

# PR 1

Office of the President  
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1. Commemorating 70 Years of Integration Kicks Off With Trevor Noah Visit

Commemorating Lyman T. Johnson's significant steps as the first student to integrate UK, and the examples set by many students, faculty and staff who followed him, the University's 70 Years of Integration celebration is underway. This series of events throughout the 2019-2020 academic year began with an assembly of thousands in Memorial Coliseum August 30 for a conversation with Trevor Noah, host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central and author of "Born A Crime," a nationally acclaimed autobiography focused on his childhood growing up in apartheid South Africa.

2. UK Awarded \$6 Million From NIH to Study Decision-Making Processes Behind Substance Use Disorders

Faculty from the University of Kentucky Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Behavioral Science in the College of Medicine have received two, five-year Research Project Grants from the National Institutes of Health to study neurobehavioral processes involved in drug use disorders. The first project, which addresses cocaine use disorder, totals over \$3 million. The second project addresses opioid use disorder and totals over \$3.1 million.

3. \$3.2 Million Grant Helps Families Access Diagnostic Hearing Tests for Infants

A new five-year, \$3.2 million project called Communities Helping the Hearing of Infants by Reaching Parents (CHHIRP) will aim to improve the process of accessing auditory brainstem response tests by pairing families with patient navigators. Up to 30 patient navigators across as many as 10 state-funded hearing health care clinics will be trained to help at least 1,000 families through the diagnostic process. CHHIRP is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. The project is led by Dr. Matt Bush, associate professor in the UK College of Medicine Division of Otology, Neurotology & Cranial Base Surgery, and Christina Studts, Ph.D., associate professor in the UK College of Public Health's Department of Health, Behavior & Society.

4. UK HealthCare is No. 1 in Kentucky; Markey Ranks 33rd Nationally in U.S. News and World Report Rankings

UK HealthCare's Albert B. Chandler Hospital remains the No. 1 hospital in Kentucky and the Bluegrass Region for the fourth consecutive year, according to the 2019-20 Best

Hospitals rankings and ratings released by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, UK's Markey Cancer Center was named in the Top 50 national rankings for cancer care at No. 33.

5. UK HealthCare Awarded National Top-Quality Honor for Safer Opioid Practices

America's Essential Hospitals, which represents 300 hospitals committed to caring for the vulnerable and keeping communities healthy, awarded UK HealthCare a 2019 Gage Award for Improving Quality. The association presented the award June 20, at its annual conference, in Miami.

6. UK Entomologist Receives NSF Grant to Study Antarctic Insects

An international team of researchers led by Nick Teets, assistant professor of entomology at UK, has received more than \$700,000 from the National Science Foundation to study midges in Antarctica. Through the grant, Teets' lab will partner with scientists from the United Kingdom, Chile and France to study the Antarctic midge and compare it to three other midge species found in either Antarctica or sub-Antarctic islands. The research team includes entomology doctoral student Leslie Potts.

7. UK Students Visit Apple Headquarters, Develop App to Improve Student Experience

Three University of Kentucky students participated in the development of an iOS app that will help new students transition to life at UK as part of the University's Smart Campus initiative that began rolling out this summer when the University distributed iPad Air devices to all Fall 2019 first-year students during orientations and at K Week. Asare Nkansah, Claire Hilbrecht, and Destin Bell believe the new app will have a significant and positive impact on the campus community by building a strong foundation for students through the use of technology. The new app will be available in 2020.

8. UK Among Top Schools Nationally for Alumni Who Are CEOs of Fortune 100 Companies

The University of Kentucky is tied for third among colleges and universities for the number of graduates who are CEOs of Fortune 100 companies, according to a recent report in U.S. News and World Report. UK currently has two graduates — Sam Hazen, CEO of HCA Healthcare, one of the leading health care providers in the country; and Rodney McMullen, CEO of Kroger, the country's second largest general retailer — who are leading executives of Fortune 100 companies.

9. Forbes Ranks UK Among Best Places to Work in the State

Forbes Magazine recently named UK one of America's Best-in-State Employers. Forbes ranked the University second overall and No. 1 among colleges who made the list. This is UK's third recognition from Forbes this year. In January, UK was recognized by Forbes as a Best Employer for Diversity. Additionally, the University was named among America's Best Employers, one of only four employers in Kentucky to be included in the ranking.

10. The College of Medicine Welcomes Inaugural Class at Northern Kentucky Campus

The University of Kentucky College of Medicine welcomed its first class of medical students who will pursue education at its new Northern Kentucky Campus this fall, marking the college's continuous expansion and collaboration efforts to better serve the health needs of Kentucky communities. UK partnered with St. Elizabeth Healthcare, one of the most respected medical providers in the Greater Cincinnati region, along with Northern Kentucky University, to make this expansion possible.

11. UK Physician Helps Develop New Curriculum for Substance Use Disorder Care

Dr. Michelle Lofwall, professor of behavioral science and psychiatry in the UK College of Medicine, is one of three national addiction physician experts who led a team of health care professionals in developing a new core curriculum designed to educate primary care providers on the prevention, assessment and treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) throughout the continuum of care. The course provides a comprehensive introduction and overview of SUDs and co-occurring mental disorders for all health professionals. This curriculum is meant to provide a foundation of clinically relevant information that will help clinicians better understand, identify and treat substance use disorders and their common comorbidities in their patients.

12. Capilouto Named President of the SEC

University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto has been elected president of the Southeastern Conference. Capilouto will serve a one-year term after he was elected to the post by his peers at the SEC's annual spring meeting in Destin, Florida. University of Georgia President Jere Morehead will serve as vice president of the SEC.

13. 99 Wildcats on SEC First-Year Academic Role

Student-athletes at the University of Kentucky combined to earn a total of 99 spots on the Southeastern Conference First-Year Academic Honor Roll. Kentucky was second overall for having the most student-athletes on the list. UK had the most honorees in the sports of men's cross country and softball. UK was second in men's basketball and women's basketball. Wildcat teams were third in baseball, women's cross country, men's golf, women's soccer and men's tennis.

14. UK Alumni Association Unveils New Membership Model

The UK Alumni Association transitioned to a new membership model July 1. Under the new model, all alumni and friends who choose to support any UK college, department or cause at \$75 or more per year cumulatively (or \$25 or more for students and recent graduates) will be considered active members of the UK Alumni Association and receive an enhanced tier of member benefits. Additionally, all who have successfully completed at least 12 credit hours at UK will be recognized as members of the UK Alumni Association and will receive a basic level of benefits. This change will increase opportunities for meaningful engagement with the broader alumni base.

15. UK Turns Food Waste into Useable Material

The University took another important step toward its sustainability goals with the launch of a food waste composting program in June. The effort will reduce the amount of material going into the landfill and produce an organic, nutrient-rich soil amendment for use on campus farms and landscaping. The program was piloted at Champions Kitchen through the summer and expanded to include Fresh Food Company this fall. This initiative is a partnership between UK Dining, UK Recycling, and the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment.

16. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Cristina Alcalde and Jennifer Hunt (College of Arts and Sciences) have been appointed to the Kentucky Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Mitch Barnhart (UK Athletics) has been named the chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee for the 2020-21 season.

Dr. Peter Blackburn (College of Medicine) has been presented with the Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons' (Ophthalmologist of the Year award).

Reinette Jones (UK Libraries) was inducted into the Lexington Fairness Hall of Fame.

Pete Mirabito (College of Arts and Sciences) was recognized as a Scientific Teaching Mentor by the Summer Institutes.

Margaret Readdy (College of Arts and Sciences) was recognized for her work as the academic program manager for the Women and Mathematics Program at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

Carol Taylor-Shim (Bias Incident Support Services) was inducted into the Lexington Fairness Hall of Fame.

Jeremy Van Cleve (College of Arts and Sciences) is the recipient of the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award.

Lovoria Williams, (College of Nursing) has been named Nurse Researcher of the Year by the National Black Nurses Association.

17. Student Achievements

Elizabeth Avery (Arts and Sciences of San Francisco, California), Calli Brooks (Arts and Sciences of Goodlettsville, Tennessee), David A. Brown (Educations of Parker, Arizona), Nathaniel Cortas (Arts and Sciences of Louisville, Kentucky), Mariah Donohue (Arts and Sciences of Queens, New York), Matthew Gordon Edwards (Arts and Sciences of Cave City, Kentucky), Eloise Kowal (Health Sciences of Oak Park, Illinois), Rachel Lietzow (Arts and Sciences of Union, Kentucky), Jess Linz (Arts and Sciences of Cincinnati, Ohio), Brittany Stanfield (Arts and Sciences of Lexington, Kentucky) and Amaris Aleah Wade (Arts and Sciences of Lexington, Kentucky) have been offered Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships.

Robert H. Kimberlin (Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce of Louisville, Kentucky) has been awarded the National Security Education Program David L. Boren Fellowship.

Meghana Kudrimoti (Arts and Sciences of Lexington, Kentucky) has been selected to receive the Diachun Scholar Award.

Rachel Lietzow (Arts and Sciences of Union, Kentucky) has been selected to receive the Evans Scholar Award.

James Tyler Nichols (Engineering of Taylorsville, Kentucky) was featured by NASA on National Intern Day for his excellent work as an intern at the NASA Langley Research Center.

Christian Soares (Arts and Sciences of Lexington, Kentucky) has been awarded a fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

The UK Solar Car Team (Engineering) had record-breaking success at a national competition — earning their highest finish since 2009.

## 18. Alumni Achievements

Esias Bedingar, (Public Health) in partnership with UK, has launched the Esias K. Bedingar Fund to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate students from Africa.

Jamyle Cannon (Social Work) has been named a CNN Hero for his nonprofit that uses boxing as a tool to provide inner city youth in Chicago with tutoring and mentorship.

Nick Covault (Fine Arts) is now in his third year as director of the Governor's School for the Arts program. For the first time, the University of Kentucky hosted the program this year.

Kelly Craft (Arts and Sciences) has been nominated and confirmed as the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Julie Witt, (Equine Science and Animal Science of Freehold, New Jersey) received a Godolphin Flying Start scholarship, a prestigious two-year thoroughbred industry management and leadership program.