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Fall 2024



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Photo from ExploreUK

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Photo Illustration by Whitney Stamper

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From the President

A new academic year.
New people, new passions, new places.
But what remains the same is our purpose.

We were created to advance Kentucky in everything we do. And for nearly 160 years, we have lived up to that promise through outstanding education, research, service and care that only a place like us can provide. Hope that only a place like us can provide.

Hope — it's one of my favorite words because, in so many ways, it describes what we do for each other, for our community and for the state we seek to advance.

The television spot we are running this year during football and basketball games on behalf of our institution contains several of the voices of hope that make this community so special.

One of my hopes is that the beginning of another academic year reminds all of us of what we mean and what we do for Kentucky. It is evident in the voices of hope in this advertisement.

You will hear students, like James Russell, a first-generation Pigman Scholar. When he earns a degree in computer science, he hopes to teach young people from his native Eastern Kentucky to create computer code and build stronger community organizations.

You will also hear the voice of Deidra White, who worked on a factory floor and cleaned houses to pursue her dream of being a writer at UK. Last spring, she shared her spoken word poem at her own commencement ceremony as she earned her master's degree. In addition to lending her voice to the commercial, she scripted the words that make it so impactful.

Another recent graduate and current UK College of Medicine student, Caroline Sumner, is using her experience as a leader with DanceBlue to fuel her dreams of being a doctor who might one day help end pediatric cancer.

Kayla Johnson, a faculty member in the College of Education, helps open doors for students like herself, who are the first in their families to attend college.

Alexis Sheffield, a horticulture extension specialist in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, has worked in collaboration with faculty in the College of Fine Arts and extension on a natural dyeing process for fabrics that is more environmentally sustainable.

And Kenneth Campbell, a scientist in the College of Medicine, is garnering breakthroughs in his research that may lead to new therapies for heart disease.

These are just a few examples of what our students, faculty, staff and alumni do for Kentucky. Thank you for showing the world what we make possible.

Watch this year's TV commercial and learn more about the voices you hear in the spot:

www.uky.edu/advancing-kentucky.

Thank you for being part of this powerful community.

Sincerely,



Eli Capilouto
President

It takes lots of volunteers to move students into the University of Kentucky each August. UK President Eli Capilouto helped with the effort during Big Blue Move-In 2024.



Photo by Mark Cornelison, UK Photo

Pride in Blue

What an honor it is to become president of the board of the UK Alumni Association. I am filled with immense pride, gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead.

Before presenting my priorities and goals for my new term, I want to say thank you to the leadership that came before me. Past President Janie McKenzie-Wells has left very big shoes to fill. She has set a high standard and I am committed to build upon the solid foundation that she has laid.

A couple of other people, Jim Stuckert and David Ratterman, come to mind when I think about the leadership I've seen and guidance I have received throughout my journey with the UK Alumni Association. Jim's vision and dedication to the university has been a beacon of inspiration for all of us. His ability to see the potential in the community and his financial acumen have made a lasting impression upon this association. David's wisdom, strategic thinking and steadfast support have been invaluable. His contribution helped shape our UK Alumni Association into what it is today. I am profoundly grateful for his mentorship.

As I embark on this new chapter, I am committed to continuing the progress of those who have worked tirelessly over the years. Our UK Alumni Association is the lifeblood of connecting Wildcats across the globe and fostering a sense of community that transcends geographic boundaries.

One of my top priorities will be to enhance the support of our alumni clubs. To develop a road map for their future success we will work to provide them with the resources, tools and guidance they need to thrive. This means offering more robust training for club leaders, assisting them by increasing fundraising opportunities and leveraging technology to facilitate better communication and engagement.

By empowering our clubs, we empower our alumni and in turn strengthen our entire alumni network.

I'm also committed to reflecting the richness of the tapestry of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives at the university. We will work hard to ensure that every alum feels welcome, valued and heard regardless of where they come from or where they are in their personal and professional journeys.

Moreover, we will continue to build bridges between our alumni and our current students. Mentorships, internships and networking opportunities are vital in preparing the next generation of Wildcats to succeed. By creating more avenues for alumni and student interactions we can provide invaluable support to our students while keeping our alumni engaged and invested in the future of our great university.



Photo by Meredith Weber

UK Alumni Association President Rob Crady and Wildcat celebrated at the Greater Louisville UK Alumni Club 2024 Wildcat Kickoff Luncheon at Churchill Downs. Football Coach Mark Stoops gave a preview of the upcoming football season at the event.

In addition to these efforts, I hope to focus on expanding our reach and impact through innovative programs and initiatives. Whether through virtual events that bring Wildcats together from all corners of the globe or collaborative projects that are addressing pressing social issues, we will strive to make a meaningful difference both within and beyond our alumni community. As we move forward, I invite each one of you to join me in this endeavor. Our strength lies in our unity, our passion and our collective commitment to making a positive impact on this great university and ultimately the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We can build on the legacy of those who came before us and create a brighter and more connected future for all Wildcats.

Here's to continuing our progress, strengthening our bonds and making a lasting impact. As Mark Twain wisely said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started." So let's take this first step together.

Go Cats!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. L. Crady III".

Robert "Rob" L. Crady III '94 BE
UK Alumni Association President



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News

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT MAKES HISTORY IN SPACE EXPLORATION

The University of Kentucky is the only university that has had a successful hypersonic reentry, a testament to the leading role the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering plays in hypersonic research and space exploration.

A team of student and faculty researchers invited project alumni and the campus community to a special “watch party” in July to witness the fruits of their space exploration labor as five Kentucky Re-entry Universal Payload System (KRUPS) capsules underwent hypersonic entry as they entered Earth from the International Space Station (ISS).

KRUPS, a set of space capsules worked on by more than 100 University of Kentucky students over the years, marks a groundbreaking project in space engineering. These capsules travel to and from Earth and the ISS, and their maiden voyage on December 15, 2021, achieved three historic firsts:

- The first university-built entry capsule to successfully transit a planetary atmosphere.
- The first hypersonic vehicle flown by a university.
- The first 3D-printed heat shield used in an entry mission.



Photo courtesy of Krups

Heat shields are a special component designed to protect a spacecraft from being burnt or overheated by dissipating, reflecting, and/or absorbing heat. The UK capsules were outfitted with special thermal protection systems so that they would be able to emerge from the burning or exploding spacecraft and take a lot of data about reentry back to the research team.

Suzanne Smith, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, noted the excitement surrounding this historic moment as she told the crowd they were the first in the world to see the successful return of the KRUPS capsules. ■

VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM JOINS UK CANCER CENTER NETWORK

The Lexington VA Health Care System is now affiliated with the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, Kentucky's only National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

By joining the UK Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network, the Lexington VA Health Care System becomes one of 20 affiliated hospitals in Kentucky.

This partnership will provide Kentucky veterans with expanded access to specialized cancer care, including clinical trials and advanced technology available only at NCI-designated cancer centers. Through this affili-

ation, veterans can receive comprehensive cancer care — from prevention to treatment to survivorship — within the VA network and closer to home.

“Joining the UK Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network marks a significant milestone,” said Lexington VA Health Care System Executive Director Russell Armstead. “This groundbreaking partnership between a VA hospital and an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center is a powerful step forward in fulfilling our duty to provide the highest quality care to our veterans.”

With its two Lexington campuses and community clinics in Berea, Hazard, Morehead and Somerset, the Lexington VA Health Care System serves a population of nearly 83,000 veterans across Central Kentucky.

“Our collaboration will enhance access to cutting-edge treatments, advanced diagnostics and holistic support services, ensuring that our veterans receive the best possible care throughout their cancer journey,” said Anna Rose, clinical nurse specialist at the Lexington VA Health Care System. ■



Photo by Pete Comparoni

SPORTS INDUSTRY CAREERS FOCUS OF NEW CERTIFICATE

UK is offering a certificate in sport communication, media and promotion to allow students to explore the intersection of sports, communication and society through coursework across multiple units in the College of Communication and Information.

This 12-hour certificate is open to all majors and will equip students with the foundational knowledge needed to delve into diverse careers in the sports industry. The curriculum will also touch on global issues within the sports and media realm and provide students with communication strategies for various audiences.

The certificate program's goal is to give foundational knowledge to anyone interested in a career related to sports.

"When we were working to create the certificate in sport communication, media and promotion, I kept thinking about how many ways it could've helped prepare me for my 20-year career in sports journalism," said Jen Smith, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Media and faculty director of the certificate program. "Being able to have access to classes in sports promotion, sports law and sports analytics on top of my journalism classes would've been incredible."

Jennifer Greer, dean of the College of Communication and Information, concurred. "It was a huge group project that involved so many different units in our college all coming together to get our students better prepared for jobs in the sports industry. This certificate was a way to bring many of our great sports-related classes together." ■

STATE'S NEW APIARIST HAS ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR BUGS, BEES

University of Kentucky alumna Amanda Skidmore stepped into her new role as state apiarist for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in April 2024.

As Kentucky's apiarist, Skidmore '13 '18 AFE oversees vital regulatory and educational duties, from inspecting honeybee colonies for diseases to advising beekeepers on best practices. She also takes on the important task of educating the broader community about the essential role bees play in the ecosystem.

"I'm excited," Skidmore said. "It's a great position that allows me to be flexible in building a program to address beekeepers' needs."

Though most of Kentucky's beekeepers are hobbyists rather than commercial producers, bees are vital to the state's agriculture industry, making the state apiarist a key position.

"Bees are super important to Kentucky," Skidmore said. "Every crop that we grow is going to have an impact from an insect in some way — it's either going to need a bee to help



Photo by Pete Comparoni

pollinate it, or it's going to have pests that we need to learn how to control and manage."

Skidmore said her knowledge of bugs and bees is rooted in her time at UK, which began with a Department of Entomology internship when she was in high school. ■

NEW ESPORT UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE OFFERED

University of Kentucky students can develop skills in the esports and gaming industry with the new Esport Athlete Performance and Management undergraduate certificate.

The 15-hour certificate is open to students in any major and covers fundamental skills related to sport leadership and ethics, managing a sport or fitness program and facility and event management. It also covers skills specific to gaming, such as video game design and fitness and nutrition for esports and gaming.

"Students who are drawn to the world of esports and gaming can earn this certificate to become equipped with the skills necessary for many types of careers, both within the gaming industry and beyond," said Stuart Best, assistant professor in the UK College of Education Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion. "The certificate will give students a foundational knowledge in leadership, management and planning, while providing hands-on experience using that knowledge in the gaming and esports industry."

By completing the certificate, students will gain working knowledge of the quickly growing esports industry; experience in event and facility planning, staffing, directing and evaluating and the fundamentals of leadership and ethics in the sporting world. ■

HANNAH MYERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT ALUMNI ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

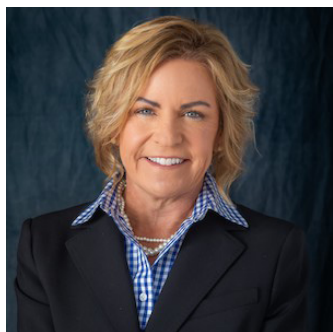


Photo by Sabrina Hounshell

Hannah Miner Myers has been appointed to the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees by Gov. Andy Beshear. Myers will represent UK alumni. She replaces Rachel Watts Webb whose term expired June 30. Her term began July 1, 2024 and runs through June 30, 2030.

UK alumni voted last year for candidates for the upcoming open alumni position on the board. Myers was one of three top vote-getters whose names were presented to the governor from which to choose an appointee.

Myers joins two other alumni-elected trustees: Paula Pope, whose term expires in 2026 and Brenda Gosney whose term expires in 2028.

Myers, of Madisonville, Kentucky, graduated in 1993 with

a bachelor's degree in middle school education from the College of Education. Myers served as president of the UK Alumni Association in 2020-2021. She is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and served as student ambassador on the Student Development Council. She has a second bachelor's degree in interior design and a double master's degree in education and education administration.

Myers served eight years on the Madisonville City Council and is serving her third term on the Hopkins County Fiscal Court as a magistrate for District 7. She is an active community member and has served as a member of the Economic Development Council and Community Foundation board, past chairwoman of the Chamber of Commerce tourism board and past president of the Cardinal Garden Club. Myers has served as an adjunct professor of education on the Murray State University regional campus in Madisonville.

Myers is a UK Alumni Association Life Member, UK Fellow and active with the Hopkins County UK Alumni Club. ■

BIOLOGY ALUMNA WINS AN EMMY FOR WRITING FOR 'GENERAL HOSPITAL'

When Ashley Cook '09 AS graduated with a biology degree from the UK College of Arts and Sciences, she thought her next step was medical school. Little did she know 16 years later she would receive a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Writing Team

for a Daytime Drama Series.

"I thought I was going to be a doctor. I wanted to have a career that I was interested in and one that would do good in the world," Cook said. "Med school is very competitive, and I was struggling to get in."

She opted for a master's in fine arts degree and then moved to Los Angeles with her cat, Pebbles. She took a writing job at a law firm, but attended networking events and started meeting people who could help her build her resume and make screenwriting contacts. She landed a job with a production company as an assistant to one of the production executives.

She was part of the team that won the 2024 Daytime Emmy for writing. Also, Cook was nominated for a Writers Guild Award in 2024 and a Daytime Emmy in 2023. She credits her success with persistence, taking chances and having a wide breadth of knowledge and experiences from which to write.

"You are going to get a lot of opportunities in life that look different from what you may have imagined and I would encourage college students to keep an open mind to all of the opportunities because even if it's not exactly what you pictured, it could lead to something just as good or better than what you imagined," Cook said. ■



Photo provided

Research

RECORD NEW AWARDS REFLECT RESEARCH TO ADVANCE KENTUCKY

For the first time in University of Kentucky history, investigators received \$488.4 million in extramural grants and contracts to support their research in fiscal year 2024. This is a 1.9 % increase from the \$479.3 million in fiscal year 23 research awards.

UK researchers also made history in fiscal year 24 with a record 1,920 research awards to 830 principal investigators from a record 633 sponsors.

"Our sustained growth as a research university is directly connected to the intentional focus we have on the biggest issues in our Research Priority Areas — cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, energy, issues of equitable access, materials science, neuroscience and substance use. Without question, research is vital in our mission to serve Kentucky," said UK President Eli Capilouto.

Support from federal sources increased by 4.7% to \$264.4 million in fiscal year 24, with the largest increase of 12.1% in National Institutes of Health awards. Federal awards were 54.1% of UK's total research awards and supported the work of investigators across all disciplines, including these highlighted projects in the UK Research Priority Areas of cancer and energy.

The UK Markey Cancer Center received \$2.7 million in fiscal year 24 from the National Cancer Institute to Director B. Mark Evers. The Markey Cancer Center achieved comprehensive cancer center designation in 2024, making it the only cancer center in Kentucky and one of only 57 centers in the U.S. to receive the highest NCI designation. ■

RESEARCHER CREATING WAYS TO MAKE DRONES SMARTER, SAFER

Xu Jin, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in the UK Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, has received the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award. The NSF will support Jin with \$542,714 over five years for his research involving learning-based cooperative control algorithms for multi-agent systems to capture and manage target drones.

The drone industry is a multi-billion-dollar market, and affordable civilian drones are now widely accessible. However, increased drone usage has led to safety concerns. Jin's research focuses on utilizing multiple unmanned aerial vehicles that work together

to capture and remove drones from the sky using nets.

"We want to use multiple unmanned aerial vehicles, what we call UAVs, to collaboratively and autonomously put the drone out of the sky with a capture net carried by these unmanned aerial vehicles," said Jin. "We have mainly two major technical difficulties. One, of course, is the safety concerns. We want to capture the drone, which means we must fly close to the target drone. But we do not want to collide with the drone. We want to ensure safety." ■

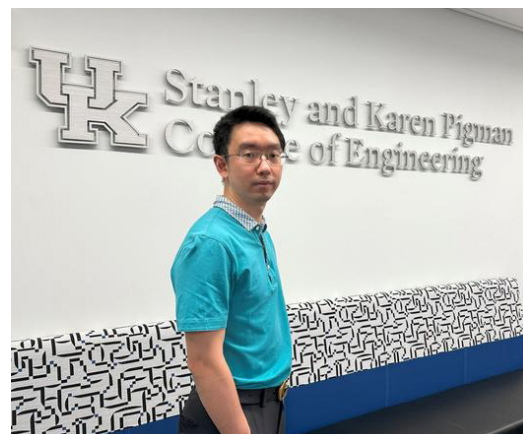


Photo provided

SOCIALIZATION, ENRICHMENT GOOD FOR BRAIN

Researchers from the University of Kentucky's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and the University of California Irvine are some of the first to show socialization and enrichment are good for aging brains.

The project began in 2019 with a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging. Researchers' goal was to determine whether cognitive loss and other signs of neural dysfunction could be slowed down in aging dogs using drugs that reduce neuroinflammation and synaptic communication deficits.

"This study has great parallels to human health and disease," said Chris Norris, one of the principal investigators of the study. He is a professor of pharmacology and nutritional sciences in the UK College of Medicine and Sanders-Brown faculty.

Researchers worked with healthy middle-aged dogs that received daily oral doses of either a placebo or experimental drugs over three years. During this time, the dogs engaged in daily socialization with human caregivers and other dogs in a highly enriched environment that included toys, physical exercise and exploration.

Contrary to what researchers predicted, the drug treatment had little effect. But the surprise finding was that the hippocampus area of the brain, critical to learning and memory, increased in size. Researchers credit this to behavioral enrichment and socialization.

"This was very unusual," said Norris. "The best explanation for why the hippocampus grew in our dogs was because of the high levels of behavioral enrichment and socialization they were exposed to." ■



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Rainbows & Butterflies:

Garden spot dedicated in memory of daughter's life

By Dan Knapp

A generation ago, Melanie Glasscock Simpson-Conley '92 CI eschewed a burgeoning career in broadcast news to start a family. Today, she's an energy executive valiantly harnessing unfathomable heartbreak into purpose.

Descending from her polar white Teutonic SUV, Melanie Glasscock Simpson-Conley flashes her signature welcoming smile. The gauzy hem of her sundress flaps in a tepid breeze that offers little relief from the early August morning's unusually oppressive heat.

A quartet of joggers pass nearby, their sinews drenched by rivulets of perspiration. The previous evening's tempest — coupled with the rapidly rising temperature — has left the air thick, suffocating with dampness.

Simpson-Conley arrives at The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky, to discuss her daughter, Alexandra, and the extraordinary memorial gift that bears her name. As she walks the pebble-covered path past the Oatts Visitors Center, she relates precious memories of her only child. She intermittently describes her daughter's characteristics in the present tense, infusing the conversation with a poignant sense of vitality.

She vividly remembers the diminutive Alexandra — Alex, for short — nestled in a booster seat in the rear of the family car,

perusing flip books about butterflies and reciting facts about monarchs and blue morphos. She recalls how five or six of the gossamer-winged creatures would often alight upon Alex's arms during their visits to The Arboretum and the intoxicating joy they both felt as a kaleidoscope flitted near.

Simpson-Conley's eyes begin to glisten; her voice gets audibly higher as she delves into the endless string of bittersweet memories about her life with Alex. "I always cry," she gently sighs. She pauses and gazes skyward. A rainbow unexpectedly arcs gracefully over The Arboretum, seemingly terminating amid her destination. Turning, she points to the muted hues overhead and assures, "It's going to be all right."



Thirty-five years have passed since Kentuckians were first introduced to Simpson-Conley during her coronation as Miss Kentucky 1989. Then known as Melanie Glasscock, she used her newfound platform to discuss topics important to her, including



In June 1989, Melanie Simpson-Conley was named Miss Kentucky; 35 years later, she returned to the pageant to help judge the scholarship competition.

drug dependency and the myriad of challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. After passing the crown to future coworker Nancy Cox the following year, the Leitchfield, Kentucky, native returned to the UK College of Communication and Information to complete her journalism degree. The Miss Kentucky scholarship allowed the girl who had once sold chicken eggs from the family farm to pay for twirling lessons to graduate debt-free in 1992.

She parleyed her education and notoriety into broadcasting. Swiftly rising to become one of Central Kentucky's most recognizable and beloved journalists, she made her mark at WKYT-27 and WLEX-18 over a distinguished decade. WKYT's then-News Director John Bobel once said of the popular reporter: "She has a great presence...There's an intangible quality that we're looking for — you don't know it until you see it in a person. And Melanie's got it." High-profile and lucrative offers came from larger news markets like Cincinnati and Raleigh, but she shares her heart has always lain in the Bluegrass.

"Honestly, I never had that desire to leave," Simpson-Conley says. "I had put down my roots here when I went to college, and I love Lexington."

Following the birth of Alex in 1999, Simpson-Conley stepped away from her camera and microphone to focus on her family. She reeled when her husband of 13 years, William "Billy" Simpson, succumbed to cancer in 2008. His passing created a void at the helm of KV Oil and Gas, compelling her to step into the roles of owner and president. Despite lacking a background in business or drilling, the former news anchor embraced the challenge, mastering the intricacies of the industry through hands-on experience and determination.

Simpson-Conley acknowledges that she inevitably made missteps along the way but credits those closest to her for guiding her early decisions and helping her company thrive. Resolute to lead her company with integrity, she quickly learned to balance business and single parenthood.

Five years later, Alex received a devastating diagnosis.

Among the exotic locales that Alex and her mother visited were Iceland, China and Kenya, where Alex made many new friends.

Simpson-Conley smooths her vibrant canary-hued skirt to sit on a weathered wooden bench within the pollinators section of The Arboretum — a fitting spot to discuss her daughter. Signs demarcate the area as "Alexandra Simpson's Butterfly Garden." The sweet aroma of nearby hydrangeas and Joe Pye blossoms saturates the air like a delicate perfume. She smiles as she surveys the area filled with plants and flowers, pointing out the abundance of rainbow-like color before pausing, gathering her thoughts, and attempting to articulate the essence of who Alex was.

"She was a fireball," exclaims Simpson-Conley of her daughter, who received her first cancer diagnosis at age 13. "And persistent! She didn't take 'no' for an answer. And that was not just with us — with adults, with other children, with her doctors — she needed you to explain why. She needed you to explain why 'no' was the only option. She thought there always had to be a way."

Alex developed a condition known as CIC-DUX4 sarcoma. A rare and aggressive cancer akin to the more familiar Ewing's sarcoma, CIC-DUX4 affects fewer than 100 children and young adults in the U.S. annually. The prognosis for the metastatic disease is not encouraging, but Alex beat the odds and not only survived but flourished during the next decade.

"Over 10 years, she was diagnosed three times — at 13, then it came back at 14, and again at 21. And during that time, while it's tragic to say that a child has gone through that, it gives you a different perspective on life," says Simpson-Conley. "I have to be honest. You hear things like that (Tim McGraw) song 'Live Like You Were Dying,' and it sounds cliché, but when you have a child that goes through this, you do live that way and truly enjoy every day."

Simpson-Conley says that she relied on family and friends — including the doctors and nurses at UK's Kentucky Children's Hospital, whom she now considers both — to help provide Alex with the best life possible in the time they had. A keen photographer with a boundless curiosity for other cultures, Alex's sense of adventure and love for nature took the mother-daughter duo to six continents and 26 countries between visits with oncologists and other specialists.



“When she was going through chemotherapy, I’d let her plan the next trip — it was up to her,” explains Simpson-Conley. “She’d sit there on her computer with a legal pad and say, ‘Oh, I really want to go to Italy. And these are the things I really would like to see in a perfect world.’”

Together, they wrung every drop of life from their epic adventures, which included marveling at the Terracotta Warriors in China, scaling the Andes in Peru and swimming the Great Barrier Reef.

“I can remember, even in the water, in my mask — crying — looking at the beautiful colors that God had created in the reef, but also thinking ‘there’s my daughter going through cancer treatment, living, seeing this,’” says Simpson-Conley, incredulously. “Or when we climbed Machu Picchu, you know, she was so far ahead of me, which I was so grateful for because I had to sit down every now and then, but she’s just a little bald head buzzing up to the ruins. I was so happy to see her going for it.”

Simpson-Conley says she was informed that, because the cancer had come back for a second time, Alex’s remission would probably only be temporary, and that her tumors would become resistant to chemotherapy. She was painfully aware of the likelihood that her beloved daughter might not survive a third bout with CIC-DUX4. By the time the cancer returned in 2021, Alex had long since graduated from Lexington’s SCAPA-Lafayette High School and was beginning her senior year at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, majoring in French and psychology. Simpson-Conley moved north to be near Alex while she continued her studies and received treatment at Boston Children’s Hospital. Aside from two roommates, Alex informed none of her classmates of her medical condition.

“She never said, ‘Poor me.’ She never used ‘the cancer card,’” says Simpson-Conley. “She didn’t want it to put a damper on her senior class or for them to treat her differently.”

Simpson-Conley recounts how she would routinely drive her daughter at 4 a.m. from Hanover to Boston for chemotherapy or radiation treatments. Alex would either sleep or study during the tedious two-and-a-half hour treks and return to campus for midday classes.

“She was there in the afternoon. She was going to social functions, but she was tired, so there were times she would come and stay with me. The goal was to graduate, for her to walk across that stage.”

Alex completed her studies in June 2022. On the eve of her graduation, however, Alex’s dream of crossing the Dartmouth Green and being recognized as a cum laude graduate was nearly dashed.

The night prior, as she sat on the floor buckling her daughter’s shoes, Simpson-Conley recalls looking up; “She said, ‘Mom, I don’t want to freak you out,’ — this is her personality, right? — ‘I don’t want to freak you out, but I think I’m having a stroke.’”

Determined to avoid a scene, Alex refused to allow her mother to call an ambulance, insisting that she be driven by private car so that none of her classmates would notice.



Alex Simpson's favorite butterfly was the delicate Blue Morpho.

© New Africa — Adobe Stock

“The E.R. doctors said, ‘We need to admit you,’ but Alex argued, ‘I’m not going to be admitted. This is my third rodeo with cancer. I’m going to walk across the stage tomorrow and get my diploma. I worked too hard. What’s going to change at this point?’ She was not crying; she was dealing with the cards she was dealt. They found that the cancer had spread — that’s what caused the stroke. But she walked across the stage. She had a cane, but she did it.”

More radiation treatments and steroids immediately followed.

Even with her health deteriorating, Alex was defiant about allowing death to come before she took one last trip — to Africa this time. In July 2022, cautioned by doctors and accompanied by their support system, Alex and her mother flew from the U.S. to Kenya. Weakened and swollen from the medicine, Alex refused to allow her condition to diminish her enthusiasm. She met elephants and caressed giraffes, surrendered to the rhythm of the local dances, and flew across the vast savannahs in a helicopter. The family soared above the Maasai Mara in a hot air balloon and witnessed hippopotamuses raging. Alex, with a camera seemingly as heavy as she was, captured hundreds of photos. Her mother now carries many of the memories with her on her phone.

“I was awake every night watching her breathe. I didn’t want —,” Simpson-Conley remembers, her voice cracking slightly. “I didn’t want to lose her on this trip. Of course, you never want to lose your children, but you kind of want those things, you know, in your own time and on your own terms. We came home from Africa the first week of August, and then we lost her on the 27th.”

In her will, Alex made provisions for causes she wanted to support through the Alexandra Hudson Simpson Foundation — each of which meant something to her during her brief 22 years.

Among Alex’s chief wishes was a new MRI machine for KCH, dedicated to young patients so that they need not share the



machine with adults. It was an idea that germinated while receiving specialized treatment at other world-class hospitals across the U.S.; as the family witnessed how these child-forward hospitals operated, they asked how the innovations could be implemented at UK. This also led to Alex funding a music therapy program at KCH.

The family's close association with KCH was also the impetus for their refurbishing and naming The Arboretum's existing pollinator garden in Alex's honor. It was the family's way of giving back to the place that brought Alex so much joy as a child. Complete with rose mallow hibiscus and black-eyed Susans, Chartreuse on the Loose Catmint and black and blue sage, the garden is a haven for pollinators.

"The Butterfly Garden was established to demonstrate plantings that provide nourishment and habitat for pollinators," explains Scott Smith, acting director of The Arboretum and dean emeritus of UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, which oversees operation of The Arboretum. The blossoms and the butterflies highlight the critical ecological role of essential but often endangered pollinators, Smith says. "This spot, in particular, offers a diverse mix of plants — and pollinators — to enjoy," he says. "We're grateful to the Simpsons for their support of this special spot at The Arboretum."

In April, Alex was recognized with UK's highest humanitarian award, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Citizen Award, in recognition of her "spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women."

Alex also supported such causes as Lexington Children's Theatre, The Lexington School and Central Christian Church, among others.

Beyond the monetary gifts that she left, Alex also entrusted a part of herself to be studied in the hopes of alleviating the suffering of others. Simpson-Conley says that by gifting her tumors to Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for study and genetic mapping, Alex offers hope and a fighting chance to other children battling CIC-DUX4, ensuring her struggle serves a greater purpose in the fight against cancer.



In the two years since Alex's death, with husband, Kentucky Supreme Court Justice for the 7th District Robert "Bob" Conley BE '81 — whom she married shortly before Alex's death — by her side, Simpson-Conley plays an active role in assuring that her daughter's passion projects come to fruition and enriching the lives of others.

While, as in her pageant days, Simpson-Conley continues to support and advocate for multiple worthy causes, she says that KCH occupies a special place in her heart.

"Out of all the organizations, that's where I lost her, so my heart sits there with them," Simpson-Conley



The pollinator garden at The Arboretum is now known as the Alexandra Simpson Butterfly Garden.



reveals. "They truly helped give her those seven years (between age 14 and 21), which gave me the gift of seven more years with her."

As her husband divides his days adjudicating in Catlettsburg and Frankfort, Simpson-Conley continues to work as CEO of KV Oil and Gas, commuting to Lexington from the historic 200-year-old home the couple recently purchased in bucolic Bourbon County. Simpson-Conley plans to eventually move her business closer to her home and share more time with Bob and his adult children from his previous marriage to the late Melanie Stephens Conley, Brian Conley and Katie Conley-Morrison CI '13.

Although she has largely been out of the spotlight for nearly a quarter-century, the public still remembers her. She reflects on her celebrity with a philosophical grace, expressing no regret about her decision to step away and embrace the roles of wife, mother and, now, pediatric health care advocate.

"Miss Kentucky and broadcasting were both lovely chapters in my life and incredibly fulfilling at those moments, but I hope my meaning for being on this earth is much deeper," she thoughtfully explains. "I hope that through things like Alex's gifts, our gifts to the community, and our involvement in nonprofits, we're giving back and making the community a better place to live. I hope that our legacy is something that is giving and lasting long after we're gone, like The Arboretum."



As she strolls from the butterfly garden back to her vehicle, Simpson-Conley recounts the recent vacation she and her avid cyclist husband took to Canada. She shares how she talked to Alex's spirit while riding a bike for those 50 miles and how she imagines her daughter would have playfully teased her for getting winded after mile 20. Her eye catches a tiny cabbage butterfly fluttering near the lush ground foliage. She looks to the azure sky. The rainbow has long dissipated, but she beams. ■

Dedicated Service

The University of Kentucky Alumni Association Distinguished Service Awards and Joseph T. Burch Young Alumni Award are presented each year to honor alumni who have provided extraordinary service to the university and the association. The 2024 recipients were recognized at the association's annual Summer Workshop in Lexington. Congratulations to all and thanks for all you do.



Katy Bennett

A native of Catlettsburg, Kentucky, Bennett is a 2003 graduate of the UK College of Communication and Information with a bachelor's degree in integrated strategic communication. After graduation, she worked with UK's Robinson Scholars Program for first-generation college students from Eastern Kentucky counties then joined UK's Marketing Brand Strategy team and is now the assistant marketing director. She helps the university recruit students as the communication director for enrollment management. Bennett joined the board of directors of the Fayette County UK Alumni Club after graduating. She has served as young alumni president, secretary, club president and basketball ticket distribution coordinator. She is the unofficial chief of staff for club president (and her dad), Charlie. She is a 2015 Leadership Lexington graduate and served on the Leadership Lexington Youth Program steering committee. She also volunteers with Delta Gamma Fraternity, locally on the house corporation board and recruitment records advisor and as the advisory team chair for the Delta Omicron chapter at Morehead State University. She has two dogs, Gabe and Bruno, and enjoys going to UK sporting events or anywhere Disney related.



Dr. Michael L. Hawks

A Fulton, Kentucky, native Hawks earned his bachelor's degree in biology in 1981 and a dental degree from the UK College of Dentistry in 1985. While at UK, Hawks was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He opened Hawks Family Dentistry in 1988. Hawks is a member of the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Orthodontic Society, Tennessee Dental Association, and the Kentucky Dental Association. Hawks invests time with community organizations such as the Fulton Bank Advisory Board and he organizes and coaches youth sports leagues. Hawks served as three-time past president of the Fulton County UK Alumni Club. During his time as past president, the Fulton County Alumni Club successfully provided local students attending UK with scholarships. He is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association. He and his wife Melanie have two sons: Corbin '13 AFE, '17 DE and Harrison, who is a 2018 graduate from Ole Miss.

Photos by Scott Hayes

Antoine Huffman

Huffman earned his bachelor's degree in telecommunications from the UK College of Communication and Information in 2005 while also being a three-year starter for the Wildcats football team. His senior year Huffman was the school's first Black student crowned UK Homecoming King. Huffman was a member of the UK Athletic Association Board of Directors and two-year chair for the UK Athletics Outreach Committee. A finalist for the ARA Sportsmanship Award and the Wuerffel Trophy, an award given to a college football athlete who exemplifies community service and academic achievement, Huffman supported his community through involvement with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. He was a four-time SEC and NCAA Academic Honor roll member and an NCAA Academic All-American. He served as past president of the UK Alumni Association and lives in Texas with his wife Jessica '04 '06 ED, and sons Jayden and Adonis. He is a regional sales director for a medical equipment provider. Both he and his wife are Life Members of the UK Alumni Association.



Todd Lanham

Lanham grew up in Springfield, Kentucky, and earned his associate's degree in business from Lexington Community College, then part of the University of Kentucky, in 1997. He earned his bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University in insurance and risk management. He is a partner with USI Insurance Services and holds designations as a Certified Insurance Counselor and a Certified Risk Manager. Todd is the former board chair of the Salvation Army Louisville Command, a graduate of Leadership Louisville, Bingham Fellows, Ignite Louisville, LEAD GLI and Leadership KY. In 2009, Todd was honored by Risk and Insurance Magazine as a Power Broker and 40 under 40. Todd has served 10 years with the Greater Louisville UK Alumni Club where he's held the roles of treasurer, secretary, vice chair and chair. During his term as chair from 2020 – 2022, he oversaw the club's annual UK football and basketball luncheons during COVID-19. The club hosted both events virtually while bringing in record donations for the UK scholarship fund. Lanham lives in Louisville with his wife, Stephanie '02 BE, '04 PH, and their three kids. Their oldest daughter, Makena, is attending UK as a freshman this fall.



Michaela Taylor

Taylor is a 2019 graduate of UK where she earned her bachelors of health sciences in clinical leadership and management. During her time as an undergraduate, she was active with the Wildcat Marching Band, Alpha Gamma Delta, the UK Alumni Ambassadors and she served a single term as vice president of UKSGA. In 2023, she graduated from the College of Public Health with her master's in health administration and from the J. David Rosenberg College of Law where she received her JD. She has started her legal career as an associate at Bricker Graydon, LLP in the firm's employee benefits and executive compensation practice group. She continues to be actively involved in the alumni association as a Leadership Advisory Council member and serves on the Dragonfly Foundation Ambassador Board in Cincinnati. She got engaged to her fiancé Dillon Sheppard 'EN 21 in front of Memorial Hall last summer. They have two dogs, Woodford and Weller.



2024-2025 Board of Directors



The officers of the 2024-2025 Alumni Association Board of Directors are left to right Jill H. Smith, Robert "Rob" L. Crady III, Thomas K. Mathews and Kelly Sullivan Holland.

President, Robert "Rob" L. Crady, of Louisville, Kentucky, earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1993. During his time at UK, he was as a member of the Freshman Representative Council and various other positions with the Student Government Association. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. He began his career with Fifth Third Bank's Trust Department in Lexington, later moving to Louisville to work in the Trust Departments of Stock Yards Bank and National City Bank, before returning to Lexington to manage National City's Lexington Trust Department. He is a director with RW Baird (formerly Hilliard Lyons) and a founding member of the Wealth & Family Office Group. He has served on the board of directors of the Bingham Child Guidance Center, the Cabbage Patch Settlement House and Nativity Academy at St. Boniface. Rob serves on the planned giving committee of the Center for Women and Families. He is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association. He is married to Holly Harris Crady ('97 BE) and has two children, Robbie and Abby.

President-Elect, Thomas K. Mathews, lives in Cypress, Texas. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1993, having attended as a Commonwealth Scholarship recipient. The Louisville native is the president of Industrial Solvents Corporation, is a member of the Houston Chemical Association and previously worked as compliance manager for Blue Grass Chemical Specialties. He is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association, served as secretary and president of the Greater Houston UK Alumni Club and organized fundraisers for DanceBlue and the club's local scholarship fund. At UK, he was a resident advisor and hall director at Holmes Hall, a member of Collegians for Academic Excellence and an RHA council representative. He received a master's degree in liberal studies from Bellarmine University in 1999 before relocating to Texas in 2001. He has worked as a community volunteer at Career Gear Houston and is a regular blood donor to the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. He is married to Tonya Williams Mathews, and they have two children, Shelby and Pierce.

Treasurer, Kelly Sullivan Holland, resides in Lexington, Kentucky. The Danville, Kentucky, native earned two UK degrees: a bachelor's in psychology in 1993 and a master's in kinesiology and health promotion in 1998. She was an Otis Singletary Senior Award recipient at UK, Phi Beta Kappa and Homecoming Queen. In 2005, she was inducted into UK's Greek Alumni Hall of Fame. After graduation, she represented UK as an admissions counselor and later as the director of recruitment, associate director of undergraduate admissions. She is the first alumna to be honored with the Joseph Burch Young Alumni Award, receiving it in 2004, and in 2010 she received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. She served as president of Fayette County Young Alumni and later as president of the Fayette County UK Alumni Club and on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. In 2012, she was appointed as a University of Kentucky Alumni Trustee where she led as a committee chair and secretary. She was a member of the 2021 Class of Leadership Kentucky and led UK's Women & Philanthropy as network co-chair in 2023. For 22 years she has been employed by Merck & Co. Inc. in sales and account management roles. She has been awarded the prestigious Hall of Fame distinction. She is married to Darin Holland ('93 AS) and they have a son, Jacob.

Secretary, Jill H. Smith, of Lexington, Kentucky, earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and management from the University of Kentucky in 2005 and a master's degree in career, technical and leadership education from the University of Kentucky in 2011. She began working at the UK Alumni Association in 2006 as a program coordinator and held four other positions at the association before becoming executive director in February 2020. She also serves as associate vice president for stakeholder engagement at UK. She has been an active volunteer with the Council for Advancement and Support of Education at the state and district level. She is an advisor to the Delta Rho chapter of Delta Delta Delta and a 2022 graduate of Leadership Kentucky. She is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association, a UK Fellow, Women & Philanthropy Member, and serves on several university committees. She and her husband, Ryan '04 AFE, have two children, Tanner and Emmy.

Who's new in 2024?



These alumni were recently elected to the UK Alumni Association of Board of Directors and Leadership Advisory Council for the first time.

In-State Board Representatives

Term: July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027

Sarah Webb Smith lives in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She earned her bachelor's degree in 2005 from the College of Communication and Information. She is the owner of Central Kentucky Tool, an automotive tooling manufacturer. Before that, she was director of the UK Visitor Center and the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta. She is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association. She acted as president of the Central Indiana UK Young Alumni Association, was an active member of the Greater Nashville UK Young Alumni Association. She is an active member of Southland Christian Church and serves as president of the Bluegrass Alumnae Chapter for Alpha Gamma Delta and the administration advisor for the Epsilon chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta.

Anthony Thornton of Louisville, Kentucky, earned a bachelor's degree in management from the Gatton College of Business and Economics in 2005. He is the owner of Anthony Thornton Insurance and an agent of Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance. He is president of the Greater Louisville UK Alumni Club. Before becoming president,

he was active in the club for many years, served on the executive committee and worked with the sponsorship committee to update and expand sponsor packages to help raise scholarship money for the chapter. He is a member of the Letterman Club at UK. He and his wife, Jess, have two boys, Chance and Caiden.

Out-of-State LAC Representative

Term: July 1, 2024-June 20, 2026

Michael McNeely lives in Germantown, Maryland. A native of Elizabethtown, he earned his bachelor's degree in biology and topical studies in physiology in 1998 and his master's in public health in 2002. He earned his MBA from Thomas More University. He is the director of the Telehealth and Innovation Services Division within the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth at the Health Resources and Services Administration. He is a Life Member of the UK Alumni Association and is a former vice president of the Nation's Capital UK Alumni Club. He has worked on alumni outreach efforts with the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Public Health. He is a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

Alumni Clubs awarded for service, good work

The UK Alumni Association recently recognized the critical role clubs serve in connecting alumni in their local communities to their alma mater.

At the annual Summer Workshop in June, clubs were recognized in six categories. Awards are determined by the Past Presidents' Advisory Council.

These clubs received awards during the Alumni Service Awards and Club Awards dinner for their hard work.

In-State Awards

| | Scholarships | Alumni Engagement | Service | Student Recruitment |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Greater Ashland | | | | |
| Big Sandy | | | | |
| Christian County | | | | |
| Clark County | | | | |
| Cumberland Valley East | | | | |
| Danville/Boyle County | | | | |
| Daviess County | | | | |
| Fayette County* | | | | |
| Fulton County | | | | |
| Hardin County | | | | |
| Hopkins County | | | | |
| Greater Louisville | | | | |
| McCracken County | | | | |
| Northern Kentucky/ Greater Cincinnati | | | | |

* New & Creative Programming

Out-of-State Awards

| | Scholarships | Alumni Engagement | Service | Student Recruitment |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Greater Atlanta | | | | |
| Greater Birmingham | | | | |
| Central Ohio | | | | |
| Central Texas | | | | |
| Central Virginia | | | | |
| Charlotte | | | | |
| Chattanooga | | | | |
| Chicagoland | | | | |
| Dallas-Fort Worth | | | | |
| Greater Dayton | | | | |
| Greater Houston | | | | |
| Knoxville | | | | |
| Greater Nashville | | | | |
| New York City* | | | | |
| Northeast Ohio | | | | |
| Northern Alabama | | | | |
| San Diego | | | | |
| Sarasota-Suncoast | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | | | | |
| Triangle Area N.Carolina | | | | |
| Upstate South Carolina | | | | |

Most Improved Clubs

In-state: Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati

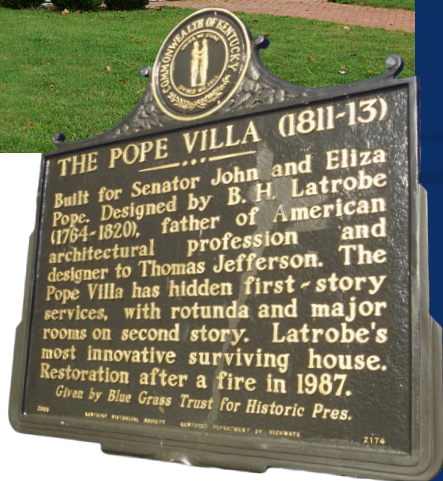
Out-of-state: New York City

‘A RESEARCH-GENERATING MACHINE’

Historically significant villa near campus has housed, taught many



Historic Pope Villa, 326 Grosvenor Avenue in Lexington, Kentucky, is within easy walking distance of the UK campus. The building was designed by Benjamin Latrobe, the principle architect of the U. S. Capitol.



By Jacalyn Carfagno

The history of the Pope Villa in Lexington is many stories. It's the story of John Pope, an early United States Senator from Kentucky whose sister-in-law was a first lady.

It's the story of Benjamin Latrobe, the man regarded as the father of American architecture who worked with his friend Thomas Jefferson on several projects, including the U.S. Capitol.

It's the story of hundreds of University of Kentucky students who lived in the warren of apartments the Pope Villa was broken up into long after the Popes were gone.

And it's the story of three University of Kentucky graduates and teachers — Clay Lancaster '38 '39 FA, Patrick Snadon '76 AFE and Haviland Argo '03 DE — across three generations who used their wits, scholarship and perseverance to help rediscover Latrobe's masterful example of the new American domestic architecture he envisioned, save it after a devastating fire and fight for its continued survival.

And it's the story of the next, unknown phase, whether this house that has survived renovations, additions, divisions and fire, that has housed senators and slaves and welcomed a president, will survive to continue telling its story.

To start at the beginning: Pope and his wife, Eliza (her sister, Louisa, was married to John Quincy Adams, the sixth president) had gotten to know Latrobe in Washington. Latrobe, who was also trained as an engineer as well as an architect in his native England, worked with Pope on a plan for a series of canals, bridges and roads that Jefferson wanted to improve transportation between the East Coast and the country's developing west, including Kentucky.

Although the idea of hiring an architect to draw plans for someone else to build was almost unknown at that time in the U.S., the Popes asked Latrobe to design their home in Lexington.

Snadon, associate professor emeritus at the School of Architecture and Interior Design at the University of Cincinnati and interior design professor at the University of Kentucky from 1980-1989, said this gave Latrobe the opportunity to try out his ideas for what he called "a rational house for America," an architecture that reflected "the new democratic republic."

Its history

Designed and built in 1811-1812, the Pope Villa is one of eight projects Latrobe designed in Kentucky and the only one remaining.

Another notable Kentuckian in Washington, Henry Clay, also reached out to Latrobe to design additions to Ashland, his Lexington home, about the same time as the construction of the Pope Villa. That Ashland, though, was later torn down and the Ashland now standing replaced it.

The Pope Villa is one of only three of Latrobe's residences known to remain in the entire country and the only of his "suburban villas" surviving. Located on about a third of an acre at 326 Grosvenor Avenue, near the UK campus, at the time the Popes lived there, the home sat on 13 acres overlooking the Town Branch below, the stream that ran through early Lexington.

Latrobe's design, modified in consultation with Eliza Pope according to correspondence in the Latrobe archives ("the Popes were his most adventurous clients," Snadon said), was a neoclassical gem showcasing his ideas for this new country. Doing away with a grand exterior staircase, which Latrobe thought was unsuited to the American rain, ice and snow, guests entered through a first floor reserved for the Pope's offices and service rooms, and took "a spectacular, picturesque route," up to the public spaces above, Snadon said.

Reaching the second floor, where there were an interior rotunda and two curved drawing rooms, visitors would be bathed in natural light coming through an oculus, or skylight, set in a dome painted light blue.

It was "an eye in the sky that was completely invisible from the exterior of the building," explained Haviland Argo who has been active in efforts to preserve and restore the Pope Villa since he returned to Kentucky after stints studying at Harvard and working in New York.

Oh, the irony

There are many ironies surrounding the Pope Villa. One is that the Popes only lived there for about six years. After them, a succession of owners radically transformed the exterior and interior of the house. By the 20th century much of the property had been subdivided and sold, the house was divided up into four units and then into 10.

Another irony is that Latrobe himself never came to Kentucky and so never saw the completed house. However, he did include the plans he'd drawn, now in the Library of Congress, in a portfolio he'd show potential clients, labeled "a country house in Virginia."

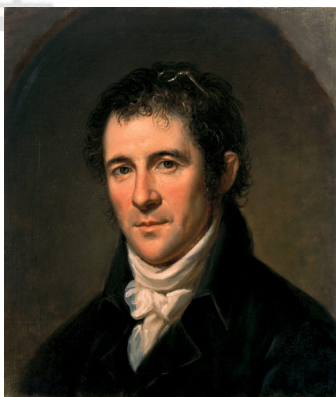
Had it not been for the discerning eye of Clay Lancaster the connection between the so-called Virginia country house and the much-altered building at 326 Grosvenor Avenue might never have been discovered.

Lancaster researched, photographed, taught and wrote extensively on architectural history in Kentucky and in New York City, where he lived for many years. When he died in 2001 the New York Times published a lengthy obituary saying his 1961 book about Brooklyn Heights "proved to be one of the earliest and loudest shots in the historic preservation struggle in New York City."

While still in Kentucky, Lancaster had photographed historic structures, including details that survived from the Latrobe design in the Pope Villa. Argo said that when Lancaster saw Latrobe's drawings in the Library of Congress he said to himself, "I recognize that house, that's not a Virginia house, that's actually a house in Lexington, Kentucky."

The final irony of the Pope Villa is that the fire that almost destroyed it in 1987 also opened the door for the research and restoration that has happened since.

"It wasn't until the fire they were able to actually confirm it was Latrobe's plans," Argo said.



Left: An 1804 portrait of Benjamin Latrobe by Charles Willson Peale is in the White House Collection. Latrobe is often called the Father of American Architecture.
Right: The Pope Villa as it looked at the time of the fire.



What the Fire Revealed

Snadon was one of the first people in after the fire on October 22, 1987. "It was a real rabbit warren," he said. With 10 student apartments wedged in, "every corner you turned, there was another bathroom or kitchen."

But, remarkably, underneath almost 170 years of changes and additions was the Pope Villa. That day, in an almost Indiana Jones moment, one of the people with Snadon used a crowbar to poke a hole in the back of cabinet that had been built in Sen. John Pope's office and found "layer after layer of historic wallpaper." Since then, Snadon said, "the house has just revealed one thing after another."

Snadon, co-author with Michael Fazio of "The Domestic Architecture of Benjamin Henry Latrobe," has studied the house and used it as a teaching tool. Even after he left UK to teach at the University of Cincinnati he brought students there. As they study Latrobe's design and see the still unrestored interior, "new generations of students just keep getting excited about it," he said.

One of those students was Argo. He was a fellow at the Gaines Center for the Humanities where the director at the time, Dan Rowland, was a longtime champion of the Pope Villa. So, it was natural that Snadon gave a lecture to Argo and the other fellows then led them in a tour of the house itself. "I never forgot it," Argo said.

When Argo returned to Lexington years later, Rowland asked him to join the Pope Villa committee. Of course, he said yes, he was already fascinated by the Pope Villa and, as for Rowland, "I would do anything for him."

As an adjunct professor in architecture at UK, Argo has introduced students to the Pope Villa, calling it "the perfect tool for teaching architecture."

As students "begin to uncover the geometries underlying the building's design their eyes light up," he said. For some, as for him, they've found "a way of thinking that might guide them forever."

The Bluegrass Trust bought the fire-damaged Pope Villa, saving it from demolition, and has stabilized it and restored the exterior but is now looking for some other person or organization to take the project further.

Snadon, who has now retired from teaching, is hoping another generation will continue exploring Latrobe's masterpiece and what it has to tell about architecture, the United States, Lexington and many other topics. Indeed, it's not just architecture and historic preservation but students exploring geography, history, political science, the lives of enslaved people, and materials science who have dove into Latrobe's Pope Villa.

"Boy, it's a wonderful teaching tool," Snadon said. And he thinks it has more stories to tell. "It's a research-generating machine." ■



Above: The second story hallway, bathed in natural light, gives way to two ballrooms.



Left: Haviland Argo discusses the history of Pope Villa with a visitor during a 2022 tour of the historic home.

Bottom: A birthday celebration for Benjamin Latrobe was held on May 1, 2022 at Pope Villa. Attending were Haviland Argo (white shirt, far left) and Dan Rowland (dark shirt, center).



UK history professor Amy Murrell Taylor and her students have uncovered the history of enslaved people who worked at, lived in and otherwise participated in the life Pope Villa. Their research has been collected in "Pope Villa's History of Slavery." Read more about it at <https://www.ukalumni.net/popevilla>.

Memories of Memorial



Memorial Coliseum, the much-loved arena on the Avenue of Champions, is undergoing an \$82-million renovation.

Built in 1950 and originally covering an entire block on campus, the arena has been home to some of the University of Kentucky's biggest sports moments. Originally built as a memorial to Kentuckians who lost their lives in WWII, the name Memorial Coliseum was recommended by President Herman Donovan in 1945.

We asked alumni to share their memories of the historic building that is such a key part of life on campus for many Wildcats. Whether you registered for classes there, saw President Lyndon B. Johnson speak there, listened to Jimmy Buffet play there, graduated there or watched the University of Kentucky Wildcats play basketball there, Memorial Coliseum likely remains in your memory.

I attended the first commencement ceremony at the Coliseum in 1950. My grandfather, Thomas Poe Cooper, was dean of agriculture. I went to the ceremony with my mom, and I sat in the stands. I remember the grandeur of the new building, the pomp of the ceremony and the varied colors of all the academic hoods. Being only 6 years old, my memories are limited, but I recall that after the ceremony my grandfather introduced me to the commencement speaker, his friend John Sherman Cooper, who was then an alternate delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

When I walked through Memorial I was pleased to see a picture of my dad, Claude Hammond, a UK football player, on the wall of the concourse. My future father-in-law, Dave Rogan, a UK track star, was there as well.

Growing up I was lucky enough to witness some of the greatest games in Wildcat history at the Coliseum. The one season I'll never forget is '57-'58, the "Fiddlin' Five." Vernon Hatton's miracle shot in the three-overtime win over Temple and Jerry West and West Virginia handed the Cats a loss in the UKIT - University of Kentucky Invitational Tournament.

Nearly 40 years later, Jerry would reminisce with me about his games at the Coliseum, including one of the times he broke his nose. Years later, improbably, a UK fan handed him the old towel they had used to sop up the blood! It drew a great laugh and Jerry said, "only a Kentucky fan."

I got to play many games at the Coliseum as a member of the Lafayette High School team. On Saturday mornings several players from Lafayette and Henry Clay High School would sometimes sneak into the Coliseum for pickup games. We used an unlocked door at the rear of the building to get in. The state high school tournament was one of the Coliseum's most popular events. Sometimes during the season, I would find my way to the equipment cage under the stands, in search of some UK gear. The equipment manager, George Hukle, treated that equipment as if it were his own, even for the players. I think the only thing I ever got was a pair of socks. Years later, equipment manager Bill Keightley was a little more liberal with the Wildcat gear.

As a UK student, I never missed a game, including those of my all-time favorite team, "Rupp's Runts." I was friends with many of the players and would often hang out with them.

I had known my future broadcast partner Larry Conley since we were both 16. Thad Jaracz was a Lafayette teammate. Pat Riley had a summer job at a horse farm where I also worked.

And Jim Lemaster was a fraternity brother. They passed the ball like no team I have seen before or since. I was in the stands and then the hotel with them after the landmark loss to Texas Western in the NCAA Championship game in College Park, Maryland.

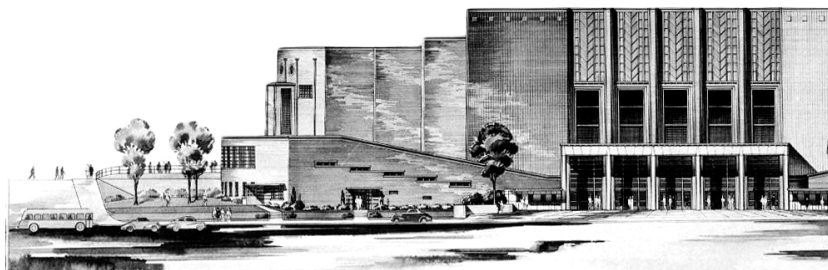
While we were students, we went to the Coliseum for reasons other than basketball: class registration, concerts, lectures and an address by then-President Lyndon Johnson. My graduation ceremonies for high school and college were held at the Coliseum.

After graduation I spent getting time into the Coliseum without a basketball ticket (I had a few tricks up my sleeve), until I landed my first real job at WVLK radio, where I would sometimes be able to sit on press row. Occasionally the opposing team would require an engineer to help originate their broadcast and would ask WVLK to supply one. I was no engineer, but once I learned that all you had to do was hook up a couple of wires and ride the controls, I volunteered for the job. I got paid to watch the game!

My most important Memorial Coliseum memory is after I was hired at WLEX-TV. The first event I did on television was play-by-play of a Kentucky rout of Kansas, led by Dan Issel and Mike Pratt, in December 1969. It was the first step in an improbable career that would take me places I could never have dreamed of. When NBC would come to town to do a UK game with Dick Enberg, Billy Packer and Al McGuire, I would sit down with them and their crew to tell them anything that might help with the broadcast, making valuable contacts for later. NBC always parked the remote truck in front of the Coliseum, and I remember walking by it and wondering if I would ever be in that situation. Little could I have guessed that I would eventually be on NBC with Enberg, Packer and McGuire.

All these years later, I still maintain that the original Memorial Coliseum, capacity 11,500, was the greatest place in the world to watch a basketball game.

Tom Hammond '67 AFE, '18 HON



• MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM FIELDHOUSE •

In the fall of 1950, I began college at UK. I did not realize that was the year Memorial Coliseum opened. We students took it for granted that it had always been there. I remember we registered for classes in Memorial Coliseum and students registered alphabetically. Everything we attended in the Coliseum was free: concerts, guest speakers and home basketball games. I was a member of the University Chorus (about 100 members), and we practiced in the Coliseum and had concerts there. I graduated in late May 1954 and the last picture of Memorial Coliseum is me and my UK friends holding our diplomas standing in front of Memorial Coliseum saying our goodbyes and wishing each other good luck in our new phase of life.

Genevieve (Brashear) Schmitt '54 AFE



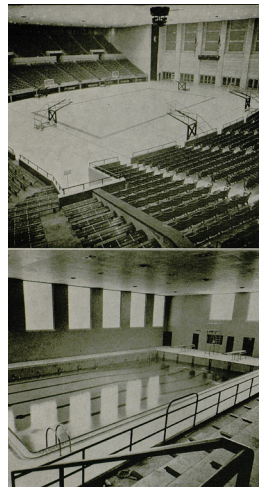
I'm now 78 years old and remember when my dad used to drop me off in front of Memorial Coliseum to purchase standing room only tickets to men's basketball games. I graduated from Lafayette High School in 1964. During the winter, our track team used the concourses and walkways inside Memorial to do our workouts. We could always watch and listen to Coach Rupp during their basketball practices while we ran.

Gil Searcy '68 BE



I had the fortune to go to the last UK basketball game in Memorial Coliseum and the first UK basketball game in Rupp Arena. To make things even more special, I was living in the basketball wing of Holmes Hall because there were no other rooms for the baby boomer generation that had enrolled in the fall of 1975. My roommate, Paul Servino, and I were the only two non-basketball players in that wing of Holmes Hall. I got to know Kentucky's Rick Robey, Jay Shidler, Mike Phillips, Truman Claytor, Jack Givens and watch them play the final UK men's basketball game in Memorial on March 8, 1976. And then I got to attend the first game in Rupp Arena on November 27, 1976. And I do remember many, many nights camping out to get basketball student tickets around Memorial Coliseum.

Roger Herdy '81 EN



I grew up going to games in Memorial Coliseum. There were several children in my family, so it was always a treat when I got to go. I remember hoping my shoes had smooth bottoms so I could slide down the ramps inside. My dad said it wasn't right for me to slide on them. Many years later I realized he was referencing the memorial names on the wall, and I should show respect.

I remember going to a game in December 1968. It was a big game. I think it must have been UNC. At that time, students could get a ticket at gate after showing UK ID. I went with my husband and my sister and her husband, but they ran out of tickets. We were told to wait. Eventually it was announced that the fire marshal had agreed a certain number of people could come in and sit on the floor courtside - on the floor, not in seats - if we agreed to be still and not moved around or get up and down. We immediately agreed, and we went and sat on the floor for the game. I was nine months pregnant at the time so I couldn't have gotten up and moved around if I had wanted to. I also remember going to the pool at Memorial Coliseum with my older sisters when they had swimming lessons there. I had swimming lessons in the pool, too.

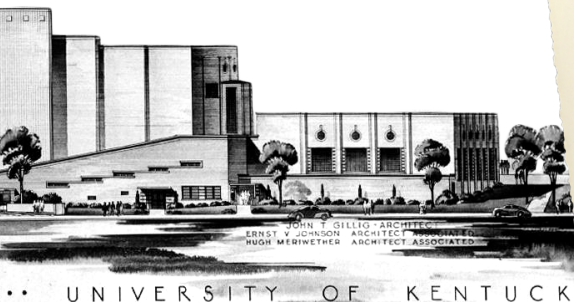
Kathy Harris '71 BE, '77 LAW

My father took me to a UK football game, probably in 1948, when I was about 7 or 8. Instead of watching the game, I climbed the steps to the top of Stoll Field and looked across Euclid at the construction site of Memorial Coliseum. I spent most of the afternoon watching the workmen guide the steel beams into place, forming what would become the showplace of basketball in the South. It must have been an early manifestation of my lifelong vocation of engineering.

This memory came from a bit later, when I was a sophomore at UK. The basketball team - Cotton Nash, Ted Deeken, Charles Ishmael - was going to the NCAA in 1961. The first round was going to be in Freedom Hall in Louisville. UK played an in-state team in the first round, but Ohio State, with Jerry Lucas and Hondo Havlicek, loomed in the second game.

It was announced that tickets would be sold on Wednesday morning at the Memorial Coliseum ticket office. My frat brother and I decided we would get in line early, so we drove over to the ticket office at 6 p.m. the evening before and parked right up on the sidewalk in front of the ticket office. We sat there all night, playing bridge most of the night. By dawn, the line was around the building and out of sight. As soon as the ticket office opened, we were first in line and proudly bought our tickets. Even though UK won the first game, mighty Ohio State was too much for the Cats that year.

Clifford Holliday '63 EN, '68 BE



I have several great memories of Memorial Coliseum. I was there in 1992-1996 when you had to camp out for Midnight Madness. It was such a great time hanging out and making friends for hours for your chance to see the basketball team for the first time that season. Plus, the smaller, more intimate crowd made it even more insane. I was a student manager for the Lady Kats my junior year and being able to shoot hoops on that court where so many legends had played always gave me chills. That's something I'll always cherish and never forget.

Darlene Tomas Eisemann '96 CI



Memorial Coliseum brings back great memories of waiting in anticipation to hear which number they were starting the basketball lottery with bright and early on Sunday mornings. A few times I was lucky enough to have the first number and got front row seats at Rupp. On a handful of Saturday nights I did not go out because I wanted to make sure I was at Memorial Coliseum at 8 a.m. Sunday to get my number. I also spent the night on the floor of Memorial Coliseum to see the Wildcats play in the Sweet 16 and Elite 8 games in Charlotte back in 1993. That was well worth having to sleep on a hard uncomfortable floor because I watched them dominate in both games and make it to the Final 4!

Tara Hubbuch '93 AS '95 ED



My favorite memory of Memorial Coliseum does not include the Cat's games though I never missed one as a 1968 graduate. In the spring semester prior to my senior year, my academic advisor discovered I needed another physical education class. We found a two-credit course, baseball coaching, which met at noon in Memorial. The instructor was Harry Lancaster, Coach Adolph Rupp's assistant. In the first session, Coach Lancaster arrived, looked at the class of mostly football players, looked at me and asked, "Who are you?"

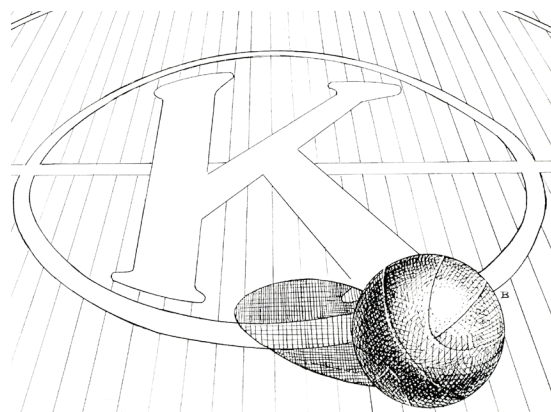
He explained that occasionally Coach Rupp would call a noon meeting and he may be late or not able to come to class. He handed me the class attendance rooster and said I would be responsible for taking roll. Coach Rupp must have called a lot of noon meetings because we did not see Coach Lancaster very much. When he was there it was most entertaining and not much about baseball. At semester's end I turned in the attendance book to Coach. I got an A in the class. Go Cats!

Howard 'Bucky' Kahl, '68 BE

My greatest memories of Memorial Coliseum were not just watching UK beat eventual national champion and John Havlicek and Jerry Lucas who led Ohio State (96-93) on December 28, 1959 or UK beat All-American Guy Rodgers who led Temple (85-83) in triple overtime on December 7, 1957 or beat Jerry West's West Virginia team (97-91) on December 20, 1958, but watching every UK home game from the front row for four years starting with the 1954-55 season.

How was I so lucky? At the time, university professors acquired basketball tickets on the Rose Street side of Memorial Coliseum. The higher the tenure of the professor, the better the seats. My uncle, Buddy Neuman, was part owner and operator of Kentucky Dry Cleaners. One of the highest tenured professors traded his two front row seats to my uncle in exchange for receiving free laundry and dry cleaning. The seats were just off midcourt. As a teenager I did not mind that the only people between me and the playing floor were the cheerleaders.

Ellen van Nagell '74 HS



In the spring of 1959, the UK Student Congress decided we should close out the school year with the "Little Kentucky Derby Weekend." The fraternity's sororities and independent groups had go carts, beauty contests and other activities. The highlight was a big-name band at Memorial Coliseum. As student body president, I was designated to contact the agent for Louis Armstrong and his band. We agreed on the date and the cost in a phone conversation.

The next day I met with Dr. Frank Dickey, the president of the University of Kentucky. He asked, "How are you going to pay for this?" I told him "That is why I am here right now."

Dr. Dickey was excited about the plans and suggested that I meet with Coach Adolph Rupp and Athletic Director Bernie Shively. If they were supportive, he would meet with the Board of Trustees. Eventually, everyone gave their approval. The Hilltoppers agreed to come, too, and the band only charged their expenses.

If there was ever a bigger special event at Memorial Coliseum, we were not aware of it. The Saturday night show was sold out. We could have sold twice as many more. We had the No. 1 band and No. 1 quartet in the country. We also had Memorial Coliseum (the house that Rupp built) which was the top venue in the country. I sure was proud to be a part of this.

Peter Perlman '59 AS, '62 LAW





My father was a college student when Memorial Coliseum opened in 1950. Skeptics said the 11,000-seat on campus facility was too big to be filled, he said. I saw my first men's basketball game on February 22, 1971, when the Wildcats played Alabama, coached by future UK athletics director C.M. Newton. My Uncle Harry had an extra ticket. We sat in the upper deck. UK rolled 101-74. Two things stuck out: Alabama had a player named George Harrison, same as the member of the Beatles – a 12-year-old would notice such a thing – and UK's legendary Adolph Rupp coached the game with his foot propped up on a pillow. The then 69-year-old Rupp was battling a foot infection complicated by diabetes. A year later my father took my friends and me to a UK freshman basketball game at the Coliseum for my 13th birthday. That was the famous "Super Kittens" team before freshmen were eligible to play varsity basketball. It featured Kevin Grevey, Jimmy Dan Conner, Mike Flynn, Bob Guyette, Jerry Hale, Steve Lochmueller and G.J. Smith. The Kittens whipped Florida 108-64 that Saturday afternoon. A good time was had by all.

Rebecca Hetzell '12 ED

I remember one big game (maybe against Tennessee) when the students were cheering so loudly before the players came out of the locker room that reportedly they couldn't hear Coach Joe B. Hall giving his pre-game talk. He finally gave up and just sent the players out early onto the floor for warmups. The Coliseum always had such a great atmosphere! Students lined up early one morning for a night game that would decide the conference championship. I was one of hundreds who skipped classes that day (including a chemistry class that I didn't need to skip). Gloria Singletary, wife of UK President Otis Singletary, brought sandwiches to students lined up on the sidewalk around the Coliseum.

Martha Perkins '76 AFE, '95 ED

I entered Memorial Coliseum for the first time in 1972 during fall semester. It was like passing into heaven for a Kentucky country boy from a town of 500. Walking up the ramps, the walls were covered with mementos of those basketball legends that I had only followed on the Cawood Ledford broadcasts. On the concourse I saw display cases with the championship trophies won by my boyhood heroes. Then came my first view of the polished basketball floor and the banners hanging in testimony to the successes achieved. Memorial Coliseum had an intimacy that grabbed my heart and will never depart. I did not miss a home game as a student. Concerts by Sly and the Family Stone, James Taylor, Three Dog Night and the combined Supremes/Temptations stand out. But Memorial Coliseum will always revolve around basketball: the UK fight song played by the band, the student section getting a wave and smile response from the coach to their hearty "Hello Adolph" greeting. The most memorable night was when UK played arch-rival Tennessee. Memorial Coliseum was electric that night and Tennessee never had a chance. The UK fight song must have been played 100 times.

Charles R. (Bob) Stark, Jr. '74 AFE, '82 ED



I grew up in Lexington and as a young teen, I snuck into UK games with friends. Since there were PE classes and the pool in the building, it was open hours before the game, and we were able to go up the concourse and wait in the bathrooms. As a janitor came through mopping the floors, we hid in stalls and raised our feet. When we heard the commotion from the students entering and rushing to the student section, we walked out and made our way into the student section. I saw about every home game in 1965 and the Runts in 1966. As a student later in the 60s and early 70s, I remember the student section saying "Hello" to Coach Adolph Rupp and then Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler in unison, fondly remember Chandler singing "My Old Kentucky Home," watching Dan Issel, Mike Pratt, Mike Casey and all three times Pete Maravich came to town. I also remember seeing Jerry West, Bill Bradley, Cazzie Russell, Cotton Nash, Billy Cunningham and more, earlier in the 1960s.

Michael L. Brown '72 BE

For anybody who was there for the last regular-season game in 1976, the night is seared in our minds. Capacity crowd to overflowing, with unequalled pomp and ceremony, but we trailed Mississippi State so badly late in the game that Mississippi State was already celebrating. Then, an impossible rally in the last minute and a half resulted in a win in overtime. That game was unwinnable, but the guys pulled it out somehow.

The other memory that is very rich to me is my first Memorial Coliseum game with my dad, who drove through a hard Eastern Kentucky snow to get us there. I got to experience the thrill of the atmosphere of a UK basketball game in Memorial Coliseum, with Adolph Rupp coaching, the band playing, and I recall a blue carpet rolled out for the players to run across as they came out from the locker room.

Douglas Sutherland '78 BE



1950

The **Memorial Coliseum** is dedicated as a secular shrine to Kentucky's departed soldiers, sailors, Marines and aviators in WWII. The first men's basketball game is December 1 with a 74-43 win over West Texas State College, now West Texas A&M University. The arena was full with 11,500 in attendance.



1955

To mark the end of Coach Adolph Rupp's **25th season at UK**, Rupp is honored at a postgame celebration when a light blue Cadillac with whitewall tires is wheeled onto the floor of the arena, a gift from an anonymous alumnus.



1967

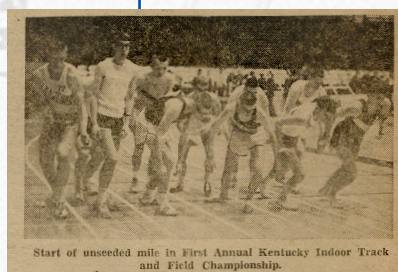
Conversation begins about building a bigger arena. Memorial had sold out games since 1961.



Billy Graham packs Memorial for four days. Overflow gathers at Stoll Field.

1952

A new scoreboard capable of including three digits is installed. The Wildcats had passed the century mark in points twice the previous season at home.



1963

First and only Kentucky Federation Indoor Track Meet Championships in Memorial Coliseum.

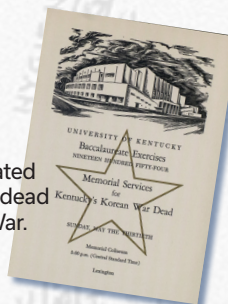
1951

First UK vs. UCLA basketball game. No. 1 UK defeated No. 16 UCLA 84-53.



1954

Memorial rededicated to include the war dead from the Korean War.



1954

Maintenance worker George Erhart, who cared for the basketball floor in Memorial since 1951 falls 80 feet through an air duct while cleaning the walkway above the ceiling. He returned to work two months later after not sustaining any serious injuries.

1966

Outside of Memorial, members of the Black Student Union protest Adolph Rupp's all-white teams. Four years later, the men's team is integrated.



1968

Alabama governor and presidential candidate **George Wallace** speaks. Student protestors gather outside and inside "Hippies for Wallace" sat high in the rafters with signs reading, "Turn on With George."

1953

Oranges are thrown at University of Tennessee players as they run onto the floor. Students from both schools join in the orange feud tradition which lasted for many years between the rivals.

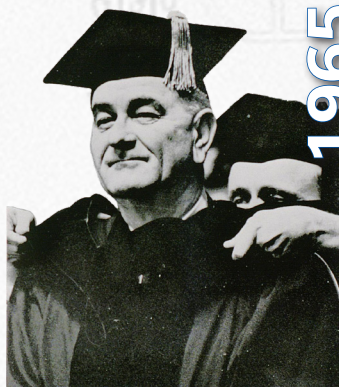


1949

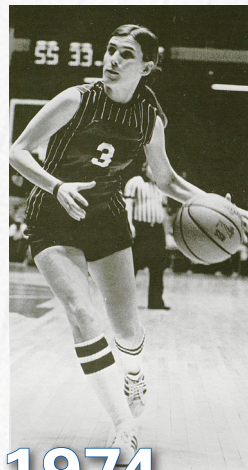
J. Sherman Horine, professor of mechanical engineering, hand wrote the names of the Kentucky World War II dead on a roll of paper for display in Memorial Coliseum.

1965

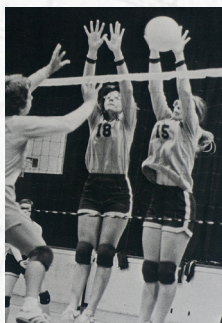
President Lyndon B. Johnson is keynote speaker at Kentucky's Centennial Celebration on February 2. He receives an honorary degree.



The women's basketball team - after a 50-year absence - granted varsity status again. The team had varsity status from 1903-1925 when the university senate abolished the sport deeming it too strenuous for women. Sue Feamster coaches for two seasons for a record of 29-21.

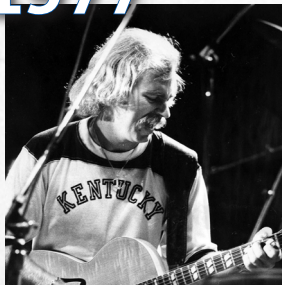


1974



Volleyball is introduced to UK athletics and the team plays and practices in Memorial.

1977



Jimmy Buffett performs. Tickets were \$5 and \$6.

1981

UK opens one of the nation's first academic centers for student-athletes located in Memorial Coliseum. Known as the "Center for Academic and Tutorial Services" (C.A.T.S.).

1982

Coach Joe B. Hall introduces **Midnight Special**, now known as **Midnight Madness**. Originally an event just for students. Freshman Kenny Walker thrilled students with flying dunks.



Sting performs. R.E.M. performs.

1985

1983

Talking Heads perform with the lights on due to a bomb threat.



Kat crowd tops record

The seventh-ranked Lady Kats defeated the sixth-ranked Old Dominion Lady Monarchs 80-66 before a NCAA record crowd of 10,622 Saturday night. The attendance beat the old women's record of 10,290 set at Old Dominion's arena. The Kats, two years ago against Louisiana Tech.

Above: The scoreboard tells the story as the crowd poured onto the floor after the game to congratulate the victorious Lady Kats.

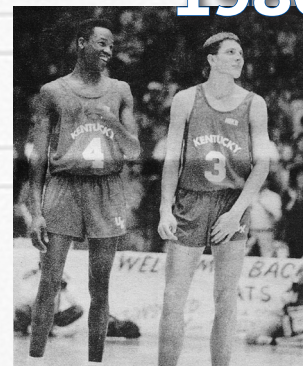
At left: All-American center Valerie Still receives a "high five" from teammate Donna Martin with 30 seconds left in the game. She & Still played Old Dominion & Old Dominion's star Ann Dominick to a standstill. Still scored 11 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Dominick had 12 points and 25 rebounds. Still hit 11 of 14 free throws and helped force Dominick to the bench with foul trouble early in the second half.

The win marked the first straight in the Lady Kats' "Valerie" Five series. Another Tennessee brings its No. 10 ranking to town to challenge UK Wednesday night. See page 4 for story.

1983

A crowd of 10,622 fills Memorial for a women's basketball game versus No. 6 Old Dominion. Kentucky, featuring Valerie Still, Lea Wise and Patty Jo Hedges, wins 80-66. The attendance is the **largest crowd for a women's basketball game in the United States at the time**.

1986



Fire marshal closes doors of **Midnight Madness** leaving hundreds of fans outside. More than 12,500 get the first glimpse of super-frosh Rex Chapman.

1972

Adolf Rupp coaches his **last game in Memorial** with a 102-67 win over Auburn. Coach Joe B. Hall takes over that fall.



1976

Men's basketball competitions move to Rupp. Memorial becomes the home to women's basketball team. The last men's basketball game played inside Memorial on March 8. The Cats beat Mississippi State 94-93. Overflow crowd sits on floor.



1992

Big Boo Madness takes place on Halloween night after NCAA pushes the start of basketball practice to November 1. Jamal Mashburn, known as "The Monster Mash," is the featured attraction. Announcer Cawood Ledford pops up out of a coffin to start the show.

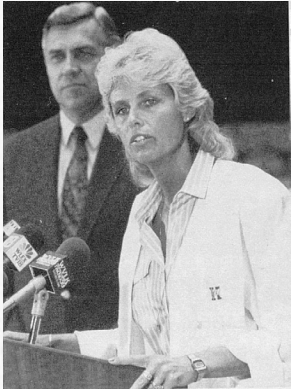


1998

The "Center for Academic and Tutorial Services" (C.A.T.S.) is relocated to a new two-story facility located within the existing area previously occupied by the pool and locker rooms in Memorial Coliseum. The new spaces includes a study hall, computer lab, administrative offices and tutorial spaces.

2003

Mickie DeMoss becomes women's basketball coach.



1987

Sharon Fanning becomes women's basketball coach.

1995

Midnight Special name changed to Rockin' After Midnight.



1989

Coach Rick Pitino is introduced as the men's head basketball coach.



\$1-million renovation includes new weight training facilities, offices, players' lounge and team meeting room. Memorial becomes home to UK gymnastics.

1990



2002

Yearlong 100 years of Kentucky basketball celebration. Equipment Manager Bill Keightley pops out of birthday cake at Big Blue Madness.





Dance 'till you're blue in the feet

2006

First ever 24-hour DanceBlue marathon to fight pediatric cancer in memory of Jarrett Myneer.

2006

UK women's basketball defeats No. 1 Tennessee 66-63 snapping a 24-year losing streak to UT. The win is the program's first win over a No.1 ranked opponent.



2005

Midnight Madness moves to Rupp Arena.

2011

My Morning Jacket performs.

2008

New sound system installed.



2007

Joe Craft Center opens adjacent to Memorial Coliseum as a new basketball practice facility for men's and women's teams.



2009

Men's Basketball Coach Billy Gillispie's last game takes place, an NIT win over UNLV. The game, with a score of 70-60, is in Memorial because Rupp was the venue for the state high school basketball tournament.

2010

Drake performs.

2012

December graduation is the last graduation ceremony held in Memorial Coliseum. UK graduations move to Rupp Arena.

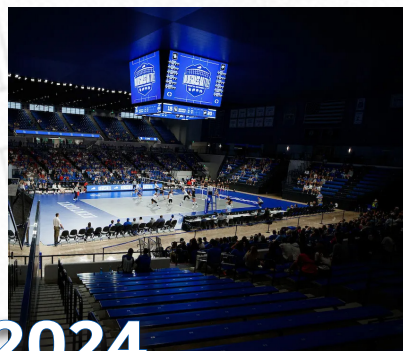
2020

Women's volleyball wins 2020 National Championship. Because of COVID, during the game-watch party inside Memorial, fans leave three seats empty between them.



2024

Women's volleyball play in the first event held at the renovated Memorial Coliseum since an exhibition volleyball match in March of 2023. Since that time, the interior of the arena has seen significant changes as part of the renovation project.



2023

\$80+ million renovations begins. Includes HVAC, new seating, center-hung scoreboard/video board, club area, new ceilings and renovated concession, concourse and lobby.



2019

Comedian Trevor Noah speaks as part of 70 years of integration celebration.

THE DAYS ARE NUMBERED...

UNTIL THE 2025 UK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBER CALENDAR THEME IS REVEALED!



We've been on a roll with fun themes for the member calendar. The Cat's got our tongue now — but chances are you're going to be wild about this one-of-a-kind calendar you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss out on this always popular member benefit!

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

HOMECOMING 2024



OCTOBER 6 - 13



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENTS FOR ALL

JOIN US AT EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

OCT.

6-13

HOMECOMING AT HOME

OCT.

11

**LYMAN T. JOHNSON
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

OCT.

11

**BIG BLUE DAY AT
KEENELAND**

OCT.

12

HOMECOMING TAILGATE

OCT.

12

**VANDERBILT VS. KENTUCKY
HOMECOMING GAME**

Welcome back, Wildcats! Our annual Homecoming celebration is right around the corner.

From nostalgic gatherings to exciting new experiences, there's something for everyone. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the UK family once again. Come home to Kentucky and help us paint the town blue!



COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

CHECK OUT WHAT YOUR COLLEGE HAS PLANNED FOR YOU!

OCT.
11

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI
RECEPTION**

OCT.
11

**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
WHISKEY THIEF DISTILLING CO.
TOUR AND LUNCH**

OCT.
11

**ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW
HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE**

OCT.
11

**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
GENERAL CE COURSE AND
ALUMNI MEETING**

OCT.
12

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
ENVIRONMENT ROUNDUP**

OCT.
12

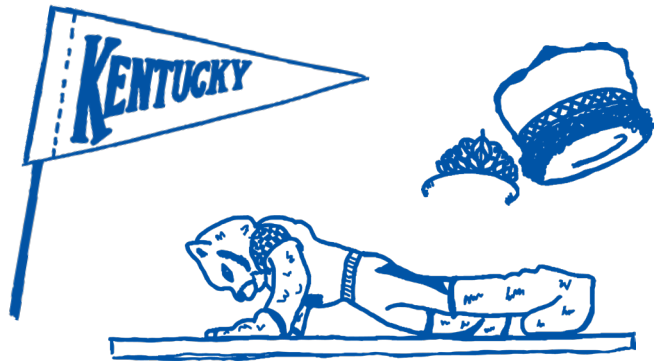
**GATTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
AND ECONOMICS TAILGATE**

OCT.
12

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
TAILGATE**



For details about other
Homecoming activities visit
www.ukhomecoming.com.



GOLDEN WILDCAT ACTIVITIES

HELP US WELCOME THE CLASS OF 1974 INTO THE
GOLDEN WILDCAT SOCIETY!

OCT.
10

**GOLDEN WILDCAT SOCIETY INDUCTION
DINNER AND PINNING CEREMONY**

OCT.
10-13

**COLLEGE-HOSTED GOLDEN
WILDCAT ACTIVITIES**

OCT.
11

CAMPUS BUS TOUR

OCT.
11

PHOENIX ROOM AT KEENELAND

OCT.
11

BIG BLUE MADNESS

OCT.
12

**HOMECOMING TAILGATE AND
FOOTBALL GAME**

OCT.
13

FAREWELL BREAKFAST



Alumni News



Young alumni got together in Chicago and Cincinnati this summer for a chance to reminisce, renew old friendships and have fun.

In late June, young alumni gathered to watch the Cubs take on the Brewers at Chicago's Tin Roof.



1



2

The Cincinnati Zoo was the location of a young alumni gathering in July. Young alumni and their families enjoyed family-friendly activities, experienced the magic of the animal kingdom and learned from the zookeepers about conservation efforts being made to protect endangered species.



1. Diane Massie '79 CI (left) and Jill Rappis '80 AS (right) were two of the alumni who enjoyed the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France. After attending a broadcast of NBC's "Today Show," Massie and Rappis were lucky enough to pose with two-time gold medal winner and UK medical student Lee Kiefer in front of the Eiffel Tower.

2. Kevin Collins '84 EN joined Rappis (left) and Massie (right) at the women's volleyball competition where they took a photograph with UK's Avery Skinner who helped Team USA win the silver medal.

3. Ted Kluemper '88 BE and members of his family summited Half Dome in California's Yosemite National Park this summer. Along with his son Ray Kluemper, brother Mark Kluemper '90 ED, '03 '04 HS and nephew Matthew Kluemper '22 FA, the men completed one of the most challenging hikes in the United States. Pictured from left to right are the Kluempers: Matthew, Mark, Ted and Ray, posed proudly wearing their UK blue.



Top: The University of Kentucky Alumni Association Traveling Wildcats visited Southeast Alaska for seven days in late summer. The trip took the 11 alumni to Glacier Bay National Park, Dawes Glacier (pictured), Petersburg/Frederick Sound and the Eastern Baranof Island. The experience included skiff rides, hiking and kayaking. Travelers saw plenty of wildlife views including bears, whales, otters and eagles.

Bottom: A group of 19 alumni from six states traveled to the Irish Emeralds, bottom, with a Traveling Wildcats adventure in August. The small ship luxury cruise took alumni to Waterford, Cork, Bantry, Galway, Killybegs, Belfast and Douglas Ireland and Bristol and Liverpool, England. Travelers explored the green coasts of Ireland and visited whiskey distilleries, fishing villages and Irish pubs.

Sports

STOOPS: EXPERIENCED DEFENSE BENEFICIAL TO 2024 SEASON

The football Wildcats 2024 season includes the return of 10 starters on defense with what figures to be one of the most experienced units in the Southeastern Conference. While that experience is one thing, head Football Coach Mark Stoops hopes to see his team improve on that side of the ball this season. What are the areas where that improvement can occur?

"There's a number of areas," said Stoops who begins his 12th season. "We want to continue to get off the field. We did a decent job at times, but we have to get better at third down and executing and get some more three and outs, get off the field. I'd like to see the offense have more possession more plays. We've talked about that with the tempo and the offense, but that goes hand in hand. The defense needs to play well and get off the field. When we have opportunities, we have to do that."

Kentucky wide receiver/return specialist Barion Brown and defensive tackle Deone Walker have been named to the Sporting News and USA Today Preseason All-America Teams. The duo was named to the first team by Sporting News and second team by USA Today. Walker also was named to ESPN's first team.

Brown, a 6-foot-1, 182-pound all-purpose player from Nashville, had a nation-high three kickoff returns for touchdowns in 2023. His four-career kickoff returns for TD also set a new UK record (former record three by Craig Yeast, 1995-98) and tied the Southeastern Conference career record shared with seven other players.

The lightning-quick playmaker's 36.0 kick return average (16 returns for 576 yards) led the nation and set a new UK single-season record. The previous record was 30.42 (14 for 426 yards) by Calvin Bird in 1959. Brown was named a first-team All-American by the Sporting News and a second-team All-American by 247Sports and CBS Sports.

Brown, who is currently on the watch lists for the Jet Award and the Hornung Award, also received preseason All-America mentions from Athlon Sports (second team - RS; fourth team - WR) and Phil Steele (second team - RS).

Walker, a 6-foot-6, 348-pound defensive lineman from Detroit, is coming off a sensational sophomore season in 2023. Despite battling frequent double teams, he led the Blue and White in tackles for loss (12.5), quarterback sacks (7.5) and quarterback hurries (8). He also added two pass breakups, including one in Kentucky's win over Florida on Sept. 30, 2023, which was intercepted by UK and returned to the UF 15-yard line that led to an eventual touchdown.

The Wildcat was named one of seven permanent team captains last season, as he went on to play in and start all 13 games. In fact, he improved his streak to 24 straight starts, a stretch dating back to his freshman season in 2022. Walker earned first-team All-SEC honors from multiple selectors and was a third-team All-America choice by the College Football Network in 2023.

He is currently on the watch lists for the Lott IMPACT Trophy, the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, the Outland Trophy and the Chuck Bednarik Award. He has also received preseason All-America nods from Walter Camp (second team), Athlon Sports (second team) and Phil Steele (second team).

The schedule is highlighted by eight home games, including four straight to start the season, with contests against Southern

Miss (Aug. 31), South Carolina (Sept. 7), Georgia (Sept. 14) and Ohio (Sept. 21).

Kentucky's first road test will be at Ole Miss on Sept. 28, which will air on ABC or ESPN, before enjoying the first of two bye weeks Oct. 5. The Wildcats then take on Vanderbilt (Oct. 12) at home, Florida (Oct. 19) and Auburn (Oct. 26) at home. It will mark the Wildcats' first time hosting the Tigers since 2015.

Kentucky's November slate is highlighted with road trips to Tennessee (Nov. 2) and Texas (Nov. 23). Texas and Oklahoma are joining the league after spending 28 years in the Big 12. It will mark the Wildcats' second matchup against the Longhorns and the teams' first meeting since 1951 in Austin. UK will enjoy its second bye week on Nov. 9. Finally, Kentucky's final two home games of the regular season are against intrastate rivals Murray State of the Missouri Valley Conference on Nov. 16 and Louisville of the Atlantic Coast Conference on Nov. 30. ■



MEN'S SOCCER SLOTTED NO. 4 IN CONFERENCE COACHES POLL

Kentucky men's soccer has been slotted No. 4 in the Sun Belt Conference Coaches Poll ahead of the 2024 match slate. In addition to the team's preseason ranking, sophomore Isaiah Chisolm and junior Casper Mols were named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt Team.

In the 2023 season, Kentucky men's soccer saw its fifth consecutive visit to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, back-to-back upsets of

nationally ranked No. 1 and No. 2, a second-round conference tournament match and a final season record of 8-8-4.

Chisolm, a native of Yorktown, Va., had an impressive 2023 season where he led the team with 34 shots, recording nine on goal in 20 matches played. The 6-foot-3 forward also recorded three goals and three assists in his debut season.

Mols, a Aabenraa, Denmark native, tallied 1620:00 minutes in the net

with 63 saves in 18 matches holding an 8-6-4 record at the conclusion of his sophomore season. The 6-foot-4 goalkeeper ranked second in the final conference standings with a save percentage of .750 and third in shutouts with a total of seven.

The Wildcats will play 10 matches at the Wendell and Vickie Bell Soccer Complex this season. ■

KENTUCKY WOMEN'S SOCCER BEGIN 10TH SEASON AT THE BELL

Kentucky is coming off one of their best seasons in recent memory boasting a 9-4-6 record in 2023, which included a record-setting 13-match unbeaten streak to start the 2023 season. Then fifth-year Jordyn Rhodes shattered the school record for career goals breaking Kim Labelle's previous mark of 44, set from 1994-1997 while returning goalkeeper Marz Josephson finished 2023 with a career-high 52 saves and finished the year with 0.62 goals against average, the third-best mark in program history. Josephson had nine shutouts on the season, tied for the second-most ever by a Kentucky goalkeeper in a single season.

The success of Rhodes and Josephson propelled Kentucky to their first SEC Tournament appearance since the 2020 season and their first in the 10-team format since 2015 where they made the quarterfinals for the first time since 2014.

Kentucky returns 15 players from the 2023 season including assist leader and All-SEC Freshman Team honoree Tanner Strickland and Second-Team All-SEC defender Grace Phillpotts.

Now in his third season at the helm, Kentucky head coach Troy Fabiano has bolstered his roster with a total of 25 new student-athletes. The group is comprised of nine transfers with five of the nine being all-conference award winners at their previous schools. Fabiano also adds 16 freshmen to the mix making it one of the largest signing classes in program history.

Maddie Kemp, Marz Josephson, Sophia Mattice, Grace Phillpotts, and Makala Woods were selected to the SEC Preseason Watchlist, marking the second time Josephson has been nominated for the honor and the first time for the remaining group. ■



Sports

WILDCATS EARN 13 MEDALS AT PARIS OLYMPICS, SET SCHOOL RECORD

The University of Kentucky set a school record at the 2024 Paris Olympics with 24 student-athletes, alumni and coaches in the Paris Olympics who represented nine countries across six sports in the Games. Eleven Wildcats won 13 medals — nine gold, two silver and two bronze.

UK was in the top 11 colleges with the most American athletes in the 2024 Paris Olympics — tied for 7th place with the University of Virginia.

Team USA finished the Paris Games with 126 medals — the most of any competing country. Of those medals, Team USA earned 40 gold, 44 silver and 42 bronze medals.

Wildcats are credited with earning nine medals for Team USA, including seven golds (team medals count as one medal).

Here's how those Wildcats who played for Team USA finished in the Paris Olympics.

3x3 Basketball

- Rhyne Howard (UK 2018-2022) — Bronze medal

Men's Basketball

- Bam Adebayo (UK 2016-2017) — Gold medal
- Devin Booker (UK 2014-2015) — Gold medal
- Anthony Davis (UK 2011-2012) — Gold medal

Women's Volleyball

- Avery Skinner (UK 2017-2021) — Silver medal

Athletics/Track and Field

- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (UK 2018) — Gold medal in 400m hurdles (broke her own world record), gold medal in 4x400m relay (broke the American record)
- Alexis Holmes (UK 2019-2022) — Gold medal in 4x400m relay (anchor leg and broke American record) and sixth place in 400m final
- Masai Russell (UK 2018-2023) — Gold medal in 100m hurdles
- Daniel Roberts (UK 2017-2019) — Silver medal in 110m hurdles
- Andrew Evans (UK 2012-2014) — 17th place, discus qualifying round
- Ashley Kovacs (nee Muffet), USA Throws coach (2007-2010) — Coached three medalists

Fencing

- Lee Kiefer (UK College of Medicine/Notre Dame alum) — Gold medal in individual foil and gold medal in team foil
- Gerek Meinhardt (UK College of Medicine/Notre Dame alum) — Fourth place in men's team foil and table of 16 in men's individual foil ■



DISTANCE RUNNER WINS GLOBAL MEDAL

Sophomore distance runner Ed Bird picked up the first global medal of his career earning bronze in the 3000m at the World Athletics U20 Championships at the Estadio Atlético de la VIDENA in Lima, Peru.

The Brit made a tremendous close down the home stretch, moving from sixth to third in the final 100m to secure a spot on the podium. Bird finished in a time of 8:21.00, besting Ethiopia's Ybaltal Gashahunby .02 seconds and securing the first medal of the Championships for Great Britain.

A native of Dorchester, England, Bird has previously won one continental medal, claiming bronze in the 3000m at the 2022 European U18 Championships. Colloquially known as the World Junior Championships, Bird's result in Peru is the biggest of his international career.

"It was perfect," Bird said. "I said in my plan I would hang around the back, get that inside lane and chill out. Every time the pace picked up, I just found the gap to get through. I just kept going and going until we got to two laps to go, picked up got myself back. When the bell went, I didn't surge, I waited, down that back straight I started going and didn't stop going." ■

ITS ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS

A Big Blue thanks to all our new Life Members! We are pleased to recognize your commitment to the Wildcat family and intention to stay connected to the University of Kentucky for life.

Lynn Amend
George Bauer
Margaret Bausch
Kevin Behr
Brittany Benson
James Bersot
Marilyn Bersot
Abbie Borgstrom
Karen Borgstrom
Brandon Boyd
Kayla Boyd
Ruth Brewer
Julie Brown
Patrick Brown
Kim Burke
Manny Canha
Michelle Canha
Eric Cano
Mitchell Carlisle

Charles Center
Ryan Cleary
Thomas Code
Joseph Conley
Laurie Conley
Jason Craig
Laura Crawford
Annette Easton
Andreá Farrior
Nayasha Farrior
Kelly Griffith
Elizabeth Hancock
Russell Hancock
Katie Harper
Matthew Harper
Charles Hayes
Gail Hayes
Jack Heesch
Kristin Herald

Matthew Herald
Amanda Kendall
John Kendall
Paul King
Caroline Koontz
Alan Levy
Brian Link
Laurel Link
Beven Livingston
Donald Livingston
Barbara Mabry
Christopher Mattingly
Ruth Mattingly
Jason McDaniels
Laura McDaniels
Sherry McDavid
Sarah McDonald
Jeanette Milby
Johnnie Milby

Merideth Moore
Sandra Nichols
Pamela Noble
Nancy O'Connor
Terry Otis
Melanie Paulsen
Giovanna Pedicini
John Powell
Shannon Powell
Cameron Prater
Jason Pridemore
Karla Pumphrey
Bill Ransdell
Deidre Ransdell
Kyle Reynolds
Glenn Roberts
Melissa Schellenberger
Jordan Shannon
Bryan Slone

Elizabeth Spencer
Charles Streutker
Virginia Streutker
Robert Taylor
Christopher Totten
Martha Walker
Jeremy Watts
Jamie Weaver
Elizabeth Wells
Wendell Wells
Jamie Whitehead
Joshua Whitehead
Erica Wilder
James Wilson
Rebecca Wydman
Precious Youngblood

**May 16 - August 12, 2024*

"EARNING MY DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY STANDS AS ONE OF MY PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS. MY WIFE AND I BECAME LIFE MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY AND SUPPORT FUTURE STUDENTS. MY AFFECTION FOR UK RUNS DEEP, AND I WILL PROUDLY WEAR KENTUCKY BLUE IN "ORANGE COUNTRY." OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY THAT SHAPED MY CAREER AND TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS."

- Andreá Farrior '09 & Nayasha Farrior
Knoxville, Tennessee
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Kentucky®
Alumni Association

HOW AN ALUMNA BECAME THE CFO OF A GAME-CHANGING TEQUILA EMPIRE

By Lindsey Piercy

With a population of approximately 1,400 people, Clinton, Kentucky, is often described as a close-knit community.

"I started from humble beginnings."

For those who called it home in the 80s, like Keisha Raspberry '02 BE and her family, life was simple, and sometimes, tough.

"My grandmother was such an integral part of my life," she said. "And I remember seeing her as a single mother — how she would balance it all and take on multiple jobs to provide for her family. She instilled a work ethic in me."

Raspberry hoped work ethic would take her far beyond the rural heart of Kentucky. And as high school graduation neared, she searched for a place to continue her education — an institution that would foster success.

Raspberry was aware of the University of Kentucky and its mission to be the university for Kentucky.

"But being in this little town, I didn't even know that attending UK was a possibility for me," she said. "It was one of those universities that I saw with such prestige."

As Raspberry's brother, Shaun Knox, would tell you, she has never been one to shy away from a challenge. "She is the prime example of what you can do with hard work."

Keisha Raspberry, the chief financial officer at Teramana Tequila, is a firm believer in taking chances and seizing opportunities.



DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE

Feelings of anticipation and apprehension were intertwined in the summer of 1998 when Raspberry made a life-changing decision — to become a Wildcat.

"I was very determined to take every opportunity that UK gave me," she said. "I wanted to build a foundation."

Throughout her time as a student in the Gatton College of Business and Economics, Raspberry held onto that persistence and perseverance — trusting her education would one day allow her to achieve her bold aspirations.

"Gatton College really showed me what the possibilities were in the world of business," she continued. "If you talk to my friends from college, they will probably tell you I would often say, 'I'm going to be a CFO when I grow up.'"

In the spring of 2002, Raspberry proudly crossed the commencement stage with a bachelor's degree in accounting. In the years to follow, she applied her expertise at various companies, while also gaining a wealth of experience in finance and strategy.

Raspberry held expansive roles at MillerCoors, Texas Roadhouse, Lexmark International and Brown-Forman. With her diverse industry experience and strategic mindset, Raspberry continued to climb the corporate ladder.

At Brown-Forman, a global leader in premium spirits, Raspberry was vice president of finance and strategy for the U.S. and Canada. She spearheaded financial operations and led revenue growth management strategies for the company's largest region.

"Keisha is the type of leader who sacrifices for others," Ryan Van Arnem, vice president, managing director of United Kingdom and Ireland at Brown-Forman said. "She is so focused on building up those around her — developing and mentoring the next group of leaders behind her and paving the way for the future."

When thinking of her own future, Raspberry was ready for a change. "I decided, after 13 years at Brown-Forman, this was such an amazing opportunity — to join a new brand that is very entrepreneurial in spirit."

ATTEMPTING SOMETHING NEW

In March 2020, Teremana Tequila, founded by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, disrupted the alcohol industry with its record-breaking launch and subsequent growth.

Three years after its debut, in 2023, Teremana became the fastest premium spirits brand to sell 1 million, 9-liter cases within a 12-month period in the U.S.

Raspberry currently serves as the chief financial officer of Teremana Tequila, where she plays a pivotal role in overseeing the financial operations and strategic

planning initiatives.

"It's just been an unbelievable phenomenon in the alcohol industry," she said. "My role is to lead all financial activity and to think about how we build this brand in a way that is sustainable in the future."

The premium, small-batch tequila will launch in five new international markets this year, including the United Kingdom (U.K.), Australia, Germany, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Colombia — in addition to travel retail locations across the globe.

Recognized as a responsibly crafted tequila of exceptional quality, Teremana has won more than 17 of the leading spirits awards, including gold medals at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition and gold in The Spirits Business Tequila & Mezcal Masters.

According to the company, "the spirit of mana is a powerful force that inspires us to foster good energy, bring people together and do the right thing."

"While it's an amazing tequila, Teremana is a word that also means something. 'Tere' means earth and 'mana' means spirit," Raspberry explained. "It's exciting to be a part of something that will be a legacy brand."

SHE'S ENCOURAGING OTHERS

Believing in the power of an opportunity means recognizing that even the smallest chance can ignite a spark — transforming dreams into reality.

Raspberry is a firm believer in taking chances and seizing opportunities.

"She's had so many 'firsts.' She was the first woman of color to have the vice-presidential role (in finance) at Brown-Forman," Knox said. "And she's the first woman of color CFO at Teremana. Being those 'firsts,' gives people the idea — and the hope — that they can also get there one day."

Now, Raspberry is encouraging and inspiring the younger generation to pursue their passions with perseverance.

"Every step along the way, I also knew I wanted to give back. Because I know that I'm standing on the shoulders of giants who came before me. It's bigger than me. To those young students, specifically young women, aspire to do whatever it is you want to do and be whoever it is you want to be."

Raspberry also holds an MBA from Bellarmine University. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Additionally, Raspberry received this year's Distinguished Young Alumni award from UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics.

She finds great pride in her role as a wife and mother. Raspberry lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, Alexander, and their three sons: Ethan, Joshua and Ayden. ■

Class Notes

1960s

Taft McKinstry '69 AS, '72 LAW has received the Henry T. Duncan Award by the Fayette County Bar Association. The award recognizes the integrity, leadership and professional conduct of the recipient which exemplify high ethical and professional standards and benefit the community. McKinstry is a managing partner with Fowler Bell PLLC.

1970s

W. Michael Bewley '75 AS, '02 BE gave the invocation at the 2024 Purdue University-Columbus graduation May 10. Bewley serves as president and CEO of Enalysis, a firm he founded in 2003. Enalysis, based in Louisville, Kentucky, provides survey research and economic analysis for a wide range of clients.

Marco M. Rajkovich '78 EN, '87 LAW has been nominated by President Joe Biden to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. He is a commissioner and former chair of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

1980s

Gregory B. Daniel '80 AFE has been conferred the title of professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. A professor of radiology in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, Daniel has been a member of the Virginia Tech community since 2007.

Gary Blake Ross '80 EN has been appointed as a new member to the planning commission by the Prince William County Board of County Supervisors in

Woodbridge, Virginia. He is a former systems engineer at Metron, Inc.

Tawny R. Acker '82 AS has been named the executive director of the LKLP Community Action Council in Hazard, Kentucky. She has worked as the program development director there for 17 years.

Michael DeLeon '82 AFE and his husband **Greg Bourke '83 BE** were invited by President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden to the White House to celebrate White House Pride 2024. The event took place on June 26, the nine-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Bourke and DeLeon were plaintiffs from Kentucky in the landmark Supreme Court decision establishing marriage equality.

Graham M. Gray '83 EN, '93 BE has been named the executive director of Utilities & Energy Management at the University of Kentucky.

James Booth '84 '88 AS has been appointed chair of the department of statistics and data science at the Cornell University Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science. Booth has been a professor at Cornell for 20 years.

Dennis A. Matheis '85 BE has been named to the board of directors at Lucid Diagnostics. Matheis is the president and CEO of Sentara

Health, one of the largest not-for-profit integrated health systems in the United States.

Joe Sexton '85 BE has been named to the board of directors of Laconic Infrastructure Partners Inc. Sexton is a technology industry veteran and proven operator with more than 30 years of go-to-market expertise in software, software as service and platform as service businesses.

Thomas J. Griffith '86 AS has been named vice president of Macala & Piatt, LLC, a North Canton, Ohio, law firm. Griffith has been practicing law since 1990. His areas of practice include employee benefits/ERISA Law.

James Thornton '86 BE, '89 LAW was recently featured in the Best Lawyers in America 2025 list. Thornton practices personal injury litigation at Cranfill Sumner LLP, Raleigh, North Carolina.

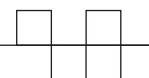
Taunya A. Phillips '87 EN, '04 BE has been appointed vice president for technology commercialization for research and innovation at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Previously she was the director of the technology commercialization office at UK.

Thomas G. Ison '89 '94 DE has been named president elect of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. He is the owner of a private dental practice



In 1951, Commencement was held in Memorial Coliseum for the first time. This tradition continued until 2004 when Commencement was moved to Rupp Arena.





in Newburgh, Indiana. He previously held appointments as assistant professor at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry and Chief of Dentistry at Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

1990s

Greg Filbeck '90 BE has been named vice chancellor and associate dean for academic affairs at Penn State Behrend. The former director of the Black School of Business, he has been a faculty member since 2006.

Steven Moscoe '90 BE has joined Tunnell, an employee-owned company that provides expert talent and consulting services to the life sciences industry, as its newest principal. Most recently Moscoe worked with life sciences venture capital and private equity clients delivering operational improvements for their portfolio companies, as well as providing buy and sell-side due diligence services.

Matthew Turner '90 AS, '91 ED received the 2024 Community Award from the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the 2024 Education Legacy Award from the Northern Kentucky Education Council. Turner recently retired as the Superintendent of the Boone County Schools (Kentucky) after a 33-year career in education.

Mikes Wiles '90 HS has joined the medical staff at Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana, Kentucky as a physician's assistant. He will treat patients with orthopaedic and sports medicine needs.

Susan Wood '92 BE has been named the vice president for university advancement at Washington and Lee in Lexington, Virginia. She brings more than 20 years of fund-raising experience to the role.

JoAnn P. Browning '94 '95 EN has been included by American Society of Civil Engineers in its 2024 class of distinguished members for her exemplary career in civil engineering research and education. Browning is the interim vice president of research at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Browning has also been dean of the Margie and Bill Klesse College of Engineering & Integrated Design at UTSA.

Dan Drury '94 AS has joined Diversified CPC International as senior director of commercial strategy and execution. He has more than 25 years of experience driving domestic and global growth across a wide range of strategic markets.

Chrisandrea Turner '95 AS, '98 LAW has been named to the 2024 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers. She is the only attorney honored from Kentucky. Turner is a member of Stites &

Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky. She is chair of the firm's Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Service Group.

Betsy Warren '95 '96 PHA has been appointed chief clinical officer at myphysician360. She will be the lead executive on all clinical-related operations supporting myphysician360's 50-state pharmacy network and the physician organization.

Anne Cerrone '96 BE is the CFO and COO of the Mountain Collective, a ski and snowboard pass company that includes five continents and 25 dream destinations. Prior to this role she served as vice president/finance at Aspen Skiing Co. and head of data and analytics for the mortgage division at Bank of America.

Chris Carmicle '97 EN has been appointed to the board of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority by Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg. Carmicle is the owner of PLC Management, a construction project management firm that oversees approximately \$600 million in construction each year.

Catherine Gannon Tagher '97 '01 NUR is the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Northern Kentucky University. She has served as interim dean since January 2023. She started her career at NKU in 2005 as a nursing faculty member.

Mandy Decker '98 AS, '02 LAW has been elected chair of the Kentucky Bar Association's Intellectual Property Law Section.

Information in Class Notes is compiled from previously published items in newspapers and other media outlets, as well as items submitted by individual alumni. Send us your class note by emailing ukalumni@uky.edu or submitting your information in the online community at www.ukalumni.net/class.

COLLEGE INDEX

| | |
|------------|--|
| AFE | Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food & Environment |
| AS | Arts & Sciences |
| BE | Gatton College of Business & Economics |
| CI | Communication & Information |
| DE | Dentistry |
| DES | Design |
| ED | Education |
| EN | Pigman College of Engineering |
| FA | Fine Arts |
| GS | The Graduate School |
| HS | Health Sciences |
| HON | Honorary Degree |
| LAW | Rosenberg College of Law |
| MED | Medicine |
| NUR | Nursing |
| PHA | Pharmacy |
| PH | Public Health |
| SW | Social Work |

Class Notes

Decker is a member of Stites & Harbison PLLC based on Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky. She is a registered patent attorney.

2000s

Anna Davis '00 '02 AS has been promoted to professor at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio. She joined Ohio Dominican in 2005.

Michael Highfield '01 '02 BE has become a board member of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation and the Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation. Highfield is the provost and executive vice president, the dean of the graduate school

and a professor of finance at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.

David McCracken '01 LAW has been appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Violent Gang Task Force. McCracken is the chief felony assistant district attorney for the Bastrop County Criminal District Attorney's Office.

Victoria Russell '01 '03 BE has joined PwC as the firm's managing director, inclusion strategy leader. Before joining PwC, she was the first chief diversity and inclusion officer at Beam Suntory, a world leader in premium spirits.

Kyle Moats '02 ED has been named athletic director at

Eastern Kentucky University. A veteran athletic director of 34 years, Moats was an associate athletics director of marketing and other positions under University of Kentucky Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart.

Richard "Dick" Stout '02 AS has been named Teton County prosecuting attorney in Jackson, Wyoming. Prior to this appointment he practiced criminal defense law as a partner at Difazio Law Offices in Jackson.

Jeff Haubenreich '03 ED has been named principal at Lake Shore Middle School in the Mequon-Thiensville School District in Mequon, Wisconsin.

John L. Jefferies '03 PH has been promoted to chief medical officer at Daxor Corporation, a global leader in blood volume measurement technology. Jefferies has been an academic cardiologist for more than two decades.

Jeffrey Edwards '04 MED has joined the leadership team at Anavex Life Sciences Corps as vice president of clinical pharmacology and science. He has 18 years of experience in various aspects of drug development.

Jon Anderson '05 BE has been selected as the president of Pennsylvania Western University. Previously he was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Southern Utah University and provost

and vice president for academic affairs at Middle Georgia State University.

Kent H. Barnett '05 LAW has been named dean of the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Barnett served as associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was also the J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law.

Kara Williams '05 GS was promoted to the newly created roles of vice president, associate general counsel at Akron Children's. She will have primary responsibility for litigation and claims management matters. She joined Akron Children's in 2020 as associate general counsel.

Matt Sawyer '06 AS has been appointed commissioner of Kentucky's Department of Local Government. Sawyer was the chief of staff of the department for Local Government under Gov. Steve Beshear's administration in 2008 and served as deputy secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. He joined Gov. Andy Beshear's administration in 2022.

Michelle Woods '07 GS has been named of RAND Homeland Security Research Division. A homeland security policy expert, Woods has served as the associate director of HSRD which operates the Homeland Security Operational Analysis



Students registered for classes in person at Memorial Coliseum. In 1952, the line was so long that some students waited outside.





Center, a federally funded research and development center.

Brittany Readnower-Phillips

'08 '18 ED has been named principal at Lexington's Dixie Magnet Elementary School. She has more than 16 years of educational experience, most recently serving as assistant principal at Ashland Elementary School in Lexington.

Sam Ullrich '08 '09 BE

has been named vice president of investor relations for Churchill Downs Incorporated. Before joining CDI, he was director, commercial and financial planning, for Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation. He has 15 years of financial experience with publicly traded companies.

James Jennings '09 LAW

has been named interim deputy director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. He began his career with the agency as assistant counsel in 2013.

Bethany Cox Snider '09

MED was elected to the board of directors for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She will serve a three-year term. She serves as senior vice president and chief medical officer of Hesperus Health in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jacob West '09 AS has joined Claiborne Farm as its stallion seasons and bloodstock manager.

2010s

Alexandra Castle '10

EN has been named first master distiller and director of distillery operations at Augusta Distillery in Augusta, Kentucky. Most recently, Castle was the master distiller at Old Dominick Distillery in Memphis. Prior to that, she was a distiller at Wild Turkey in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.

Chelsea Darnell '10 BE,

'10 AS has joined the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind & Garrison LLP as a partner in the mergers and acquisitions practice in the corporate department. She arrives from Kirkland & Ellis in New York.

Amanda Ellis '10 '13 '18

AS is the chair-elect of the teaching of statistics in the health sciences section of the American Statistical Association.

Gary Pence '10 ED has been named head football coach at Walton-Vernon High School in Walton, Kentucky. Pence was an assistant coach for nine seasons.

Phillip Hyde '12 ED has been selected as the principal at Edythe J. Hayes Middle School in Lexington, Kentucky. Hyde has served as the assistant principal at Bryan Station Middle School in Lexington.

Karen E. Frye '14 MED has joined Colorado Advanced Orthopedics, Sports Medicine and Spine.

Jarrad Gollihue '14 '20 AFE

has been named research and development master distiller at RD1 Spirits. A former University of Kentucky distilling researcher and instructor, he will lead the science-heavy position overseeing RD1's wood-finishing operations and experiments with new woods.

Nathan Hicks '14 AS has joined the Family Medicine Clinic at Medpointe in Clarksburg, West Virginia. He had been a resident physician in Family Medicine at United Hospital Center where he was awarded the 2024 Resident Teacher Award.

Stacie Blewett '16 NUR has joined Western Kentucky Community and Technical College as an instructor in the associate degree nursing program.

Kyle Anderson '18 AFE

has been promoted to vice president of sales and marketing for The Group Travel Leader Inc. and Small Market Meetings. He assumes

responsibility for guiding the sales success of four national magazines — The Group Travel Leader, Small Market Meetings, Select Traveler and Going on Faith — and the brands they represent.

Raven Hudson '19 AS,

'21 ED has been named a recipient of the inaugural President's Spirit of Diversity Award, representing the Madison (Indiana) Campus of Ivy Tech Community College. Hudson has served as the director of Student Success at the Ivy Tech Madison Campus for more than two years.

Sarah Ladd '19 CI will teach Journalism 101 this fall as an adjunct teacher at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. A Pulitzer Prize finalist, Ladd covers health and health policy at the Kentucky Lantern, a non-profit media outlet.

2020s

Andrés Vindas Meléndez

'20 '21 AS has joined the mathematics faculty



For nearly 40 years the pool inside Memorial Coliseum was used by the university's swimming and diving team and swimming lessons were offered to community members. It was replaced in 1989 with the Lancaster Aquatics Center.



Career Corner

by Queen-Ayanna Sullivan



D.C. PROGRAM OPENED MANY DOORS FOR INTERNS

Internships are important to the success of UK students because the experience follows them for the rest of their careers.

Mallory Baker '22 AS, Jayden Sheridan and Adalyn Woeste both members of the class of 2025, recently completed The WildCats at the Capitol program in Washington, D.C., an internship designed to give students an opportunity to earn course credit and gain experience in the highest levels of government in the United States.

The students attended legislative and caucus meetings with members of Congress, wrote policy memos and legislative letters to members of Congress, communicated with constituents and created a systemic record to document interactions.

They also learned about current events impacting Congress, drafted speeches and social media posts, advised the press team of social media posts relevant to the office, oversaw press and communications, managed phone calls and supported overall office needs.

The students improved their communication skills, networked, conducted research, managed hard political conversations/situations, and collaborated with members of Congress successfully on issues aligned with their association.

"As a first-generation college student, I never thought being and working in D.C. was possible, although it was something that I had dreamed of doing since I was in middle school," said Sheridan after her WildCats internship. "Being there was surreal and was such an accomplishment for me."

Woeste agreed that the experience was valuable in many ways. "Due to my experience, I am applying to law schools across the country, and mentors from the program are helping me with this process. I am thankful for my experience," she said.

While the participants gained many job skills and built valuable connections, for Baker, this internship helped her secure a full-time job in Washington, D.C. following graduation.

Matthew Jackson, assistant director of federal relations at UK shared this about the internship: "The WildCats at the Capitol program, a unique blend of academic and professional development, enables students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, preparing them for successful careers upon graduation. This program is open to students of all majors, pairing them up with internships that match their interests and career goals."



Mallory Baker



Jayden Sheridan



Adalyn Woeste

Queen-Ayanna Sullivan, M.S., CCC is a former career counselor with UK Alumni Career Services. Visit <http://www.ukalumni.net/career> to learn more.

Class Notes

at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. Previously he was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mendell Grinter '21 AS has recently been promoted to president and CEO at Wesley House Community Assist initiative, a non-profit organization and leading community services community center based in Louisville, Kentucky. Grinter remains active on the Country Music Association Foundation board.

Richard Clark '22 ED, '23 BE has been named head coach of the University of Nebraska rifle program. Clark, who helped Kentucky to a pair of NCAA team titles during his collegiate career, joins the Husker program after spending the 2023-2024 season at Army West Point.

Skye Bolling '23 FA is an account executive with Pulse Technology, a technology company serving the IT managed print services and other needs of businesses throughout the Midwest and beyond. Most recently she was an assistant strategic project consultant with Lexington's Big Ass Fans.

Ava Lahey '24 ED has earned a spot on the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders for the 2024-2025 NFL season. She was a cheerleader for the University of Kentucky.

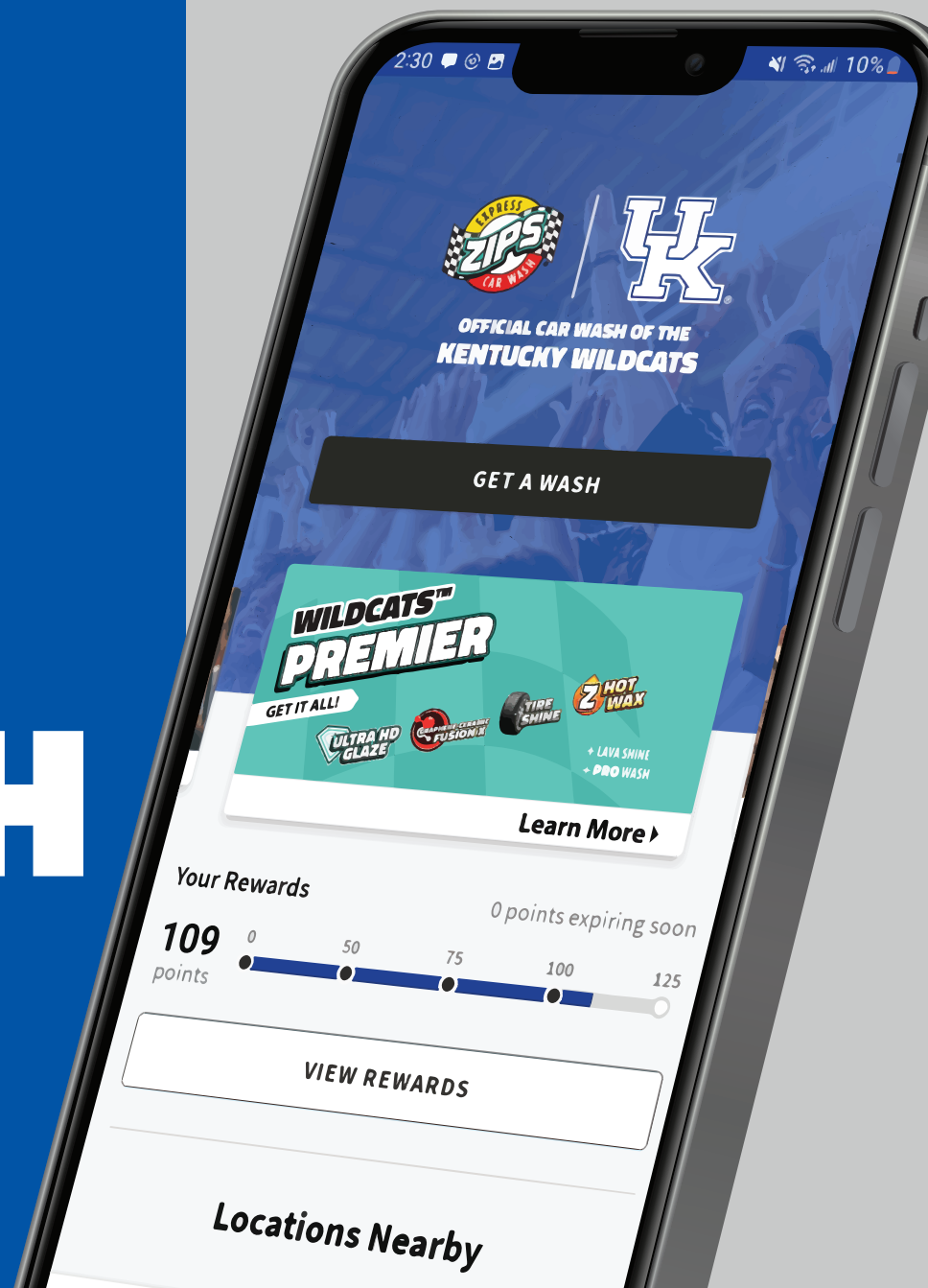


Memorial Coliseum was built across the street from what was then Wildcat football stadium, Stoll Field. Football fans could watch the construction of the new arena from the top row of the stadium seats.



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WELCOME WILDCATS!

2024 STUDENT SEND-OFFS

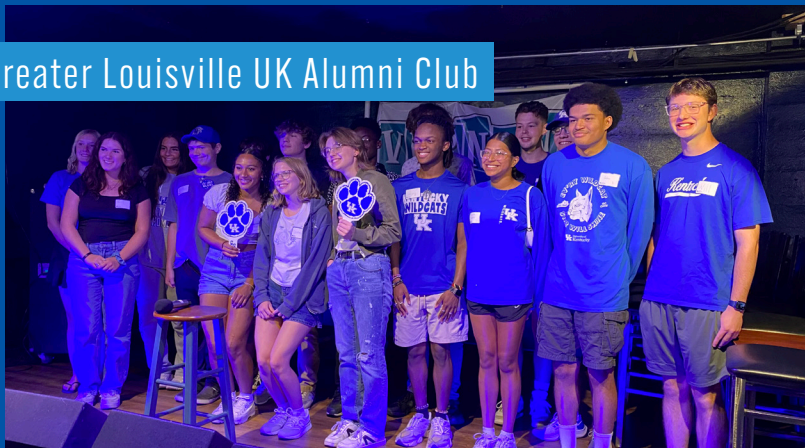
Each summer, UK Alumni Association Club members host student send-off celebrations to help make the transition to college easier for new Wildcats and their families.

Alumni and representatives from the university meet with new students, their families and parents to share their UK experience and give incoming students a few pointers on how to navigate the campus, their classes and all the extracurricular activities. Students get to ask questions, meet new friends and learn more about the campus culture. This year, send-off celebrations were held at parks, community centers, restaurants, an ice cream shop, a golf course, a baseball game and the beach!

Club members celebrate with these new students as they enter UK and make their own memories that they'll share with future generations.

Thanks to all these clubs for their great student send-offs: Big Sandy, Central Ohio, Chattanooga, Chicagoland, Christian County, Cumberland Valley East, Daviess County, Greater Ashland, Greater Atlanta, Greater Birmingham, Greater Charlotte, Greater Dayton, Greater Knoxville, Greater Louisville, Greater Nashville, Hopkins County, McCracken County, Nation's Capital, New York City, Northeast Ohio, Northern Alabama, Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati, San Diego, Sarasota/Suncoast, Space Coast, Tampa Bay and Triangle Area.

Greater Louisville UK Alumni Club



Central Ohio UK Alumni Club



Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati UK Alumni Club



Northeast Ohio UK Alumni Club





New York City UK Alumni Club



San Diego UK Alumni Club



Chattanooga UK Alumni Club



Christian County UK Alumni Club



Big Sandy UK Alumni Club



Greater Nashville UK Alumni Club



Daviess County UK Alumni Club

In Memoriam

Wanda L. Eisenach '46 AS
Dayton, Ohio

Mary D. Clayton '47 AS
Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Harry R. Conrad '48 AFE
Wooster, Ohio
Life Member

Dr. Wendell R. Kingsolver '48 AS
Nicholasville, Ky.

Jean W. Grubbs '49 AFE
Bethlehem, Pa.
Life Member

William N. Markert '49 EN
Shelbyville, Ky.

Elaine A. Gray '50 CI
Staunton, Va.

Doris A. Herrmann '50 ED
Louisville, Ky.

Stanley Tarter '50 AS
Pensacola, Fla.

William D. Childers '54 ED
Whitesburg, Ky.

Dr. James T. Oliver '54 PHA
Winchester, Va.

Dr. Margaret A. Shaw '55 PHA
Carmel, Ind.

Christie V. Haney '56 CI
Verona, Pa.

William G. Robbins '56 AS
Lexington, Ky.
Life Member, Fellow

Roger M. Scott '56 BE
Richmond, Va.
Life Member

Walter S. Smitson '56 SW
Cincinnati, Ohio

Harold K. Turner '56 EN
Harvest, Ala.

Dr. Maurice G. Cook '57 '59 AFE
Raleigh, N.C.
Life Member, Fellow

Dr. Olson Huff '57 AS
Asheville, N.C.

Dr. Robert P. Schiavone '57 AS
Louisville, Ky.
Life Member, Fellow

Genia Whitesell '57 FA
South Fulton, Tenn.
Life Member

Doris Wilkinson '57 SW, '19 HON
Lexington, Ky.
Fellow

Oral T. Gillespie Jr. '58 PHA
Cold Spring, Ky.

Dick Lyon '58 EN
Tampa, Fla.

Robert H. Adams '59 EN
Louisville, Ky.
Life Member

James B. Grant '59 EN
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mary E. Hills '59 AS, '61 ED
Port Orange, Fla.

Robert B. Quisenberry '59 EN
Owensboro, Ky.

Dr. Joseph F. Schwer '59 AFE
Westfield, Ind.

Doris Leonard Warren '59 BE
Atlanta, Ga.
Life Member

C. Donovan Adams '60 ED
New Albany, Ind.

James E. Beech '60 EN
Georgetown, Ky.
Life Member

Christopher C. Combs '60 AFE
Lost Creek, Ky.

Walter R. Cashen '61 EN
Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Abe R. Fosson Jr. '61 AS
Versailles, Ky.
Fellow

Theodore F. Lenhardt '61 ED
Winter Garden, Fla.

Charles Mudd '62 BE
LaGrange, Ill.

Mollie N. Thibodeau '62 CI
Sarasota, Fla.

Nishan M. Messerian '63 AS
Sandy, Utah

David F. Pearson '63 AS
Prospect, Ky.
Life Member, Fellow

Linda W. Schneider '64 AS, '78 AS
Panama City, Fla.

Sharon L. Henderson '65 NUR
Louisville, Ky.
Life Member

Lois D. McClellan '65 AFE
South Chesterfield, Va.

Thomas A. Noe III '65 BE, '68 LAW
Russellville, Ky.

Dr. James A. Verbrugge '65 '69 BE
Athens, Ga.

Judge Kenneth G. Corey '66 PHA
Lady Lake, Fla.

Elizabeth Lee Brumfield '67 ED
Nicholasville, Ky.

Nancy Hayes Burress Dunkerley '67 ED
Nashville, Tenn.

Michael M. Powers '67 ED
Prospect, Ky.
Life Member

Henry C. Gullett Jr. '68 BE
Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Sandra S. Miller '68 CI
Greer, S.C.

Clyde J. Reynolds Jr. '68 EN
Frankfort, Ky.

Melinda J. Sheehy '68 FA
Baileys Harbor, Wis.

James T. Allen '69 AS, '77 PHA
La Grange, Ky.

Capt. Raymond J. Gunterman '70 AS
Sisters, Ore.

George H. Jepson Jr. '70 CI
Winsted, Minn.

John L. Kelly '70 EN
Pleasureville, Ky.
Life Member

Bobby G. Wood '70 AFE
Princeton, Ky.

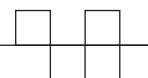
Patricia R. Bale '71 SW, '95 PH
Brentwood, Tenn.

Dr. Mary F. Block '71 MED
Mount Dora, Fla.

Blythe Jamieson '71 ED, '92 SW
Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Terrence M. Leigh '71 ED
Lexington, Ky.

Stephen L. Traugher '71 GS
Louisville, Ky.
Life Member



Stephen R. Beluk Jr. '72 BE
Saint Louis, Mo.

William C. Hatter '72 SW
Bowling Green, Ky.

Danny D. Watkins '72 BE
Frankfort, Ky.

Janet W. Wilson '72 HS
Stamping Ground, Ky.

Dr. William D. Fishback Jr. '73 AFE
Versailles, Ky.
Life Member, Fellow

Phyllis W. Rohlf '73 CI
Lexington, Ky.

Harvey E. Schneider '73 LAW
Cape Coral, Fla.
Life Member

BC Weiner '73 AS, '75 LAW
Albuquerque, N.M.

Ruth A. Green '74 ED
Katy, Texas

Dr. Michael Dipirro '75, '75 PHA
Tonawanda, N.Y.

Stanley Scates '75 PHA
Lexington, Ky.
Life Member, Fellow

Michael D. Malone '76 AS
Indian River Shores, Fla.
Fellow

Wesley K. Nails '76 ED
Prospect, Ky.

Dr. Martha Ross Ozer '76 ED
Washington, D.C.
Life Member

Sharon C. Preston '76 '81 ED
Lexington, Ky.

William R. Phipps '77 EN
Tazewell, Tenn.

Margaret C. Burgio '78 AS
Lexington, Ky.

William M. Hinkle '78 AS
Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Richard G. Kimmel '78 '82 DE
Augusta, Ga.
Fellow

Forrest M. Dean '79 BE
Lexington, Ky.

Alice M. Murray '79 NUR
Lexington, Ky.

Sonja L. Wright '79 AFE
Lynchburg, Ohio
Life Member

Dr. David W. Baston '80 AS
Tompkinsville, Ky.

Keith D. Duerr '82 CC, '87 LAW
Louisville, Ky.

Cynthia A. Hall '82 CI
Westlake, Ohio

Todd S. Lemley '83 SW, '92 CI
Versailles, Ky.
Fellow

Ann Abell '85 CI
Georgetown, Ky.

Dr. Sarah M. Laws '85 ED
Lexington, Ky.
Life Member

Sandra R. Holbrook '86 AS
Ashland, Ky.

Dr. John E. Lassetter '86 MED
Hilo, Hawaii

J. Drew Anderson '87 LAW
Lexington, Ky.
Life Member

Ronald P. Buckreis '87 NUR
Lexington, Ky.

Lynn Pedigo '87 DES
Lexington, Ky.

Laura A. Finch '88 FA
Wilmore, Ky.

Patricia H. Stipp '90 CC
Lexington, Ky.

Charles A. Holt '91 CC
Princeton, Ky.

Philip Hanna '92 CI
Columbia, Ky.

Patrick W. Gault '93 LAW
Louisville, Ky.

Kathy L. Perry '93 PHA
Somerset, Ky.
Life Member

Brian C. Austin '96 EN
Farragut, Tenn.
Life Member

Julie E. Marsh '96 BE
Louisville, Ky.

Michelle A. Hufford '99 SW
Lexington, Ky.

Raina Brooke Simpson '09 CI
Somerset, Ky.

Dr. Bradley James Hall '12 DE
Lexington, Ky.

Jason Pryor Phillips '12 AS, '14 BE
Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Mark J. Huffmyer '14 PHA
Lexington, Ky.

DORIS WILKINSON '57 SW, '19 HON

Doris Wilkinson, the first Black elected to the University of Kentucky Alumni Association's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, died June 23. She was 88.

Wilkinson, a native of Lexington, was a University of Kentucky sociologist and part of its first class of Black undergraduates. She entered UK in 1954, the year a U.S. Supreme court decision outlawed racial segregation in public education.

She went on to earn her master's and doctoral degrees from Case Western Reserve University and in 1985, a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She taught at Kent State University in Ohio before returning to UK in 1969 where she became the first Black woman to secure a full-time faculty position, joining the Department of Sociology. She was a visiting Ford Foundation Fellow at Harvard University in 1989-1990.

In honor of UK's 70th year of integration in 2019, Wilkinson received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.





Save the Date

Big Blue Santa

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024

1 – 5 p.m.

King Alumni House

400 Rose St. | Lexington, KY 40506

Join us for a special visit with Big Blue Santa at this can't-miss holiday event! Activities include: Santa visits, Santa's workshop, holiday crafts and games.



Visit www.ukalumni.net/legacyevents for more information.

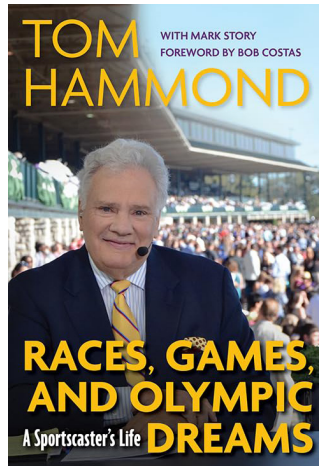


University of Kentucky
Alumni Association

The Bookshelf

Tom Hammond '67 AFE, '18 HON has written "Races, Games and Olympic Dreams A Sportscaster's Life" with sports columnist Mark Story. In 1984, Hammond, a sportscaster who had primarily worked in Kentucky and the Southeast, got the opportunity to appear on the NBC Sports telecast of the inaugural Breeders' Cup. Hammond performed so well that an NBC executive offered him a chance to call NFL games.

That broadcast launched Hammond's 34-year career with NBC Sports and his rise to the top levels of American television sportscasting. Along with cowriter Story, Hammond reveals how a Kentucky native who started out reading horse racing results on Lexington radio went on to broadcast from 13 Olympic Games.

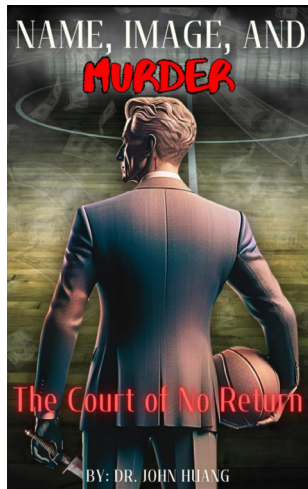


Bruce K. Berger '00 CI has written "Brothers Bound," a book of historical fiction that takes readers on a tense and thrilling 14-month journey of two American POWs in Vietnam. When the men escape being held in a bamboo cage, their trip through the dangerous jungle underscores their strength of brotherly love, the enduring hope in good memories and the power and possibilities of the human spirit.

William Carman '75 AS has recently published "Fishing with Daniel Boone: Fly Fishing the Streams of an American Hero." The book is an immersion in the life and lore of one of America's greatest pioneers, and the quest of a modern fly fisherman to experience the streams Boone explored. Follow the author on his multi-state journey as he casts flies to hungry fish while surrounded by the woods and waters where Daniel Boone trekked, hunted, fought and eventually died.

Abigail Keam '77 AS has added to her mystery series with "Death by Betrayal: A Josiah Reynolds Mystery." In the Bluegrass world of oak-cured bourbon, antebellum mansions and Thoroughbred horse farms, betrayals never die and never remain hidden. New farm assistant Palley tells Josiah of his desire to enter the demolition derby at the fair. But he needs a car. Josiah tells Palley about an old jalopy gathering dust in a barn. Josiah and Palley pull off an old tarp from the car and find a body in the back.

Frank X Walker '96 AS, '01 HON has written "Love House" a book of poems. In "Love House," Walker invites readers in and speaks to them with consummate grace and intimacy about the things that matter most: loving, parenting, aging, living, dying, as well as basketball, birds, gardens and golf. Walker, who is known for giving voice to historical characters and bringing their stories to life, uses his insight, imagination and hard-earned wisdom to write about himself and his family, including secrets, fears, and the unsolved mysteries that underlie daily living.



John Huang '80 AS, '83 DE has published his debut novel, "Name, Image, and Murder—The Court of No Return." In the hallowed halls of Praise the Lord University, where the fervor of basketball and the sanctity of religious values intersect, a murder rocks the foundation of an institution seeking fame, glory and salvation. The grisly demise of Coach William Gallucci, the larger-than-life figurehead of PTLU's burgeoning basketball dynasty, lies

at the epicenter of a meticulously crafted narrative that intertwines the new-world-order of college sports with the hypocrisy pouring forth from our religious institutions. A retired orthodontist, military veteran and award-winning author, Huang relies on his experience as a sports reporter to deliver this entertaining murder mystery.

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Quick Take

NEW SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATED AT ALUMNI COMMONS

The Wildcat Welcome Festival at Alumni Commons has become a tradition during K Week. Students were invited to enjoy live music, free food and games and to take part in a Wildcat Rite of Passage by walking through the gates at Alumni Commons. The gesture marks the beginning of their Wildcat journey and serves as a welcome to the UK family. This year, thousands of students gathered at Alumni Commons for the event prior to the beginning of the fall classes.

Photo by Mark Cornellison, UK Photo



A young woman with a backpack is walking on a paved path in a park-like setting. She is wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and black sneakers. She has a blue and white patterned headband and is holding a smartphone in her right hand. The background is filled with trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves, and the scene is bathed in warm, golden light. The entire image is framed by a thin blue border.

CHANGE IS *Wildly Possible* WITH EVERY STEP FORWARD

At the University of Kentucky, every season brings new opportunities. From groundbreaking research to life-changing scholarships, your support fuels our journey toward excellence. By making a gift to UK, you empower our entire community to drive meaningful change in the Commonwealth and beyond.

Join us in making a difference. Your generosity today will shape the future of tomorrow.

[GIVE.UKY.EDU](https://give.uky.edu)



WHEN YOU
NEED ANSWERS
WE'LL BE HERE

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