

Spring/Summer 2013

# transform

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY | Gatton College of Business and Economics



..... UNITING OUR .....  
Alumni, Friends, Faculty, and Staff  
IN A COMMON PURPOSE.

# transform

Spring/Summer 2013

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY | Gatton College of Business and Economics



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# letter from the dean



DR. DAVID W. BLACKWELL

On March 1, we publicly launched the Gatton United Capital Campaign. It was an inspiring day that gathered alumni, donors, students, faculty and staff for a common purpose: to take the Gatton College of Business & Economics to the next level.

I'd like to first say thank you to each of you who have contributed to the campaign for making what will be a transformational investment in the Gatton College and the University of Kentucky. You will not only transform our physical infrastructure, but you will also enable a revolution in how we teach, learn, conduct research, and serve our community. The new Gatton College facility will move us to a new level of excellence. It will help us achieve more national recognition and visibility and will propel us toward the goal of being recognized as a Top 30 public university business school.

## HOW DOES THIS TRANSFORMATION HAPPEN?

**GROWTH.** The increase in our space by 40 percent, to 204,000 square feet—the bulk of which is devoted to 20 state-of-the-art classrooms, a 500-seat auditorium, 42 student group study rooms, a new consumer behavior laboratory space, a state-of-the-art financial trading center, and community space—will facilitate our growth from 2,800 to at least 4,000 students and will house the additional faculty and staff who will serve those students. Further, enhanced technology and classroom space will allow us to better serve students from all over campus to learn basic business skills that complement their knowledge in the arts, humanities, sciences, communications, education, engineering and health professions.

**COMPETITIVENESS.** To compete for quality students, we need a modern infrastructure. Combined with the new dormitories being constructed across campus, the new Gatton facility will help us attract and retain the best and brightest students from Kentucky and beyond.

**COMMUNITY.** The new facility will foster more in-depth interactions among students and faculty and encourage our students to live, learn, network, and socialize in our building. It is proven that a strong sense of community improves student retention and graduation rates—both of which are essential to the continued success of the University of Kentucky.

**TECHNOLOGY.** State-of-the-art classroom configurations, learning technology, and laboratories will transform and modernize how we teach, learn, conduct research, and transfer the knowledge we create to industry and the citizens of Kentucky. The Gatton College will be equal to the newest and very best education facilities in the United States.

**THE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT.** The Gatton facility will have an aesthetic impact as the front door to campus that will bolster the UK and Gatton brands and enhance the beauty and experience of being on campus.

This is the second transformational moment in the recent history of the Gatton College. The first was the gift that resulted in the naming of the College for Bill Gatton. Bill's endowment transformed the College through its impact on attracting and retaining world-class faculty members and supporting the academic programs and research that are at the core of our mission. The Gatton endowment has touched every member of the Gatton community who has come through our doors since it was first established in the 1990s. Because of how the Gatton endowment has elevated the College, we are now in a unique position to fully leverage a new facility on our way to Top 30 public status.

The alumni, friends, and donors who joined us on March 1 represent over 300 donors who have supported this capital campaign in reaching the half-way mark towards \$65 million. Understanding the heroic effort it takes to give back as you have done inspires all of us at the Gatton College. We appreciate your work and sacrifice. We pledge to be good stewards of your investment—using your gifts to improve the lives of our students and the citizens of Kentucky through our teaching, research, and public service.

Thank you for beginning this journey with us! Thank you for uniting with us! We are Gatton United! We are a Big Blue Nation United.



I AM  
**#GATTON**  
united

# Uniting for

PROGRESSIVE  
BUSINESS  
EDUCATION

More and more modern business schools are creating learning environments that mirror those of corporate America's real workplaces where offices maintain an open floor plan allowing employees to collaborate on projects, rather than dividing work spaces up into cubicles.

This collaborative style will become the central learning focus for the new facility of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, says Dean David W. Blackwell. Not only that, he says, the building will be designed to encourage students to study, socialize and engage with each other and with faculty in meaningful ways to facilitate learning.



"It's going to change the whole culture of the College in respect to the students. They will identify more with the College and, by virtue of enhancements and expansion of the space, achieve higher levels of academic success, leading to more successful launches of their careers. We also will build their loyalty as alumni," Dean Blackwell says. "The new facility will help us do a better job in preparing students and bonding with them."

And that spirit of "bonding" and unity underscores "Gatton United," the theme selected to spearhead fundraising efforts. Much of the \$65 million renovation and expansion project will

state tax dollars will be used in any of the UK construction projects, which include the Gatton College, a new science building on campus, and improvements to Commonwealth Stadium and UK's football facilities.

Four leading donors have provided full-steam-ahead support, jointly contributing \$25 million of the \$34 million raised so far. They are: Bill Gatton, Howard L. Lewis, Don and Cathy Jacobs, and Dr. William E. Seale. "It's truly inspiring to see the tremendous support we've had in a relatively short period of time," Blackwell says. "Our donors have shown extraordinary leadership in pushing this project forward."

**"It's truly inspiring to see the tremendous support we've had  
in a relatively short period of time. Our donors have shown  
extraordinary leadership in pushing this project forward."**

**—DEAN DAVID W. BLACKWELL**

be funded through private giving. As of March 1, 2013, Gatton has raised nearly \$34 million. The design phase of the building is currently underway. Groundbreaking is planned for fall 2013 with completion by spring 2016. The existing structure will be renovated (140,000 square feet), along with 64,000 new square feet added, for a total of 204,000 square feet.

The project is part of UK's overall capital improvement plan (House Bill 7), recently approved by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Steve Beshear. No

Additionally, a number of the Dean's Advisory Council members doubled their initial financial commitment given the renewed emphasis on the project's completion. "They gave us the confidence to go to the Legislature to get approval for the project," Dean Blackwell says.

With the expansion, the College anticipates 40 percent enrollment and faculty growth, as well as the incorporation of state-of-the-art technology throughout the building. In raw numbers, the College currently has about 2,800 students

#### **SALLY FOSTER**

*Director of the Graham Office of Career Management*

**"Having an environment that is professional and up-to-date will really benefit the experience of both students and employers."**



# Uniting for

PROGRESSIVE  
BUSINESS  
EDUCATION

“My vision is that any student in Kentucky  
should not have to leave the state  
to get a state-of-the-art business education.”

—DEAN DAVID W. BLACKWELL

## KEN TROSKE

*Senior Associate Dean for Administration, Faculty and Research*

“Modern business schools all have spaces and rooms that give students the opportunity to stay in the building in order to study, eat and interact with each other.”



enrolled in pre-majors and majors. “We’re looking to increase that to 4,000. That size puts us more in line with competing universities that tend to be the same size and caliber,” Dean Blackwell says. All told, out of the entire University of Kentucky enrollment, the College touches the lives of about 10,000 students because it offers classes that dovetail into other majors, like introduction to accounting and economics.

It is because of the universality of the College’s outreach to the entire UK population that the “Gatton United” theme was born. UK had approached the Legislature with a campaign called, “Big Blue Nation United,” to raise awareness for three main capital projects, including Gatton’s. “We wanted to continue the idea and take it a step further. We received the project authority; now it’s time to unite behind a common purpose to better the Gatton College and the University of Kentucky. Right now, we’re focused on the building. Years from now, it might be scholarships. But we’re uniting, and there’s energy behind that, and we’re excited to be a community coming together for this awesome task,” Dean Blackwell says.

Kenneth Troske, Senior Associate Dean at Gatton, notes that people on campus are excited because in the past, “We’ve been constrained in our ability to raise resources because the Legislature hasn’t authorized us to do so.” He adds that most people don’t realize that the university must have legislative approval to spend more than \$600,000. “We are more constrained than many any other public universities,” he says.

The new facility will help Gatton with future recruiting, Dean Blackwell says. Gatton’s major competitors in surrounding states—the University of Tennessee, Indiana University and Miami of Ohio, for example—all have state-of-the-art facilities. “If the student sees second-rate facilities here, they will choose to go elsewhere,” Dean Blackwell says. “My vision is that any student in Kentucky should not have to leave the state to get a state-of-the-art business education.”

The universal aspect to these modern schools is they are fashioned after the collaborative nature of today’s workplace, Dean Troske says. “Cluster classrooms will have that capability. They will be structured so that students gather around the table and can turn around and look at the professor when



## PAXTON ROBERTS

*Undergraduate Class of 2013*

**“It will definitely foster more academic success and more camaraderie between different peers who aren’t necessarily very involved in Gatton now.”**



lecturing and then easily turn around again and work in groups. They don’t have to leave the classroom, and the professor can work around the groups,” Dean Troske says.

Another new aspect is a financial analysis and trading lab, which most modern business schools have. “Online information continues to flow, and students have ready access to market data. This will allow them to work on sophisticated projects. We don’t have that capability right now,” Dean Troske says.

One favorite and much-anticipated feature of the new building is an atrium, which will have a café so that students can eat meals in between classes and study together. “They can stay and work in group settings. The exciting aspect of this is that we’re also establishing a garden patio on the first level. It’s outdoors but separate from the rest of campus. It will be a nice space on spring, fall, summer days,” Dean Troske says.

Classrooms are also going high-tech. For example, white boards will run across the length of the classroom so that

professors can write on them while presentations flash on a screen over them, and on another screen, data is displayed from an Excel program. “We can’t do that sort of thing now, because from floor to ceiling, the heights are too short,” Dean Blackwell says.

He adds that classrooms will be outfitted with microphones and cameras to capture each lecture. “At the end of class, the lecture can be uploaded to the course website, allowing students to go back and listen again. None of our classrooms are outfitted with that right now. This sort of technology in the classroom, combined with study spaces, enhances the student experience and enables a different kind of interaction that we can’t do now.”

Ready to donate or partner with Gatton on this new initiative? Go to [gattonunited.uky.edu](http://gattonunited.uky.edu) for more information, or contact the Office of Development and Advancement to discuss ways you can help.

## ALBERT GOMEZ, III

*One Year Accelerated MBA Class of 2013*

**“I hope they [Alumni] know that the students who will benefit from this are going to be the future leaders of the state and nation.”**



# Don & Cathy Jacobs



“Lexington’s been very good to me,  
and it’s my responsibility  
to be good to them  
and share with them.”

– DON JACOBS

The name, “Don Jacobs,” conjures images of new cars and a shiny red apple icon around Lexington. And people who buy a car from a Don Jacobs dealership know they’ll receive an apple on their driver’s seat as a symbol of employees’ pride in a job well done.

That mantra for high business ethics comes straight from the founder himself, Don Jacobs, who opened his first dealership in Lexington in 1971. His priority in business has always been providing quality, integrity and dependability to customers by building an organization of talented employees trained and managed by what he refers to as the “DJO” (Don Jacobs Organization) operating standards. These standards feed into

his passion for philanthropy as well. Few people know that Jacobs is also an ardent supporter and donor to the University of Kentucky.

He and his wife, Cathy, provided funding for UK’s Don and Cathy Jacobs Health Education Center at the University’s hospital. They have also provided support over the years to UK’s Markey Cancer Center. Now the Jacobs have shown their support to the Gatton College’s “Gatton United Capital Campaign.” As one of four lead donors to Gatton’s building campaign, the Jacobs have given \$5 million to support this expansion and renovation project. Gatton’s building campaign mirrors their joint-philosophy in supporting education, Cathy Jacobs says.

“When they presented the idea to us, I thought it was absolutely perfect for him,” Cathy says of Don. “I don’t think I could have sketched out something that would have been more



fitting for him, and I'm so happy we're doing this. He'll get to see it and be part of it. It's what he's all about. To me, it's a blessing."

## **"ONE OF THE LARGER AND MORE EFFICIENT AUTOMOBILE DEALERS IN THE WORLD"**

All told, Jacobs has had 14 dealership franchises, not only in Kentucky, but also in Tennessee and Florida. The company, which is now owned and operated by his son along with other long-term employees, continues to offer a wide selection of new Honda, BMW and Volkswagen models, plus a large inventory of pre-owned vehicles of all makes.

Dealing with reputable people has served Jacobs well throughout his career. And he credits much of his entrepreneurial success to the discipline, determination and leadership skills he learned while training at the U.S. Army Leadership School in Ft. Lee, Va., in the mid-1950s. After serving in the U.S. military, Jacobs started selling cars in Nashville. His selling strategy was simple: He never waited for customers to come to him. He took his car offerings straight to them. In fact, he walked into recording studios along Nashville's "Music Row" to sell to country music stars. He never said to customers, "I want to sell you a car." Instead, he would say, "I want to help you buy a car."

All told, he sold cars and managed dealerships for 15 years before deciding to take the plunge and open his own dealerships. He chose three geographic locations: Nashville, Charlotte and Lexington. "I knew nothing about Lexington other than going through it a few times while going to meetings in Louisville or Cincinnati," he says. "I was impressed with the way it looked and just liked it." His first Lexington dealership was for GM/Oldsmobile. For numerous years, Don's dealerships were in the top 5 percent of all dealers in the nation.

## **FAIR LENDING**

Don Jacobs had a direct approach to lending at his dealerships. "I did not allow my people any finance deals that were questionable, and that didn't come past me first. It was this way up until the last day I was there," he says.

With his creditable banking relationships and expertise in

as he recalled back to his military career when he offered loans to fellow servicemen who were broke and needing money.

His desire to help military personnel with their financing needs drove him and his partner to establish the MILES (Military Installment Loan and Education System) Program as a part of DFS. MILES provided an auto buying, financing, and ownership training program specifically designed for the US military's service members. The MILES dealership network included 540 automobile dealerships in 26 states that agreed to operate within the ethical and business standards set forth by the MILES program. In 2009, after significant growth and success, DFS was sold to a publicly traded company listed on the NYSE.

## **A GIVING MARRIED COUPLE**

The Jacobs each credit their fathers for their love of giving. Don Jacobs' father had a general store. "As a child growing up, my dad helped everybody in the community as he could. He was not a wealthy man, but he felt that it was our responsibility to help people in the community," he says.

Don and Cathy are also supportive of each other's favorite charities. For Don, it's the Don Jacobs Seminar at the Sayre School in Lexington, which he started 10 years ago. The program is mandatory for high school seniors, in which they learn the responsibility of money and also about philanthropy. Students hear from speakers throughout the year, plus work with mentors who are business people and Sayre graduates.

Cathy Jacobs charity is The Hope Center in Lexington, which provides services to the homeless. "The Hope Center is an amazing place and we are fortunate enough to have it in our community. I don't think a lot of people in Lexington realize what it is and does for people. The very existence of The Hope Center is an indication that Lexington has a deep and abiding commitment to dealing with the tragedy of homelessness. It has become a great love of mine."

The couple has built two facilities for the Hope Center. One, the Jacobs House which provides housing for 144 men who are learning to overcome addiction or suffering with mental health issues. The other is the Jacobs Hope Cafeteria that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and serves over 450 meals daily.

**"Hopefully with what we are contributing to the Gatton College, we are encouraging and setting an example for the students. Get the best education you possibly can so you will have the same opportunity to give back."**

**- CATHY JACOBS**

finance, in 1996, Jacobs along with former long-term employees established Dealer Financial Services (DFS) which provided independent used and new car dealerships with loans that historically were only offered through franchised dealers. A few years after the start of DFS, while watching a television report by Tom Brokaw on "Fleecing of the Military," which discussed how many auto dealers and lenders took advantage of servicemen. "I could relate to exactly what they were talking about," Jacobs says

## **WHY GIVE SO MUCH?**

"It's kind of simple, really," Don Jacobs says. "Lexington's been very good to me, and it's my responsibility to be good to them and share with them."

Cathy adds, "Hopefully with what we are contributing to the Gatton College, we are encouraging and setting an example for the students. Get the best education you possibly can so you will have the same opportunity to give back."

I AM  
united

DONORS

GATTONUNITED

# Ernst & Young

Helping others see their potential and future possibilities drives Gatton College alum David P. Calzi to give – not just his money, but his time as well. He is the Office Managing Partner of Advisory Services for Ernst & Young LLP in Louisville and a strong supporter of Gatton United, the school's \$65 million fundraising effort for a facility expansion and renovation.

"I'm constantly trying to be in situations where I'm not only giving resources but giving time to help people see what the possibilities are. There's joy in both. I just see it as an obligation," Calzi says. "There's a spiritual aspect to it as well that plays into it. It's a good place to be when you're able to give. It doesn't matter the amount. That's not the point.

The point is you're giving and you're trying to help others."

Calzi and another UK alum and Ernst & Young retired partner, Tom Schoenbaechler, most recently convinced 20 other employees and Gatton alumni to contribute \$196,000 to the College's expansion project. Ernst & Young will match their donations dollar for dollar helping them to reach their \$500,000 goal.

"It was because of loyalty to the university that we went forward to reach out to the alumni. ... They're well-dispersed and very passionate about the university. It was kind of an easy sell," Calzi says.

In addition to Ernst & Young stepping up their commitment to the Gatton College, several other accounting firms have followed suit, including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, Crowe Horwath and Mountjoy Chilton Medley.

## A MISSION TRIP TO BELIZE THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Calzi has always been a strong supporter of charities and needs in and around the Louisville community and Kentucky as a whole. But it wasn't until this past



"It's a good place to be when you're able to give.

It doesn't matter the amount.

That's not the point. The point is you're giving  
and you're trying to help others."



February that his entire perspective on giving shifted. He took a mission trip with one of his daughters to Belize, with the organization Hand in Hand Ministries. His daughter will be a UK freshman at Gatton in marketing this fall.

"I was impacted on that trip. I saw poverty on a level that I've never experienced. We helped build a house for a young lady, a single mom. My daughter came with me on the trip. She was impacted significantly by it. And it dawned on me that there are people in other parts of the world that, for no fault of their own, were born in a society where their ability to rise above that is pretty slim. So the people who were on that trip ... came back with a different attitude," he says.

Calzi realized there were educational opportunities as a result – to show those back home how badly people in other countries have it. The experience has motivated him to continue to show others in the United States all of the resources available to them to make their futures bright. He and his daughter are going on a second mission trip with the same organization to Nicaragua this June.

"Here in the U.S., there are resources that give you the ability to do it. In some of these other countries, if they tried, it's a lot harder. Here, you can achieve. In some respects, some

Calzi says Gatton prepared him for a successful career, and it's incumbent on alumni to help the school provide "the best resources we possibly can have." Gatton provides a pipeline of future employees for Ernst & Young. And many leaders within the accounting firm are Gatton graduates, he adds.

"I'm a big believer in being innovative in education – how to use technology to educate – but you also have to have appropriate facilities to attract the best students, the best professors, to do the job we need to do," Calzi says.

Educating students in a field like accounting helps advance dreams, he says. "A lot of folks will look at accounting and say, 'It's not the most exciting thing in the world,' but the reality is, it can be, and it is, because it's very much a people business. You're impacting lives, and you're impacting the success of companies," he says.

## A GENEROUS FIRM

Ernst & Young has partnered with Gatton by recruiting students to its workforce, giving towards scholarships and providing support for an endowed professorship, says Bob Ramsay, Gatton's Interim Director of the Von Allmen School of Accountancy and Arthur Andersen Professor of Accountancy.

**"I'm a big believer in being innovative in education – how to use technology to educate – but you also have to have appropriate facilities to attract the best students, the best professors, to do the job we need to do."**

of the best education to give young people who perceive they have barriers is to take them on a trip like that. They would come back and realize, 'I want to make something of myself, because I can,'" Calzi says.

Calzi also realized his own attitudes about giving changed profoundly. "Unless you get out of your own sphere, you don't realize the resources you really do have," he explains. "It's easy for me to say that now but I really learned that on that trip."

## A LOYALTY TO GATTON

Calzi received his bachelors' in accounting from the University of Kentucky in 1983. A native of Buffalo, NY, he came to Kentucky to run cross country for the University. "I was a fish out of water, coming South and being away from home," he says. "But I had a great education at the University. I feel a loyalty because they did a lot for me while I was there, and it's important to give back to that."

Immediately after graduation, Calzi started working in the Louisville office of the former accounting firm Arthur Andersen, LLP. He earned his CPA license in 1985 and eventually became partner. That firm sold its local practice to Ernst & Young, which Calzi joined in 2002. He became managing partner of the Louisville office in 2004.

In December 2012, the firm held an on-campus continuing professional education event for area accountants. It donated the registration fees towards scholarships at Gatton. The firm plans to make this an annual event.

"They're not just supporting our building campaign, but everything we ask them to," Ramsay says. "They see it as an investment in their future employees."

Ernst & Young has "an endless list" of charities that it supports, Calzi says. Those include the United Way, Junior Achievement, Fund for the Arts, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Louisville Orchestra and the Olmsted Parks Conservatory.

"It's pretty much what is expected of us. You serve clients. You have to do a great job. But you have to do that in a lot of different ways. Being in the community, clients see that, and I think they appreciate the fact that we give back as well. We try to make it part of the fabric here," Calzi says.

He adds that the fabric of generosity has enriched his own life. "When you have a generous spirit, you put yourself in a different place in terms of having that desire to give to help others, to celebrate the fact that you've benefited as well from experiences that you've had. A lot of that comes from the education you have, your upbringing, the family you have. To help others is something that I've always felt blesses you. It blesses a person really to have a generous spirit."

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MARCH 1, 2013

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# Chris Bollinger

"I just hope they find the passion  
and the thing that is their calling  
— their contribution to the world."



**The kick-start to Dr. Chris Bollinger's mornings is sheer electric enthusiasm for his job as director of the Center for Business & Economics Research at Gatton College. Dr. Bollinger, also an economics professor, wants to infuse his students with that same passion.**

"What I always hope is that they find something that they love doing, that makes them get up in the morning, and that they'll go do that. That's how I feel about what I do. It makes it easier to go to work, and it's a lot more fun. I just hope they find the passion and the thing that is their calling," Dr. Bollinger says.

The expansion of Gatton College's facilities will further lead to a learning environment that will foster that excitement for students' chosen fields, Dr. Bollinger adds. "I am really excited about the common spaces and the places like the atrium and dining area; these are places that will provide students a place to be and a way to build a community and to build camaraderie within the College. People who are taking classes and majoring in business will hang out and meet each other for those connections that last a whole lifetime."

Not only that, the planned expansion of Gatton College's facilities will provide the Center a dedicated space — its own suite of offices for Dr. Bollinger and his staff. "That's

important when people come to talk to us about projects. Right now, the Center is just part of a department, and it's hard to see what we are. The suite will enhance our image and reputation," he says.

The Center is one of Gatton's outreach and engagement arms, providing education outside a university setting to policy makers, business leaders and important stakeholders in state and local governments. Dr. Bollinger took the reins in summer 2012. He oversees a staff of five.

"For example, we recently did a study for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, looking at which industries export to other countries from Kentucky and the extent and size of exports by industry in order to inform policy makers. It's being used by the governor's office and the mayor's office in Louisville," he says.

Dr. Bollinger arrived at the University of Kentucky as an assistant economics professor in 1998, having previously been an assistant professor of economics at Georgia State University. He became full professor in 2007 and was director of the graduate program before becoming the Center's director. He is a 1988 graduate of Michigan State University and received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1993.

"I've always been interested in public policy," he says. "It started

**"It's important to know  
each other in order to have  
a sense of common mission."**

when I was an undergraduate in the public policy program at Michigan State University. I was always interested in how to design policies to do the best for society. As a part of that, I studied the important questions being raised in public policy classes and the tools to answer them in the economics classes. I decided that's what I wanted to do and switched majors and realized I wanted to become an economics professor. Now I've come full circle again, because I'm in the public policy realm."

Dr. Bollinger teaches the undergraduate business economics statistics course and three Ph.D. courses in statistics and methodology. As a professor, he's excited about how the design of the new building will facilitate working relationships among faculty. With the current building design, "we feel isolated from each other," he says.

"While I want to interact as a scholar, I want to get to know the guys in marketing and finance and even accounting," he laughs. "It's important to know each other in order to have a sense of common mission. After 15 years, I've gotten to know more of them, but it's hard, because we're lumped off from each other."

He adds his personal hope that Gatton will continue to grow and add new scholars and colleagues. "It's always exciting to bring in new people."



## CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMICS RESEARCH TACKLES TANGLED POLICIES

Advancing Kentucky's economic growth is the linchpin of recent research conducted by Dr. Chris Bollinger and his staff at the Center for Business & Economic Research.

Last fall, the Center conducted a study looking at the labor market of the "Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement." Dubbed "BEAM" for short, this is a joint project between the mayors of Louisville and Lexington, Dr. Bollinger says. In question is the I-64 corridor linking the two cities and the types of public policies the governments can put in place to enhance economic growth. The Center studied what could be done from an educational standpoint, to help prepare future workers in that region.

"They wanted to know what would happen in manufacturing, what our strengths were and what industries were important to the region," Dr. Bollinger says.

Researchers discovered that the BEAM region is in many ways a healthy economic region because of its diversity. "It's not entrenched in one single industry," Dr. Bollinger says, adding that, "manufacturing is always going to be a large employer in the region. But its growth rate is slow, and it will not absorb new workers very well, as the percentage of employment has been declining for more than 30 years. And really the tone I want to set is that's okay, because there are lots of other industries."

One of the big things that the Center puts out every year is its annual economic report, mandated by the Kentucky Legislature. This year, the Center has dramatically changed its format to have more outreach. It's been modified into a fact book about the economy in Kentucky, with short reviews of trends and data in the state economy.

"It looks at traditional economic topics such as employment and growth and also the measures of innovation and new companies that have been started, economic measures of poverty, education, welfare programs, health, energy – a real user's book," Dr. Bollinger says.

"I'm excited by what we have produced. It's far stronger than ever before."




# Shonta Phelps

**As Leadership Director in the Gatton College's Undergraduate Resource Center, Shonta Phelps sees unique parallels between her role, her students' potentials and plans for the business school's upcoming expansion project.**

"I am looking forward to all of the roads that Gatton can and will take with the new expansion. I am always an open book with students and tell them, 'As a leader, you know you're never done growing.' I push my students to do the same. And this Gatton United Capital Campaign to expand the building is like that: It helps us to stretch and grow as a College," she says.

Phelps, a 2003 finance and marketing graduate from Gatton, was heavily involved in leadership roles as a student. She also was the first person in her family to achieve a degree. She's been in her current job since August 2012, and now enjoys leading by example, showing students their potential by helping them implement many of the concepts she learned herself as a student.

"My job is to make sure students have opportunities to get plugged in," Phelps says. "It's about making sure they know about clubs and organizations, the speaker series we have, or leadership options. We are providing a long-term opportunity for them to stretch the skills and potential they may have."

A portrait of Shonta Phelps, a Black woman with curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a grey cardigan over a white top and a pearl necklace. The background is blurred, showing other people.

"I enjoy being able to help students see their potential and plug into an opportunity to develop the potential."



## A HUB OF ACTIVITY

Every semester, the Undergraduate Resource Center (URC) sees nearly all of the 2,800 Gatton students. As a result, it's a hub of activity. Space has been sorely needed to keep up with demands. Currently, the URC is on the second floor of the Gatton College, in an L-shaped suite of offices. There are six professional advisors on staff, plus Phelps and two other enrichment directors.

"It's a limited amount of space for students to be able to interact with us. We have an area for computers, for students to check email and do homework. But I'm looking forward to the larger spaces in the new building," Phelps says.

"I'm so excited about it," she says, laughing. "We're going to have more resources for faculty, opportunities for our students to have study spaces, to have high-efficient smart classrooms, facilities to bring in national speakers to inspire and motivate students. It's going to be a layered network of great things for students."

**"We're going to have more resources...  
It's going to be a layered network  
of great things for students."**

## A "FAVORITE" DAY

Phelps heads up a number of initiatives as Leadership Director, but her favorite is "Gatton Gives Back," the community service day when students and faculty team up to volunteer at various organizations around town. This semester, there were three opportunities for work at God's Pantry, Seedleaf Community Gardens and the Ronald McDonald House on campus. Each site has 10 to 15 assigned volunteers and there were 35 participants.

"Students can experience the faculty outside of the classroom, which breaks down the scary idea of, 'That's my professor.' They interact as normal people and will be more engaged in the classroom. It's a great beneficial day," Phelps says.

## PUSHING BEYOND THE COMFORT ZONE

Phelps most enjoys that with all of these initiatives, she gets to see students become more and more engaged. "I enjoy being able to help students see their potential and help to develop that potential. What I love is seeing them at their beginning and helping them find an end," she says. "All of these programs get them outside their comfort zone and show them that service is important."

As a Gatton student and first-generation college graduate, she recalls how important it was to her grandfather that she received similar opportunities. She was from Clarksville, Tenn., and her grandfather was in the Army, stationed at Fort Knox. He was the first one to suggest she choose UK.

"My grandfather is extremely proud and connected to UK. People ask why, and he says, 'I like basketball, but the real reason is that they treated my baby so well. I have such respect for it.' And today, UK gives me a great platform to do what I love to do. It's a chance to give back," she says.



## STUDENT AMBASSADORS: THE FACE OF GATTON

Gatton's student ambassadors come from every background, from first-generation college attendees, to international students, to those enrolled in honors programs. As such, they successfully present a "face" of the school's population to potential enrollees.

That's never been more important than now, as Gatton ramps up to receive more students following the expansion and renovation of its current facility, says Shonta Phelps, who oversees the ambassadors. The current undergraduate population is about 2,800. Student ambassadors will play a critical role in recruiting more freshmen and supporting them after the facility grows, she says.

After a rigorous selection process, 10 to 15 students become "ambassadors." They must demonstrate a balance of academic excellence and campus involvement, Phelps says. They have three main focus areas. First, they serve as liaisons to students, administration, faculty and staff, working on policy issues, planning fun activities and engaging in fundraising and charity events.

Second, they recruit and help with "Preview Nights," organized by the Office of Admissions, plus travel on the road to talk to high school students. This year's group of ambassadors is currently working on a student handbook, to give advice and tips on ways to get involved and ways to manage study habits.

Third, the ambassadors receive leadership development guidance. And they participate in Gatton's Community Service Day. "They can be anyone from freshmen to seniors," Phelps says.

Already, there is buzz on campus about upcoming construction work, and ambassadors will be sharing the news of Gatton's expansion to potential students, she says. "I think since the public launch, people are talking about it. People are saying, 'When are you getting started?' We've had positive responses so far. Everyone wants to know what's going on and when the building is happening. It will be a great value added to campus," she adds.



# Public Launch

Friday, March 1, 2013 | Gatton College of Business and Economics Atrium | 10:30 am







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1» Mr. Bill Gatton receives a round of applause for his continued support of the Gatton College.

2» Dr. Bill Seale, one of the lead donors to the Gatton United Capital Campaign, thoughtfully listens during the public launch.

3» Mr. Howard Lewis, Gatton United Campaign Chairperson, and Mrs. Cathy Jacobs are two more of the lead donors to the College's Capital Campaign.

4» Dean David W. Blackwell publicly announces that we've surpassed the halfway mark in fundraising efforts.

5» University President, Eli Capilouto, addresses the crowd during the press conference held before the Public Launch event.

6» Mr. Don Jacobs, Lexington businessman, shows his support to the College by being one of the lead donors.

7» Mary Katherine Kington, UK Student Body Vice President and Gatton student, addresses the crowd during the public launch event.

8» Gatton faculty, staff and students show their support for the campaign by donning the Gatton United t-shirts.

Find more photos  
from the Public  
Launch Event at  
[gattonunited.uky.edu/gallery](http://gattonunited.uky.edu/gallery)







1

1» Gatton faculty, staff and students joined forces for a fun-filled day of service to the Lexington community in early April. Pictured here are Gatton groups who worked at God's Pantry, a Lexington-based local food pantry, and at Seedleaf, a non-profit organization that educates the community on growing, cooking, sharing and recycling food in Lexington.

2» More than 100 MBA and PhD graduates participated in Gatton's 2013 Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony was held in Memorial Hall on UK's campus May 17.

## UK'S GATTON COLLEGE MAINTAINS PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION

The Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky has maintained its business accreditation by AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

## SENATOR RAND PAUL SPEAKS AT GATTON SPONSORED EVENT

U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) spoke at the University of Kentucky in late March on the topic "Restoring Economic Freedom." The event was sponsored by the BB&T Program of UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics. The BB&T Program was established by a gift from the BB&T Corporation to promote research and teaching regarding understandings of free enterprise.

## UK BOARD ACCEPTS GIFTS TOTALING \$16.4 MILLION

The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees accepted gifts and pledges totaling \$16.4 million at its meeting on March 19, including nearly \$15 million from donors contributing toward the \$65 million expansion and



2

renovation of the Gatton College of Business and Economics building.

The College recently celebrated the milestone of surpassing the halfway point in its fundraising efforts for the project as it announced the public phase of the 'Gatton United' campaign. In all, some \$34 million in private funds has been donated or pledged to date.

The board accepted pledges of \$5 million each from Don L. Jacobs, Sr. of Lexington, Ky. and Naples, Fla., and Howard L. Lewis of Solon, Ohio. In addition, the board accepted a gift of \$500,000 from the Haymaker Foundation, Inc. of Lexington, as well as a pledge of \$400,000 from Geoffrey H. Rosenberger of Pittsford, N.Y., to support the Gatton campaign.

The Gatton expansion and renovation will allow for enrollment growth of more than 40 percent and faculty/staff growth to support the additional students, as well as



incorporating state-of-the-art technology throughout the building.

This project is part of UK's overall capital improvement plan (House Bill 7) recently approved by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Steve Beshear. No state tax dollars will be used in any of the UK construction projects, which include the Gatton College, a new science building on campus, and improvements to Commonwealth Stadium and UK's football facilities.

The design phase of the Gatton expansion and renovation project is underway with construction expected to begin later this year.

### UK BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS, ASSISTS PAKISTANI BUSINESS SCHOOLS

A group of University of Kentucky faculty, staff and administrators recently traveled to Islamabad, Pakistan, to sign new partnerships and conduct an intensive three-day workshop with a consortium of five business schools from Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, located in the northwest of Pakistan along the Afghanistan border.

The visit, which included Nancy Johnson, associate

professor in the Gatton College of Business & Economics, was part of a \$1.7 million grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of State, to partner with universities in the KP province, through the "University Partnership in Business Administration" program. The Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General in Peshawar are facilitating the program to support higher education in Pakistan and to increase collaborations between U.S. and Pakistani universities.

### GATTON HOSTED THIRD ANNUAL SUPPLY CHAIN FORUM

Some of the biggest corporate names in logistics were part of the third annual Supply Chain Forum held in early March by Gatton's Executive Education Center (EEC). Featured speakers at the day-long event held at Fasig-Tipton in Lexington included leading executives from UPS and LeanCor.

The theme for the day's activities was "Transforming Supply Chains" and included an in-depth look at several major topics, including "Your Supply Chain Delivered," "Bringing Manufacturing Back on Shore," "Lean Leadership," and "Merging Your Supply Chains."



3

3» Gatton professor Nancy Johnson was part of team that travelled to Pakistan to increase collaboration between the US and Pakistani universities.

4» The Graham Office of Career Management hosted "Discover Your Major" where five academic departments and 15 employers were on hand to guide students through academic and career choices. The event brought more than 200 students to the Gatton atrium where they could earn a free t-shirt by visiting all of the information tables.



4



5» In late February more than 800 UK students danced for 24 hours to raise more than \$1 million for the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic. The Gatton College was well-represented with a team of Global Scholars participating in the marathon.

6» Dean David W. Blackwell presented the 2013 Judith Milburn Haywood Staff Awards to Jeannie Graves (pictured far left), Administrative Staff Associate for the Department of Economics, and Rita Booth (pictured far right), Grants Officer in the Dean's Office. They are seen here with Judy Haywood '63, (center) who the award is named for.

7» Three Gatton alums were recently inducted into the 2013 Gatton Alumni Hall of Fame. Pictured here with Dean David W. Blackwell are: Mr. Frank Ramsey '54, president and director of Dixon Bank in Dixon, Ky.; Helen Cornell '80, retired executive vice president, finance and chief financial officer of Gardner Denver, Inc.; Kerry Back '78, '82, J. Howard Creekmore Professor of Finance at Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business.



#### NEW DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SCHOOL NAMED

Urton Anderson, the Clark W. Thompson, Jr. Professor in Accounting Education at the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business, has been named the new director of the Von Allmen School of Accountancy. Andersen is expected to officially take the reins of the UK program on July 1.

Anderson, who earned his doctorate at the University of Minnesota in 1985, brings nearly 30 years of faculty experience to the Von Allmen School. An academic fellow at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 2011-12, he is a former chair of the accounting department at Texas, as well as a former associate dean for undergraduate programs. The author of four books, Anderson also is a

co-author of a leading textbook, *Internal Auditing: Assurance and Consulting Services*.

Anderson's appointment follows seven years of innovative leadership of the Von Allmen School by Dave Ziebart, PricewaterhouseCoopers Professor of Accountancy at Gatton, followed up in strong fashion over the past academic year by interim director Bob Ramsay, Arthur Andersen Professor of Accountancy. The pass rate of students completing Von Allmen's restructured MSACC (Master of Science in Accounting) program, overseen by John Smigla since 2008, now consistently ranks among the top 10 in the nation.

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[GATTON.UKY.EDU/NEWS](http://GATTON.UKY.EDU/NEWS).



# Gatton's SOCIAL WEB

Stay in touch with classmates and faculty through Gatton's various social channels. You can find us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

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The UK Wildcat helped Gatton's Graham Office of Career Management spread the word to seniors to fill out the yearly senior class survey that helps the Graham Office track and report job placement.



<http://on.fb.me/17Sw9KU>

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"It makes my day when I see Professor Burgess in Gatton. #favoriteprofessor #lovehim @UKGattonCollege"



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3:37 PM - May 23, 2013



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