



A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,
The University of Louisville has a statutory mandate to be a “premier nationally recognized metropolitan research university.” We are often asked, “What exactly does this mean?”

Clearly, “premier” means an unrelenting commitment to quality and excellence. We don’t want to be the biggest, we want to be the best; we cannot be all things to all people, but what we do, we will do with a passion for excellence.

The Kentucky General Assembly has designated two universities in Kentucky to be “research” universities—our faculty engage in creativity, scholarship and the creation of new knowledge to improve economic opportunity and the quality of life for the people of our community and state.

And finally, “metropolitan” is more than just a recognition that we are located in the state’s only major urban area. Being a metropolitan university means that engagement in our community, region and state is an integral part of our DNA. Along with teaching and research, we value community engagement and working daily to improve education, economic opportunity, healthcare and social services in our community and region.

The University of Louisville has just received the Carnegie Classification as a Community Engagement university—this is a big deal! It means that our involvement in our community has been evaluated and we have achieved certain benchmarks and standards of excellence. So, we are proud of this Carnegie Foundation recognition.

We are also proud of what is happening on our own campus. A \$1.2M grant to train more teachers to work with students with disabilities, Forbes’ recognition of three of our recent graduates as among the thirty best entrepreneurs/innovators in the country, and the work of our Conn Center for Renewable Energy with their recent discoveries and success of a startup business.

Finally, we exist for our students, and their success continues to amaze us. Miss Kentucky USA, Katie George, is proof that brains, athletic ability and beauty can all be wrapped into one amazing individual. 2015 will be an exciting year, as we continue to work daily to achieve the mandate that you the people of the Commonwealth have given to us.

James R. Ramsey President, University of Louisville

Three alums on Forbes 30 Under 30 list

Forbes Magazine named three J.B. Speed School of Engineering graduates to its 2015 “30 Under 30” list. An A-List team of judges developed a list of 600 innovators, men and women under the age of 30, across 20 different categories. Marianne Barnes made the Food and Drink list, while Jeremiah Chapman and Alex Frommeyer appeared in the Manufacturing and Industry category.



Marianne Barnes, master taster for Woodford Reserve

Jeremiah Chapman, founder of FreshFry LLC

Alex Frommeyer, co-founder of Beam Technologies



UofL repeats as Carnegie Community Engagement University

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching again recognized the University of Louisville for its commitment to community engagement. UofL joined 239 U.S. colleges and universities on the list and was one of 157 schools, out of 188 eligible, to achieve reclassification.

President James Ramsey said, “(t)he university faculty, staff and students continue to play vital roles in the social, economic, health and educational well-being of this city, and our community partners provide opportunities for our students to use their talents in real-world settings.”



President James Ramsey with students from J.B. Atkinson Elementary, a Signature Partnership school

Ambassador brings bipartisan message to UofL

Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., spoke at UofL this month. During her speech on bipartisanship and U.S. foreign policy, Power praised UofL's humanitarian efforts in the fight against Ebola. Other topics included confronting violent extremism and advancing democracy in Burma.



U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power greets McConnell Scholars during her engagement at UofL.

Junior crowned Miss Kentucky USA

Katie George has earned local, state, national and international acclaim as a top volleyball player. Earlier this month, George added a new kind of title to her name: Miss Kentucky USA. She hails from Louisville and is majoring in both communications and sport administration. George will compete in the Miss USA pageant in September.



Volleyball player Katie George had never entered a beauty pageant before.

UofL receives \$1.2 million for teacher training

A \$1.2 million federal grant will fund two years of tuition for students to earn dual certification in elementary education and teaching individuals with moderate/severe intellectual disability. Assistant education professor Robert Pennington explained "(t)here has been a perennial shortage of teachers trained to help special needs children. This grant should go a long way toward addressing that problem."



Assistant education professor Robert Pennington will oversee the dual certification program.



Research scientist Thad Druffel, who works in solar manufacturing research and development

School of Music Receives Largest Ever Gift

The School of Music will create the "Max Baumgardner Endowed Fund for Excellence in Jazz Studies" with its half of a \$12.6 million planned gift. Max Baumgardner said, "I've always loved music. I'm sort of a fanatic." Baumgardner pledged the other half of the gift to UofL athletics, in part to support student academic resources.



The jazz studies program will use \$6.3 million for faculty positions, student scholarships and additional programming.

Conn Center startup earns national grant

A company that originated at UofL's Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research, Bert Thin Films LLC, received a \$225,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The small business technology grant will support the development and commercialization of a new material to reduce the costs associated with manufacturing solar cells. Bert Thin Films was started in 2014 to commercialize technology developed by Conn Center personnel Thad Druffel and Ruvini Dharmadasa.