

Dean of College of Engineering to resign

Thomas Lester, dean of the UK College of Engineering, will resign as dean of the college effective June 30, 2012. Lester, who has served as dean since 1990, is currently the longest serving dean at the university. He has not finalized any future plans at this time.

Prior to his current appointment, Lester served as professor and chairman of mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University from 1983 to 1990, and as professor of nuclear engineering at Kansas State University from 1975 to 1983.

Lester is a UK Fellow and has made personal contributions to establish and endow the Donald L. and Gertrude L. Lester Professorship in Mechanical Engineering. ■

New dean for the UK College of Medicine

Dr. Frederick C. de Beer, longtime University of Kentucky faculty member and current chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, has accepted the position of dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for Clinical Academic Affairs. He succeeds Dr. Jay Perman who was named president of the University of Maryland in 2010.

de Beer received his medical degree from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. His postgraduate education was at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London. Prior to coming to the United States in 1989, he served as professor of medicine at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. In 1993, he was named chief of the UK Division of Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine. In 2003, he was appointed as the Jack M. Gill Professor and chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. ■

Compiled from UK websites, UK Public Relations news reports, and Kentucky Alumni magazine staff reporting.

UK buys building to relocate Department of Art

UK has purchased a 100,000-square-foot building to become the new home for the UK Art Department. The university acquired the privately owned former tobacco warehouse, currently known as University Lofts, located adjacent to campus on Bolivar Street.

This approach should not only meet the needs of UK's art students, faculty and staff, but will also save money in necessary renovations to Reynolds Building No. 1. University Lofts has recently been renovated, so it is in much better condition than Reynolds Building No. 1. Although University Lofts will need some modification, it is anticipated that purchasing and converting this building is a more logical, fiscally responsible option.

If the project goes as planned, UK students could be painting, sculpting and drawing in the renovated facility as early as the fall of 2013.

"The renovations required to accommodate the College of Fine Arts in University Lofts is not very complicated," says Bob Wiseman, vice president for Facilities Management. "We intend a wide-open floor plan with institutional HVAC systems and the necessary air exhaust systems for certain fine arts needs, new lighting, modern accessible rest rooms and other amenities that will optimize the space for our art students.

"But most importantly," he says, "the University Lofts building can be a safer building. It is on a well-lit major road

across the street from campus and close to other housing and businesses frequented by students. The building itself has a good roof, windows and exterior walls, sound stairways, solid electrical supply and a good elevator; and it does not have the safety, access and site drainage issues associated with the Reynolds Building."

The building will include class space for an art studio, faculty studios, graduate studios and spaces for advanced undergraduate work. The Barnhart Gallery, the primary exhibition space for students in Reynolds Building No. 1, would also be relocated to the University Lofts structure.

Before it can be converted to house UK's art students and their paintings and sculptures, obligations to leased tenants must be met, says Ben Crutcher, associate vice president for Auxiliary Services. "UK inherited those obligations to the residing tenants, including several leases that will sporadically lapse over the next year," he says.

The University Lofts property also includes on-site parking, as well as an associated 85-space parking lot across Bolivar Street from the Lofts. The addition of proximate parking is a welcome amenity, as the existing Reynolds facility has extremely limited parking. Additionally, University Lofts is located adjacent to existing campus and city transit routes which will further enhance the students' accessibility. ■

Faculty member elected to UK Board of Trustees

Irina Voro, associate professor of piano in the UK College of Fine Arts School of Music, has been elected as faculty representative to the UK Board of Trustees for a three-year term, which will expire June 30, 2014. She fills the seat on the board that was held by Everett McCorvey of the UK College of Fine Arts, whose term ended June 30.

Voro is an internationally renowned teacher of the arts and creativity. Winner of an international music performance

prize, she has also performed solo concerti with philharmonic orchestras on four continents and given solo piano recitals in 15 states and 11 countries. Her teaching awards include the U.S. Presidential Administration's Distinguished Teacher Award, the Kentucky Music Teachers' Association Teacher of the Year, the UK Provost Award for Outstanding Teaching and a Teacher Who Made a Difference. ■