



# GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Rare QUATTRO CAVALLI replica

**UNVEILED AT KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Kentucky State University unveiled a rare replica of the Quattro Cavalli statue on its campus Friday, Aug. 21.

Quattro Cavalli, also known as the Horses of Saint Mark's, are one of the world's most mysterious statuary.

"The rich history of pure bred, agile, swift, and strong horses a cornerstone of Kentucky life. As the Commonwealth's Home of the Thoroughbreds, we are appreciative of the opportunity to share these awe-inspiring figures with the community. The Quattro Cavalli now sit upon a hill like a sentinel on watch at the entry of our campus," Kentucky State University President M. Christopher Brown II said.

While the original set of four gilded copper horses are on display inside St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, a replica stands in position on the loggia. The only replica in the United States resides at Kentucky State University.

The Italian horses, positioned to look onward, upward and forward, will serve as a vital tourism landmark and community gathering place to learn the significance of this replica of one of the most magnificent statues to survive from classical antiquity.

"The Quattro Cavalli were positioned on campus to face toward the Capitol rotunda — reinforcing the role of Kentucky State University as the state's only federally sponsored historically Black land-grant university. The horses are racing onward, upward and forward," President Brown said.

Under normal circumstances, the replica would have been unveiled to welcome the class of 2024. However, with the ongoing global pandemic, the unveiling was modified to adhere to federal, state and local guidelines.



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## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY HOSTED INAUGURAL HBCU MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

In the midst of a global health pandemic and deepening racial tensions, the Kentucky State University Division of Student Engagement and Campus Life and its Center for Emotional Wellness recently hosted the two-day inaugural HBCU Mental Health Summit.

A virtual event, held during Minority Mental Health Month, brought together 130 mental health professionals, faculty, student affairs staff, consultants and graduate students from more than 25 HBCUs to explore issues related to the theme of “Supporting Students in the Era of COVID-19 and Racial Trauma.” Featuring nationally recognized keynote presenters, breakout workshop and strategy sessions, networking opportunities, town hall meetings, and a celebration of HBCUs program, the Summit was a powerful opportunity for learning and sharing of critical information to advance services to students at this critical moment.

The talents of the Kentucky State University community were featured prominently in the Summit. Mental health counselor LaShonda Sims Duncan delivered transformational

mindfulness moments, with her colleague William Mynk facilitating a spirited lunch-and-learn session. In addition, a panel of Kentucky State students in the L.E.A.D. 1886 Leadership Academy shared their experiences actively participating in protesting, supporting rallies, learning away from campus, and the interruption of activities such as sports, running for office and Greek life.

Panelists included Yasmine Harper, Ashley Hayes, Miana Wallace, Gyannella Vega-Ortega, and SGA President-Elect Kirk Miller. Dr. Lori Hicks, interim chair of the School of Humanities and Performing Arts, also presented a highly received workshop entitled “Mind Music: The Role of Music in Mental Health.” Dr. Linda J.M. Holloway, associate professor of counseling and program coordinator at Alabama State University, said, “If it had not been for this amazing program, this information would not have been put forth into the atmosphere. You are touching lives! I hope you all do it again and again. The Summit was excellent.”

Tecla Coleman, a graduate student at Dartmouth University who will be interning in the fall at Kentucky State, affirmed these sentiments: “I’m loving all of this, I needed this,” Coleman said. “Not just as a practicum experience, but for my life.” This Summit, as well as the upcoming HBCU Student Leadership Summit, was envisioned by Dr. Derek Greenfield, Vice President for Student Engagement and Campus Life/Chief Diversity Officer, as an effort to help students. “The HBCU world needs these opportunities to build community and strengthen our skill sets to best support our wonderful students, and Kentucky State deserves to be the leader for this work,” Greenfield said.

Dr. Pernella Deams, Dean of Student Leadership, Conduct, and Health, and Dr. Anthony Andrews, Director of the Center for Emotional Wellness, served as co-chairs for the Steering Committee and joined Dr. Greenfield as facilitators for the Summit. “I was excited to see the HBCU community and our partners collaborate with a focus on the wellness and the voice of students during this time,” Deams said.

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNA PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



A Kentucky State University alumna was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army National Guard.

La'Shawna Waller, who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Kentucky State, now holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serves as the operations officer for the Army National Guard G-9, Installations and Environment Directorate. Waller earned a master's in special education by taking online courses while she was deployed in Kuwait.

Waller graduated from Kentucky State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in biology. She was commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer in May 2005 from the University of Kentucky ROTC program and

assigned to the Kentucky Army National Guard. As of June 1, she holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In an interview in the Spring 2017 Onward and Upward magazine, Waller said, “Starting the program while deployed helped me focus on something else rather than my deployment. It was a type of mental escape for me.” Waller also holds a Master of Science in environmental management from Webster University. She is currently pursuing an Ed.D. from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in leadership and learning in organizations. Waller's military education includes training in human resources; engineering; command and general staff officers course; reserve component national security; and defense strategy.

Waller has served in two combat tours and has held a variety of leadership positions at the operational and strategic levels. Waller's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal,

Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 3 oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Waller currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia where she is heavily involved in the community. Waller currently serves as the president for the DC Area Kentucky State University Alumni Chapter. She attends Alfred Street Baptist Church and is a member of the Voices of Triumph Choir. Waller is also a member of the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

## KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNA DEVELOPS SOFTWARE FOR FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES



A Kentucky State University alumna found her calling by chance during her time as an undergraduate on the Hill.

Jordan Perry, class of 2015, switched her major from undecided to IT security to software development, which led to her career path. Perry said she switched to software development because she likes to think of herself as an artist.

“I enjoy creating,” Perry said. “Through code and various frameworks, the options of creation are limitless.” After graduation, Perry has been developing software for various Fortune 500 companies, from Walmart to BMW.

“I’ve had the pleasure of developing across multiple platforms such as mobile, web and in-car applications,” Perry said. Perry said the most important thing she learned at Kentucky State was how to be resourceful and to not be afraid to ask for help.

Her best advice to current or future Thorobreds? “My best advice is take that course, even if it’s not in your major but sparks your interest,” Perry said. “You might find your passion from going out on a whim.” Perry added, “Enjoy these years of learning and connecting. Don’t underestimate the value of networking.”