



# ampersand&

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UK COLLEGE OF  
ARTS&SCIENCES

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We'd like to hear from you. Send letters and story ideas to, *Ampersand*, at the address on back cover or by fax to (859) 323-1073.

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**INSIDE BACK COVER PHOTO** by Tim Collins

**BACK COVER PHOTO** by Tim Collins

Lisa Blue, a chemistry graduate student, works in chemistry professor David Atwood's lab.



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Dear A&S Alumni & Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I address you as the college's new interim dean. Having served as associate dean of faculty for seven of the last 10 years, I am happy to return to the second floor of Patterson Office Tower and continue the forward momentum begun by former dean Steven Hoch.

With the start of a new academic year comes much promise of new beginnings and despite being faced with a smaller budget from the state, the college is poised to build on our past success and continue moving forward. We are already starting the process to hire 15 new faculty members and just welcomed more than 5,800 students.

Every fall we take time in Ampersand to thank and acknowledge those who help us achieve our goals – without contributions from alumni and friends, we wouldn't be where we are today. Please take a moment to peruse the honor roll, which begins on page 30. The gifts you see listed have helped countless students. In particular, I would like to highlight a gift of \$250,000 from the Martha B. Reynolds Estate which will endow an Arts & Sciences professorship. Martha graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts in math. I am also pleased to announce that we have received a gift from Mr. R. Milton Huffaker ('57, B.S. Physics) for more than \$130,000 that will support scholarships and travel for physics students.

As the leaves begin to change color in Lexington we are reminded that the college's fall events are upon us. Plans are underway for the annual A&S Hall of Fame Induction & Scholarship Weekend, which will begin Thursday, Oct. 16, as we welcome Michael Oppenheimer, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs at Princeton University, delivering the Blazer Lecture. Oppenheimer's area of expertise is climate change. The following evening we will induct four new members into the A&S Hall of Fame: William M. Bass, III (MS '56), Dr. Lucy Crain (BA '62, MD '65), R. Milton Huffaker (BS '57), and Susan R. Tomasky (BA '74). As always, we end the weekend with Saturday's Homecoming celebration (UK vs. Arkansas) and an A&S alumni tailgate. For more information on any of the events, contact Nancy Smith at nancy.smith@uky.edu or 859.257.8124.

This issue of Ampersand focuses on our faculty and students' "green" research. Our college is making an impact – from inventing ways to make water safe to drink (see page 14) to one of our students leading the Greenthumb organization on campus (see page 22). Even the external relations department is doing its part – you may not have noticed in the last issue, but the magazine is now printed on FSC-certified paper. Take a look at the feature section which begins on page 12 to learn more about how the college is "thinking green."



Lee Thomas

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the College of Arts and Sciences. Your generous support makes a difference in the lives of our students, and for that I am grateful. I hope to see you in Lexington in October – Go Cats!

Sincerely,

Phil Harling  
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# out & about

Uneven Ground Graduation 2008 Truman Scholar Livability to Sustainability

## STUDENT VIEW



Jennifer Roberts

Whitney Turientine, an international studies senior, didn't think twice about declaring the new major.

## Inspirational words lead to International Studies

By Joy Gonsalves

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES is as promising a program as sophomore Whitney Turientine is a young scholar.

"I've taken Spanish since second grade and was the one in our family who was always watching travel shows on TV," Turientine said. "I've had questions about the world, politically, that no one's been able to answer, which is why I've always wanted to be an International Studies major."

Not surprisingly, soon after hearing the International Studies program had been added to the College of Arts & Sciences, Turientine decided to change her political science major to

a minor and keep Spanish as a second major.

The newness of the IS program didn't deter her: "It's growing and flexible," she said, citing the wide scope of the major as a reason for its strong recruitment potential. She also looks forward to an IS student organization in the near future, one whose members could form "more of a culture than a major."

Thanks to supportive faculty like Emily Beaulieu, with whom Turientine was asked to conduct research, her vision is materializing. The two have been investigating boycotts and elections of major world countries from 1972 to the

present. Turientine acknowledges that Beaulieu's presence on the IS faculty committee has also assured her that her voice will be heard. She is grateful, too, for a helpful and informative IS listserv.

A Parker Scholar whose concentrations are in international development and Latin America, Turientine is eager to put the skills she's been developing here at UK to the test. She participated in a service-learning study abroad opportunity in Peru last summer. In addition to taking classes, she joined the collaborative effort to build schools, install cleaner, burning stoves, and other projects that required an equal share of brains and brawn.

This resident adviser and politically-passionate student

takes her decisiveness as a skill she learned from her father. "My dad taught us that in our house, you had a right to change your mind, but you had to make a decision." Their morning ritual was no less important. Every day, she and her brother were required to recite the following three lines before leaving the house:

"I am a leader, not a follower."  
"I can do anything I put my mind to."

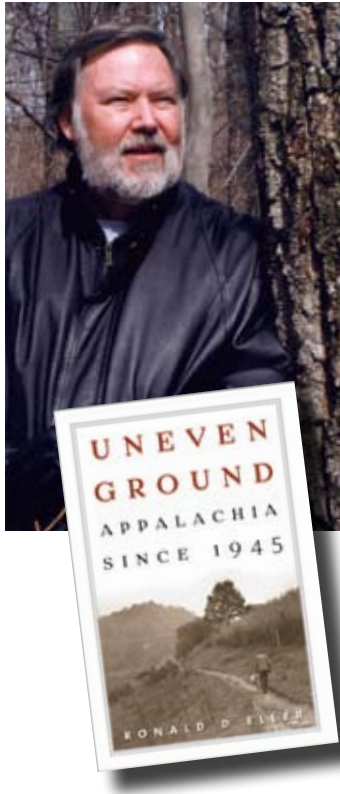
"I am somebody."

While Turientine admits there were days she rattled them off to get herself out the door and on her way to school, she now sees they just might have brought her to college, too. And they're still taking her places. &

**& RONALD D. ELLER**, history professor and former director of the UK Appalachian Center, has worked with local leaders, state policymakers and national planners to translate the lessons of private industrial-development history into public policy affecting the Appalachian region. Eller's new book, "Uneven Ground, Appalachia since 1945," examines the politics of development in Appalachia since World War II with an eye toward exploring the idea of progress as it has evolved in modern America.

Appalachia's struggle to overcome poverty, to live in harmony with the land, and to respect the diversity of cultures and the value of community is also an American story. In the end, Eller concludes, "Appalachia was not different from the rest of America; it was in fact a mirror of what the nation was becoming."

"Uneven Ground," published by The University Press of Kentucky, will be available October 2008.



STUDENT VIEW



Jeff Steller, a mathematical economics senior, works with kids at East Seventh Street Center in downtown Lexington

Tim Collins

## The Economics of Giving

By Brianna Bodine

SENIOR MATHEMATICAL economics major Jeff Steller will never give you a laundry list of his activities, even though he's president of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, director of the Center for Community Outreach's Placing Leaders Around Youth (PLAY) Program, tutoring coordinator at the East Seventh Street Center, and founder of Lexington's local chapter of RESPECT, a program dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty through citizen empowerment.

"Jeff is incredibly humble," Honors lecturer Lisa Broome-Price asserted. "He doesn't brag on himself."

But others will do plenty of bragging for him.

"He has a sort of 'sneak attack' intellect,"

Broome-Price said. "He remains quiet and laid-back, and then all of a sudden he'll make a comment that sums up everything that's gone before and then advances the conversation to a new level."

Honors lecturer Bruce Holle found Steller to be a rare breed of freshman that could write well and work hard without having to be "woken up" to the college learning expectations. "Jeff has some of the capabilities that one really enjoys in a student — a questioning mind, one that's based on thinking rather than just blurting off the first simplistic thought that bounces into his head," Holle said. "He's not a person that has to hear himself speak to know he's intelligent."

When Steller came to the

University of Kentucky he wanted the whole college experience, so he immediately became involved in the Student Volunteer Organization, now the Center for Community Outreach (CCO). More than 1,000 hours of community and volunteer service is testament to his dedication.

Steller has been volunteering for two years at the East Seventh Street Center, an after-school program for youths and their families, where he is the primary coordinator of all volunteer and tutoring activities.

In the northeast Lexington neighborhood that East Seventh Street calls home, the center is a kaleidoscope of color, resounding with the noise of running feet, raucous laughter and pop tunes from an impromptu game of musical chairs. Amid the smell of cooking hotdogs in the Kid's Cafe, children and young adults can indulge in some well-deserved, supervised afterschool play, or take advantage of the free tutoring services and the Kolpek computer lab with free high-speed Internet.

Steller has worked mostly with inner city kids and continues to focus on helping young people with fewer opportunities make it to college. "I always think of the kids who have been given a pretty tough hand in life," Steller said. "They may not have someone who believes in them."

This genuine concern stems from honest self-reflection about how and why he is where he is today. He has a full scholarship, and he acknowledges that he wouldn't be where he was today if other people hadn't opened doors and helped him find opportunities. "I feel like I have an obligation to make sure that every kid gets a chance to go to college. Every kid should have someone who believes in him."

Currently, Steller's primary study interest is the interplay of education and economic development — how the two act dynamically in both local and national arenas. His latest term project will examine what economic antecedents determine educational outcomes at the district level, an

approach he said no one else has taken. "I'm looking at district level of analysis, taking it down to something more basic," he said. "If you can show that there's a connection, maybe education and economic development interventions can be targeted more specifically."

College is the end result: There are a host of life experiences to undergo and barriers to overcome before students ever make it to UK's campus. According to Steller, the real work must be done with supporting, inspiring, motivating and teaching younger kids. "Once you're in college, you've made it pretty far," he said. **&**



Lee Thomas

**& STEVEN L. HOCH**, dean of the UK College of Arts and Sciences for five years, was selected as the new provost and executive vice president of Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

"I am honored to be joining the WSU community and look forward to working with President Floyd, the academic deans, and the entire WSU faculty, staff and student body. Washington State University is one of the nation's top land-grant institutions, and I hope to build on the institution's strong tradition of excellence in research, teaching and service," Hoch said.

Hoch joined the College of Arts & Sciences in 2003 and oversaw a \$75 million budget, 16 academic departments and 14 programs, 350 tenured and tenure-track faculty and 5,900 graduate and undergraduate students. — **Allison Elliott**

STUDENT VIEW



Amanda Hatton, a psychology junior, found her passion after tragedy

## Tragedy Spurs Student's Passion

By Sara Cunningham

AMANDA HATTON'S HONESTY and passion shines as she talks about the challenges she's faced and how those challenges have shaped her goals.

"Five years ago, I had a big setback in my life," the psychology junior said.

On Aug. 9, 2003, Hatton and her boyfriend were in a serious car accident on their way out to her family's farm in Woodford County. Hatton's boyfriend was killed and Hatton was badly injured. She spent two months in a coma, Hatton said.

"I had a closed-head injury and when I did finally wake up, there was so much I didn't remember and I had to relearn how to do a lot," she said.

But Hatton said she found strength in her experience and in her family. She is the youngest of seven children.

"When my accident happened, I was a student at LCC and I had

to take that fall semester off," she said. "I came back to school for the spring semester. I had to start slowly. I think I took just one class that first semester and then worked my way up to more."

About a year ago, Hatton transferred to UK to be a student in the College of Arts & Sciences so she could major in psychology.

"I had taken one class in psychology before my accident and I liked it," she said.

That initial interest turned into a mission for Hatton.

"I was really interested in psychology but I didn't know what part or really what I could do with it," she said. "But now I know that I want to be involved in clinical work. I want to be there for other people as they go through what I went through."

After she finishes her undergraduate work, Hatton plans to continue into a graduate program that concentrates on neuropsychology, she said.

chology, she said.

"I want to maybe open my own practice that treats people who have closed-head injuries," Hatton said. "I want to be able to give back to other people who are going through all of this."

Hatton's academic adviser, Theresa Mickelwait, recently nominated Hatton for the Carol S. Adelstein Outstanding Student Award. The award recognizes students with disabilities who serve as inspirations for the UK community because of their academic excellence and leadership qualities.

Hatton can't wait to use what she's learning to help others after she graduates, she said.

"When I woke up from the coma, I realized right away that I'd better make the most of my life because I was so grateful to still have my life," Hatton said. "I want people to understand that just because you have an injury like this, your life is not over. Mine sure wasn't. I'm just so happy to still be here." **&**



Arts & Sciences Graduation 2008

The College of Arts and Sciences had more than 550 students participate in the college's 2008 Baccalaureate Recognition Ceremony held at Rupp Arena in May.

"Most of us have taken another giant step in the process of becoming more than we were before. We have learned of other cultures, other disciplines, other ways of thought. In that experience of learning, we have learned more of ourselves."

**ZACH HARRIS**, A&S 2008 Student of the Year addressing graduates at the 2008 A&S Recognition Ceremony



**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY** political science junior **Corinne Keel** has been named a 2008 Truman Scholar and will receive \$30,000 to conduct graduate work in areas of public service. Keel, the only Truman recipient this year from Kentucky or a Kentucky college or university, is the 13th UK student to receive the honor from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

"Corinne Keel is a special young woman and student, and we are extremely proud of her," said UK President Lee T. Todd Jr., who informed Keel of her Truman Scholarship in her geology class. "We're excited that the Truman Foundation has honored her achievements in public service with this prestigious award. She will join an extraordinary group of students and future public servants across the nation."

The Truman Scholarships are national awards given to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership and are devoted to careers in public service. Keel, a native of Louisville, Ky., was among the 65 scholars nationwide selected by

the Truman Foundation from 595 nominees for the annual scholarship for graduate study. The scholars represent 55 colleges and universities from across the country.

"I am so proud, and surprised, to have received this honor," said Keel. "I consider it an honor above and beyond the monetary award because this is an award for those who are dedicated to a life in public service. This means so much for me as I pursue my dreams because it validates the fact that I work very hard to be a responsible citizen."

Keel has been seriously committed to public service since before she came to UK. Upon graduation from DuPont Manual High School in 2004, she decided to act on her passion for



issues surrounding poverty by dedicating a year of her life to others serving in AmeriCorps in Washington, D.C. Her time at UK has been just as dedicated, where Keel has continued amassing unique academic and service accomplishments. She received a four-year Provost Scholarship to attend UK and has been named to the Dean's List every semester she has attended the university. Keel is also a Maddie Lee Walker scholar and member of the Honors Program.

Keel was selected as one of UK's Gaines Fellows, where she has used her two-year fellowship to propose and develop a concept for a new Living Learning Community for UK students interested in public service. The community will become reality

STUDENT VIEW



Melissa Ash, a psychology freshman, is working to start an archery club at UK

Taking Aim at Life's Goals

By Brianna Bodine

WHEN PROFESSIONAL ARCHER Melissa Ash came to the University of Kentucky in Lexington, her first order of business was to find a place to train. She had taken a year off from the sport when her grandfather went into hospice and her grandmother moved in with the family. The freshman psychology major was surprised by the reactions to her request for a practice area – no one wanted her to shoot arrows anywhere. Ever. She was a liability.

"It was frustrating," Ash said. "I'm not some girl trying to shoot

pop cans off my back porch. I'm doing this as a profession, as an Olympic-style recurve shooter. I take it very seriously, and no one was listening because they didn't know my story."

Her story begins in 2002, when as an eighth-grade student at Woodford County Middle School in Versailles, Ky., a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) rekindled her lifelong fascination with bows and arrows. "When I was a kid, I loved Robin Hood," Ash recalled. "I would bug my dad all the time to break off branches from this

huge tree in our front yard and bend them and tie them with strings so I could have little bows with twigs for arrows."

The NASP two week, introductory archery program On Target for Life was such a hit with her gym class that her inspired teacher decided to form an afterschool team, which immediately started meeting once a week. The Bluegrass State Games, a non-profit program for amateur athletes, was being held that year, and her team entered the archery division on a whim. Their team won first place, and Ash won first place for individual scores. To top it off, several professional archers in attendance saw Ash shoot, and encouraged her to get serious about the sport.

So she got serious. Coach Jim Coombe asserts that archery is a discipline rather than a sport, and it requires more than physical prowess or good genetics. "Melissa never had a problem with focus, meaning that it's hard to get her off a path once she set her foot on it. When she decides to work on something, it gets done," Coombe said.

Ash was breaking world records at the International Field Archers Association (IFAA) at the age of 14, after shooting for only one year, and placed first in the National Field Archery Association's (NFAA's) indoor tournament. She became the youngest person on the Junior United States Archery Team in 2005 as the top shooter in her age bracket.

Ash took a break from her intensive training and turned down a scholarship to shoot with Columbia University, New York, so that she could be near her family while her grandfather was still alive. Her first semester at UK, she hoped to start by shooting with the archery team. There was only one problem: UK doesn't have one. "So, I pretty much started on my track to make an archery club," Ash said.

continued on page 10

# syllabus

ENS 400

## From Livability to Sustainability: Lexington & Vancouver

Although Vancouver, British Columbia, and Lexington, Ky., are more than 2,000 miles apart, students in Ernest Yanarella's class are studying how they can become similar.

The class, From Livability to Sustainability: Lexington and Vancouver, examines the lessons of the Vancouver model for Lexington-Fayette County's recent efforts to become a middle-sized world-class city.

"Vancouver is a West Coast magnet for economic development and international trade and, as a city, is taking steps to migrate from livability to sustainability," Yanarella said. "Lexington, as a metropolitan area in central Kentucky, has teetered between being a small town and a big city."

The seminar provided each student with an opportunity to focus on one particular policy area (transportation, rural farmland, downtown development, urban and regional planning, etc.) and seek to draw lessons from Vancouver's success for Lexington's ambitions to become a world-class city in its own category, Yanarella said.

The work Yanarella's students compiled will be a springboard for a series of future funded workshops focusing on the seminar's broad topic and objectives. These seminars will bring notable people from Vancouver to Lexington to offer insight on how Vancouver is working to achieve its livability and sustainability goals.

"One learning outcome of this course was to sensitize students to what we can learn from cities and town fathers and mothers who take the potential of cities as the true home of human beings seriously," Yanarella said. "The other major learning outcome was to foster recognition that while cities such as Vancouver, Seattle, Austin and Portland afford marvelous general lessons for working toward sustainability, cities like Lexington must make their own inventories of their distinctive environmental, cultural and social assets and forge their own unique solutions."

### RECOMMENDED READING

1. Michael Harcourt (2007) *City Making in Paradise: Nine Decisions that Saved Greater Vancouver's Livability*, Vancouver, B.C.: Douglas & McIntyre
2. Lance Berelowitz (2005) *Dream City: Vancouver and the Global Imagination*, Vancouver, B.C.: Douglas & McIntyre.
3. John Punter (2004) *The Vancouver Achievement: Urban Planning and Design*, Seattle: University of Washington Press.
4. Kent Portney (2003) *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life in American Cities*, Boston: The MIT Press.
5. Richard Florida (2008) *Who's Your City? How the Creative Economy Is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life*, New York: Basic Books.



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Kentucky is not a prime area for archery as a professional sport, with mostly recreational or hunting clubs. "There are no coaches in Kentucky and no National Archery Association sanctioned clubs," she said. "I was hoping we could start something at UK that could spread to surrounding college campuses, kind of spark some interest in different places."

After speaking with the Center for Student Involvement and Campus Recreation, Ash started announcing her new club in her classes. Despite a positive response from students, she has all the paperwork, but none of the people. However, she told only a small percentage of students about the new club. After reaching more UK students, she expects the project to be successful. "Anyone can enjoy archery," she said.

Ash said she has a selfish reason for starting the club, as well. She wants to be part of a team again – to have a place to practice, and to enjoy the competition and camaraderie. "I love shoot offs – the competition and excitement are some of the greatest highs I've ever had." Passing that gift along to others motivates her to make this club work.

"Melissa just truly takes pleasure in giving and helping people," says Sally Evans, director of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, where Ash volunteers. "She lights up every time she talks about archery, or about teaching other people to enjoy it."

Over the summer, Ash passed along her knowledge and expertise as an archery instructor to sixth graders in Centri-KID camp in Mississippi. "It's kind of scaring me – all those little kids with lethal weapons," she said with a laugh. "I just hope that I can give people the passion that I have for it. Archery is a life sport, and I'll do it as long as a can." &

# news & endeavors

Superfund Grant Advising Overhaul

### RESEARCH



Chemistry Professor Sylvia Daunert and Yinan Wei are working with their students to detect and clear toxic chemicals in the environment.

## Kentucky's Future Looks 'Super'

Chemistry team helps bring money, research to Commonwealth

By Laura Sutton

UK DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY RESEARCHERS are using groundbreaking techniques to help detect and clean up toxic chemicals in the environment. The work – which includes the use of biosensor technology to remotely detect the presence of dangerous polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs – will impact the health of the Commonwealth for generations to come.

The chemistry team, led by chemistry professor Sylvia Daunert, is part of a multidisciplinary group at the university that recently received

its second consecutive five-year, \$10 million National Institutes of Health Superfund Grant. The UK group, which is led by Dr. Bernhard Hennig of the College of Agriculture, supports the efforts of more than 50 scientists from agriculture, engineering, medicine and pharmacy, as well as the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Superfund initiative came out of the discovery of toxic waste dumps such as Love Canal in the 1970s. In Kentucky, there are currently 14 hazardous sites on the national priority list

compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the largest of which is the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Site. UK's Superfund effort, which funds five projects relating to environmental pollutants, nutrition and disease, was one of only two proposals selected for funding this year (the other was from Dartmouth), and places UK in an elite group of 13 universities with ongoing Superfund programs.

Daunert's group, which includes seven researchers, is working on the detection of

continued on page 12

RIGHT: Sylvia Daunert is leading the chemistry team which is part of a multidisciplinary group at UK that received a Superfund Grant.



Lee Thomas

continued from page 11

chemicals in soil, water and the body, as well as how to remediate or remove the pollutants. To sense the presence of chemicals such as PCBs in the environment, Daunert's team is genetically engineering protein cells to recognize the toxic compounds. At the same time, the cell is also imparted with a gene that creates an emission of light to signal the presence of the chemical.

Ultimately, the goal is to produce a means by which a non-scientist can easily, inexpensively and remotely detect the presence of PCBs in the field, according to senior researcher Patrizia Pasini, who directs the graduate students in the program and also serves as liaison to other UK Superfund research groups.

Daunert envisions using a test strip that can be dipped in water – much like the one-step test strips used by diabetics to monitor blood sugar – a method that has been successfully tested in Bangladesh by members of the team. Another application under development is a CD microfluidics platform – essentially a compact disc designed with small reservoirs and chambers that are filled with fluid and then spun around. The emission of light from a chamber indicates the presence of PCBs.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Yinan Wei, who came to UK two years ago from Brookhaven National Lab and is now one of four women faculty in the department, is working on the remediation end of the Superfund grant, which means that she is developing ways to remove the hazardous chemicals from the environment once they are detected. Wei is working

to chemically remove chloride from the compound, a critical step in the process.

To accomplish this, Wei and Philip Bachas-Daunert, a student from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Ky., have essentially discovered a new protein from a gene found in algae that exists in a Japanese hot spring. They found that the protein can dehalogenase, or break down the halide-carbon bond in organic pollutants. The next step is to immobilize and support the protein so that it can be used in the field. One possibility is to incorporate the protein into filter paper.

When asked why UK's Superfund group was chosen for funding over such institutions as Harvard University, Daunert cites UK's record of success with previous grants, the novelty of the ideas and "the possibility of success."

Beyond the obvious boon to science and the environment that the Superfund research is making possible, UK is also benefiting by providing valuable support and training for its students. Kendrick Turner, a fourth-year graduate student who works in Daunert's lab, anticipates using his experience to launch a career in industry or a government lab.

"A lot of what I do for my research involves biochemistry and environmental chemistry, so you get to tie those two fields together," says Turner, a Fancy Farm, Ky., native. "In the long run, you get expertise in analytical chemistry and in the really long run, when you get to the field with a portable [sensing] system, you would get expertise in engineering aspects." &

## Advising Center Overhaul

By Stephanie Lang

BEGINNING IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2007, THE COLLEGE of Arts & Sciences introduced sweeping changes to its advising system.

"After receiving advising evaluations that suggested a need for change in the overall system, the College of Arts & Sciences decided to place professional advisors in each department" said Cindy Iten, director of advising in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The new system implemented by the college moved 14 professional advisors into academic departments in A&S. The

nomics, philosophy, topical studies and economics majors. "Professional advisors work with students to explore and set academic and career goals, assess academic performance, identify campus resources and support activities, identify social activities, explore student interests, assist in the understanding and navigation of the university system, and encourage students to pursue research and internships."

"Faculty and advisors also work together as part of an early warning system to increase student retention and keep students from falling through the cracks," said Nayasha Fariior, academic advisor for English and linguistics. "I have also learned the areas of specialty for faculty members in my department and am able to refer students with interests in that area to the appropriate professor."

Another important aspect of the new professional advising system is career development.

"The advisors are now putting together career workshops targeted for majors in each department, which is something new," Iten said. The college recently welcomed its first assigned career counselor, Jamie Johnson, who is working closely with each professional advisor in developing career materials, workshops and presentations.

"I was able to host one career workshop this semester and we had a great response with close to 30 students attending," Fariior said. "As a result of attending this workshop, one student heard about a career fair on campus and went to it. After he left the career fair, he received an internship at a company that will more than likely hire him after he graduates. Not only do I plan to have additional workshops during the semester, I would also like to start some type of club/organization for undergraduate students which would meet regularly and have faculty members come in and speak."

With this type of response, both Hume and Fariior say the best part of their job has been working with the students.

"I am constantly amazed at the intellect, interests, creativity and commitment of our students," Hume said. "The Arts & Sciences' student population is an exciting and challenging group of young people." &

LEFT: Nayasha Fariior, A&S academic advisor for English and linguistics, says the new advising structure has faculty and advisors working closely.



Tim Collins

advisors handle students who have 30 credit hours or above, with their workload consisting of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Freshman advisees are assigned alphabetically to one of four professional advisers located on the second floor of the Patterson Office Tower.

"It is not uncommon to have advisors in the departments, but this system varies from institution to institution," Iten said. "While the advisors are located in the departments, they still report back to the advising center, which keeps the system centralized and information flowing quickly. The advisors work closely with faculty members to not only increase retention and graduation rates, but to facilitate important faculty-student interactions."

Since the creation of this new system, the department-based advisors have been quite busy.

"Advising is more than schedule building," said Kathi Hume, academic advisor for mathematics, mathematical eco-

# SEE BLUE LIVE GREEN

From developing sensors to detect environmental pollutants to studying environmental changes due to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, research in the College of Arts & Sciences is impacting the world. In the next few pages you will read about only a few of the many ways A&S faculty and students are working to make a difference as they “think green.”



# What you should know about $H_2O$ h?!

UK researcher is working to make the Earth's water supply safer to drink.

By Jennifer T. Allen

**M**OST PEOPLE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEIR drinking water causing cancer, brittle bones or neurological diseases. Not many suspect that it could contain arsenic, mercury or lead. Even fewer know that efforts are underway on the third floor of the Chemistry-Physics building to remove these and other contaminants from water.

Since 2000, chemistry professor David Atwood and his student researchers have been working to remove elemental contaminants from water — and they have been successful.

“Most people don't realize their direct effect on the quality of our water and our air,” said Lisa Blue, a chemistry graduate student working in Atwood's lab. “We have certain things we can't live without, such as water and air, and I want to be part of the solution in taking care of those necessities.”

Atwood and his team have designed compounds that trap and remove contaminants from water. Water is filtered through the compound, which grabs onto the contaminant permanently. The filtered water then comes out clean.

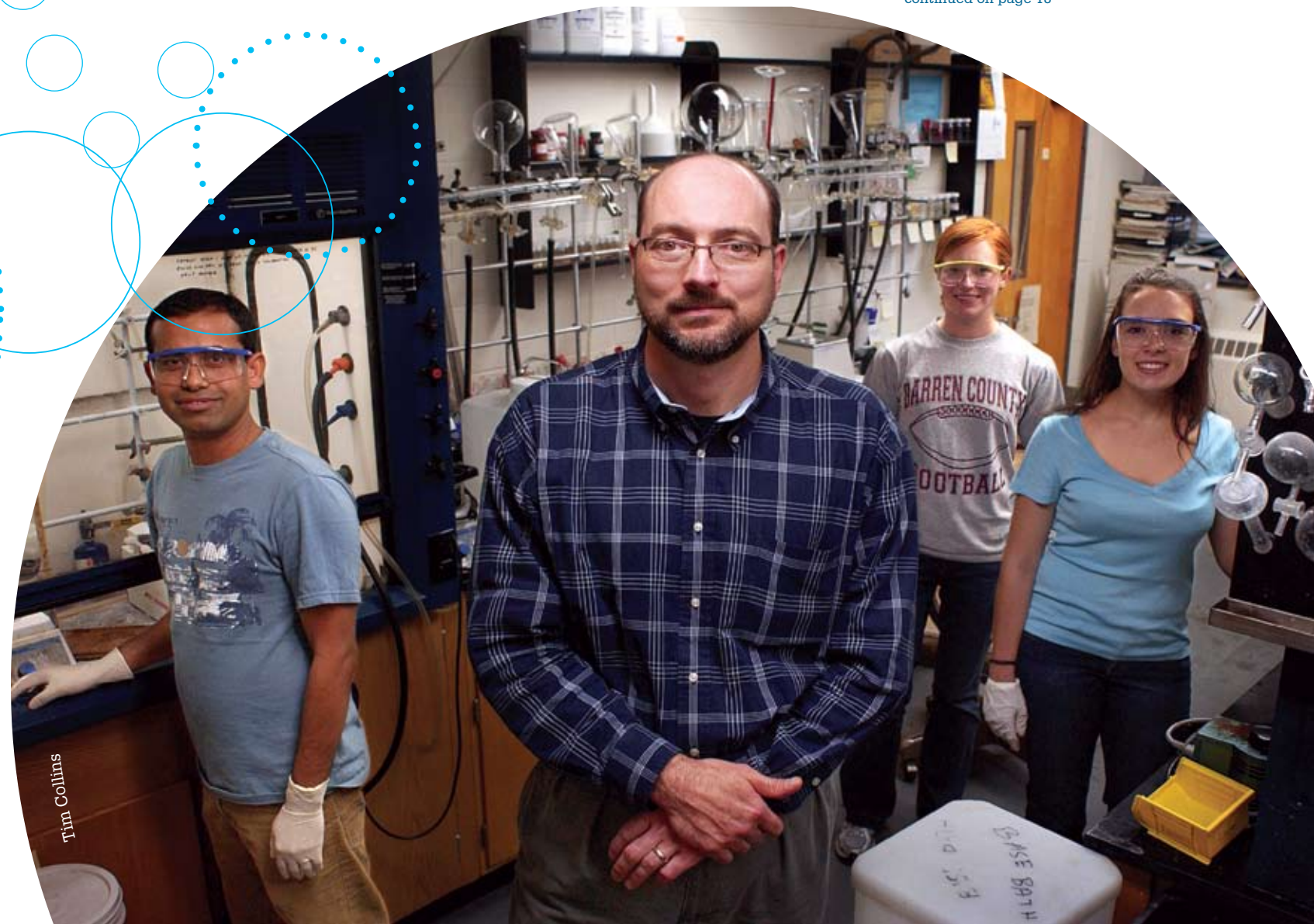
The research taking place on UK's campus has repercussions around the world. Arsenic contamination of drinking water is a large problem in India and Bangladesh and even poses problems in the U.S in several western states and on the East Coast. “I have measured arsenic levels in India's drinking water as high as 220 parts of arsenic per billion,” Blue said. “The World Health Organization recommends under 10 parts per billion as safe. After filtering the water through our treatment, there was less than five parts per billion, which was the detection limit on that set of runs.”

The next step for Atwood and his team is to develop water treatment devices for personal use in homes. “We are working to get the water treatment in homes at an affordable cost,” Atwood said.

Cleaning up drinking water isn't Atwood's only environmental pursuit. Since 2005, he has been working to create a real-time sensor for detecting environmental contaminants. “The real-time sensor is based on a quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) and can be coated with different compounds to detect different contaminants.”

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BELOW: Chemistry Professor David Atwood, center, in one of his labs with (left to right) Partha Jana, chemistry graduate student, Kateland Beals, undergraduate researcher, and Kristen Bird, undergraduate researcher.



Tim Collins



**BELOW:** David Atwood and Shannon Conley, NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) student, working in an inert atmosphere glove box.

**OPPOSITE:** (TOP) Christopher Preece, chemistry graduate student, Conley and Atwood at work in the lab.

(BOTTOM) Picture of gold crystal where Atwood's containment specific surface coating is applied. This goes into the Quansor Quartz Crystal Microbalance.

continued from page 17

We are collaborating with a Lexington company, Quansor, Inc., who holds the QCM patents. My lab is responsible for creating the contaminant-specific coating to be used in the QCM."

"In one application we demonstrate the ability of the sensor to bind and detect oil from an oil-water mixture," Atwood said. "This is important for ocean-going vessels where the amount of oil they release to the ocean is strictly regulated."

The sensor is based on changes of mass and could be expanded to monitor groundwater, nerve agents and pesticides. Atwood and Quansor are also working to interface the monitors with wireless electronic data transmission, which would allow results from the sensors to be transmitted through cell phone or satellite technology. This aspect of the work is being conducted by another Lexington company, Knight Electronic Design, LLC.

"Right now we don't have a way to monitor water continuously," Atwood said. "With this technology, we can submerge sensors in water at different depths and basically have a map of the sensors telling you every two minutes the identity and quantity of the contaminants that are present and where."

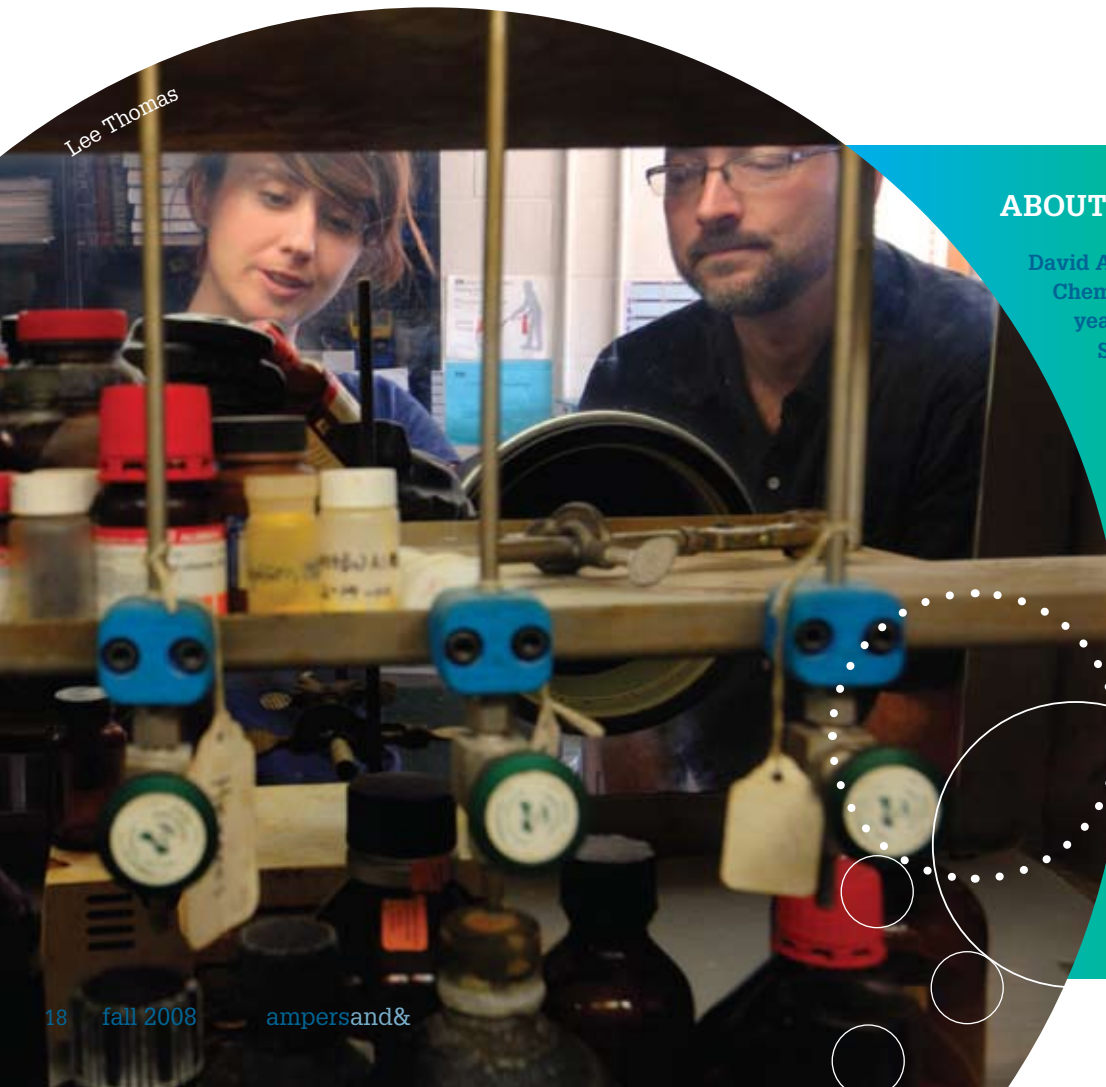
And the technology can go beyond monitoring water. "I could see nerve agent monitors at the Bluegrass Army Depot located outside of Richmond, Ky., in New York City, or even

on vehicles in Iraq or Afghanistan. One class of compounds we've created can decontaminate nerve agents, turning them into non-hazardous solids that would be easy to handle and dispose of," Atwood said. "One use of the continuous monitoring system would be to place sensors around large metropolitan areas on a grid. Not only would you be able to know when a contaminant has been released into the air, but you would be able to know which way it was moving and could plan evacuation procedures accordingly."

As Atwood looks to the future, he wants to find more compounds that can neutralize toxins in the environment. "If there is a contaminant in water, I am confident my group can create something to take it out," he said.

He would also like to venture into biological contaminants, such as E. coli, viruses and anthrax, and find ways to capture them before they infect people. With the growth of the nuclear industry, Atwood also sees growth in radionuclides and detecting and capturing radioactive elements in the water and air.

"I chose to focus my research on environmental chemistry because I can apply fundamental inorganic chemistry to problems that have direct human impact," Atwood said. "I really enjoy seeing our basic research applied to environmental problems that are important to the average person." &



Lee Thomas

### ABOUT DAVID ATWOOD

David Atwood came to the University of Kentucky Chemistry Department in 1998 after spending five years in the Main Group Center at North Dakota State University. He has been conducting environmental research since 1996 and has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles. He is the editor of *Main Group Chemistry* (a journal he created), and an editorial board member of the *Encyclopedia of Inorganic Chemistry* and Wiley's *Textbook Series in Inorganic Chemistry*. There are currently seven graduate students and several undergraduates working in Atwood's lab. Atwood and his students have seven patents issued or many more in the works.



Lee Thomas

### DID YOU KNOW?...

Tap water is more closely monitored and regulated than bottled water.

Coal-fired utilities used to produce electricity release 48-52 tons of mercury into the air in the U.S. every year by burning coal that contains mercury. Issued in 2005, the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) made the U.S. the first country world-wide to regulate mercury emissions from utilities.

However, a federal appeals court on Feb. 8, 2008, invalidated the CAMR because it did not require sufficient mandatory reductions in mercury. You can expect more stringent rules providing greater protection from the element in the near future.

Clean water is expected to become more precious than oil in the coming decades.

UK is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in arsenic research with faculty studying this element in the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts & Sciences and Engineering, and in the School of Public Health.



Tim Collins

## College of Arts & Sciences Environmental Research

Numerous research projects focused on the environment are taking place throughout A&S. Here is a glimpse of some of the projects A&S faculty are pursuing.

**Leonidas Bachas** is designing sensors for the detection of environmental pollutants as well as nanostructured catalysts that can be used to degrade organic pollutants.

**Dwight Billings** and **Will Samson** recently completed research on Evangelical responses to mountaintop removal mining in Central Appalachia.

**Renee Bonzani** analyzes botanical remains from archaeological sites to determine past environmental changes and human subsistence strategies in relation to such factors.

# Going with the Flow

Texas native finds niche studying Kentucky ground water

By Allison L. Elliott

**J**AMES WARD GREW UP IN A PART OF Texas where water is more likely to come from the ground than the sky. In Balmorhea, a small town located at the junction of the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains in west Texas, Ward and his sister were raised as sixth-generation farmers and ranchers in the Trans Pecos region. Water is always scarce in that part of Texas, with an average rainfall of only nine inches per year. The Wards relied on springs to water their cattle and irrigate their crops of alfalfa hay. During James' childhood an 18-year drought hit the region and his family hard, so when he graduated from high school (in a class of 16), he followed his interests in water toward bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Tx., and ultimately a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Kentucky. Today Ward is going with the flow and looking for entrepreneurial ways to assure groundwater quality for the people in his adopted Bluegrass home.

Alan Fryar, associate professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, worked with Ward on his doctoral research and dissertation. Fryar studies hydrogeology, the area of geology that deals with the movement of water beneath the earth's surface. Together he and Ward looked specifically at water quality in karst terrain. Karst refers to an area in which the soil is underlain by a matrix of soluble bedrock through which underground streams can flow. Large areas of Kentucky are composed of limestone karst, as is 40 percent of the United States east of the Mississippi River.

As rain seeps into the earth it can dissolve the limestone, creating conduits and changing the flow of groundwater. As the stone dissolves, sinkholes form and contaminants can enter the water supply directly without first being filtered through layers of soil. Ward and Fryar found a site in nearby Versailles where just that appeared to be happening, and set out to find a way to track contaminants in groundwater.

Ward found a high level of coliform bacteria in a spring near downtown Versailles. The spring also happened to be very near the local sewage treatment plant, so he suspected a leak in the sewer pipes. But other sources had to be considered. There were nearby farm animals, wild animals and geese in a local park. Any of these could be sources of bacteria entering the open spring. Tracking bacteria in groundwater is not a simple matter. For starters, the water dives under layers of soil and rock, only to resurface hundreds of yards or even miles away. Underground streams can merge, and it's extremely challenging to track the travel of bacteria invisible to the naked eye. Faced with this problem, Ward came up with an innovative solution.

Ward first ran a few tests with salt and dyes (after receiving government approval and warning the locals not to be alarmed if their water turned fuchsia). The best time to track groundwater flow in karst is during and after a storm surge. So when thunderstorms rolled in, Ward threw on his waders and stepped into the stream to collect samples. After dyes he moved on to experimenting with latex microspheres, which are roughly the same size as coliform

bacteria. Theoretically the spheres should move in the same way as the bacteria he wanted to track. But there was no way to be certain that they were. The only thing that moves like a bacterium is an identical bacterium. Nobody was really keen on the idea of injecting additional coliform – better known as E. coli – into the spring. They needed a way to track the bacteria already in the water.

Ward developed a method of removing bacteria from the spring and isotopically tagging them. The process, which involves growing the

“The field of hydrology is made up of future problems to solve.”

bacteria in the laboratory on a special medium, is unique and currently under intellectual property consideration. The tagged bacteria are injected into the groundwater at key points, along with salt, dye and latex microspheres to aid in tracking. When Ward pulls water samples (automatically and by hand) he can tell by looking for his tagged bacteria where the underground water sources flow, diverge and run into contaminants.

The water research was an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional effort. Professor Gail Brion in the UK colleges of Engineering and Public Health developed the AC/TC ratio tech-

[continued on page 23](#)



LEFT: Alan Fryar, associate professor of geology, and James Ward, geology graduate student, teamed up to study Kentucky's ground water.

**Stanley Brunn** and **Andrew Wood** organized an international and interdisciplinary conference that examined the economic, environmental and cultural impact of megaengineering projects.

**Vincent Cassone** researches the mechanisms and neuroendocrine pathways by which the biological clock regulates physiology and behavior in amniotic vertebrates.

**Lisa Cliggett** has held four NSF grants concerning a variety of environmental change issues in Zambia, in central Southern Africa.

**Dennis Clouthier**, among other things, investigates the physical chemistry of small molecules that may affect the ozone layer.

**Lisa Conley** examines how the religious beliefs and theological positions held by a variety of religious leaders relate to their attitudes regarding environmental movements and the natural world.

**Robin Cooper** is a board member of the UK Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment and also a member of the Sloan's Valley Conservation Task Force, which works to protect the ecology of the Sloan Valley Cave system in Kentucky.

**Phil Crowley** is an evolutionary ecologist using game theory to understand organismal traits and their implications in populations and communities.

**Alan Fryar** focuses on hydrogeology as it relates to the fate and transport of contaminants in surface and ground water.



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nique that was used to determine age, source and load of fecal matter at the sites. Mark Coyne, Professor of Soil Microbiology in the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, helped formulate the isotopic tagging technique. Professor Stephen Macko at the University of Virginia was so excited by Ward's breakthrough that he did sample analyses for free.

The impact of Ward's work reaches beyond central Kentucky. Cities like Nashville, Knoxville, Tampa, and San Antonio, as well as much of the Ozarks, share the karst geology of Kentucky. So do countries like South Africa, England, France, Morocco, China, Australia and Switzerland. Twenty-five percent of Earth's population drinks water from karst limestone systems.

"The sky's the limit – or maybe the ground's the limit," said Fryar. "His [Ward's] contributions are really significant in the development of new techniques. This was as much a proof of concept as anything."

And as for Ward himself? "He strikes you as a good ol' boy, but he should not be underestimated."

You also shouldn't underestimate how interesting Ward's back story is. While working on his master's at Sul Ross State, he filled out a questionnaire on the UK EES department website, indicating his interest in hydrogeology. He also mentioned a few other facts about himself, such as his background ranching, his time spent working the Texas oil fields and his experience in working with cattle and horses.

"He seemed like a really hands-on kind of guy," said Fryar, who corresponded with Ward about the program and became his adviser when he enrolled. He was right. On the ranch and during college, Ward had his share of barn building and livestock wrangling. When the price of beef cattle dropped, he and his family hunted the wild hogs eating their alfalfa, and sold the hogs for meat. Ward also welded furniture and ornamental iron. In addition to farming, his father worked for the Texas A&M agriculture experiment station. This guy was obviously a hard worker.

In 2004, Ward graduated from his master's program one day, spent the next 24 hours driving northeast, and arrived in Lexington on the third day. He and his sister Jennifer, who is now an engineer in Midland, Tx., had made the trip with his belongings piled in a gooseneck trailer. He didn't have an apartment, so he stayed a few days with a friend. Not really keen on being a city dweller, he quickly found work and housing on a farm in Bourbon County. Today he lives at and manages the Eagle Creek Horse Motel outside of Sadieville. Ward lives in an apartment on the top floor of a barn. People traveling with horses in trailers can stop for the night, hook

up their RVs and board the horses in the barn.

Ward plans on sticking around Kentucky. He is engaged to fellow E&E graduate student Katy Adank. She is quite literally the girl next door – their offices in the Slone Building are adjoining. But she's also from a world away, as she grew up in a suburb near Chicago. The two plan to stay in the area, and Ward hopes to take his research in an entrepreneurial direction. He's already working on the launch of a water consulting company.

He should have plenty to do here. Officials are becoming increasingly concerned about the effect of runoff from Cane Run in Lexington on Royal Spring in nearby Georgetown. As the largest city in Kentucky using groundwater as its principal water supply, Georgetown is vulnerable to contaminants that may wash into the storm sewers of Lexington and into the underwater streams flowing toward Scott County. Work with tagged coliform bacteria is just the beginning, as bacteria serves as an indicator for the possible presence of other pathogens. Ward has also looked at man-made contaminants like pharmaceuticals and caffeine.

"The field of hydrology is made up of future problems to solve," Ward said.

Discussing his experiences at UK, Ward says, "The people of Kentucky are very friendly. When you're working with them, there are no egos involved typically. Their ability to come together as a team is what I'm in awe of. You don't see that many places."

Fryar encourages his students to write their own grant applications, which Ward did. He received funding from the state, the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR program, the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute, the EES department and other organizations. The bulk of his funding actually came in through the UK College of Agriculture, another example of Ward's interdisciplinary work. Ward says this is an example of what makes UK a great place to do research.

On being progressive and interdisciplinary, he says "It's one thing to say it; it's another to do it. That's when you do get those big grants and can become a Top 20 school."

If you see James Ward around Lexington, say hello. You'll recognize him, because he has the only UK Ph.D. pewter belt buckle known to be in existence. Fryar had it custom made to match the one from James' undergraduate alma mater, where buckles are worn instead of class rings.

"James is authentic and old-school. He's self-reliant, thoughtful and a real gentleman. We're lucky he's decided to stick around," Fryar said. &

OPPOSITE PAGE: (TOP) Ward downloading water quality measurements from a data logger at spring SP-2 (UK Animal Research Center, Woodford County)

(BOTTOM, LEFT) Ward gauging the flow rate at Blue Hole Spring in Versailles, Ky.

(BOTTOM, CENTER) Ward collecting water samples at Blue Hole Spring during a dye-tracing experiment.

(BOTTOM, RIGHT) Ward filtering water samples in the lab to collect bacteria.

**Scott Gleeson** is a plant ecologist working in ecosystem restoration (Bluegrass savanna, vernal wetland, tropical pasture).

**Karen Greenough** studies among mobile pastoralists and agropastoralists in the Republic of Niger, West Africa.

**N. Thomas Hakansson** is currently studying how intensive cultivation is likely to have emerged and persisted as a result of regional and world-systems processes rather than from population pressure.

**Cynthia Isenhour's** research seeks to broaden our understanding of human responses to environmental risk through an ethnographic study of "sustainable" consumers in Sweden.

**John Johnson** seeks to get a better understanding of what kinds of organizational culture changes can be made to increase sustainability efforts on college campuses.

**P.P. Karan** studies the environmental impacts of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the environmental transformation of the Tibetan Plateau, and the environment, land use and economy of the Himalayas.

**James Krupa** is a field biologist, ecologist and naturalist.

**Bert Lynn** is developing mass spectrometry methods for the detection of organic compounds in environmental samples.



# Easy Being Green

## Geography senior finds passion in student Greenthumb organization

By Stephanie Lang

**T**AUGHT TO RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY HIS parents, geography senior Taylor Shelton wanted to find an organization that would challenge him to step out of his comfort zone.

“If I had to pick a label for myself when I was a freshman in college, ‘progressive environmentalist’ would not have been the first one I would’ve thrown out,” Shelton said.

Concerned over issues regarding renewable energy and sustainability on UK’s campus, Shelton joined Greenthumb, Kentucky’s largest student environmental organization, when he was a sophomore. “Greenthumb was a group on campus that was being really proactive on issues such as renewable energy,” Shelton said. “I attended other meetings for other clubs but I found that this group was doing things I thought a campus organization should be doing.”

The basic goals set forth in Greenthumb’s online mission statement are straightforward: celebrate our environment; educate those around us about environmental issues and methods to make our environment a better place to live; promote environmental awareness and sustainability on our campus and in our community; and make lifestyle choices that reflect our commitment to environmentally responsible actions.

This broad mission statement makes it easy for students from all walks of life to join. “We want the organization to be as inclusive as possible and to have the voice it deserves regarding university issues,” Shelton said.

The inclusive atmosphere appears to be paying off. According to Shelton, there are 15 to 20 people who regularly attend meetings, but they have had as many as 60 people present.

Shelton noted that graduate students along with faculty and university staff are also involved with the club, although in a lesser role. “The diversity of the people who join the group bring to light a variety of issues, including logging in Robinson Forest and mountaintop removal in eastern Kentucky,” Shelton said.

After attending meetings for one year, Shelton was impressed by the variety of activities and tough issues tackled by Greenthumb. “I decided to take on a leadership position and was chosen as co-coordinator by friends and colleagues,” he said. “Sometimes people lack the spirit to go against the grain but I think we all need to think about the issues and take an active role.”

As a co-coordinator of Greenthumb, Shelton is extensively involved with planning a long list of activities and events the organization sponsors. During the fall semester, Greenthumb holds movie screenings and lectures on various environmental issues. Shelton proudly noted that Greenthumb also partners with larger environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

For Shelton and Greenthumb, April is one of the busiest months on campus. Greenthumb, along with Residence Life Recycling and the Environmental Studies Program, organized the annual Earthdays in the Bluegrass to promote sustainability, responsible global citizenship, and the power of local action.

Earthdays is jam-packed with events such as gardening workshops, films, art and community service projects, and a bike trek through campus and Lexington. These informative and educational programs show students various ways they

*continued on page 26*

OPPOSITE PAGE: Taylor Shelton, a geography senior, found his passion in UK’s Greenthumb Environmental Club.

**Sarah Lyon's** research is on shade-grown and organic coffee and the ways in which certification systems can promote environmentally sustainable production practices among Latin American smallholders.

**Nicholas McLetchie** is an ecologist working on sex-specific traits in plants and the impact of these traits on spatial segregation of the sexes in nature, and consequently sexual reproduction.

**Anne-Frances Miller** studies the mechanisms of enzymes that degrade nitrated compounds, research that has implications in the decontamination of environmental samples containing residues of explosive compounds.

**Brent Palmer** is a comparative reproductive biologist working to understand how environmental factors influence reproduction in wildlife.

**Jonathan Philips** is researching the coevolution of landforms, soils and ecosystems in conjunction with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service’s ecosystem restoration programs in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma; researching water flows and withdrawals in the Sabine, TX

**Lynn Phillips** recently taught a class that addressed city and regional planning and building sustainable cities.

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**OPPOSITE PAGE:**  
Taylor Shelton  
with Greenthumb  
members (clockwise)  
Kristin Sherrard,  
Sameera Savarah,  
Emily Ogburn and  
Britney Zewicker.

can reduce their carbon footprint and become more involved in their communities.

For students, faculty and staff looking for ways to become more environmentally conscious throughout the year, Shelton offered several ideas. “First of all, recycle – it’s one of the easiest things to do,” Shelton said. “If you live in a dorm room you are given a recycle bin, so that is all ready there for you. If you live off campus and would like a recycle bin, you can call the city and they will deliver one to your home. Once you get into the habit, it becomes second nature and is vitally important in the reduction of waste.”

Shelton also pointed to the Wildcat Wheels Bicycle Library which loans bicycles to students, faculty and staff at UK. After a summer internship working on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Shelton, along with other Greenthumb members, volunteered some of their time with this eco-friendly group.

“Riding a bicycle to class, especially if you live off campus, is a big difference,” Shelton said. “Not only is it more environmentally friendly, but it is more practical because anyone who drives a car knows it is impossible to find a spot on campus, not to mention the high gas prices.”

“I know it is harder for students on a budget, but eating locally grown foods from the co-op also makes an impact,” Shelton said. “This not only helps green the university by purchasing healthier food grown less than 50 miles away, but you are also creating a livelihood for someone in the local economy. I would take pride in being able to grow food and make sure someone else had a happy and healthy life.”

As a UK senior, Shelton hopes that Greenthumb continues to grow, educate and raise awareness on tough environmental issues.

“Greenthumb is and should continue to be an activist organization and will hopefully be the guiding light on UK’s campus for doing things that are in accordance with sustainability theory. We should all be really willing to devote time and energy and put ourselves into making these things happen.” &



**Chris Pool's** NSF-funded research at the Preclassic site of Tres Zapotes, Mexico, examines demographic processes, land use, diet, trade, technological change, and natural resource exploitation.

**Erik Reece and Leah Bayens** co-coordinate the Summer Environmental Writing Program where students spend a month in eastern Kentucky's Robinson Forest.

**Olaf Jaime-Riverón** studies how volcanic disasters and changing political economies affect technological choices in the production of grinding tools by the Olmec and epi-Olmec in Veracruz, Mexico.

**Randall Roorda** researches eco-criticism in literature.

**Craig Sargent** studies the ecology and evolution of life history strategies in fish, particularly how life history tradeoffs and social behavior interact with each other.

**Shaunna Scott** conducts research on the psychological, social and political impacts of an October 2000 coal waste disaster in Martin County, Ky.

**Doug Slaymaker** researches environmental themes in current Japanese writing and film.

**Randal Voss** uses genetic and genomic tools to study hybridization and phenotypic variation arising from the interaction of environmental and genetic factors.

**Dave Westneat** studies the ecology and evolutionary biology of social behavior, particularly the reproductive behavior of birds in a variety of species.

**Marshall Wilkinson** conducts research on the role of biota in soil formation, including the mechanisms by which they affect soil and the rate at which they affect soil.

**Cynthia Zhang** studies Toyota and GM in the U.S. and China in order to assess the impacts of lean production systems on sustainability.



Jennifer Roberts

# UK College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame Weekend

October 16-18, 2008

## 2008 Blazer Lecture in the Humanities



**Michael Oppenheimer**  
Professor of GeoSciences &  
International Affairs,  
Princeton University

Thursday, Oct. 16  
7:30 p.m. Concert Hall, Singletary  
Center, Free and open to the public

## Hall of Fame Induction & Scholarship Dinner

Friday, Oct. 17



R. Milton Huffaker  
(BS '57)



Susan R. Tomasky  
(BA '74)



Bill M. Bass, III  
(MS '56)



Dr. Lucy Crain (BA  
'62, MD '65)

5:30 p.m. Cocktail reception  
7:00 p.m. Dinner & program  
Thoroughbred Ballroom, Lexington Convention  
Center; \$50 per person; reservations required

## Arts & Sciences Homecoming Tailgate

**UK vs Arkansas football game**  
Saturday, Oct. 18

Live entertainment and tailgate party catered by  
Billy's BBQ begins two hours prior to kickoff. White  
tent on Farm Rd., one block off of University Drive.  
\$45 per person (includes game ticket); \$15 (meal  
only). Reservations required.

For reservations or additional information, please  
contact: Nancy Smith, A&S Office of Advancement,  
(859) 257-8124, nancy.smith@uky.edu

# alumni news & notes

Quantum Tutors Children's Novels Salt Flats Honor Roll

## GIFTS



## Timing of Scholarship Uplifts Student in Need

Jerrad Howard, a political science and accounting senior, received the A&S Tippet Scholarship for his second consecutive year.

By Jennifer T. Allen

JERRAD HOWARD WOKE UP AT 2 A.M. ON A cold September morning in 2007 with someone frantically banging on the front door to his apartment. After running outside, he turned to watch everything he owned go up in flames – literally. The next week, Howard, a political science and accounting senior with a Japanese minor, discovered he was the recipient of the Tippet Scholarship in the College of Arts & Sciences.

“The scholarship really alleviated some of the financial burdens I was facing,” Howard said. “Not everyone realizes that when students come to the university there are more financial burdens than just tuition; that draws attention away from your studies.”

Howard came to Lexington from Calhoun, Ky., a small farming community with one stoplight, three gas stations, one bank and seven churches.

“I chose UK because it was close to home, had a lot of financial aid opportunities, the degree options were interesting and Lexington is a great city that still has a small town feel,” he said.

As a full-time student, Howard takes an average class load of 18 hours, while also working full-time at Tempur-pedic as a legal assistant to the corporate counsel and vice president. The job not only helps pay for his college education, but is also building his resume in an area he hopes to make a career.

“When I was in middle school, I just knew I wanted to be an attorney,” Howard said. “I’ll be the first person in my family to go past a bachelor’s degree.”

With aspirations of becoming an attorney that specializes in intellectual property and corporate law, Howard strategically chose his double major and minor.

“Political science gives me a good foundation for law school and the Japanese minor makes me marketable since it is a non-Latin-based language. The accounting degree gives me a business background and rounds everything out,” he said. “I’ve organized my degree to maximize my marketing potential.”

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TECHNOLOGY

## Alumnus Brings Tutoring to the 21st Century

& ONE-ON-ONE TEACHING assistance is hard to come by in math and science courses, where many students struggle to understand balancing equations, solving for variables, and applying formulas. To address the problem, **Benny G. Johnson, Sr.**, and Dale Holder joined forces, merging chemistry, computer programming and teaching philosophy to create Quantum Tutors, the first artificial intelligence tutoring program for the sciences.

"We thought it would be beneficial to explore devel-

oping software that closely approached what real people — good teachers or tutors — do when they work with students, rather than making students complete long lists of questions like a standardized test," said Johnson, a University of Kentucky alumnus and president and CEO of Quantum Simulations, Inc.

In the past, science or math computer-based educational programs have only offered lists of problems and corresponding answers, according to Holder, an award-winning teacher with

more than 35 years of experience. The available software was more like an online workbook than an interactive study tool.

"I don't have anything against the good, old-fashioned workbook, but a computer program should do more," Johnson said. "It seemed like an unimaginative use of the computer for education."

Quantum Tutors filled the gap as a computer-based, AI educational resource for students and their teachers. "The goal is not just to solve a problem, but to help the student who doesn't understand the problem to grasp the concepts involved," Johnson said. "We didn't want to take old software and improve it, but to build a foundation from the ground up. It was fundamentally new."

The software for Quantum Tutors mimics the fluid work process of students consulting with an actual person, and it offers step-by-step instruction, rather than a simple right or wrong qualification. Instead of using a set of rigid, predetermined questions and answers, the program allows students to bring their work to the computer and get helpful, interactive feedback.

"Personal connection and one-on-one teaching is the best way to learn," Johnson said. "Understanding is nothing without practical applications. Understanding comes from practice, from struggle, from application that makes the concepts real." To mirror this philosophy in the Quantum Tutor software design, Johnson relied on Holder, his high school chemistry professor and mentor.

"My job was to supply the academic aspect," Holder said. "We structured the computer interface to maintain a conversational and learning conducive tone. I think that comes through in the software, which is unusual."

They designed the Quantum Tutors based on several ideals: to provide students with meaningful support, to allow them to field problems and ask questions, to show them how to work through problems, to give feedback on the problem-solving process and to treat them with respect to increase self-efficacy.

"Self-efficacy is important to motivate students," Holder said. "Students have to feel some sense of accomplishment or success in what they are doing to keep them interested in a subject."

Quantum Tutors programs are currently being developed in other fields, such as accounting and math. While Johnson admits that a computer can't take the place of a real tutor, it can help students grasp the subject and get comfortable with solving problems. "We're not trying to replace human teachers, but, realistically, there will never be enough high-quality tutors around to help every student one-on-one," he said. "The challenge is getting the computer to closely mimic a human tutor."

Johnson was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame in 2007 for his work with Quantum Tutors and his contributions to the field of chemistry, education, and computer programming.

"There's no question about Benny deserving such recognition as the UK award and it's a great honor for him," Holder said. "Benny was bound to be successful with all his ability, drive and tenacity. He is unwilling to give up or to accept that something can't be done."

Johnson said he knew he had been nominated to the Hall of Fame, but he didn't expect the recognition. "I love and identify with UK. I wear UK T-shirts all the time," he said. "The other alumni who will be inducted are highly accomplished, recognized scholars. It is an honor to be included with such amazing people." — **Brianna Bodine**

NOVELIST



& **LILA GUZMAN** graduated with a doctorate in Spanish from UK in 1980. She immediately began her career as a lecturer. In 1981, Guzman joined the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the Defense Language Institute. Here she taught native born instructors how to teach their language to members of the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

"It was probably the most fascinating job I've ever had. In a class of 12 newly hired instructors, I could have Spanish, German, Korean, Russian, and Chinese in the same workshop," Guzman said.

After leaving the Navy, Guzman became a translator of 19th century Spanish novels. Then she would make a great leap from translating



novels to writing fiction, due to a suggestion from her husband. His suggestion would prove to be more than just advice. It would spark Guzman's love of authoring children's novels.

Guzman now writes novels, among other works, that raise awareness of Hispanic contributions to U.S. history. Her love for Spanish history is deeply rooted.

"I can remember, as a graduate student at UK, being asked to help catalogue 13th century Spanish manuscripts. I knew

this was the chance of a lifetime. I would probably never hold books so precious and ancient ever again," Guzman said.

Guzman has received awards for children's fiction, such as the National TCARA book Award (2006) and the Arizona Authors Literary Award (2006). When asked if she would ever return to teaching or translation, Guzman replied, "I love what I do. I have a fantastic job. I get to travel and meet people; however, my favorite aspect of this job is working with and meeting the children that enjoy my novels." — **Lisa L. Beeler**

& The salt flats near Huari, Bolivia, are renowned for their congregations of pink flamingos and their disorienting brilliance on a clear day. **Mary Richie** and **Tiffany Thompson**, both recent College of Arts & Sciences geography graduates, sought each other out to explore the barren landscape. The boat marks where the water's edge once was.

"The lure of pink flamingos that congregate in salty waters atop these heights is what dared us to bike to the salt flats," Richie said. "We biked as far as we could until our tires began to break the top layer of the flat. We could see a haze of pink in the distance and feathers on the ground, but it was hard to determine direction and

distance with the reflection off the white, crystallized ground."

Richie was traveling through Central America, visiting developmental projects and assisting at an orphanage. Thompson was working as a Peace Corps volunteer in a small village two hours from the central city of Oruro teaching children environmental awareness. This cold desert environment, called Altiplano, is a barren yet productive climate, and the low amounts of oxygen at this altitude made for some amazing sunsets, according to Richie.

But during their trek they discovered something less pleasant about the flats — beneath the glimmering top crust, a layer of black sewage. They had to turn around, disheartened and disgusted. "There is little education in Bolivia about the impact humans have on their environment," Richie said. "Trash is thrown in the streets or just outside of town and sewage is washed into waterways. This firsthand experience of global climate change and local pollution from nearby villages was very sad to encounter. Yet, it encouraged our desire to be a part positive change. Tiffany's work in the Altiplano is hard, humbling, and important; I admire her for it. We know and trust that even small changes can make global impacts."

BOLIVIA



Thompson has one more year with the Peace Corps, and Richie is currently developing outreach and support programs for Hispanic youths through the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association and Hispanic Resource Center.

"Our background with the geography department at UK has helped us lay a foundation of awareness, experience and curiosity that continues to lead to productivity and change. The professors have a contagious passion that they invite and challenge their students to experience. Tiffany and I are grateful for the encouragement they provide." — **Brianna Bodine**

SCHOLARSHIP UPLIFTS

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Howard, a College of Arts & Sciences ambassador, is also active in many campus programs and clubs, including the pre-law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta, the Japanese Culture in Kentucky Society, Habitat for Humanity and the Honors Program. And he keeps a 3.84 GPA. All of his hard work has paid off — he is recipient of the Tippet Scholarship for a second year in a row.

"An A&S education, unlike other colleges, gives you a different way of thinking. You really gain analytical and critical thinking skills," Howard said. "It's a worldly education that broadens your mind." &

Jennifer Roberts



# The Honor Roll

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**Alum finds second home at UK**

By Robin Roenker

WHEN JILL M. RAPPIS TRAVELED FROM HER native Wisconsin to visit the UK campus during her college search, she knew right away that UK was the place for her. “I did a lot of chatting with students and people in registration,” recalls Rappis, who graduated from UK in 1980 with a BA in English. “I really liked it. I just fell in love with the place.” Rappis wanted to pursue law, and UK’s then active undergraduate pre-law program — one of the few in the country at that time — was what encouraged her to consider UK. The blend of English and other pre-law classes were just the foundation she needed to prepare for her law degree, which she earned at Marquette University in 1984. “As an upperclassman, we were able to take courses that were held in the law school with the law school faculty so we could get a sense of the law school curriculum. That was a really neat way to transition. It let you know if the subject matter was something you were interested in or not too keen on,” she says. Out of law school, Rappis first practiced as a litigation attorney with Rooks, Pitts, and Poust in Chicago focusing on medical professional and pharmaceutical liability. She then went on to serve as assistant general counsel for Loyola University of Chicago from 1991 to 1997. She now holds positions as assistant vice president, assistant corporate secretary, and associate general counsel for the Loyola University Health System. Because she works in a nonprofit, university environment, Rappis says she understands

the importance of outside funding for student programming and scholarships. “If we don’t give back, what’s to become of UK and its students?” she says. “I try to give back in a little way to serve as an example to other alumni. What better way to help honor the place that helped form you?” A longtime donor to UK’s general fund and Alumni Association, Rappis began designating her funds more specifically for the A&S College around 2002, when she became a member of the UK Fellows Society. Since 2006, she’s also supported the college as a member of both the A&S Advisory Board and the Dean’s Circle. “I try to give what I can monetarily, but I also try to give back my time, too,” she says. Her donations to the A&S discretionary fund to date include a \$16,000 gift awarded to the history department and a \$9,000 gift to the college itself. “I will never be able to give back everything UK has given me,” says Rappis. “I got a lot of direction from professors about the way that I could improve my skills to make me a better applicant to law school and a better lawyer. Even if I was in a class that had a lot of students in it, I never felt like a number there.” Rappis fondly recalls her days at UK in Delta Gamma sorority and the Student Activities Board, attending UK football and basketball games and spring and fall meets at Keeneland. “It gets in your blood,” she says of her time in the Bluegrass State. “Kentucky still feels like home to me in a lot of ways.” &

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## Paying back is in math alum's nature

By Robin Roenker

JOHN TERRY (J.T.) GINN RECALLS EXACTLY how much his first semester's tuition was at UK when he started there in 1963: \$110.

He saved money from various summer jobs and from grading papers in the math department and working in the kitchen at his fraternity so that, come Thanksgiving that first year, he could pay his father back by sliding a \$100 bill and a \$10 bill under his dad's plate.

"I was very lucky to have gotten a really good education for basically almost nothing," says Ginn, who received a BS in math from UK in 1967 and an MS in math there in 1968.

To "pay that back a little bit," Ginn and his wife, Maryann Hutchison, have begun making regular contributions to UK's mathematics department and have set up a willed endowment that will provide a \$1 million gift to establish the Ginn Chair in Mathematics at UK.

Ginn, a native of Louisville, now lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., where he works as an algorithm analyst and lead software architect on satellite system design for Scientific Applicators International Corporation (SAIC). He also teaches online mathematics courses for several colleges, including Florida's St. Leo University.

Fresh out of UK in 1968, Ginn got a job with Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he put to use his UK master's thesis to discover a new way to develop guidance systems for antiballistic missile systems. Later, he was employed by Lockheed-Sanders to develop classified digital signal processing systems used by the U.S. military.

In the late 1990s, he developed his own San Francisco-based dot com to design a secure online eCommerce trading system. Following that, he worked as a software consultant and for three years as a senior engineering specialist with The Aerospace Company in El Segundo, Calif., where he helped design four new military satellite systems — one of which is scheduled to launch in 2008.



This fall, Ginn will return to UK's campus to share details of his career and successful mathematical applications with students at Homecoming as the math department's featured speaker.

He's sure the visit will bring back fond memories of his time at UK.

"Truth be told, I probably should have spent a little more time studying," he says. "But I had a really good time. I was in a fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon. I still have some of those friends. And I went to class once in a while."

Ginn cites his math department advisor, Dr. Cox, and his thesis advisor, Dr. SMH Shaw, as having been particularly influential. He also enjoyed the many history classes he took at UK, he says, and the English class he took on etymology (the study of word origins) was the springboard for what's become a lifetime hobby.

He and his wife love traveling and dream one day of buying a home in France so that their three kids and seven grandkids can spend summers with them there. But Ginn loves his job too much to plan to retire just yet.

"I feel lucky," he says. "I like what I'm doing. That just sort of feeds on itself."

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## Diverse Experiences Paved Way for Future Success

By Robin Roenker



FRESH OUT OF UK IN 1961 WITH a political science degree, Tom Tippet found himself getting Romanian language training as an Army counterintelligence agent in Frankfort, Germany. It was a role his four years with UK's ROTC program trained him well for, he says. After five years in the military, Tippet embarked on a successful 39-year business career with Allstate — which took him from his native Louisville to Indianapolis to Denver to Chicago to Cleveland and then back to Chicago, where he lives now— and saw him advance to Vice President of Human Resources before his retirement in 2004. Tippet's varied and rich UK experiences — his military preparation through ROTC, his academic coursework, playing on the UK baseball team for coach Harry Lancaster, and being a member of Sigma Nu fraternity — “played a major role in my life,” he says. “They were the first building block to help me to be able to grow and mature in the job I eventually selected.” Tippet and his wife, Jeri, have made two \$50,000 gifts to UK to establish the Thomas M. and Jeri A. Tippet Scholarship in Arts & Sciences. Recipients must be an Arts & Sciences major, sophomore or higher, and take three credit hours of business per semester. “We are delighted to be able to give back,” says Tippet, who fills his retirement with golf, travel and visits with his two children and six grandchildren.

“The way I feel about my four years at UK is that it was and is some of the finer moments of my life,” Tippet says. “I thoroughly enjoyed it and look back on it with fondness. I made lifelong friends, and my experiences there certainly got me ready for the business world.” Now that he's retired, Tippet stays in touch with his UK friends often through Sigma Nu and baseball reunions and UK Fellows Society events. In the mid 1980s, when Tippet was still working full-time and his visits back to campus were less frequent, he went for a jog during a business trip to Lexington and was surprised at how much the campus had changed. He got a bit of a jolt: “The jog made me feel old,” he recalls, laughing. “I realized I was jogging past new buildings on campus that were named for people that I knew, like Frank Dickey, who had been president, when I was a student.” For Tippet, giving back to UK and helping other young students pursue their education here is a way to honor the life-changing role the university played in his own life. “There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not learning something new,” he says. “UK was a big part of that.”

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