UK at the Half

 Saturday, Oct. 29 UK at Missouri:

Carl Nathe: Thanks, Neil

Justin Miller: I knew at a very young age that I wanted to be a social worker. Since arriving here at the University of Kentucky I really try to use my personal experiences as a way to shape and inform the work and research that I try and do now

Nathe: That’s assistant professor Justin J Miller. Now in his third year on the faculty of the University of Kentucky College of Social Work, Miller himself spent much of his youth in foster care. He knows the subject first hand.

Miller: In Kentucky, there are more than 8,000 kids in foster care so we’ve seen increasing numbers in recent years. Traditionally at 18, you are considered an adult however, Kentucky offers the chance for foster you to extend commitment until age 21

Nathe: While working in Child Protective services in state government, Miller went to graduate school and earned his PhD. His research concentration

Miller: Focus on young people who are transitioning into adulthood and trying to create a system of care around them so that when they do run into challenges, when they do face hardships, that they have a place to go, that they have someone to reach out to

Nathe: Miller says we all need to be attune to the challenges facing foster children

Miller: They’re not someone's problems they’re everyone's problems, and as such everyone has a role in trying to fix or address those problems. And I take those calls seriously. I’ve had people in my life who have given up themselves to make sure I got to where I am now.

Nathe: Jay Miller is co editor in a recently published handbook designed for social workers and others in the helping profession

Miller: My colleagues and I were really interested in the concept of self-care. Burnout is real. By carious trauma is real. We wanted people to understand that you must take care of yourself in order to provide better services to clients

Nathe: In addition to his teaching and research at UK, Miller serves as president of Foster Care Alumni of America Kentucky chapter and in several other advocacy roles.

Miller: We are really trying to live into that notion of being the University for Kentucky. The services that we are providing to citizens of the commonwealth are impactful, they’re measureable and they’re meaningful.

Nathe: UK College of social work faculty member, Jay Miller. To keep up with what’s going on at the University of Kentucky, just visit uky.edu. You can find our UKNow new website as well as how to follow us on social media via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Seeing blue, I’m Carl Nathe with UK at the half.