Higher Education in the USA
Opening the Door

- 1636 Harvard College established
- 1776 USA declares independence from England
- 1780 Transylvania Univ. established (16th)
Opening the Door

Thomas Jefferson:

“Let us in education dream of an aristocracy of achievement rising out of a democracy of opportunity.”

- Limited government and freedom of expression
- Freedom of each state
- Quality is achieved by competition rather than federal planning
Opening the Door

1862 Morrill Land Grant Act

without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.
What role does the university play?

- Broad mandate
- Political involvement
- Door into middle class
- Wide participation - “ownership”
- Diversity in economic background, gender and race
- Many “first generation college”
UK’s Memorial Hall
Opening the Door

- 1865 University of Kentucky established
- 1907 University of Wisconsin opens the Extension Division to serve the community and state
- 1912 UK Graduate School established
- 1997 Ky Higher Ed Research Challenge Trust and “Top 20 mandate”
- 2001 Provost model, new President
- 2011 Arrival of President Eli Capilouto
2014-2020 Strategic Plan

- Goal # 1: Create a Vibrant Undergraduate Learning Community
- Goal # 2: Stabilize and Strengthen our Portfolio of Graduate and Professional Programs
- Goal # 3: Cultivate a Robust Research and Creative Environment
- Goal # 4: Have a Meaningful Impact on the Commonwealth and Community
Goal # 5: Foster a Positive Work Environment for Faculty and Staff

Goal # 6: Enhance our Role as an Inclusive Place of Collaboration for People of All Identities

Goal # 7: Transform the Campus, Brand and Infrastructure at UK

Goal # 8: Develop a Sustainable Financial Plan
University of Kentucky

- 1865 Ky. Agricultural and Mechanical College
- 1880 first women admitted
- 1916 renamed University of Kentucky
- 1910 Agricultural Extension begins
- 1918 College of Engineering established
- 1949 Lyman T. Johnson sues the UK Graduate School for refusal of admission on race
- 1960 Colleges of Medicine and Nursing established
- 1902 UK Basketball begins
Kentucky from the cradle....

...to the grave!
US university culture

- General liberal arts core (25% of the curriculum)
  - 4 “disciplinary” requirements:
    - Humanities
    - Social Sciences
    - Natural/physical/mathematical sciences
    - Arts/creativity
  - 2 Communications (written/visual/oral)
  - 2 Quantitative
  - US Citizenship, culture, community
  - Global Dynamics
US university culture

- “Undergraduate Studies” major
- Changes of major
- Retention challenge
- In-state (Kentucky) undergraduates (84%)
- “Full service” comprehensive state universities
Student Culture

- **Consumer mentality**
  - Tuition is very expensive
  - Students have choices

- Residential campus, “far” from family

- Advising, alerts, midterm grades

- Some math and science phobia
Top 10 U.S. College Majors

1) Business Administration & Management
2) Psychology
3) Nursing
4) Biology
5) Education
6) English
7) Economics
8) Communications
9) Political Science
10) Computer Science
Student Culture

- Limited study habits
- Syllabus is expected to be a contract
- Student rights (and responsibilities)
- Less global awareness and geographic/political knowledge than in other countries
Student Culture

- Want to like their teachers
- Not taught deference to authorities as strongly as elsewhere
- Class participation, discussion oriented
- School loyalty strong
Graduate School Culture

- Open-door policy
  - Visiting your professors during office hours is a sign of commitment
- Balance between teaching/research and your own studies
- Keep your eye on the prize