

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2025

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



## JAMES F. HARDYMON RECEIVES UK FOUNDERS DAY AWARD

The UK Alumni Association has named James F. Hardyman the recipient of the UK Founders Day Award. Hardyman was honored for his civic engagement with the U.S. Army and dedication to the Bluegrass through his outstanding contributions to engineering and education. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from UK's Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, Hardyman continued to grow in his field as an engineer. His career and impact spanned companies that shaped Kentucky, such as Browning Manufacturing Co., and multinational corporations like Emerson Electric Co. Beyond engineering, Hardyman's dedication has left a lasting impact on his community, particularly at his beloved alma mater. The James F. Hardyman Building, the James and Gay Hardyman Center for Student Success and the James and Gay Hardyman Patient Care Unit at the Markey Cancer Center are concrete examples of his footprint and commitment to giving back. Hardyman's legacy for the new generation of engineering students reflects a remarkable journey — from a Wildcat to a national leader.



## DANCEBLUE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNUAL MARATHON

DanceBlue is a UK student-run philanthropy dedicated to raising funds to support children and families in the fight against pediatric cancer. This year's marathon — held at Historic Memorial Coliseum, March 29-30 — broke last year's record, raising \$2,305,274.20. The funds go to the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic. For 20 years, students have come together to dance and participate in interactive activities during the non-stop, no-sitting marathons. Since 2006, DanceBlue has raised more than \$25 million. In 2024, the organization also broke its record for the largest fundraiser in its history, raising \$2,129,953.87. In addition to its significant financial impact in supporting families and children across Kentucky, DanceBlue has built a legacy of raising awareness about pediatric cancer's challenges and victories.



## FROM THE WHITE HOUSE: UK RESEARCHER RECEIVES 2025 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Matthew Bush, M.D., Ph.D., chair of UK HealthCare's Department of Otolaryngology, has received the 2025 Presidential Award, the highest commendation by the U.S. government to an early career scientist. Bush was nationally recognized for his groundbreaking research on improving access to hearing-related health care in rural Kentucky communities. His work highlights the challenges faced by these groups, including delayed access to hearing aids and cochlear implants, and identifies potential measures to expand quality care. Bush's research has substantially demonstrated that community-based interventions are a pivotal path to improve access to health services for historically overlooked rural communities. Bush's research is funded by the National Institutes on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.