

New Developments

Alumni are important

The keys to advancing the University of Kentucky rest with its alumni

The University of Kentucky is a major part of my life. I love the university and deeply appreciate the impact our land-grant institution provides through its academic, research and outreach programs. These programs contribute greatly to the well-being in our state and beyond.

I have been a student and employee of UK for 41 years. For the past 26 years, I have relished the joys, relationships and challenges of fund-raising. My first career allowed me the privilege to work in the student service areas of admissions, career placement, advising, financial aid, and with numerous student organizations in the College of Agriculture. Throughout my career, I have had extensive engagement with alumni across Kentucky and the nation. From my experiences I have learned one undeniable thing about alumni: **ALUMNI ARE IMPORTANT!**

If students are the heart of the university, then alumni must surely be its soul. The collective wisdom, fond memories, dedication and support from UK alums is an invaluable asset to UK and a force that can propel the university to unimaginable heights. In fact, no single group has the unique relationship, responsibility and capacity to advance our beloved institution more than alums. More than any other, they want UK to be great.

And alumni are giving back to UK. They are leaders in the community, in business and in government who make a difference for UK. Alumni throughout the country, and the world, are roaring advocates for UK representing the excellence of their academic degree on a daily basis. They are role models for future generations of UK students.

UK alums also support the institution with their financial resources because they realize the need for private giving has never been greater. Since 1970, the percentage of state funding to UK has dramatically decreased

from 54 percent to a new low of 12 percent. The rest of the budget is comprised from money generated through private gifts, tuition, grants and contracts, investments and other sources.

Alumni, individually and corporately, are advancing the University of Kentucky through their annual gifts and as UK Fellows through major gifts. Each contribution is meaningful, has impact, and is helping to advance UK colleges and programs. **ALUMNI ARE IMPORTANT!**



D. Michael Richey '73, '79 AG
Vice President for Development

Annual giving

Annual giving is something all alumni of the University of Kentucky are invited to do each year. Whether they give to their college of graduation, to one of the university's student scholarship funds or to another area of the university, each gift is important for multiple reasons.

First, and most obvious, alumni support helps supply gift revenues for annual budget relief. And with each passing

