

UofL's first African American VP retiring after 31 years on campus

By Alicia Kelso - JUNE 14, 2017



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Dan Hall, UofL's vice president for the Office of Community Engagement, joined the university in the fall of 1985 after spending seven years in Washington, DC, working on Capitol Hill with Louisville Congressman Ron Mazzoli.

His office is responsible for the facilitation, coordination, assessment and recognition of the community engagement activities of faculty, staff and students, and also directs the activities of the **Signature Partnership Initiative**.

In addition to serving on numerous community boards, Hall is co-founder of the Louisville Public Radio Partnership Board of Directors. The Louisville native, Central High School graduate, is also a three-time Golden Gloves Champion. He earned his undergraduate from Dartmouth College, Law degree from Harvard University and Master of the Arts in Theological Studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

UofL News had the chance to talk to Hall about his career and how the concept of community engagement has changed in the past three decades.

UofL News: What made you come back to Louisville?

Dan Hall: I was approached by UofL to oversee governmental, public and community relations. I accepted the position thinking it would provide a great opportunity to reconnect with the community before resuming my law practice. Little did I know at the beginning that it would become a labor of love for 31 years. Also, my wife Sheila and I were delighted to return home to raise our three young children in a community that is so family friendly.

UofL News: In your time here, what has surprised you the most and what accomplishments have made you most proud?

Dan Hall: I was pleased to discover that very few things of significance happen in this community without the direct or indirect involvement of this wonderful university. As an anchor institution, UofL usually is involved in major new initiatives in the areas of education, healthcare, economic development, technology, social services and the arts and culture. I soon realized that UofL provided me with a wonderful platform from which to make a difference in our community.

I am particularly proud to have been the first African American appointed to a vice president position here at UofL. I'm proud that I successfully secured a prominent role for UofL during the enactment of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. This historic law assigned to UofL its current mission to become a premier metropolitan research university. As a part of this legislation, the General Assembly appropriated the initial funds to create the Research Challenge Trust Fund known as the

“Bucks for Brains” program. This historic legislation and funding established the foundation and trajectory for UofL to become a major research university that is helping to transform and advance our community.

Of course, I’m also very proud of the nationally recognized Signature Partnership Initiative with west Louisville. Last year more than 2,000 UofL undergraduate, graduate and professional students, along with over 600 UofL faculty and staff, participated in more than 100 research or service-learning projects in collaboration with many community partners.

UofL News: How has the concept of community engagement changed during your career?

Dan Hall: In the world of higher education, community engagement is now regarded as a critically important pedagogy for teaching students, conducting research or focusing service. In years past, community engagement simply was deemed to be a one-way street with the university reaching out to community to benefit society. The academy now understands there is a mutual benefit to community engagement. Not only does the community benefit, but student learning outcomes are advanced when students leave campus and apply what they learn in the classroom or laboratory to solving or addressing real-world issues.

UofL News: What has been your favorite thing about working here? What is your favorite part of campus?

Dan Hall: Having access to good basketball and football tickets has been my favorite thing about working at UofL. The panoramic views of campus from the windows in my office on the second floor of Grawemeyer Hall overlooking the Oval are second to none.

UofL News: What are your retirement plans?

Dan Hall: My family, including five grandchildren, will now have me full-time. I look forward to staying connected with community sharing the love of God and sharing the word of God.

Retirement party

The university community is invited to attend a retirement reception for Hall on June 22, from 4–6 p.m. in the University Club Ballroom.

A short program will begin at 5 p.m. Additional information is [available online](#).

Alicia Kelso

Alicia Kelso is editor of UofLNews and UofL Today. She joined UofL in 2015 as communications director of the Brandeis School of Law. Prior, she was the editorial director of foodservice media for Networld Media Group, where her work was featured in publications around the world, including NPR, Bloomberg, The Seattle Times, Good Morning America and Franchise Asia Magazine. She continues to serve as a contributor for many publications, including QSRweb.com, FastCasual.com and Innovation Leader.

UofL 'always been home' to Keith Inman

By Alicia Kelso - JULY 10, 2017



Keith Inman has served as VP for University Advancement since November 2006. From 2007 to 2014, he oversaw the successful "Charting Our Course" fundraising campaign, which exceeded its \$1 billion goal ahead of schedule and by nearly \$59 million.

Keith Inman earned his bachelor of arts degree from UofL in 1978. His career started at his alma mater shortly thereafter, when he was named director of national alumni clubs in the Alumni Association.

His path eventually took him to other places – an insurance business in Elizabethtown, the University of Maryland, Cary, North Carolina, and Jewish Hospital in Louisville. But he often came back to UofL; since 1978, Inman has served in a variety of capacities on both the Belknap and HSC campuses.

In 2006, Inman was named VP for University Advancement for UofL and has served in that role since. At the end of this month, he will retire from the university before embarking on a new adventure as president of Kosair Charities.

UofL News had the chance to talk to Inman about his nearly 40-year career, what kept him coming back to campus throughout those years, and what he will miss most about working for his alma mater.

UofL News: What made you want to stay here to start your career and return again after other opportunities?

Keith Inman: For me, UofL has always been home. It has been a good place to be from and a good place to be. Early in my career I was like a lot of young people: I had no clue what I wanted to be when I grew up, so change was necessary. As I learned more about myself, I knew I could make a difference here. I went to other places to learn, to get out of my comfort zone, be challenged, grow and to hone my trade. When I came back in 2006, it was with and for a purpose. That was to start and complete a campaign. One with a magnitude we had never done. It was a big goal, I knew given the time and resources we could do it.

UofL News: How have your roles at UofL differed? Are there any similarities?

Keith Inman: All have a development or fundraising purpose, so they were similar there. Each had a vision or role to be bigger, be the best and make a difference in their respective areas of focus. In each area, we came to work wanting to improve and compete at higher levels. So as I think about it, there are many more similarities than differences.

UofL News: What has been your biggest challenge at UofL?

Keith Inman: It is hard to think about one challenge, there have been several. Obviously, the issues we are facing now may be the largest, as it seems to be dragging on and on. I am sure we will get through them, as many people are working hard to heal and put these events in the rear view mirror. We have always faced challenges with people not understanding the process of philanthropy, what it takes to be successful and the resources necessary to create a team.

UofL News: What would you consider your biggest personal accomplishment here?

Keith Inman: I don't really think about my accomplishments, I think about our accomplishments. No one does it by themselves. There is a team behind everything. (Inman's wife Susan) and I have raised two outstanding kids. Gary the oldest is about to graduate from the Culinary Institute of America in New York. He is passionate, hard-working and driven to create. James, the youngest, is a junior at Bellarmine. He is a very good student and a great golfer. James works hard and is driven to be the best. Both are little comedians. We are very proud of each.

At UofL we have many accomplishments. The team broke 10 records in a row for fundraising production. We have established a world class Alumni Association. Advancement Services operates at a very high level with almost no mistakes. We have hired great people. When we started, Advancement was the gang that could not shoot straight; we had issues. Now we are the department that is held up as a place that is a Best Practice organization. Again, we did this together.

UofL News: What is your favorite place on campus?

Keith Inman: Crawford Gym ... No wait ... Actually, the Quadrangle between the Library, Life Sciences and Humanities. It is beautiful and peaceful.

UofL News: How has the role of advancement changed throughout your career, if at all?

Keith Inman: There have many changes. It used to be an art. With technology, it has also become a science. It is still a people business and one that is done face to face. It is about the human experience and it is about the relationship. It is about something bigger than you. It is not about you, it is about the donor and the project. It more important now than ever. As other sources of revenue and budgets decrease, this is an area that theoretically can produce an infinite amount of funding, if proper resources are supplied. It has always been about the ask and the stewardship. We all need to do a better job with the stewardship.

UofL News: What will you miss most about UofL?

Keith Inman: I know everyone says the people. I will do the same. I will miss the people. After all, what else is there?

Retirement reception scheduled July 19

A retirement reception will be held for Inman July 19 from 4-6 p.m. in the University Club Ballroom. A short program will begin at 5 p.m. RSVP by Friday, July 14 [via email](#).

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