

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



WILDCATS GO FOR THE GOLD IN 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS, EARNED A RECORD-SETTING 13 MEDALS

The 2024 Olympic Games, hosted in Paris from July 26-Aug. 11, drew billions of viewers in a historic gathering. The University of Kentucky set a school record with 24 student-athletes, alumni and coaches who participated in the Paris Olympics. Eleven Wildcats won 13 medals — nine gold, two silver and two bronze.

Lee Kiefer and Gerek Meinhardt — two current students in the UK College of Medicine who are happily married to each other — competed for Team USA Fencing. Kiefer, a four-time Olympian, brought home two gold medals, cementing her as the most decorated women's foil fencer in American history with a total of three golds. Keifer and Meinhardt plan to complete their medical training at UK next summer.

UK was among the top 11 colleges with the most American athletes in the 2024 Paris Olympics — tied for seventh place with the University of Virginia. Wildcats represented nine countries: USA, Bahamas, Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, South Africa, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, in six sports: men's basketball, women's basketball, women's volleyball, track and field, diving and fencing.



UK BREAKS GROUND ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BUILDING, ADVANCING THE STATE'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

The UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, joined by members of the Kentucky General Assembly, UK Board of Trustees and university administration, celebrated the groundbreaking of the \$285 million Agricultural Research Building in June.

Set to be completed in November 2026, the 263,000-square-foot building will be the college's central research hub, aligned with its teaching and extension missions, which serve the entire Commonwealth. It will feature state-of-the-art

laboratories, enabling researchers in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences to perform a wide range of analyses and enhance hands-on learning opportunities.

The project represents a significant investment in the college's research enterprise and a partnership between the state and its flagship, land-grant university. A significant outcome from the 2024 legislative session, the project is funded with \$200 million in state bonds and restricted funds from the university.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT: UK HEALTHCARE REMAINS NUMBER 1 IN KENTUCKY, IMPROVES SPECIALTY RANKINGS

The UK HealthCare Albert B. Chandler Hospital is the No. 1 hospital in Kentucky for the ninth year in a row. It was recognized in the Bluegrass Region by the 2024-25 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings from U.S. News & World Report.

Additionally, UK HealthCare again ranked in the top 50 for three specialties, improving its ranking in each area: cancer care (#36), ear, nose and throat (#37) and OB/GYN (#21). Six specialties — four more than the previous year's rankings — also received a "High Performing" designation: Gastroenterology and GI surgery, Geriatrics, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics, Pulmonology and Lung Surgery and Urology.

