

Excuse #8

"The Kentucky office called. They're between a rock and a hard place. I'll probably be there all week."

Portrait

LEXINGTON'S BLUEGRASS REGION

The William T. Young Library at the University of Kentucky celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.



On Campus

Higher education runs the gamut in the Bluegrass, and each institution has a story to tell.

by **Kathie Stamps**

The University of Kentucky began in 1865 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College and became UK in 1916. The UK Wildcats have won more basketball games than any other Division I men's team, but there's more. With more than 70 nationally ranked academic programs, "we are building a top 20 public research institution to enhance our contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the nation and the world," says president Lee Todd.

UK's 716-acre campus south of downtown hosts 27,000 students who study in 17 academic colleges ranging from agriculture to fine arts to medicine, all on a single campus. The school's impact spreads far, thanks to its nearly 218,000 alumni, more than half of whom stay in Kentucky.

The university's emphasis on research is expanding its influence; the Coldstream Research Campus links small businesses with university resources.



Transylvania University students gather at Haupt Plaza.

Other Lexington-area schools of note: **Transylvania University** was founded in 1780, the first college west of the Allegheny Mountains. In 228 years, the school's alumni have gone far: Noted graduates include two vice presidents, a Supreme Court justice, 50 U.S. senators and 36 governors.

Founded in 1865, **Lexington Theological Seminary** offers a doctoral degree in ministry and master's degrees in divinity and arts. The school is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Sullivan University has a new culinary arts program. Beginning in July, the university will offer a doctoral degree in pharmacy.

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WILD ABOUT WILDCATS

The University of Kentucky men's basketball team has been described as having 23,000 assistant coaches. That's as many fans as can fit into Rupp Arena, where the Wildcats play home games. But Van Florence, director of the UK Basketball Museum and 30-year president of the Committee of 101, a support group for the team, would put that number much higher. The population of Big Blue Nation, the Cats' diehard fans, is in the millions, he says.

Coach Billy Gillispie calls UK fans, who flock to home games or follow their beloved Cats on a nationwide network of radio and TV stations, "the best sixth man in the history of college basketball... no question about it." Of the 23,000 available seats in Rupp Arena, about 17,600 belong to season ticket holders. (Others make up a student section or go to players, the president's office and other boosters.) Nearly all season tickets renew each year, with between 40 and 60 tickets available by lottery to new ticket holders each year.

One of those ticket holders is Bob Wiggins. The 79-year-old "super fan" continued his amazing streak of following the Cats at home during the 2007-08 season. By his recounting, Wiggins has attended 1,401 UK games. His current home game streak, of 679 games, began in 1960. — Alice H. Davis

PHOTO BY CLAY JACKSON



Kentucky's own Ashley Judd pumps up the crowd during a home basketball game against North Carolina at Rupp Arena.

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arts school since 1819, almost 85 percent of the students study abroad during their college career. The Danville school hosted the 2000 vice presidential debate.

Berea College was founded in 1855, the first interracial and coeducational institution in the South. The school follows the principles of labor, learning and service; students pay no tuition.

Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, founded in 1906 as a teacher's college, offers 168 degree programs. The College of Justice and Safety has the only program in corrective and juvenile justice studies in the U.S.

Georgetown College offers an Equine Scholars Program in which students combine liberal arts majors with equine interests. The college, chartered in 1829, has been recognized as a top producer of Fulbright Scholars; between 2001 and 2007, nine graduates received the coveted fellowship.

Asbury College, founded in 1890, offers 49 majors, including an equine management program. The Wilmore college's communications program has drawn notice; more than 50 students from the program will be part of the team broadcasting the Olympic Games from China.

ON CAMPUS

Asbury College
www.asbury.edu

Berea College
www.berea.edu

Centre College
www.centre.edu

Eastern Kentucky University
www.eku.edu

Georgetown College
www.georgetowncollege.edu

Lexington Theological Seminary
www.lextheo.edu

Sullivan University
www.sullivan.edu

Transylvania University
www.transy.edu

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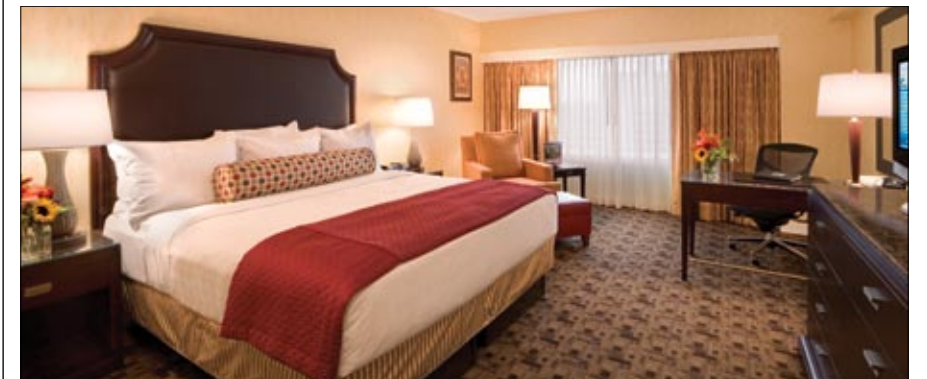
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