

Submission for Rayleigh Deaton  
for Four-Year School Reporter of the Year  
Kentucky Kernel, University of Kentucky

<https://kykernel.com/89515/news/hes-not-gonna-make-it-to-serenades-the-missing-details-of-the-hazelwood-investigation/>



[‘He’s not gonna make it to serenades.’ The missing details of the Hazelwood investigation](#)

They left him alone, on a couch, his blood alcohol concentration almost five times the legal limit. Just a few hours before, he had been hanging out with his pledge brothers, drinking bourbon, playing “Madden Football” and getting ready for that evening’s serenades with his fraternity. Now, his life was slipping away in an empty...

kykernel.com

<https://kykernel.com/88040/news/not-a-building-kentucky-theatre-hosts-benefit-event-for-appalshop-in-wake-of-flooding/>



[‘Not a building.’  
Kentucky Theatre  
hosts benefit event  
for Appalshop in  
wake of flooding](#)

The Kentucky Theatre hosted “And The Creek Rose,” a fundraising event benefiting Appalshop and the Appalachian Media Institution (AMI). Held on Sept. 16, the evening featured local musicians, a reading by Silas House and the premiere of the 2022 AMI films. Sponsored by local supporters like 21C, WRFL, Kentucky Rural Urban Exchange and UK’s College...  
kykernel.com

<https://kykernel.com/90689/opinions/dear-matt-bevin-journalism-is-no-joking-matter/>



[Dear Matt Bevin,  
journalism is no  
joking matter](#)

Friday, Jan. 6, at 4 p.m., was the deadline for Kentucky’s gubernatorial hopefuls to formally file their candidacy for governor. The state Capitol was lively, the first week of the General Assembly’s 2023 session underway. The quickly approaching deadline only served to heighten the excitement. For days, journalists had been

publishing predictions of  
who they...  
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<https://kykernel.com/87212/news/uk-discontinues-covid-dashboard-as-kentucky-positivity-rates-increase/>



[UK discontinues  
COVID  
dashboard as  
Kentucky  
positivity rates  
increase](#)

The University of Kentucky is no longer maintaining a COVID-19 dashboard displaying vaccination percentages and positivity rates among students, faculty and staff. The dashboard, which was updated regularly since its creation in September 2020, included campus-wide statistics for total active COVID cases, total recovered cases, total new cases, number of students in isolation and percentage...  
kykernel.com

<https://kykernel.com/88976/news/a-lot-of-work-to-do-bob-woodward-and-carl-bernstein-offer-perspectives-on-journalism-today/>




'A lot of work to do.' Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein offer perspectives on journalism today


Bob Woodward was asleep when he got the call from his Washington Post editor. There had been a break-in overnight at the Democratic National Headquarters, and Woodward, who had been working at the Post for nine months, was sent to the courthouse to cover the hearing. "June 17, 1972, was one of the most beautiful...  
kykernel.com

# RAYLEIGH DEATON

Journalist

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## ABOUT

Print journalist with experience in both news and magazine writing and editing. Served as two-time editor-in-chief of the University of Kentucky's independent student newspaper, leading the paper to win numerous state and national staff-wide and individual awards.

A life-long learner and lover of the written word.

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## EDUCATION

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

2019-2023

University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

DOUBLE MAJOR, COMMUNICATION (DIGITAL AND MASS TRACK) AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
MINOR, JOURNALISM STUDIES

4.0 GPA

Dean's List for 8 consecutive semesters

### MASTERS OF SCIENCE

2023-2024

Royal Holloway, University of London – Egham, England

MEDIA, POWER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### KENTUCKY KERNEL

Lexington, KY

April 2021-May 2021

- Manage newsroom of reporters, editors, designers, social media managers and photographers
- Edit weekly print edition, daily online content, newsletter and social media postings
- Run the Kentucky Kernel, UK's award-winning, editorially independent student newspaper
- One of a few two-time editors-in-chief of the Kernel in its over 100-year history
- Gaining experience in management and budgeting in a journalistic setting

### LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Lexington, KY

June 2021-August 2021, May 2022-August 2022

- Wrote news stories for the online and print editions
- Covered breaking news and local interest stories
- Gained experience in interviewing, working and writing in a professional news setting

### KRNL LIFESTYLE + FASHION MAGAZINE

Lexington, KY

August 2020-May 2023

- Managed team of lifestyle writers and editors for UK's student-run magazine
- Edited and wrote lifestyle content for printed magazine and website
- Gained experience in group leadership and published journalistic writing

## SKILLS

- Magazine and journalistic writing, editing
- Adobe InDesign and Rush
- Podcasting and public speaking
- Blox, SNO and CUE content management systems
- Interviewing
- Slack, Canva and Trello
- Microsoft Office and Google suites
- FAA Part 107 Certified Drone Pilot
- Conversational French and Spanish

## HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

United Kingdom Fulbright Special Study/Research award	March 2023
Phi Beta Kappa Society	March 2022-Present
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi	September 2021-Present
University of Kentucky Dean's List	August 2019-December 2022
Omicron Delta Kappa Maurice A. Clay Award	April 2023
UK Political Science Department Vandebosch Paper Award runner-up	April 2023
UK Student Government Association Leadership Development Program	August 2019-May 2020
UK Lewis Honors College	August 2019-Present
Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society	February 2020-Present
Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society	February 2023-Present
Phi Sigma Theta Honor Society	February 2020-Present
Department of Communication Outstanding Junior and Senior awards	March 2021, March 2022, April 2023
John R. "Jack" Guthrie Editor's Gift Scholarship	July 2021, July 2022
English-Speaking Union study abroad scholarship	October 2021
SPJ Bluegrass Pro Chapter Mike Farrell Memorial Scholarship	May 2022
Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant	May 2022

## AWARDS

### ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS AWARDS

First place — Story of the Year, Editorial  
**2022**

### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM COX INSTITUTE

Betty Gage Holland Award  
**2023**

### KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE IN NEWSPAPERS AWARDS

First place — Best Lede; Best Editorial  
Second place — Best Investigative Story; Best Ongoing Coverage Story  
**2022**

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### President of UK's campus chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

University of Kentucky— Lexington, KY — 2022-2023

### Attended the 2022 English Literature Summer School at the University of Oxford

University of Oxford — Oxford, England — 2022

### Worked as a Peer Mentor for the UK Lewis Honors College

University of Kentucky— Lexington, KY — 2020-2021

### Worked as a Student Ambassador for the UK College of Communication and Information

University of Kentucky— Lexington, KY — 2020-2023

## REFERENCES

### Ryan Craig

University of Kentucky Student Media Adviser — Lexington, KY

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### Peter Baniak

Lexington Herald-Leader Editor-in-Chief — Lexington, KY

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### Jennifer Smith

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