A Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Family of UofL,

The graduating class of 2014 was a sight to behold on May 10th. On the most special day in the life of the academy, I could see the smiles, hope and, in some cases, trepidation on the faces of the 1,700 University of Louisville graduates who took part in our two commencement ceremonies. Add in the other 1,200 students who completed degree work but elected not to have their names called at commencement, and you have got the largest graduating class in the history of UofL. That’s due to our rapidly improving graduation rate and the hard work of our students, faculty and staff. Our athletics staff and student-athletes are also helping the cause with word this month from the NCAA that nine UofL teams, including the football squad, posted perfect Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores last academic year. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank UofL grad John Codey and the Helmsley Charitable Trust for another grant to our cancer research program. Their belief that we can find a way to use tobacco plants to produce and deliver cancer vaccines is inspiring. We look forward to rewarding their faith in us.

James Ramsey
President, University of Louisville

New Beginnings

More than 1,700 newly minted graduates and their families took part in the University of Louisville’s commencement ceremonies. UofL President James Ramsey presided at both the morning and afternoon ceremonies, recalling recent university highlights such as higher graduation rates, an increase in doctoral degrees, the surpassing of a major fundraising milestone and campus improvements.

“We know—let me repeat, we know—that the great things that have happened at the University of Louisville have happened because of you,” Ramsey told the graduates.

Physics Professor David Brown Wins Trustees Award

UofL’s trustees awarded physics professor David Brown, PhD (at center of photo) the Trustees Award, the highest honor given by the board. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the student experience and includes mention on a plaque and a $5,000 prize.

Top Scholars Announced

Noted entrepreneur Sam Swope received an honorary degree in recognition of his enduring support of UofL. Pictured here with his wife Marlys.

Philanthropist Sam Swope Receives Honorary Degree

Former Student Government Association President Carrie Mattingly, an economics and political science major, spoke at the afternoon ceremony.

Oh, the Places You’ll Go!

Entrepreneurship Team Earns International Recognition

A start-up business launched by four UofL MBA students earned $113,500 this spring in contests that teach budding entrepreneurs how to raise venture capital. Matthew Raggard, Katie Neutz, Leah Enders and Nick Phelps (from left to right in photo) market TheraBracelet, a wristband developed to improve hand movement in people with nerve disorders. They won $3,000 for their 3rd place finish at the Global Venture Labs Investment Competition in May, as well as $101,000 at the Rice Business Plan Competition and $2,500 at the Oregon New Venture Championship, both in April.

A total of six Entrepreneurship MBA teams competed in 21 regional, national and global competitions, racking up four wins and four additional finalist finishes. Total cash winnings and investment commitments exceed $207,000.

UofL Receives $5.5 Million Cancer Vaccine Grant

Based upon the significant progress made in drug and vaccine development over the past three years, the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has provided a three-year, $5.5 million grant to the James Graham Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville. The grant will be used to bring to market new treatments and vaccines for various forms of cancer.

“Our team showed enough promise that the Helmsley Charitable Trust provided more than $3 million in research support in 2010. Today’s grant, with Dr. Donald Miller, director of the James Graham Brown Cancer Center as the principal investigator, demonstrates the confidence the leaders of the trust have in the work that is being accomplished,” stated President James Ramsey.

The new funding will help UofL researchers move into clinical trials with vaccines for cervical and colon cancer. Additionally, researchers will further develop plant-based drug delivery systems to allow for higher concentrations of anticancer drugs directly to human tumors, as well as increase a tumor’s sensitivity to anticancer treatment.

“The work of Dr. Miller and his team has the potential to significantly impact health around the world,” said John Codey, a trustee with the Helmsley Charitable Trust. “They are focusing on finding much less expensive methods for delivering vaccines and medications so that they are accessible to people in the poorest of countries.”

GE Names UofL to Elite “Executive Schools” List

General Electric (GE) recently named UofL’s J.B. Speed School of Engineering to its select list of “executive schools.” This status should provide current Speed School students with enhanced co-op and internship possibilities, and graduates with greater recruiting and career advancement opportunities with GE. The list now totals 47 institutions, including the University of Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame. Speed School Dean Neville Pinto noted that UofL is “now part of the top 50 engineering schools for GE recruitment. Seventy percent of GE’s engineering hires are from executive schools.”

UofL and Churchill Downs: A Winning Ticket

For the first time ever, Churchill Downs commissioned UofL student artists to paint the winning silks from Grade I stakes races on seven jockey statues on the grounds.

With help from Kentucky’s first lady, Jane Beshear, the Kentucky Cancer Program at UofL coordinates the Kentucky Oaks Survivors Pink Post Parade.

Every year since 1936, the UofL Marching Band has performed “My Old Kentucky Home” prior to the running of the Kentucky Derby.

Nurse practitioner students and dental residents team up to provide health care and oral screenings respectively to backside employees through the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center.

Dean of the J.B. Speed School of Engineering Neville Pinto said that the designation will result in more co-op, internship and full-time employment opportunities for engineering students.