership

Jennifer Hunter joins the Cooperative Extension Service administrative team as interim assistant director of Family and Consumer Sciences. Hunter is an associate professor in family sciences, a state extension specialist for family financial management and the director of the Managing in Tough Times Initiative.

Kim Henken, is serving as acting director of HES. She also continues her role as HES director of communications and strategic partnerships.

Ann Vail, who has served as director of the School of Human Environmental Sciences and assistant director for FCS, announced plans to return to a faculty role. Our deepest thanks go to Ann Vail for her distinguished and dedicated service. A task force will evaluate and recommend the appropriate leadership for the school.

Congratulations

- The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education named Rebekah Epps, associate professor and program chair for agricultural education in the Department of Community and Leadership Development, as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Career and Technical Postsecondary Teacher of Year.
 - The Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center is celebrating 30 years of service to the equine community. A dinner later this month will honor Peter Timoney, Gluck Center professor, for his lifelong contributions to equine infectious disease research.
 - The E-Discovery Challenge program recently won the National Association for Community Development Extension Professionals Innovative Program Award and the Community Development Society Innovative Program Award.
 - Kenneth Jones, director of Extension's Program & Staff Development and professor in Community and Leadership Development recently received the southern region Administrative Leadership Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi.
 - The Textile Testing Lab is celebrating 30 years of service to the textile care industry. The lab is led by Elizabeth Easter, professor in the Department of Retailing and Tourism Management and funded by the Association for Linen Management.
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Spotlight

Tim West

Director of Operations and Associate General Counsel

We asked Tim 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?

In 2002, I completed law school at the University of Cincinnati and returned to Lexington to begin practicing law. For the next seven years, I worked as a litigator for the firm of Fowler, Measle & Bell. While I gained a great deal of experience and honed my skills as an attorney, ultimately, I decided private practice was not for me. I left the firm and went to work as the Associate General Counsel for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. I found public service much more fulfilling than private practice and began plotting a new course for my

career. During my time with the commission, the Equine Drug Research Council funded some research projects in the Department of Veterinary Science. This afforded me the opportunity to get to know Dean Cox, who served as the associate dean for research at the time. We enjoyed a very good working relationship and she encouraged me to stay in touch. When my current position opened up, she encouraged me to apply and the rest, as they say, is history.

Share your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

My favorite thing about the College, without a doubt, is the people. I have really enjoyed getting to know the many dedicated faculty and staff members employed by the College and it is gratifying to be able to support their activities. There is a team atmosphere that is great to be a part of. I also have enjoyed learning about all the fascinating work being done in the College. It is work that has a profoundly positive impact on the Commonwealth and I am proud to be part of that legacy.

What is one thing about you that might surprise people?

I love bonsai trees and have an ever-growing collection of them. For me, bonsais are like living sculptures and it is challenging to take raw material and develop it into a well-balanced finished product. Each tree is a puzzle that must be solved in order to unlock its potential. Doing so requires envisioning what I want the tree to look like years down the road and then slowly getting it to that point. Patience has never been my strong suit and working with bonsais has required me to slow down and work at the trees' pace, not at my pace. I hope to one day travel to Japan to see the best bonsais in the world, some of which are hundreds of years old.

Calendar of Events

October 4

[CAFE Staff Appreciation Day](#)

October 6

[First Friday](#)

October 7

[Roundup](#)

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Calendar for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

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October 7-13

Kentucky Water Week

October 12

Gluck 30th Anniversary & Open House

October 16

Midterms

October 18

UK Women's Forum: "The future is
Female"

October 23-25

UK Leadership Forum

