

SEPTEMBER

COLLEGE MONTHLY



The start of a new semester is such an exciting time, full of promise for the future we are helping to shape. This fall is especially exciting as our classrooms and hallways are once again filled with the sights and sounds of in-person learning and discovery. Though the start of the semester may look a bit different than what we envisioned, I am immensely proud of how our college has worked diligently to face these challenges with a focus on the success of our students.

Thanks to the staff in the Center for Student Success and our college's excellent advisors, we welcomed our incoming freshman cohort of about 420 strong at the College Welcome, which featured program-specific meetings and a student organization fair. Students in our college's Living Learning Program also participated in a welcome barbecue at the South Farm. Our graduate and

post-doctoral students benefited from a welcome and professional development event developed and led by the college's Graduate Student Success Team.

We are working to make common spaces and classrooms more functional and welcoming to our students to enhance their learning experiences. With the closure of the Agricultural Information Center, N24 was redesigned to incorporate a variety of group and individual study spaces. The ground floor lobby of Ag North has new wall art and decorative banners that speak to the tri-part missions of our land-grant institution. The lobby in front of Seay Auditorium has additional seating, while the classrooms under Seay Auditorium received a new look. If you haven't gotten a chance to walk through these new spaces, I encourage you to stop by for a visit.

In addition to the academic success of our students, we are focused on their mental health and well-being. As we know, our students face many challenges outside of the classroom. The Center for Student Success and the Office of Faculty Resources, Planning and Assessment are working closely with an ad hoc committee of faculty and staff to identify ways we can better serve our students, faculty and staff. Presently, we are working on opening a mental health and well-being space in Ag North, identifying Mental Health First Aid training opportunities for our advisors, and collaborating with Dietetics and Human Nutrition and the Office of Diversity to pilot a satellite Farm-to-Fork service in Ag North.

When I walk the halls of our classrooms, I am excited to see and feel the energy emanating from our classrooms. We will continue to face challenges, but as a college, we will work together to develop solutions with a focus on maintaining the health and safety of ourselves and others. I look forward to our continued partnership in enhancing the success of our students.

Carmen Agouridis

Associate Dean for Instruction



Students in the CAFE Living Learning Program kicked off the beginning of the fall semester with a picnic at South Farm.

UK@Work survey coming this month

The 2021 UK@Work survey is your opportunity to provide feedback on making UK an even better place to work. On Monday, Sept. 13, you will receive an email from UKatWork@willistowerswatson.com inviting you to take the survey. The insights gleaned from this survey are critical to the university's efforts to address the needs of faculty and staff.

Your responses are completely confidential. No one within the university will know how you responded, and reports are only provided in an aggregate for areas with at least ten or more respondents.

Why is this important? One reason is that the university will rate colleges based on answers to some of the questions. Within the college, the 2015, 2017, and 2019 feedback was used to define goals for improvement at the unit/department and college levels. Feedback has led to initiatives, including a March 2021 [college faculty and staff feedback survey](#) designed to assess perceptions of work effectiveness and well-being related to the pandemic.

Visit the [college work-life website](#) to learn more about the upcoming UK@Work survey, review prior survey results, and see what actions have been taken to enhance employee



Join us...

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
COMMUNITY WELCOME KICKBACK

E.S. GOODBARN
FOOD | GAMES | NETWORKING

Meet the Office of
Diversity and learn how
we can support you!

SEPT. 9TH
5 PM - 7 PM

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/00DKickback> | diversity.ca.uky.edu

UK College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Office of Diversity

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

QR code



Roundup
STAFF APPRECIATION DAY
— Friday, October 1 —

Roundup
University of Kentucky

Decorative pumpkins

Register [here](#) for the 2021 Staff Appreciation Day festivities. Activities begin at 11 a.m. Oct. 1 under the Roundup tents behind the E.S. Good Barn. Meal lines will open at 11:30 a.m. with the program recognizing the Dr. Lisa P. Collins Outstanding Staff Award winners starting at 12:15 p.m.

Football tickets available

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Alumni Association has 2021 UK Football tickets available for purchase. All tickets are in Section 30, Rows 40 and 41. Below is the schedule and prices.

- Sept. 11 | University of Missouri | 7:30 p.m. | \$44
- Sept. 18 | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | 12 p.m. | \$33
- Oct. 9 | Louisiana State University | TBD | \$70
- Nov. 6 | University of Tennessee | TBD | \$64
- Nov. 20 | New Mexico State | TBD | \$33

There are also a very limited number of individual parking passes available for purchase. Those parking passes are for the E.S. Good Barn (behind the building on the lawn). They are \$50 each and allow for one vehicle and one 10 ft. x 10 ft. tent. No parking is allowed in the lot prior to 8 a.m. on game day or past midnight the evening of the game. No trailers or RVs are permitted.

If you would like to purchase, please contact Cynthia Byars at 859-257-4069 or by email at Cynthia.byars@uky.edu. If paying by credit/debit card, there is a \$5 fee added to the total.



Intercultural Awareness Day

The College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment is committed to diversity and inclusion. We want to make sure students, staff, faculty and stakeholders are provided with a culturally aware environment so they can successfully engage in a global society. To that end, the CAFE Office of Diversity is happy to annually host Intercultural Awareness Day to educate, inform and expose our community members to the varying diversities that exist within our college and community.

This year's event, "Learn Together, Grow Together," will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 at the E.S. Good Barn and will focus on urban and rural sustainability within the local food system. The program will be two panels centered around minority business owners in the food chain and their challenges of entrepreneurship and working with local farmers. There will also be a networking brunch. Registration is open through Oct. 22. Register [here](#).

Lunch and Learn Series Essential Building Blocks of Well-Being



CAFE employees are invited to attend the professional development Lunch & Learn: Essential Building Blocks of Well-Being on Sept. 15, 12 p.m. EDT. Join us via Zoom to explore tangible, research-based practices and techniques to engage, reconnect and flourish more in life. Click [here](#) to register.

Awards/honors

- **Akinbode Adedeji**, associate professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, is the recipient of the Canadian Society of Bioengineering's John Clark Award for his significant contributions to food engineering.
- **Nancy Cox**, vice president for land-grant engagement and CAFE dean, received The Jockey Club Medal. Cox received the medal for her work in co-chairing the nominating committee of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority.
- **Garry Lacefield**, University of Kentucky professor emeritus, recently received the Headliner Award from the Livestock Publications Council for his significant contributions to the livestock industry. During his 41-year career, Lacefield was a forage extension specialist.
- **Kevin Norvell**, Kentucky Small Business Development Center's state office program coordinator, was recently named as its State Star. Each year, America's Small Business Development Center calls on each network to recognize their State Star.
- **Laura Powers** was named president of the National Association of Farm Business Analysis Specialists board of directors. Powers is an area farm agent for Kentucky Farm Business Management, which is part of the UK Cooperative Extension Service. She primarily serves clients in Todd and Logan counties.
- **Clare Rittschof**, assistant professor of entomology, was selected as a member of the New Voices in Science, Engineering and Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Members are considered by the National Academies to be rising stars in their fields and are selected through a competitive review process.

Henken named Director of Extension Engagement and Administrative Initiatives

Kim Henken has accepted the position of director of extension engagement and administrative initiatives. In this role, she will support the overall Extension program in addition to growing strategic partnerships both on and off-campus. She will focus on partnerships and engagement, board and council training and development, and administrative initiatives. Henken has served in several positions within UK Extension since 1995, most recently as transition coordinator for UK Cooperative Extension and senior program manager in Family and Consumer Sciences Extension.



CAFE student selected for Global 4-H Network



Dylan Gentry was selected to represent the United States as part of the Global 4-H Network. He is one of three North American delegates. Gentry is a family sciences and community and leadership development double major from Greensburg. He was selected by the National 4-H Council after a national application process. The Global 4-H Network is comprised of delegates from 70 countries and represents the world's 7 million 4-H'ers.

UK's Ovarian Cancer Screening Program

As part of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, UK HealthCare officials were recently joined by Nancy Cox, vice president for land-grant engagement and CAFE dean, and others to highlight the long-running work of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center's [Ovarian Cancer Screening Program](#).

The program is an ongoing, 34-year research study showing that annual screening continues to detect ovarian cancer at an earlier stage than is possible with a clinical examination. Initial funding for the program came from the Telford Foundation and the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association.

KEHA members support the program by challenging each county to donate at least \$1 per member annually. Their fundraising efforts have raised more than \$1.5 million, but their work goes well beyond fundraising. They routinely participate in the screening program, organize trips to screening sites from around the state, promote ovarian cancer awareness and host educational events.

The screening program is open to women age 50 or older, or women over the age of 25 who have a family history of ovarian cancer. Screening is free. For more information, call 859-323-4687 or 800-766-8279.

Messer studying low-cost water treatment options with prestigious NSF award

For her innovative research efforts to improve water quality in rural and urban areas, Tiffany Messer, assistant professor in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, has received a prestigious National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development award.

NSF CAREER awards are presented to young faculty members who have the potential to serve as leaders in research and education in their area of study. Messer, a faculty member in the UK Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, said her goal is to design cost-effective wetland treatment systems for rural communities and low-income areas.

New master naturalist program available

Kentucky residents with a passion to discover more about their natural world now can gain a better understanding of it thanks to the Kentucky Master Naturalist program. Registration is open for a fall Zoom series with classes on everything from the state's archaeology to its wildlife. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension-led program will include 15 classes aimed at making its participants stewards of the state's natural resources. To learn more about the Kentucky Master Naturalist Program, visit <https://naturalist.ca.uky.edu/> or email Forestry.Extension@uky.edu.

In the news

- [Report confirms largest mid-year decrease in U.S. beef herd since 2012, but the future looks optimistic](#) – Kenny Burdine, associate professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
 - [Large numbers of fall armyworms invading Kentucky lawns, crops](#)– Jonathan Larson, assistant professor, Department of Entomology
 - [UK researcher a force in the fight against Lyme disease](#)– Brian Stevenson, professor, Department of Entomology and UK College of Medicine
 - [James B. Beam Institute collaborates on spent grains solutions](#)– Brad Berron, Beam institute research director
 - [Project To Determine How Quickly Sorghum-Sudangrass Varieties Return Nutrients To The Soil](#) - Chris Teutsch, associate professor, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
 - [Study finds Americans value more options when it comes to COVID-19 testing](#) - Shuoli Zhao, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
 - [UK and the Kentucky Horse Council launch 2022 Kentucky Equine Survey](#)– Jill Stowe, professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
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Spotlight

Brian Volland

Communications Specialist
CAFE Ag Communications

We asked Brian 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?

I graduated from UK in 2003 with a degree in communications. I worked in TV news for a few years, which is where I fell in love with storytelling within a limited time frame. I went on to produce Kentucky Afield Television on KET where I began to do more in-depth and educational content. Coming to

CAFE has provided me the opportunity to marry the two styles as well as engage in strategic planning, branding and marketing efforts.

What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?

I have the best job with the most variety in all of UK. I may be filming youth exploring a creek with our 4-H Extension agents, producing content in multiple languages for our diverse stakeholders or following students across Europe as they discover what it means to travel abroad. The variety in circumstances coupled with planning communication messaging for these audiences means there are never boring days.

What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?

I've been chased across Buckingham Palace by a furious Scottish bagpiper and detained by both the US Army and Soviet Russian KGB. All simple misunderstandings, I swear!

Calendar of Events

September 6

Labor Day

September 10

Last day to drop with a W

September 12

National Grandparents Day

September 25

National Hunting and Fishing Day

Helpful Links

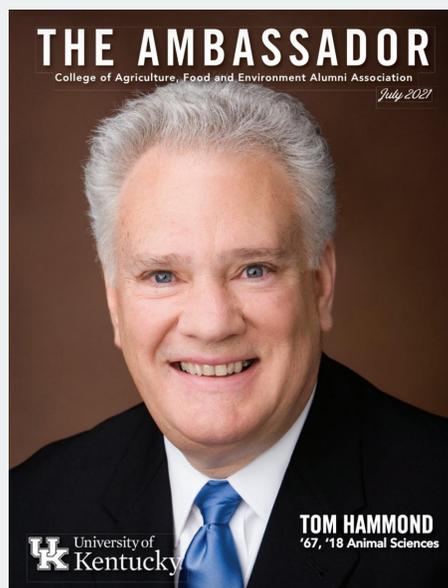
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