



Dear Colleagues,

There is never a shortage of good news to share at the end of the academic year. First and foremost, it's commencement season.

Our students, now part of an alumni family more than 163,000 members strong, have much to celebrate. Commencement recognizes the time, effort, energy and sacrifice our students devote to earning their diplomas. The event also marks the ways our outstanding faculty and talented staff create a positive, productive and meaningful higher education experience for our students.

The recently completed session of the Kentucky General Assembly yielded results worth celebrating. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Gov. Andy Beshear, Senate President Robert Stivers, House Speaker David Osborne and all our state legislators who worked diligently to secure the greatest level of funding for the university in its history.

Among the many highlights of the session was the appropriation of \$260 million toward a new Health Sciences Center Simulation Center and Collaboration Hub. That's the largest amount of funding for a single project in UofL's history. It also is the largest project being funded in Louisville and represents the most general fund support for any single project among Kentucky's colleges and universities this session.

This year, the university marked several milestones, including the 50th jubilee of our School of Nursing. We continued groundbreaking research in biomedical and other fields and embarked on new and broadened relationships with local, regional and national partners, expanding our reach and influence throughout the commonwealth and across the country.

Truly, this has been a remarkable year for the University of Louisville. Over the summer, we will recharge, refocus and ready ourselves for what will no doubt be an exciting and successful 2024-25 academic year. Thank you so much for your ongoing interest and support.

Kim Schatzel, PhD
President,
University of
Louisville



REDEFINING STUDENT SUCCESS

More than 2,000 of the approximately 3,100 University of Louisville students who applied for degrees and certificates participated in commencement ceremonies, which took place May 11, 2024. The Class of 2024 included the inaugural cohort of the online Doctor of Social Work students at UofL's Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Sciences and the first graduates of the Brandeis School of Law's Breonna Taylor Legacy Fellowships.



Canon brings industry expertise to mentor UofL graphic design students

On March 22, University of Louisville senior graphic design students experienced **direct personal mentorship** from professionals at Canon Solutions America, in preparation for Portfolio Day, the capstone project for the Hite Institute of Art and Design's bachelor of fine arts in graphic design program. The Canon designers provided expert feedback as students presented their past and current projects in groups during a multi-session virtual meeting.

UofL student carries beekeeping tradition from Meade County to Louisville

Honeybees have always been a part of UofL anthropology student Shelby Robinson's life. Her earliest memories include following her grandfather around their family hives in Meade County, Ky., harvesting honey for their "Bee Happy Farms" honey jars. Through **UofL's beekeeping internship**, Robinson has developed her own beekeeping style under the guidance of the UofL Sustainability mentorship. After graduation, Robinson hopes to continue beekeeping either through volunteering, keeping her own hives or getting involved with the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association.





Successful legislative session

At the conclusion of the 2024 Kentucky legislative session, the University of Louisville saw its state support increased and received approval to move ahead with several key projects. In all, the state is investing more than \$450 million in UofL in 2024-25, along with an additional \$302 million in agency bond authority. The recent session marked a historic moment for the university, securing the largest funding allocation in its history. This resounding vote of confidence demonstrates strong belief in UofL's role as a key economic engine for Louisville and Kentucky.

High school pre-med magnet students shadow UofL doctors

Thirty Central High School juniors were recognized for their hard work at an April 16, 2024, white coat ceremony as part of the school's Pre-Medical Magnet Program, which gives west Louisville students first-hand experience with careers in medicine. Students shadow UofL doctors during rounds at UofL Health – UofL Hospital, scrub into operating rooms and witness surgeries. They also get to practice performing simpler procedures, like sutures, through this immersive curriculum.



School of Nursing Celebrates 50 years

The School of Nursing at the University of Louisville celebrated a significant and storied history with its Golden Jubilee in 2024. The school has graduated more than 7,000 nursing students in the last 50 years and is well known in hospitals and other agencies for its quality graduates.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POWERHOUSE

Heart health research receives \$11.6 million NIH funding

The National Institutes of Health have awarded four grants totaling \$11.6 million to researchers affiliated with UofL's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute to study factors affecting heart health. Through these projects, they hope to better understand how environmental exposures and tobacco products can affect the cardiovascular system, as well as how remodeling takes place in the heart after a heart attack.

Jewish Heritage Fund gift to support UofL biomedical research

UofL has received \$3 million to enhance its research infrastructure and help further groundbreaking work that can save and improve lives. The new funding, a gift from the Jewish Heritage Fund (JHF), will strengthen UofL's core research facilities – shared labs that provide researchers with access to advanced equipment, specialized scientific techniques and skilled personnel that help accelerate discovery and innovation. The gift marks a total of more than \$40 million in combined funding and in-kind donations by JHF to UofL in a decade-long partnership that has resulted in new medical breakthroughs, direct support for 52 researchers and more than \$165 million in new external research funding.

UofL researcher raises awareness of occupational cancer to firefighters

Firefighters take risks every day and many of the risks they face are not visible. James Cripps, who was a firefighter for nearly a decade before becoming a manufacturing administrator at the UofL Health Brown Cancer Center, hopes to eliminate some of those risks. Cripps was recently awarded one of UofL's Outstanding Community Engagement Awards for teaching firefighters throughout Kentucky about occupational cancer and mitigation strategies.

