



GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2023



@KYSTATEU



KYSU.EDU

KSU ALUMNUS MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST BLACK MAYOR OF DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

James J. H. Atkins has long been a champion for Kentucky State University and now the 1972 graduate will advocate for the citizens of Danville as the self-proclaimed, "The People's Mayor." Atkins' win during the midterm elections on Nov. 8, made him the first elected African American mayor of the city.

In an interview with Lex 18, Mayor-elect Atkins said he plans to continue focusing on the community.



"I have two ears and so I have an opportunity to listen to people and take their thoughts and digest them and when I do vote, the vote's based on what I think the majority of the citizens have directed me how to vote."

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY NAMES 2022 SMALL FARMER OF THE YEAR

The Kentucky State University Land Grant Program named David Miller its 2022 Small Farmer of the Year.

Miller owns 130 acres in Lincoln County, where he grew up farming and has operated his farm for about 30 years. He has 45 cows, whom he calls "my girls," in his cow-calf operation. He also produces hay and a family garden.

Farming is a daily challenge, he said, but he's grateful to be doing it. He has previously produced tobacco and is glad that he focuses on his cow-calf operation now.

"This is my livelihood, this is what I like doing," Miller said.

Each year, the Land Grant Program chooses a Small Farmer of the Year who operates and manages a farm business, has been a producer for at least five years, and has a relationship with Kentucky State University. Miller has been a role model in agricultural innovation for other farmers to follow in Kentucky and out of state. He is a graduate of the Leadership Agricultural Institute with the Southern University of Bough Louisiana, which is an 1890 program. He has always followed research-based recommendations on his beef cattle operation, which was toured by farmers enrolled in

the Leadership Agricultural Institute in July 2019, in partnership with the Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Program.

"KSU has been a lot of help for me," Miller said. "That's what helps a lot of farmers get into it, to see another farmer doing it."



Miller has volunteered with Kentucky State University's Fourth Wednesday Beef Cattle Workshop, and he has previously served on the Kentucky State University State Extension Council. He has been a participant in Kentucky State programs since 1994 and has made great connections with other organizations as well.

"Every day is a good day," Miller said. "It's just what you make on the farm, and what you make out of it."

Miller was honored as the Small Farmer of the Year at the Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference, Kentucky State University's annual conference, held from November 15-17 in Frankfort.

"Some people think small farmers aren't important, but a small farmer is very important," Miller said.



FACULTY & STAFF GATHER FOR END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION, DONATE TO THE KINGS CENTER FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, Kentucky State University employees joined Interim President Ronald A. Johnson in the Carl M. Hill Student Center Ballroom for a day of thanks and celebration at the Faculty & Staff Holiday Luncheon.

Faculty and staff enjoyed holiday games, food, music, raffles and more at the highly anticipated annual event. This year, the campus community supported The Kings Center, donating nearly 200 gifts for boys and girls age 9 -14. Serving the Frankfort/Franklin County community for more than 20 years, The Kings Center is a faith-based, non-profit community center that offers quality structured programming year-round for young people, first grade through high school.

Congratulations to the Ugly Christmas Sweater winners: Jack Wollman, Monique Shaw and LeAndra Lee.



FACULTY MEMBERS PRESENT ON THE ACTIVISM OF BLACK WOMEN AT NATIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Three faculty members recently presented at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) 2022 Conference on Black Health and Wellness in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. TaKeia N. Anthony, associate professor of history in the College of Humanities, Business and Society interim director of Graduate Studies and interim dean of the Whitney Young Honors Collegium; Dr. Rozina L. Johnson, assistant professor of English in the College of Humanities, Business and Society; and, Dr. Keturah C. Nix, assistant professor of English in the College of Humanities, Business and Society, delivered a panel presentation entitled, "Beyond The Academy Walls: Reimagining Black Women and Their Activism." The panel's objective was to provide a call-to-action that would illuminate the intellectual and activist work of Black women in various fields of study while simultaneously inserting the women's Black community contributions of advocacy and activism within spaces where they were previously omitted.

"Presenting at the ASALH conference is always invigorating," shared Dr. Anthony. "This was the Association's first in-person conference post-covid and it was great to see colleagues and mentors, and meet new scholars, especially the students. I received great feedback on my new research and it was great to represent Kentucky State University with amazing colleagues on such a rich interdisciplinary panel."

ASALH, established by the "father of Black History" Dr. Carter G. Woodson is an international membership organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., that endeavors to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. Their presentation was



KENTUCKY STATE PARTNERS WITH JOSEPHINE SCULPTURE PARK TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS

Kentucky State University Land Grant Program personnel led an invasive plant removal workshop at Josephine Sculpture Park on Nov. 4, removing Callery pear trees.

Josephine Sculpture Park assistant director Jeri Howell asked Jody Thompson, senior research and Extension associate for Forestry and Natural Resources at Kentucky State, and Nat Colten, community sustainability coordinator, to lead volunteers in removing the invasive species.

Thompson has worked occasionally with the sculpture park for about five years. Shade created by invasive species prevents important native plants from growing in the natural areas of the park. Removing invasive species prevents them from spreading and allows the native plants to grow. "With limited staff, partnering with KSU and Jody amplifies what we are able to do," Howell said. "This partnership is critical."

Josephine Sculpture Park is a non-profit that started in 2009 to connect land and people through the arts. The park features more than eighty sculptures on thirty acres of conserved native rural landscape.

"As a community-based non-profit, we value partnerships and think that partnerships with Kentucky State University are important to being an engaged community member," Howell said.

Community members are always invited to volunteer, both to help the park and to learn how to manage invasives on their own properties.

Cliff Jaggie, a semi-retired handyman who is taking a Kentucky Master Naturalist training session, enjoyed the hands-on experience at Josephine Sculpture Park.

"It was good to follow up with working with invasive species here at Josephine's," he said. He also works at a nature preserve and said he will use the knowledge he learned from Thompson in future removal of invasives.