



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY, INC.
www.uky.edu/UKAEF

Volume XXXVI, Number 3

UKAEF NEWSLETTER

February 2026

February Meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026

By Dick Clayton, Vice President UKAEF

Promoting Health in the Commonwealth

Our PRESENTERS:



Dr. Laura Stephenson, the Vice-President for land-grant engagement and Dean, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment (CAFÉ).

and



Dr. Heather Bush, Kate Spade and Company Endowed Professor and Dean of the College of Public Health (CPH).

Both received their doctorate from UK, Stephenson in Public Health and Bush in Statistics.

One of CAFÉ's three major goals is building the health and well-being of Kentuckians, a goal shared by CPH. Both colleges have an infrastructure and workforce that can be used to achieve this goal. CAFÉ has extension agents in every one of Kentucky's 120 counties. CPH is integrally connected to 14 Regional Health Departments covering 73 counties and local health departments in 47 counties. Kentucky's 120 counties are also served by 15 Area Development Districts.

The presentation by Deans Stephenson and Bush will highlight how strategic collaboration involving personnel in the cooperative extension infrastructure and personnel from health departments are crucial for improving health and well-being for all Kentuckians.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By Ron Hustedde

Q: What happens if you put 187 UKAEF members in an Excel row?

A: Dick Clayton, UKAEF VP, probed into our Master membership file. He learned it adds up to 30.58 mean years of employed service to UK. It counts up to 5,718 years of service to the University of Kentucky. Those figures translate into centuries of institutional knowledge, deep connections with alumni, funders, colleagues, and continuing volunteer contributions to university life and civic life.

The UKAEF Executive Committee is building bridges to strengthen our visibility and the impact of our members on

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2025

Place: St. Luke Church

2351 Alumni Dr. Lexington, KY 40517

(Due to construction around the Good Barn, all meetings for the 2025-2026 year will be held at St. Luke Church)

Social Time: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Program 12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Laura Stephenson & Dr. Heather Bush
Scholarship Student Recipients

Topic: "Promoting Health in the Commonwealth"

Business Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 1:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 10 BOX LUNCHEON MENU FROM
McALLISTER'S DELI**

Your choices include:

- **The Veggie Box:** Spinach, tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, red onions, house-roasted multi-colored peppers, avocado and herb mayo, seasoned with salt n' pepper on 9- Grain bread.
- **Premium Club Sandwich Box:** Ham, turkey, bacon, cheddar, mayo, honey mustard, lettuce, tomato. Potato salad, Cookie
- **French Dip Box Lunch:** Roast beef, Swiss cheese, au jus, with a side of Caesar salad and cookie
- **Savannah Chopped Salad:** Grilled chicken, cranberries, gorgonzola cheese, honey almonds, tomato, and cucumber sherry shallot dressing on mixed greens with a side of fresh fruit

The lunch box will include drinks (lemonade, sweet tea, or unsweetened tea with ice)

*Please submit your choice by the deadline of
Friday, January 30, 2026.*

(Reservation form is on insert of this newsletter.)

campus:

- ◆ DEANS - Two UK deans want to harness the power of the emeriti faculty and retired professional staff. Learn more at our February 10th luncheon.
- ◆ PRACTICUMS - Lexie Robins, a UK undergraduate, is interviewing emeriti faculty and professional staff as part of her 150-hour practicum for the Community & Leadership Development Department during the 2026 spring semester. This will open the door to future UK practicums within our association.
- ◆ CONNECTIONS - We are pursuing connections with other retirement associations in higher education, UK elected alumni foundation members, trustees, and laying groundwork at UK for graduate research about emeriti.
- ◆ AMBASSADORS - Several people have agreed to serve as ambassadors for the UK Colleges of Public Health, Agriculture, Education, and Business and Economics. We need more to increase our visibility. Volunteers? Reach me at Ronald.hustedde@uky.edu or 859-351-3991

ABOUT THE GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT SPEAKERS

By Lee Edgerton and Susan Abbott Jamieson

UKAEF sponsors 3 scholarships each year of \$2500 each to graduate and doctoral students interesting in university teaching. In addition, James and Ann Chapman sponsor an additional scholarship of \$2,500.

The recipients of these scholarships are invited to speak briefly at our February luncheon meeting.

Garrett David Freas-History

Garret Freas is a Doctoral student in history whose goal is to serve as an academic and intellectual for the public good. He ties that goal to his desire to teach, "and to teach well." In his view teaching well means that one "ought to serve the public good and help facilitate and sustain a society where human independence is rooted in shared flourishing, not exclusivity." He has impressed his DGS for the way he has taken charge of his program and for his ability to absorb and analyze literature. Another faculty member noted that in a graduate seminar Garrett came to every class thoroughly prepared often having read supplemental literature. She described Garret as the ideal student noting that he regularly led the class conversation. In addition to being one of the "most energetic and intellectually capacious" students in the program, he has been a valued colleague, serving as volunteer on the History Department's Program Committee and as an official on the History Department Graduate Student Association. Another faculty member notes that Garret has become the "model of our expectations for graduate students."



Lilia Nohemy Rodriguez Leiva-Hispanic Studies

A native of Honduras, Lilia Rodriguez followed a non-linear path to becoming a doctoral student in Hispanic Studies. Her earliest connection to teaching was in music.

Following the death of her father when she was 12 years old, music became a "refuge and a calling." However, she notes that this early immersion in the language of music provided the foundation for her passion to teach spoken

language as a "means of compassion, identity and empowerment." As an ESL instructor she observed that language acquisition is not "merely a cognitive process but a deeply social and emotional one". This observation led her to obtain a Graduate Certificate for Teaching in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms working on her doctorate at UK. One faculty member notes that she "consistently demonstrates the ability to connect complex theoretical frameworks with real world applications, reflecting both intellectual depth and maturity." Another faculty member says her success as an instructor reflects her "effective face to face interpersonal communication and her high degree of emotional intelligence.... Her students are engaged and adore her. They have told me that she makes learning fun and puts them at ease."



Sarah Stasel-Biology

Sarah Stasel is a doctoral student in Biology investigating circadian rhythms in gut bacteria. Prior to joining the Biology Department, she experienced a range of student experiences including home schooling through the 12th grade, receiving an associate degree from ECTC and a bachelor's degree from WKU. Her DGS notes the significant progress she is making in her research, reflected in 16 Oral or poster presentations of which she is senior author on nine. Her enthusiasm for research complements her interest in teaching. She has completed the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning. Her dedication to teaching includes serving as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant at WKU in BIO 155 and BIO 209 at UK. According to the Instructor, BIO 209 is a rigorous introductory course in laboratory methods in microbiology which depends heavily on strong TA leadership and in which Sarah "stood out among her peers." She also notes that in the BIO 355 education abroad program Sarah provided key leadership and support for 18 students traveling to Amsterdam. In 2025, she was named Biology Outstanding Teaching Assistant and the A&S Outstanding Teaching Assistant. Due to her progress in research as well as her service (she currently serves as President of the Biology Graduate Student Association) and teaching contributions to the department she was awarded the department's Biology Merit Fellowship.



Victor Izuchukwu Ugwuengbu-Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences

Victor Ugwuengbu is a doctoral student in Plant and Soil Sciences. After receiving a master's degree in a joint program with Ghent University in Belgium and Aarhus University in Denmark, he enrolled in UK, anticipating that he would seek a career in an agricultural technology industry. However, he was required to assist in an introductory soils course and, in his words: "What began as a teaching duty soon became a defining experience that reshaped my academic and professional path." His DGS notes that Victor is committed to innovative approaches to education. As evidence, he cites a "remarkable achievement, unique in my experience among students... in plant science programs" which is creating an upcoming exhibit in the Nigerian National Museum titled *The Soil as an Archive: An Exhibition of Southeast Nigeria Soil Monolith*. His major advisor says his progress has been "nothing short of remarkable." Given his academic success

(4.0), his research progress (submitted three competitive grant proposals) and his consistently positive teaching reviews from faculty and students, it is not surprising that he was named the Outstanding New PhD Student in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences.

CAMPUS UPDATES from UK Now

By Sheila Woods

Dec. 2, 2025-UK receives \$150 million gift from The Bill Gatton Foundation to create an arts district by constructing a new College of Fine Arts building and a several-hundred seat theater. The gift is the single largest in UK's history.

November 14, 2025-UK launches campus-wide artificial intelligence initiative
CATS (Commonwealth AI Transdisciplinary Strategy)
AI will serve as a central hub to integrate AI activities across UK's 17 colleges, libraries, research centers and institutes, as well as its academic and health care enterprises.

November 24, 2025-UK awarded \$11 million from NIH for diabetes research

UK researchers were awarded a highly competitive Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence grant to build much-needed capacity for diabetes prevention research. The five-year, \$11 million grant will strengthen the foundation of diabetes prevention research by expanding and modernizing diabetes-focused infrastructure across campus and throughout the Commonwealth.

IN MEMORIAM

- ◆ David Ralph Brown- Physiology and Biomedical Engineering
- ◆ Anne Freeman, Spouse of Mike Freeman- Mathematics
- ◆ Janel Funk, Spouse of James Funk- Dean, College of Engineering
- ◆ Philip A. Greasley-English
- ◆ Norman Gurney- English
- ◆ Anwar Hussain- Pharmacy
- ◆ Jacob L. Karnes- Office for Handicapped Students
- ◆ Judith Page- Speech, Language Pathologist
- ◆ Audrey Rooney, Spouse of James R. Rooney- Gluck Equine Research Center
- ◆ Dorothy Ann Swintosky, Spouse of Joseph Swintosky- Pharmacy

“Good teaching is forever and the teacher is immortal.”—Jesse Stuart

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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UK ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, 2025-2026*

(Dues for 2025-2026 should be paid in September 2025)

**IF NO CHANGES FROM 24-25 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SIMPLY WRITE "NO CHANGES" ON THIS FORM
WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR DUES.**

NAME _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____

Dept./Col. _____

Address _____

Zip+4 _____ Tel. _____

E-mail address (please include, if you have one) _____

2025-26 Dues are* \$35 (includes spouse or partner) **CHECK ONE:** New member _____ Renewal _____

If you would like to receive future newsletters via e-mail only, please check here: _____

MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FELLOWSHIP FUND* \$ _____

(CHECK ONE) in memory of _____ in honor of _____ Name: _____

*Make check for membership dues and /or fellowship donation payable to UK Association of Emeriti Faculty (UKAEF).

Mail form and check(s) to: UKAEF, c/o Casie Clements, 4812 Trillium Pl., Lexington, KY 40514-1410

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL, ON THIS NEWSLETTER, TO SEE IF YOU HAVE
PREVIOUSLY PAID YOUR 25/26 DUES.**

(If you receive your newsletter electronically feel free to email casie.ukaef@gmail.com to check if you have previously paid your dues.)

NOTE: A few folks paid early and used last year's rate. Your mailing label on this newsletter will indicate that dues have not been paid with a "no", if less than the \$35.00 25/26 dues have been paid your label will indicate the amount received to date, and if paid in full your label will say "yes" next to the Dues Paid field.)

UK ASSOCIATION OF EMERITI FACULTY
BOX LUNCHEON RESERVATION for **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

I plan to attend the luncheon. Enclosed is \$ _____ for # _____ reservation(s) at \$15.00 each.

NAME _____ GUEST'S NAME _____

Box Lunch Choice(s): _____ **Veggie** _____ **Premium Club**

_____ **French Dip** _____ **Savannah Chopped Salad**

Is transportation to St. Luke's Church a problem for you? _____ Yes _____ No

If "Yes", what is your address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

*Make check for luncheon reservation payable to UK Association of Emeriti Faculty (UKAEF).

Mail form and check to: UKAEF, c/o Casie Clements, 4812 Trillium Pl., Lexington, KY 40514-1410

Note: Deadline for making reservations or to cancel reservations is Friday, January 30, 2026.

If close to deadline: Call Casie at 502-219-6172 or e-mail: casie.ukaef@gmail.com so you can be added to the luncheon list in order to meet the catering deadline.
