



Pike County actresses from left: Katie Ratliff, Sarah Morton, Hannah Ratliff and Chelsey Potter perform in the children's theater production of "Still Life of Iris" at Artists Collaborative Theatre in Elkhorn City.

## Nation's First Fine Arts Agents Making a Local Impact

With a new theater in Pike County and a world premiere play based on the work of Jesse Stuart in Greenup County, fine arts agents with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service are providing local drama opportunities to residents of eastern Kentucky.

Stephanie Richards, Pike County Extension's fine arts agent, and Cora Hughes, fine arts Extension agent in Greenup County, said that bringing these opportunities to the area has been a goal of theirs since they became Extension agents. This region has long been known for producing quality artists, but many have had to leave the area because of the lack of opportunities to locally practice their art forms.

*"We're finding a way to get it to the people and get the people onto the stage, whether that is visual art or performing art," Richards said.*

Kentucky is the first state in the nation to have Fine Arts Extension Agents. In Pike County, the Artist Collaborative Theatre recently debuted its second production, a children's play titled "The Still Life of Iris," in the new facility in Elkhorn City.

Between a full season of plays, after-school acting classes, and musical performances, the theater is loaded with opportunities for area children and community members to explore the arts.

*"I grew up in Pike County and there was nothing like this for us to do as children," said Cheryl Ramey, president of the Artists Collaborative Theatre. "I have a 13-year-old daughter that participates in this, and she just absolutely loves it."*

It is the goal of the theater to support the area both artistically and economically.

*"Through economic challenges and social challenges, we've hit a wall in the growth and development of Elkhorn City, and we've been witnessing its decline for the last 20 years," Richards said. "Hopefully, by rebuilding the community through the arts, we'll be able to have a positive impact on the overall health of the county."*

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"seeblue." is more than a color. It's a way of life, a sense of pride in everything we do. The University of Kentucky family – faculty, staff, alumni and students – are united with a common purpose, toward an uncommon goal – the challenge to become a Top 20 public research institution. Our aspirations for greatness are part of who we are and what we offer to our students at UK – they expect the best resources, teaching, research opportunities and overall educational experience.

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## From the President...

Kentucky's 5th Congressional District is Wildcat country. Home to some of the University of Kentucky's dearest friends, best students, and most fervent supporters, there is no wonder that UK and southeastern Kentucky have a long and proud history of collaboration.

Our top faculty and researchers continue to build on those long-standing roots by reaching out and conducting a wide array of research projects to improve education, health care, the environment, and quality of life throughout the 5th Congressional District.

In this piece, you will read about some of those research projects and see how the University of Kentucky is impacting lives throughout the region. It will show you how UK's campus can be found in all 120 Kentucky counties.

Sincerely,

*Lee T. Todd, Jr.*  
Lee T. Todd, Jr.  
President, BS 1968

## An Investment in Rural Health

Construction is underway on the Center for Health, Education and Research (CHER) in Morehead, a partnership of the University of Kentucky, St. Claire Regional Medical Center, and Morehead State University.



The new facility – a \$30 million, 90,000-square-foot building scheduled to open in April 2010 – is at the heart of the UK College of Medicine's new Rural Physician Leadership Track. This program is part of a plan by the UK College of Medicine to increase enrollment and help address a chronic shortage of doctors statewide, especially in Kentucky's rural areas.

The first class of 10 rural-track students was admitted this fall. After completing their first two years of medical school at UK's main campus in Lexington, those students will spend their third and fourth years at the Morehead CHER site for hands-on medical training.

The new facility will house St. Claire's family medicine clinic and health education center, UK physician assistant and family nurse practitioner programs, and MSU's departments of nursing and imaging sciences.

## Fighting Cancer at Home

Tragically, Kentucky has the fourth highest cancer mortality rate in the nation, with the largest percentage of those deaths occurring in the 5th Congressional District. To combat this problem, Congressman Hal Rogers and UK President Lee Todd formed a partnership in 2004 for a first-of-its-kind health care initiative aimed at increasing the survival rates for people with deadly cancers by screening people in the 5th Congressional District who are considered high risk patients.

Hospitals in the 5th district have partnered with the UK Markey Cancer Center to create the Marty Driesler Cancer Project, named in honor of Rogers' former chief of staff, who died in 2004 after a three-year battle with lung cancer. The health care initiative seeks to increase the early detection of and improve the survival rates for people with deadly cancers.

Current studies focus on screening strategies. These research studies seek better screening options for earlier detection of lung, esophageal, and liver cancers.

Across the 5th Congressional District, 950 participants were educated through this program and more than 500 people have been officially enrolled, received first or second-line interventions and are in active follow-up. The progress of these participants will continue to be monitored for an additional five years.

## Ovarian Cancer Screening Program Saves Lives

Twenty years ago, a doctor considered one of the founders of the gynecologic oncology specialty, began the nation's first statewide ovarian cancer screening program at the University of Kentucky. Because of his foresight, Dr. John van Nagell and fellow researchers over time have saved the lives of countless women with their groundbreaking discoveries. Their efforts in the early detection of ovarian cancer make Kentucky a model for the rest of the country.

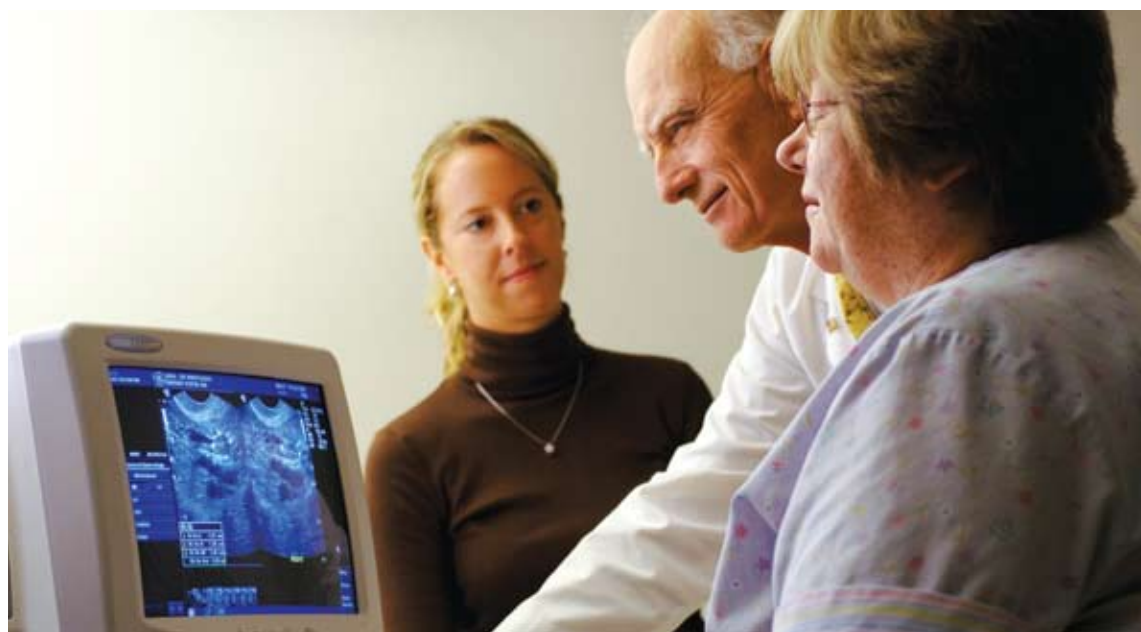
The UK Markey Cancer Center Ovarian Screening Program provides screenings throughout Kentucky including a trio of cities in the 5th Congressional District: Somerset, Prestonsburg, and Maysville.

Through the early detection trial, women who are at an increased risk for the disease receive free annual screenings with transvaginal sonography. This includes all women age 50 and older, and women 25 and older who have a family history of ovarian cancer.

Since its inception in 1987, what began as a basic research program in ovarian cancer has grown to become the largest institutional screening program of its kind, providing more than 30,000 women from every county in Kentucky with free screenings. The program has resulted in earlier diagnosis of ovarian cancer, and the survival of women whose ovarian cancer was detected by screening is nearly double that of patients who did not have screening.

*"Because of this screening program, many women's lives have been spared by finding the cancer early," van Nagell said.*

The survival rate of patients whose ovarian cancer was detected by screening is 90 percent at two years and 77 percent at five years, which is well above the national average of 45 percent at five years.



## Opening the Doors to Opportunity



(Left to right) Rep. John Will Stacy, Rep. Hubert Collins, Lee T. Todd, Jr., Whitney Lemaster, Sen. Johnny Ray Turner and Sen. Robert Stivers.

The University of Kentucky Robinson Scholars Program's (RSP) efforts to open the doors of opportunity to students from Eastern Kentucky are not going unnoticed. The program, which has touched the lives of nearly 600 students from the region, is receiving \$2 million over the next two years from the state legislature. Area Senators Robert Stivers and Johnny Ray Turner and Representatives John Will Stacy and Hubert Collins joined UK President Lee T. Todd, Jr., and students and staff from the Robinson Scholars Program, other local and state elected officials and area

school personnel for a check presentation and press conference in September at Magoffin County High School in Salyersville.

The 2008 Robinson Scholars Program serves first-generation college-bound and college students from Kentucky's Appalachian region. The program identifies students who have demonstrated the potential to succeed and provides them with support services in high school, along with a scholarship to the University of Kentucky or to a Kentucky Community and Technical College System institution.

*"We are so proud of the success of the Robinson Scholars Program," said Lee T. Todd, Jr. "We appreciate the state legislature's dedication to the students of Eastern Kentucky. This financial backing has injected new life into the Program, allowing Robinson Scholars to leverage the state's investment to acquire new private donations."*

## Appalachian Math and Science Partnership

In classrooms across Kentucky's 5th Congressional District, young people are being encouraged to stretch beyond what they previously believed they could do. Thanks to the University of Kentucky's Appalachian Math and Science Partnership (AMSP), boys and girls are becoming equipped for lucrative careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

The partnership began in 2002, when the National Science Foundation awarded \$22 million to the program. Since then, professors and researchers at UK have worked with teachers in several eastern and south-central Kentucky school districts to build their knowledge, skills, and techniques. The lessons learned by the teachers enhance the lessons they present to their pupils.

- In Johnson County, middle school students' math scores have improved by nearly 25 points and elementary students' science scores rose 18 points
- Pike County elementary schools' students' math scores rose by 29 points; middle school pupils improved by 26.5 points
- In Wayne County, elementary math academic scores improved nearly 30 points; middle school scores have risen 36 points
- Math and science scores rose by 31 points for Letcher County elementary school students;

## UK Student Wants Fellow Students from Eastern Kentucky to "seeblue."

Drew Trimble is a senior from Johnson County, Kentucky. There are two things Drew loves talking about: the area which he calls home, Eastern Kentucky, and the university he loves, UK. We sat down with Drew to talk about why he chose UK, his Big Blue experience and his plans for the future.

### Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Johnson County. I am now a senior at UK, majoring in political science and communication. As a University Scholar, I am completing my bachelor's and master's degrees concurrently, which means I am also a first-year master's student at the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration.

### Why did you choose to attend UK?

It all boiled down to one thing: opportunity. With its high-caliber academic programs, UK offered me the flexibility that I needed. Moreover, it was large enough to provide the resources of a large research campus, but had a small campus feel. After hearing of my brother's experience at UK and taking a tour of the beautiful campus, I could not see myself in anything but blue.

### Tell us what it was like making the transition from a small town to the flagship state university.

I was told that it would be too big and that I would get lost in the crowd. Having been here for four years, this has not been my experience. I have a hard time walking anywhere on campus without seeing someone I know. Professors and administrators call me by my first name and seek input from myself and other students.

### What will your UK degrees mean to you?

When I graduate, I will have an education that will make me globally competitive from a university that is rapidly becoming one of the top institutions in the country.

### How will your degree help you give back to the region you call home?

Eastern Kentucky is my home and I will always consider it to be. The people from this area are extraordinary. We are some of the most faithful, hard-working, and kind-hearted folks. At the same time, we have some of the most significant challenges of any region in the country. I would like nothing more than to someday be able to return to the area and work alongside our strong leadership and devoted people to help Eastern Kentucky to continue to overcome its obstacles and achieve its true potential.

