

FEBRUARY

COLLEGE MONTHLY



The year 2021 has come with hope for getting back to “normal” operations. Our campus is working hard to get students back into class; vaccinations are underway, and we are headlong into another year that will hopefully see some positive change.

We kicked off the spring semester last week much like 2020, with a mix of in-person, virtual and hybrid classes. Faculty and staff continue to work in both university and home offices. I hope everyone takes advantage of the vaccine when you receive the opportunity to get one. This is another step in getting students back into the classrooms, into

labs and into in-person experiential learning opportunities.

Fatigue has set in for many, but we must not let our guard down. We must continue to follow the federal, state and university guidelines to help stop the spread of this virus and resume many of the activities we have not been able to host or take part in for nearly a year.

By using all the means available to us, we will continue the important work of conducting research and helping Kentucky residents through Cooperative Extension. Thank you for remaining focused on these essential services to the commonwealth. Extension is critical to getting out messages on the science behind vaccines, in addition to providing many new programs to ensure community health and economic sustainability.

Kentucky’s General Assembly is also busy working for the commonwealth. We are hopeful that the legislators will pass a state budget that recognizes the educational mission of a land-grant and flagship university, allowing us to move forward with important work. Additionally, we are working to ensure that funding of our critical mandated programs remains level. We look forward to assisting our elected leaders with any questions they may have as we work with them to ensure students continue to have access to learning, researchers have resources to find solutions to Kentucky’s challenges and our Extension staff has the means to provide critical information to farmers, families and communities.

Along with university leadership, we are monitoring legislation that may impact us and our work. I ask any of you who are contacted to provide information to legislators or committees first work with our legislative liaison Chris Crumrine (ccrumrine@uky.edu | 859-338-8950) to ensure we provide our elected officials with all the information they need to make important decisions.

As always, thank you for being an important part of our college.

Dean Nancy Cox

New leadership

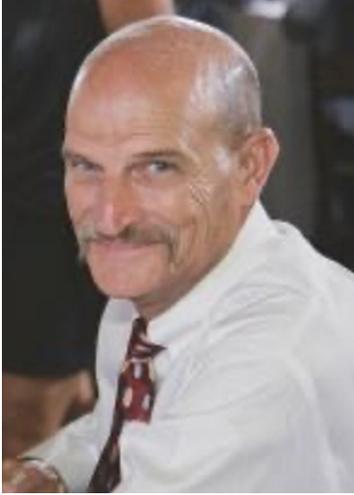


James Matthews has been named assistant dean for research. Matthews will continue his role as professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences in beef/ruminant nutritional physiology. In this new part-time position, his new duties will include leading the college's beef task force; serving as the point of contact for the USDA Agriculture Research Service building program and agreement; coordinating with associate deans for research and administration on issues related to animal research facilities; developing relationships with the Kentucky Livestock Coalition and other stakeholders; and assisting with strategic responses to new opportunities. Additionally, Matthews will coordinate with others in CAFE on legislative policies impacting research and on opportunities to work with companies to develop technologies for agriculture, food and other industries.



Tammy Stephenson has been named chair of the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. A professor in the department for the past 20 years, Stephenson is the recipient of numerous teaching awards. She has mentored more than 400 undergraduate student research projects and serves as the faculty advisor to the Campus Kitchen at the University of Kentucky and Spoon U at UK. She is also a co-author of two nutrition-related textbooks and serves as the lead author for compatible online activities for each of the textbooks. Stephenson has held several leadership positions, including director of undergraduate studies, director of the undergraduate certificate in food systems and hunger studies and co-director of the undergraduate certificate in nutrition for human performance.

Craig Wood has been named assistant director for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension. Wood has been serving in the role in an interim capacity. He previously served as the associate director of the eXtension Initiative, a virtual one-stop connection point for Cooperative Extension Service specialists across the nation.



Wood has been a faculty member in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences since 1985. As an extension professor, he focused on horse production, management, nutrition and muscle physiology and supervised the Kentucky 4-H Horse Program. As assistant director, Wood will provide leadership for agriculture and natural resources and horticulture extension and work with extension specialists and associates to conduct state-level programs.



Jason Hans has been named interim chair of the Department of Family Sciences. Hans has been in the department since 2004. A McNair Scholar and two-time Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine, Hans has been recognized with numerous teaching awards and honors. He has served as editor of *Family Relations*, an applied journal of family science, and as editor of the *Family Index Database* and Graduate and Undergraduate Study in Marriage and Family. He has also authored more than 50 scholarly publications.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Spring 2021 CAFE Office of Diversity Cultivating Inclusion Series:

- **Allies and Accomplices 101** - Feb. 4 – noon to 1 p.m. Learn the difference between being an ally and being an accomplice and discover how to leverage your power and influence to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive community. Register [here](#).

UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching/CAFE Spring Workshops:

- **Critical Compassion and the Pedagogy of People** - Feb. 9 – noon to 1 p.m. What does trauma look like? How might it affect the learning environment and the people within? This case-study based workshop will consider the ways that stressors shape learning to understand the ways trauma can present itself in a classroom setting. Participants will explore what learning looks like when people are traumatized, and how to nurture a pedagogy that is built on the foundation of compassion for each student and ourselves. By the end of the session, participants will have explored ways they can practice a pedagogy of compassion in their respective areas. Register [here](#).

TEACHING & RESEARCH

Diversity Fellowships

Awards up to \$11,000

per year depending on classification

Open to Master's or Ph.D.

in College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Apply by March 1

with nomination from Director of Graduate Studies

Download application at
administration.ca.uky.edu/diversity-fellowships

QUESTIONS?

DR. MIA FARRELL (ANTOMIA.FARRELL@UKY.EDU)



Goodin student awards established

The Michael Goodin Global Aspirations Award for undergraduate students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has been established to honor the late Dr. Goodin for his dedication and passion for student success and his sensitivity to student needs.

Awards will first be given to students who are facing challenges in their personal life and/or in their academic career and need urgent financial assistance. If no primary award students are identified, then awards may be used for research-related travel expenses. Preference will be given to students in the Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology program.



The funds for the award have been established through charitable donations from friends who wish to honor Goodin's legacy of embracing student diversity in all aspects, his recognition that students learn in different ways and his work to engage students across many

modalities. Students who wish to be considered for this award should contact Esther Fleming, efleming@uky.edu. Please contact Elizabeth Vaughn, Elizabeth.Vaughn@uky.edu, for information on this new fund or if you wish to contribute to the fund.



Professional development opportunity

The CAFE Lunch & Lunch series provides easily accessible professional development opportunities for employees. Sessions are offered throughout the year, covering various popular topics, including utilizing technology to communicate effectively, work-life balance, and employee benefits highlights. Zoom options are available, and sessions are recorded for future viewing on the site [here](#). The next session in the series, *Managing Stress and Building Resiliency*, is from noon to 1 p.m., Feb. 10. Register [here](#).

UK Employee COVID-19 Response Fund

The Employee COVID-19 Response Fund provides financial support to individuals experiencing an unforeseen, temporary financial hardship caused by the pandemic.

To be eligible to receive assistance, an individual must:

- Be a current (faculty and staff, including temporary/STEPS) or retired (as defined in UK Administrative Regulation 3:1) university employee at the time of their application and fund distribution. The advisory committee may also consider other, unique situations or circumstances.
- Be experiencing financial hardship due to or connected with COVID-19; and
- [Submit an application and supporting documents](#)

Hardships due to or connected with COVID-19 include:

- Recovery from COVID-related illness
 - Out-of-pocket, unreimbursable medical expenses or co-pays
 - Funeral expenses
 - Caregiver responsibilities for a family member
 - Threat of loss of essential utilities
 - Threat of loss of household
 - A major unexpected expense that is not covered by an active insurance policy
-

4-H'ers positively impacting their communities during pandemic

Kentucky 4-H'ers are finding safe and effective ways to brighten people's days and make their communities better places to live during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).

FDA, Gluck and COVID-19 testing device

Ted Kalbfleisch, associate professor at the Gluck Equine Research Center, was a part of the collaborating team that led to a testing device receiving emergency FDA approval for COVID-19 testing. Read more [here](#).

BBC publishes article on UK researchers' work with drones and cattle

Michael Sama and Josh Jackson, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, and Jesse Hoagg, Department of Mechanical Engineering, have been developing a way for farmers to autonomously monitor cattle using drones. Read more [here](#).

Spotlight

Victoria Pook

Post-doctoral research associate

Associate director of the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits

Director of the online distillation, wine and brewing studies undergraduate certificate program

Department of Horticulture/James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits

We asked Victoria 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?

After earning my doctorate in entomology, I transferred to the field of horticulture to gain post-doctoral experience. Both entomology and horticulture are closely tied to beverage alcohol, as the production of these beverages relies on the successful implementation of agricultural practices. What I love about the field of beverage alcohol production is that it is at the intersection of science, agriculture, engineering and business so there is always something new to learn.



What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

The people! When I joined CAFE in 2011, the welcoming atmosphere made me feel immediately at home, and I have been happily working here ever since.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

I am an avid rock climber.

Calendar of Events

February 1-28

Black History Month

February 2

Groundhog's Day

February 20-27

FFA Week

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 22

UK Founder's Day

Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

[The Ambassador](#)

[Contact Us](#)



[Read The Ambassador](#)

