



Message from the Dean

A big part of a land grant college's three-part mission is research. We recently received the second quarter of the current fiscal year's sponsored grant and contract activities report from the university's research office, and the numbers are impressive. It shows that our college continues to provide important and impactful research, and our researchers' efforts are recognized by their many grant awards.

So far in FY19, we have received \$36.74 million in new and renewing awards. This is a 59-percent increase in awards compared to the same period last year. Thirteen of 26 units, representing 10 of 14 departments in the college, experienced an increase in awards over the same time frame in FY18.

We, again, have the most total awards for a college outside of the College of Medicine. We also have the second highest number of proposals submitted year-to-date behind our colleagues in medicine. We do all this with fewer faculty positions devoted to research than nearly half of the other colleges at UK. This is yet another example of the impactful research and dedicated team we have in CAFE.

Our efforts also show the collaborative environment within our college and the many partners we work with around the state and beyond to find important solutions to today's problems.



Just a few examples – and only a few – include:

- Alison Davis and Jennifer Hunter’s grant from USDA Rural Development to investigate how financial issues impact a person’s potential for substance use relapse. Their work will create education programs to increase financial stability for those in substance use treatment and thereby help reduce the likelihood of a relapse.
- Jennifer Hunter also received a five-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant to address obesity in rural communities. Focusing on Martin County, the project uses a variety of extension-based programs and new strategies to improve county residents’ diets and increase their physical activity. Partners include local schools, public health services and parks and recreation.
- Chris Barton received National Science Foundation funding to upgrade a stream monitoring station at Robinson Forest. This upgrade will not only better monitor the impact of manmade and natural disturbances and interventions on water quality but will contribute critical data to other efforts to model water quality across multiple scales.
- Reddy Palli received a renewal for the Center for Arthropod Management Technologies, which collaborates with industry partners to develop new methods for pest control, both in plants and for protecting human health.

These are just a sampling of the great research taking place in CAFE that will help us to transform Kentucky and the world. It starts with us.

News

Administrative searches

A national search for a new associate dean and director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is well underway. The committee of internal and external stakeholders has reviewed applicants and has completed a first round of interviews. Finalists will be on campus in late March/early April for interviews and seminars. We'll share details on the candidates and their visits to campus soon.

There were multiple nominations for interim associate dean for instruction and these are currently being reviewed. The plan is for the appointee to work alongside Dr. Larry Grabau for a time prior to his leaving the post Aug. 1.

In the news

- **Cattle taking a hit from the wettest year on record**, Michelle Arnold, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, multiple outlets
- **How landscape plants have an impact on the carbon footprint**, Dewayne Ingram; Charles Hall; Joshua Knight, Department of Horticulture, multiple outlets
- **Santa Anita death toll for horses rises to 19 in last two months after another one died Monday**, Mick Peterson, Equine Programs, multiple outlets

- **Researchers partnering with national group to help CSAs thrive**, Tim Woods, Department of Agricultural Economics, Jairus Rossi, Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, and Mark Williams, Department of Horticulture, multiple outlets
 - **UK Forestry, Natural Resources takes to airwaves and cyberspace**, Renee Williams, Laura Lhotka, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, multiple outlets
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Awards/Honors

Michael Reed, agricultural economics professor and director of international programs, was recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

The **Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition** was recently recognized as a national leader in education on sustainable food systems by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

Patricia Krausman, director of the Elizabethtown office of the Kentucky Small Business Development Center, is a 2019 Sarah Bennett Holmes Award nominee.

Spotlight

Surendranath Suman

Professor, meat science

Department of Animal and Food Sciences



We asked Surendranath 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 roles at UK?

I grew up in India and was trained as a veterinarian. In 2002, I came to the U.S. to obtain my doctorate in meat science at the University of Connecticut. While finishing up the degree in 2006, I was offered the position of assistant professor in the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences. I became a full professor in 2017. The multiple grants I have received from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to study meat color biochemistry (with a heavy emphasis on fresh beef) helped me host numerous international students and visiting professors. Additionally, I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with meat scientists from different parts of the world and have given lectures in more than a dozen countries in all six inhabited continents. Together, these elements positioned my research program as a prominent one in North and South Americas, where several countries dominate globally in beef production, consumption and exports.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

People and opportunities. I am very fortunate to have talented colleagues in CAFE from diverse backgrounds, who enriched my career and life in Kentucky. The wonderful opportunities at CAFE also helped me establish a strong network of fruitful, international collaborations with fellow scientists in Brazil, South Africa, China, Australia and Canada. It is always nice to have great colleagues at home and across the globe.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

As a meat scientist, I have studied quality/biochemical attributes of muscle foods from nearly two dozen species (livestock, poultry, exotic, game and fish) in four continents (Africa, Asia, North America and South America).

Calendar of Events

Feb. 15-March 30

[UK BAE Annual Book Drive](#)

Feb. 25-March 8

[Donations for Citations](#)

March 5

Mardi Gras

March 6

[Integrated Pest Management Field School](#)

March 7

[KATS workshop](#)

March 8

International Women's Day

March 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 11-15

Spring Break

March 14

[SEC Tournament CAFE Alumni Happy Hour](#)

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 20

First Day of Spring

[Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop](#)

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March 21

Mid-South Stocker Conference

March 23

Winter Tree ID Workshop at The Arboretum

March 25

Registration Begins for Summer Classes

March 26

Education Career Fair

March 29

Last Day to Withdraw From a Course

April 1

April Fool's Day

April 5

First Friday



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