

TOURIST ITALIAN
Laughable linguistic labors

BOWL CELEBRATION
Postseason return

kansasalumni

ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2023 | \$7



Turn the Page

*Retired professor writes a second act
with a Kansas mystery at its heart*



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Talk and squawk in the news



“If you ask me, in my wildest dream, would being part of a movie be part of that plan, the answer is a big no. It was not even on my radar.”

—Jomo Tariku, a’10, talking with WAMU 88.5 FM in Washington, D.C., in November about his furniture appearing in the film “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.” Tariku studied industrial design and makes African-themed modern furniture.



COURTESY MARVEL

“I am madly in love with the Midwest. People here are warm and open-hearted.”

—Andriyana Baran, a graduate student from Ukraine, in an interview with the website Inside

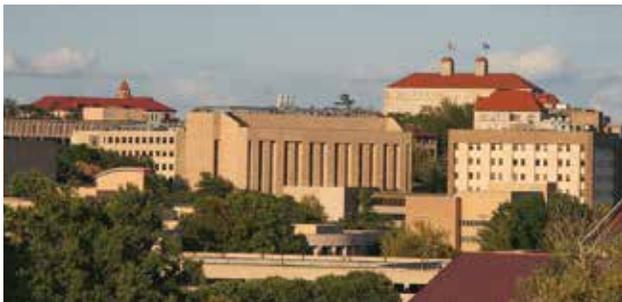
Higher Ed in December. For the 2022-'23 academic year, KU is hosting four students from Ukraine who were displaced after Russia's invasion of the country. Baran is pursuing her master's in Slavic languages and literatures.



COURTESY ANDRIYANA BARAN

“Every time we saw the red roofs from Highway 10 or Highway 40, our hearts skipped a little, looking forward to going ‘home.’”

—Dan Breitenstein, b'69, commenting on the Alumni Association's Jan. 19 Facebook post that asked Jayhawks which buildings on campus were most special to them.



SUSAN YOUNGER

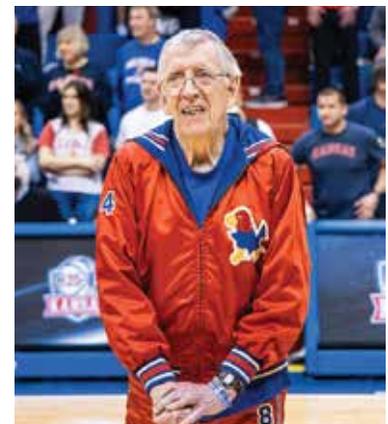
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“When I go to give a talk about our research, nine times out of 10 I get introduced as an All-American basketball player who played with Wilt Chamberlain.”

—Jerry Gardner, c'62, discussing his enduring ties to KU basketball at the program's 125th anniversary celebration Jan. 14. Over 150 former players, coaches and staff returned to Allen Field House for the milestone. Gardner was a guard from 1959 to 1962 and went on to a career as a physician and scientist.



KANSAS ATHLETICS



COVER STORY

Plot Twist

Charles Forrest Jones created his own retirement destination, a fictional Kansas community that held a mystery decades in the making.

by Chris Lazzarino

Cover photograph by Steve Puppe



I'd Like to Pay for the Cat My Mother Ate

For a language-challenged professor chatting his way through Milan, Venice and Rome, the menu includes a heaping helping of humble pie—and a dollop of triumph. Italia, she is still reeling.

by Chuck Marsh



Feel Real Yet?

Football's memorable Liberty Bowl trip was more than a fun diversion; it was a key building block for a program on the rise.

by Chris Lazzarino



Profile: Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff

A former Miss Teen USA turns her focus on service toward a budding career in the law.

by Steven Hill

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Established in 1902 as
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ONLINE EXTRAS

Digital Feature
“Together We Rise,” the first in a quarterly series, shows how the Association is supporting the University’s DEIB efforts.



From the Archives
Kansas City cartoonist Charlie Podrebarac, who illustrated Chuck Marsh’s feature in this issue, is a longtime *Kansas Alumni* contributor. For more of his wry comic work, check out “Constant Messaging,” issue No. 5, 2007.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Please limit your comments to 350 words. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity.

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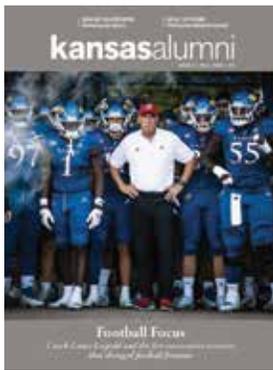
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Grand grotesques

DYCHE HALL has an air of distinction with its beautifully carved entrance adornments. One sees fantasy and playfulness in the sculptures by my grandfather, Joseph Roblado Frazee, and looking skyward at these magnificent, fantastical guardians, one can imagine what fun Roblado and his son, Vitruvius, had while sculpting them. When I was a KU student, from 1957 to 1961, I walked past Dyche daily, smiling and full of family pride as I gazed upon the handiwork of my grandfather. The same emotion fills me today as I view this unique, iconic building with eight new, skillfully carved grotesques—a labor of love by Karl and Laura Ramberg.

“The Beasts Are Back” [issue No. 4, 2022] illustrates the passion of each participant in the renewal. Today it is rather exceptional to see this kind of devotion and resolve to fix a problem no matter how difficult or lengthy the solution. As the family of the original sculptor, we had to put our faith and trust in all involved that Roblado’s artistic legacy would remain intact. In fact, we were astounded by the incredibly dedicated and talented people who poured five years of their lives into the effort.

The generational art education legacy of this project—which began with Poco Frazier (whom I met), passed down to Professor Elden Tefft and then to the Rambergs and me, a fine arts major at KU—was meaningful. Art tradition and history intertwine and are now available to a new generation of art and architecture students and the public.

What an honor to be included in all the details of the project from the beginning, and what an educational journey we have encountered. We are truly blessed to have met so many fabulous people we can now call friends. Our experience will forever remain in our hearts and minds.

—Cheryl Frazee Burdette, f’61

Lenexa

Evin Burdette Wood, c’92

Aurora, Colorado

AFTER READING Chris Lazzarino’s great article in the fall issue of *Kansas Alumni*, I want to share my thoughts about the KU Natural History Museum’s grotesque renewal project.

Mr. Lazzarino clearly detailed, step by step, the thought and caring that went into this project from begin-

ning to end. So many people had a hand or two in this endeavor that I hesitate to name names for fear of leaving someone out. As one of many great-grandchildren of Joseph Roblado Frazee, I would like to thank each and every one of you for a job well done.

In this disposable and tech-driven society, the time, talent and ingenuity it took to create or build so many things is not appreciated. For KU to value the beautiful stonework on Dyche Hall, creatively designed and sculpted by Joseph Roblado Frazee and his son, Vitruvius, means the world to me. The project team carefully brought down the weathered 121-year-old grotesques, added these precious original sculptures to their inventory, and commissioned new, artfully carved replacements. Thank you for going to such great lengths to honor the past.

—Patti Schlick

Fordland, Missouri

THANK YOU for the intriguing article about the grotesques of Dyche Hall. (Sounds like a horror movie!)

It brought back great memories of walking past the building in my college years, and walking in to see the Panorama exhibit. (How many remember the beer cans on the beach in one of the prehistoric dioramas?)

It is wonderful to learn that Dyche is being restored, including the new grotesques. Too often we are quick to destroy our heritage in this modern, throwaway society, when “away” really doesn’t exist. Dyche Hall makes KU

special, and saving it makes it even more so.

A question: Would sculptor Laura Ramberg consider carving a Jayhawk? I Googled how to do it: “Take a big block of Rock Chalk limestone and remove everything that doesn’t look like a Jayhawk.”

Sounds simple to me.

—Victor Barry, c’68

Gig Harbor, Washington

Rich rewards

I’VE QUIZZED LECH Walesa, had my head rubbed by the Dalai Lama and interviewed Wilt Chamberlain (twice), but none of those encounters thrilled me as much as meeting Rich Clarkson at the Jim Ryun Festival of Miles at San Diego’s Balboa Stadium in June 2014, the 50th anniversary of Ryun becoming the first prep sub-4-minute miler.

So it was a delight to see Clarkson a focus in your story about the new Kansas Photojournalism Hall of Fame [“First Class,” issue No. 4, 2022], which also noted inductee Carl Davaz Jr., one of my classmates. Clarkson’s photos illustrated the 1967 book *The Jim Ryun Story*, and he has been a hero of mine ever since.

My favorite Clarkson story: When he was a KU student in the 1950s, long before Photoshop, the University Daily Kansan ran a Clarkson image that put Kansas State’s Ahearn Field House next to Allen Field House—as if we had stolen the Manhattan landmark.

—Ken Stone, j’76

La Mesa, California



STEVE PUPPE

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DAN STOREY



IN 2022, WHEN WE HONORED the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I shared my excitement along with my aspirations for how the KU Alumni Association could start to intentionally engage in the work of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. As articles and posts about Dr. King began to fill my timelines, I noticed that so much of what was being shared centered on the famous “I Have a Dream” speech. This historic speech has continued to be a focal point in how we’ve been taught to understand the essence of Dr. King and how his life should serve as an inspiration for us to seek unity.

This year, I want to challenge each of us to move beyond the “dream.” Use the dream as a guiding light, while coupling it with action. My message this year is simple: Aim for progress over perfection.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advocating for the progress of unity for all people. I’ve struggled this past year personally to really feel a sense of accomplishment as we began to analyze and understand the work the Association needs to do to propel toward a more inclusive and equitable experience for our students and alumni. I’ve felt the weight of this work, and while there is still much to do, I’m proud of the progress we’re making in the following areas:

Culture and Values

We intentionally started at the foundational level to ensure alignment across the organization in who we are and what we value. We want to reposition ourselves as campus partners committed to inclusion and belonging and for that commitment to be reflected in our values. Through collective leadership across the organization, we refreshed our values by concentrating on three guiding principles.

Appreciate the Unique: We empower our community to authentically shine. We believe that differences are strengths, all humanity has value, and all Jayhawks belong.

Cultivate the Core: We co-construct shared experiences and memories extending from KU to our global community, connected by what it means to be a Jayhawk.

Fuel the Future: We bravely reimagine the future together and boldly innovate to continue raising the standard for Jayhawk excellence.

The outcome we’re after is a culture in which all Jayhawks experience a sense of belonging and are valued by their KU community.

The Jayhawk Welcome Center

The Jayhawk Welcome Center will be a physical representation of what we want all of campus to feel like for our future and current students, alumni, and Jayhawks from all walks of life. We want inclusion and belonging to be felt by everyone who comes to our campus. We hope the Welcome Center will be a pivotal part of the KU experience, so students can envision themselves as future alumni and for alumni to feel a strong sense of pride in what it means to be a Jayhawk.

Student Engagement

Our students are the future of the Association, and the ways we engage them during their time here are critical to how they remember us and stay connected once they leave the nest. We have focused on creating diverse experiences to engage students across KU. We have introduced more inclusive programs this past academic year and have been intentional in our efforts to find student leaders who can help us meet with students where they are. As a result, we’ve recruited the most diverse Student Alumni Endowment Board to date.

As we continue the work of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, I continue to be inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and I leave you with his words:

“For all too long, we have had silent onlookers, but now there must be more involved participants who solve this problem and get rid of this one huge wrong of our nation. There must be a kind of divine discontent.”

—Mykala Sandifer, c’15, is director of inclusive programs and talent development at the Alumni Association.



LUMINOUS NEW SPACES are on display at the Spencer Museum of Art, where the redesigned fourth-floor galleries positively gleam. The \$4 million project, funded by private gifts and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, features a reinstallation of works from the museum's expansive, diverse collection of 48,000 objects. To celebrate, the Spencer will host Level Up! An Art Party for All, from noon to 5 p.m. March 4. For more details, visit spencerart.ku.edu.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN WAGGONER





“I love this phrase ‘gateway.’ I think it resonates as both a tangible statement but also an indicator of that incredibly important north entry point into our campus from the broader Lawrence community. With the proximity up the Hill to Jayhawk Boulevard, and the new Jayhawk Welcome Center, it all makes so much sense.”

—Travis Goff



STEVE PUPPE (2)

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Gateway underway

Stadium expansion and more planned for 11th & Mississippi

FEW YEARS in modern KU history proved as eventful as 2022: a men’s basketball championship, a shocking run by the football team that landed ESPN College GameDay on the Hill and the Jayhawks in the Liberty Bowl—both of which helped drive upticks in enrollment interest in an era of declining numbers nationwide—and, of course, the soon-to-be-unveiled Jayhawk Welcome Center at the Adams Alumni Center. A joint project between the University and Alumni Association, the welcome center will host stellar campus visits for prospective students and their families.

Those elements of Mount Oread momentum, a precious commodity never to be ignored, are helping propel what University and Kansas Athletics leaders describe as a “transformational development project” at 11th and Mississippi streets. A critical component of the University’s five-year financial plan, the “campus gateway” project will include a definitive overhaul of David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium and expansion of the Anderson Family Football Complex—plus potential conference, hotel, entertainment and retail space to drive economic growth for the region and generate revenue to fund academic programs.

“I love this phrase ‘gateway,’” says Athletics Director Travis Goff, c’03, j’03. “I think it resonates as both a tangible statement but also an indicator of that incredibly important north entry point into our campus from the broader Lawrence community. With the proximity up the Hill to Jayhawk Boule-



Leipold

vard, and the new Jayhawk Welcome Center, it all makes so much sense.”

Work is already underway to expand and modernize the Anderson Family Football Complex, adjacent to the stadium, to address, among other priorities, the addition of new space for coach Lance Leipold’s larger recruiting staff and dining areas for players, who can often be seen toting their post-practice meals in to-go containers.

The University pledged in the contract extension signed by Leipold in November to make “meaningful and substantial” progress toward renovation and expansion of the football headquarters by July 1 and the stadium by Dec. 15; failure to meet either objec-

tive would grant Leipold the right to terminate his obligation to KU and depart without financial penalty.

In an interview with the Lawrence Journal-World, Chancellor Doug Girod confirmed the contract language was included, at least in part, as incentive for the University to finally make long-discussed stadium renovations a reality. He says the proposed “multiuse” environment for development on Mississippi Street will tie in directly with the Jayhawk Welcome Center’s role in introducing prospective students and their families to Mount Oread.

“That will be the first contact point for every family and students visiting our campus, which we know is so important for their decision on where to go to school,” Girod says. “The volume of people that’s going to be flowing through there, and how to capture that, is really exciting to think about. I think it will be game-changing on so many different levels.”

KU has selected key partners to help develop specific plans, timelines and cost estimates for the project. HNTB is the lead architect, in partnership with Lawrence-based Multistudio. KU also has retained Nations Group, a firm specializing in university athletics venues and mixed-use facilities. Girod told the Journal-World that the University needs to raise at least \$150 million from private donors, which would qualify for \$50 million in state economic development funds through a 3-for-

1 match program approved in 2022 by the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Laura Kelly.

Although the project’s scope and funding have not yet been announced in detail, vast changes in and around the stadium already appear to be supporting the future of KU football.

“I want everything to improve around our program,” Leipold says. “The game day environment here is night-and-day different than it was a year ago. We appreciate that, and we hope that is reflected in [fans’] belief in this program, and our players, moving forward. Hopefully we’ll see the uptick in season tickets and all the other things that we’d like to see happen for this place to be as full as possible on every game day.”

Andy Kotelnicki, associate head coach and offensive coordinator, confirmed at the end of the regular season that he had been offered head coaching opportunities elsewhere but chose to remain at KU, in part thanks to what Leipold has termed KU’s “complete investment” in football’s physical environs.

“When you have the opportunity to say that you can reach all of your goals right where you’re at, in an awesome place, why would you leave?” Kotelnicki says. “I think that’s true for any of our students who go to school here, and any of our student-athletes, and those of us on the staff. You can achieve any goal you have, right here at this University, so let’s go.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



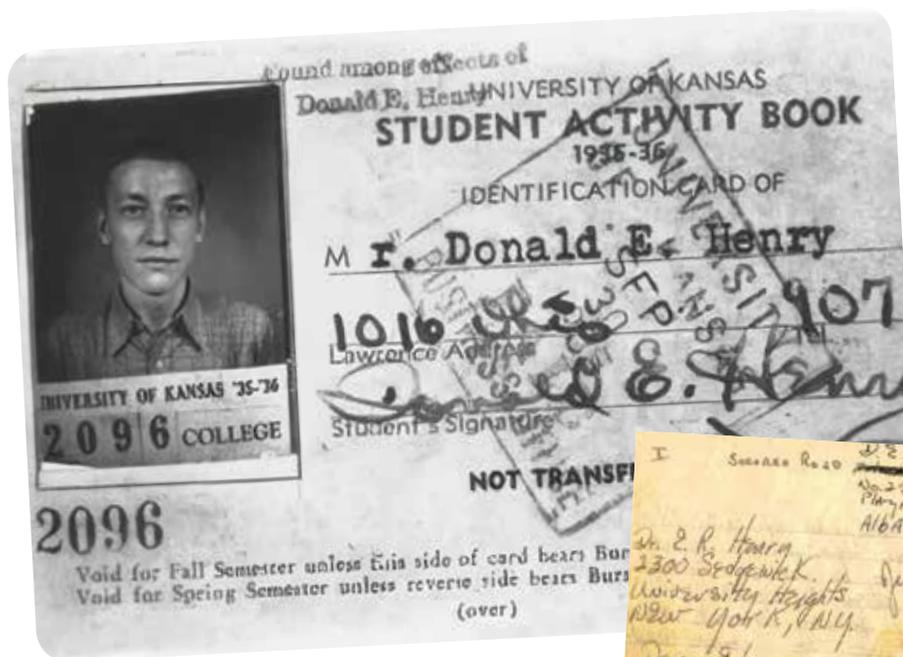
Arash Mafi will become executive dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in March. Mafi joins KU from the University of New Mexico, where he had served as interim dean since July 2021. He succeeds John Colombo, who has led the College in an interim capacity since July 2019. A faculty member in physics and astronomy for eight years at UNM, Mafi earned a bachelor’s degree at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, Iran, and a master’s degree in physics and a PhD in theoretical particle physics at Ohio State University. He will be the first to hold the new title of executive dean, which is intended to reflect the size and breadth of the College. KU’s largest academic unit is home to 9,500 undergraduate and 1,600 graduate students, 650 faculty, 300 staff, and 50 departments, programs and centers.



Happy 100th birthday to the third rendition of our adored mascot, a duck-like creature drawn by two enterprising KU sophomores. When cheerleaders urged students to drive to Lincoln for the KU-Nebraska football game on Nov. 12, 1921, and “Show ’em you’re a Jayhawk if you have to paint it on the windshield,” James O’Byron and George Hollingbery hatched a business plan. For a fee, they painted their quirky bird on fans’ car windows. KU lost to Nebraska, 28-0, but no one blamed the new Jayhawk. In 1923, the University adopted the bird, which began to appear on jackets, sweaters and uniforms, according to retired University Archivist Becky Ozier Schulte, c’76. Her authoritative book on the history of the Jayhawk will be published this fall by the University Press of Kansas.



Los Angeles Times Executive Editor **Kevin Merida** will receive the 2023 William Allen White Foundation National Citation. Merida will accept the award, which recognizes journalists for outstanding service, on William Allen White Day, April 20, at the Kansas Memorial Union. Before joining the Times in 2021, Merida was senior vice president at ESPN and worked for 22 years at the Washington Post, where he helped lead the newspaper to four Pulitzer Prizes as managing editor. Past recipients of the National Citation include Walter Cronkite, Bob Woodward and Gordon Parks, as well as KU alumni Sally Streff Buzbee, j'88; Rich Clarkson, j'55; Bob Dotson, j'68; Bill Kurtis, j'62; and Gerald Seib, j'78.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ARTS & CULTURE

It ain't over

Alumnus ponders links between past and present with an opera for the ages

WHEN WORD REACHED Mount Oread, in October 1937, that “flaxen-haired Don Henry” had been killed in the Spanish Civil War, the sad news of the sophomore’s death touched off a political firestorm that lasted months.

Legislators, University administrators and Henry’s own father wanted to know how a patriotic Boy Scout from Dodge City, a pious Methodist who’d pondered a church career, could become so radicalized that he’d join communist, socialist and anarchist forces fighting to defend the Spanish government against Nationalists backed by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. Though hundreds of Americans, alarmed by the rise of Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Francisco Franco, were fighting in Spain (many in the English-speaking Abraham Lincoln Brigade in which Henry served), some Kansans suspected there was only one explanation for the All-American boy’s revolutionary turn: brainwashing by communists at KU.

Inquiries by Chancellor Ernest Lindley, the Kansas Board of Regents and conservative Kansas legislators stoked a red scare largely met with “eye-rolling exasperation” on campus, according to an article on kuhistory.com. Reactions ranged

from lighthearted pranks (Greek students schemed about donning red shirts and greeting each other as “comrade,” and a professor arrived in his classroom to find farcical “plans” for bombing Strong Hall scrawled on his chalkboard) to earnest editorials invoking the Salem witch trials. Emporia Gazette Editor William Allen White, 1890, in a University Daily Kansan commentary, dismissed the uproar as “a lot of whoop-te-doo and no evidence ... gossip and tall tales multiplied by ten under the tongues of super-patriots.” Not until the following spring, when a bill demanding \$7,500 to root out radicalism at KU failed in the Senate after passing the House, did the issue fade.

Yet it resonates still, according to Frank Nawrot, DMA’19, assistant professor of music theory at Wichita State University, who retells fallen student Don Henry’s tragic tale in an inventive chamber opera that blends elements of rock, pop and metal music with cable news tropes.

“His story felt very similar to ours,” Nawrot says of his rationale for updating a nearly century-old story for a modern audience. “There was a study

done that showed in the midterm elections of 2018, there were more white nationalists running for office in the U.S. than at any other time in our history. What made me want to tell his story was the fact that he was fighting a very similar thing overseas. The things that inspired him were the same things that were inspiring people to get out and take a stand against the white nationalists running for office in the U.S. I found those parallels really interesting.”

Nawrot wrote the one-act opera, which runs about 70 minutes, as his doctoral dissertation in the School of Music. The lyrics draw on primary source documents, including a press release summarizing the Board of Regents investigation and a letter Henry sent his family from Spain, as well as war poems written by soldiers who served in the conflict. Shakespeare sonnets and Black Panther leader Huey P. Newton’s autobiography also inspired lyrics.

One of the most inventive touches is a fictional

cable news program, “The Megan O’Reilly Show,” that introduces each act. The host scoffs at students’ naivete while interviewing a guest whose responses are quotes from the Regents’ release. The show’s disdain for students’ idealism, suspicion of faculty “indoctrination” and communist influence on campus, and warnings about radical socialism reflect the times—Henry’s and ours.

“The reason I put the fake 24-hour news show in was because that’s something I’ve lived with my whole life,” Nawrot says. “I grew up hearing my parents and other family members watch Fox News and CNN and MSNBC and all that stuff. You see it in hospital lobbies and everywhere. It’s really an important part of American culture, and I wanted to use it as a kind of funny but also surreal way to connect the two eras.”

In August, Nawrot released a recording of “Don Henry” as a four-part podcast. Neal Long, g’18, DMA’21, sings the role of Henry, and Gretchen Pille, g’18, sings dual roles as Henry’s mother and Salara, a nurse serving at the front. Rachael Rule plays Megan O’Reilly, while Nawrot appears as her talk show guest, Duke Prospero.

The instrumentation Nawrot employs—orchestral strings and woodwinds mixed with guitar, bass, drums and keyboards—illustrates his approach to making music: Play what you like and hope others like it too.

“More and more I just write the music I want to hear, which means very much drawing on the music that I like,” says Nawrot, who grew up on hip-hop, rock and metal rather than classical music. “I’ve listened to many more hours of Prince than Mozart.”

Technically “Don Henry” is more of a concept album at this point, Nawrot says. It won’t really be an opera until it gets staged. Someday.

“A hundred years ago to call something an opera that had talking in it would have been scoffed at by many,” he says, noting that there are various terms for large-scale staged works that include dialogue.

“Nowadays we typically call them musicals,” Nawrot adds. “I don’t really care what people call this, as long as they listen to it.”

—STEVEN HILL

Listen to “Don Henry” at franknawrot.com or on your favorite podcast platform.



A \$1.4 million gift from **Toni and Orley “Chip” Taylor**, professor emeritus of ecology & evolutionary biology, will establish the Chip and Toni Taylor Professorship in support of Monarch Watch. Taylor co-founded the popular citizen science program dedicated to monarch butterfly research with Brad Williamson, c’74, g’77, in 1992. Program volunteers have tagged an estimated 2 million migrating butterflies, distributed 1 million milkweed plants and established more than 41,000 Monarch Waystations in nine countries. Taylor plans to step down as director once the professorship is filled.

COURTESY FRANK NAWROT



A letter from sophomore Don Henry, who died in the Spanish Civil War, inspired the plot and lyrics of an innovative opera by School of Music alumnus Frank Nawrot.

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STEVE PUPPE

NEWS BRIEF

Second-year students explore international interests as Global Scholars

FIFTEEN SOPHOMORES who've demonstrated a strong academic record and an interest in global studies have been selected for the 12th annual class of Global Scholars. The KU program brings together second-year students of high academic and leadership potential who want to integrate internationalism into their undergraduate experience. Scholars enroll in an interdisciplinary seminar, complete a research project with a faculty mentor, and in the spring of their senior year present their research at the Global Scholars Symposium.

The program's director, Elizabeth MacGonagle, associate professor of history and African & African American studies, works with the students to help them identify a mentor and develop their research projects.

"This is a fabulous program that provides a unique opportunity for a selective group of students," MacGonagle says. "They get to come together as a cohort, and the program hosts events for them, whether it's a meeting with somebody to talk about potential fellowship opportunities or bringing in alumni of the program

to talk about their careers in the international sphere."

This year's class, which includes students with majors across the arts and sciences, will meet for a weekly seminar taught by Marike Janzen, associate professor of Slavic, German & Eurasian studies. "Citizens, Refugees, Humans" explores the diverging experiences of citizens and the estimated 89 million forcibly displaced refugees in the world.

"We're trying to create an academic experience for these students so they can see the potential of immersing themselves in an international topic," MacGonagle says. "They are then developing some of their own research interests, or bringing questions to the table and opening up the discussion with their cohort, with their professor there to serve as a mentor as well. It's a space for them to get to know each other and talk about their shared international interests."

The 2023 Global Scholars, their hometowns and majors are:

- Aarthi Aruna, Overland Park, behavioral neuroscience and anthropology on the pre-med track, with a minor in Spanish
- Anya Asjad, Mission Hills, biochemistry
- Braiden Bangalan, Lawrence, global & international studies, Chinese and history
- Monisha Biswa, Shawnee, political science and global & international studies

Standing (l to r): Ye Gang Lee, Joohye Oh, Chadhve Ranganathan, Aarthi Aruna, Angel Singhal, Braiden Bangalan, Catherine O'Lear, Fatima Qureshi, Armina Raheel and Monisha Biswa. Seated: Associate Professor Marike Janzen, Sophia Hudson, Hannah Chern, Jeannine Lopez, Anya Asjad and Josh Omitt.

-
- Hannah Chern, Shawnee, molecular, cellular & developmental biology
 - Sophia Hudson, Arvada, Colorado, exercise science
 - Ye Gang Lee, who was born in Seoul, South Korea, and has lived in Kentucky, Kansas and Pennsylvania, political science, global & international studies and East Asian languages with a concentration in Korean
 - Jeannine Lopez, Wichita, biochemistry and history, with a minor in environmental studies
 - Joohye Oh, Lawrence, English
 - Catherine O'Lear, Lawrence, philosophy and women, gender & sexuality studies
 - Josh Omitt, Topeka, microbiology
 - Fatima Qureshi, Lawrence, biology
 - Armina Raheel, Leawood, human biology
 - Chadhve Ranganathan, Olathe, molecular, cellular & developmental biology on the pre-med track
 - Angel Singhal, Lawrence, biotechnology

ECOLOGY

All over the map*KU project highlights ‘incredible variety’ of Kansas environment*

DANA PETERSON HOPES the new Mapping Kansas Ecosystems website will draw attention to the wide range of landscapes across the state—and serve as a resource in classrooms, libraries and homes, for all ages.

“Here in northeastern Kansas, we think of one landscape: green, hilly, a mix of woodland and grassland,” says Peterson, an assistant research professor focused on remote sensing at the Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research. “But Kansas has incredible variety of different grassland ecosystems, and different types of woodlands and wetlands, some native and others

human-created. This StoryMap provides a great entry point to these ecosystems.”

Peterson, c’96, g’00, PhD’19, and research colleague Jennifer Moody, PhD’07, created the extensive website using the StoryMap multimedia platform. Through a mix of photos, videos, conversational text, history and interactive maps, the site (bit.ly/KansasEcosystems) dives deep into the modern landscape and the “ecosystem influencers” that shape it. An embedded web application, Kansas Ecological Systems Map and Field Sites, enables users to explore 49 mapped land cover types.

Completed in September using geographic information system software called ArcGIS, the website grew out of a larger, five-year project: the development of a new Kansas land cover map focused on non-cropland. While the land cover map does include a cropland class, the project group’s goal, Peterson says, was to understand non-cropland vegetation systems, whether native or “messy” classes that occur as the result of human impacts.

“There isn’t a lot of attention placed on understanding what land cover is and what it means, and how crucial this information is to conservation decisions,” Peterson says. “The StoryMap goes into what factors drive land cover and land use—whether natural factors, such as the state’s east-west precipitation gradient, or human use, including habitat fragmentation.”

To develop the land cover map, Peterson and other researchers at the Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research traveled through-

COURTNEY MASTERSON



Ground-level photography and aerial maps are among the tools that Mapping Kansas Ecosystems deploys to show the state’s varied landscapes.



out the state, collecting data and taking photos. The group included Moody and former researchers Courtney Masterson, g'17, and Amy Isenburg, c'16. Kelly Kindscher, c'79, PhD'92, senior scientist at the research center and professor of environmental studies, created the Kansas plant community classification and also directed and participated in the project's field research.

To showcase the land cover map and provide public educational content about Kansas landscapes, Peterson secured a one-year grant for the StoryMap from AmericaView, a nationwide network focused on using public domain satellite/remote sensing imagery for education, applied research and technology transfer. The network of university-based members, representing 41 states, is supported by the U.S. Geological Survey. Peterson is the lead investigator and coordinator for KansasView, the member in this state.

The land cover map is a collaboration between the Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research and the Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Nebraska Department of Natural

Resources provided funding for the development of land cover maps for both states in tandem. All project partners worked in tight coordination to create new maps with borders that would match seamlessly.

The Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research houses a diverse group of ecological research and remote sensing/geographic information system programs at KU. It also manages the 3,700-acre KU Field Station, a resource for study across the University.

—KIRSTEN BOSNAK
Bosnak, g'93, g'10, is communications coordinator for the Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research.

MONEY MATTERS

A five-year, \$2.29 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the School of Education and Human Science's Project PEACE. Kwangok Song, associate professor of curriculum and teaching, is principal investigator of the program, which aims to bolster the teaching of English as a second language across Kansas.

A \$1.6 million gift from longtime faculty member Gary Grunewald will fund two full-tuition scholarships each year for students in the School of Pharmacy. Grunewald taught for 50 years in the school, serving as chair of the department of medicinal chemistry from 1994 to 2003 and acting dean of the school from 1993 to '94. He retired in 2016.

The School of Medicine-Salina welcomed a new dean in January: surgeon Tyler Hughes, who has taught at the school since 2016. He leads a campus founded in 2011 to help address the critical need for health care providers across the state, but particularly in rural areas. Hughes succeeds Robert Moser, who had served as dean since 2019.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Lied Center

March 5 The Black Violin Experience

March 8 KU Jazz Ensembles I, II and III

March 12 Emmet Cohen's "Live from Emmet's Place"

March 15 "Anastasia"

March 21 KU Symphonic Band and University Band

March 24 KU Symphony Orchestra

March 31 Take 6

April 7 Martha Redbone

April 8 First Nations Student Association Powwow & Indigenous Cultures Festival

April 11 KU Wind Ensemble

April 14 Dancing Wheels Company

April 16 John Gorka

April 22 Laurie Berkner

April 23 ZOFO

May 5 Vanessa Thomas

May 11 "Modern Warrior LIVE"

lied.ku.edu

University Theatre

April 20-30 "Cabaret"

kutheatre.com

Continued on p. 18

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Spencer Museum of Art

March 4 Art party and social

“Dissent, Discontent, and Action: Pictures of US by Accra Shepp,” through **June 25**

spencerart.ku.edu

Dole Institute of Politics

March 9 Presidential Lecture Series: “First Ladies, Women’s Rights and Suffrage”

March 23 Presidential Lecture Series: “First Ladies, the ERA and Beyond”

doleinstitute.org

KU Opera

March 31-April 2 “The Turn of the Screw”

music.ku.edu

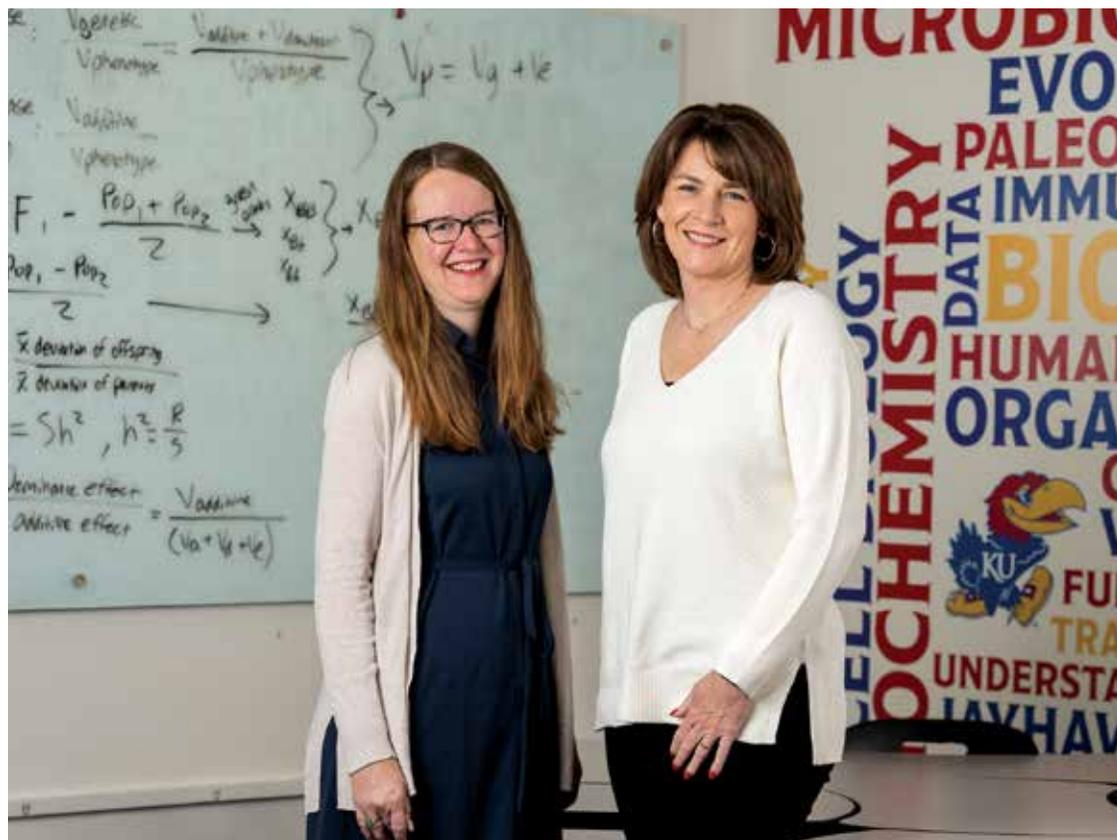
Hall Center for the Humanities

April 19 Susan Wolf, author of *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters*

April 25 Chloé Cooper Jones, author of *Easy Beauty: A Memoir*

hallcenter.ku.edu

Continued on p. 20



STEVE PUPPE

Chandler and Hotze

TOP TEACHERS

Let’s HOPE

Biology faculty share time-honored teaching award

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Josephine Chandler and molecular biosciences colleague Eileen Hotze, associate teaching professor, on Nov. 19 were both named winners of the 2022 HOPE Award, the prestigious honor bestowed annually by the senior class through the Student Alumni and Endowment Board.

Thanks to successful fundraising efforts, 2022 was the second consecutive year that the award—to “Honor an Outstanding Progressive Educator,” created by the Class of 1959—went to two recipients.

“KU is a fantastic place to work because our students are so enthusiastic and eager,” says Hotze, who has taught undergraduate biology, including molecular and cellular biology, on Mount Oread

since 2018, after a 15-year career as a research scientist at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. “Each one of them has a unique experience that they bring with them to KU to make this campus so special.”

Chandler, who joined KU in 2013 after earning her doctorate at the University of Minnesota, studies how bacteria interact and respond to stress in complex communities, challenging previous assumptions about how dangerous pathogens respond to acidic environments.

As an educator, Chandler is part of the leadership team on a National Institutes of Health-funded program to help Haskell Indian Nations University students transition to KU and prepare for careers in the biomedical sciences.

“It is amazing to receive this award and be recognized for my efforts to make science inclusive and exciting,” Chandler says, “especially during a time when science has become so important to all of us. I feel extremely lucky to be able to work with such exceptionally talented students at KU.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

NEWS BRIEF

Grant funds national center to help schoolchildren feel 'rightful presence'

A FIVE-YEAR, \$10 MILLION grant awarded last fall by the U.S. Department of Education will allow researchers in KU's SWIFT Education Center to launch the National Center on Inclusion Toward Rightful Presence, designed to assist local and state education agencies across the country in their efforts to create schools and classrooms where all students can feel they truly belong.

"For too long, students with disabilities have been treated like guests in their schools, asking to be included," says primary investigator Amy Beers McCart, c'88, g'98, PhD'03, research professor and co-director of SWIFT (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation), a program in KU's renowned Life Span Institute. "This groundbreaking work will start with the presumption that the school belongs to students who have been left on the margins."

The center's outreach will focus on students receiving intensive support to achieve at-grade-level or alternate-grade-level standards, including students with autism, intellectual or multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and those who are deaf or blind. Described as a "transformational process," the work by KU researchers will be demonstrated in more than 30 schools in four states, with specific technical assistance available to other agencies as needed.

The U.S. Department of Education also recently awarded KU's SWIFT center a four-year, \$3 million grant to develop programming that will help educators make instruction and support decisions for students with "complex learning situations."

Jeong Hoon Choi, g'07, PhD'08, assistant research professor and SWIFT's associate director of research and evaluation, is the principal investigator.

"As school systems adjust to meet the needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic," Choi says, "it is important that we continue to think about students who benefit from the most complex support."



STEVE PUPPE

McCart



Bold leadership, sci-fi style

Capt. James T. Kirk: business strategist? Absolutely, contends Steven Leonard, a retired U.S. Army colonel, program director in organizational leadership in the KU School of Business, and co-editor of the science fiction-themed To Boldly Go: Leadership, Strategy, and Conflict in the 21st Century and Beyond, published in 2022 by Casemate. "He's bold, he's audacious, he always leads from the front and always leads by intuition," says Leonard, who has edited and contributed to four previous business, leadership and military history books. Chapters in To Boldly Go examine such seemingly unlikely topics as conflict between intelligence and experience as depicted in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," and societal reflections and anti-semitism as reflected in "Planet of the Apes." Says Leonard: "If you're going to lead, you boldly go."

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the website below.

School of Journalism

April 20 William Allen White Day

journalism.ku.edu

Academic calendar

March 13-19 Spring break

May 4 Last day of classes

May 14 Commencement

NEWS BRIEF

Journalism major earns national fellowship for military students

KU JUNIOR AURORA TURNER was one of only 16 students nationwide selected in November as a 2023 Leadership Fellow, an award from the National Veterans Leadership Foundation that recognizes service and leadership potential in military-connected students.

The William Allen White School of Journalism student majoring in strategic communications grew up in a military family, is a member of KU Student Veterans of America, and works at the Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center, the University's resource center for Jayhawks with military ties.

The fellowship is open to veterans, active-duty and reserve service members, National Guard, ROTC students, and military spouses and dependents. It includes a tuition stipend and a six-month

development program that helps students grow as leaders, continue their lives of service and make an impact on the military-connected community on their campus.

"Making a positive community for military-affiliated people on campus is important to me," says Turner, whose father attended the U. S. Naval Academy and has served in the Navy for 30 years. "I feel like you're getting a unique experience at college, because you're coming from a background of

moving around a lot. Sometimes, depending on how you're affiliated, like if you're in ROTC or the

Reserve, you have a lot more responsibilities than a typical college student. Your experiences are very different.

"I feel like giving back and having a place where we can all come together and kind of bond over those shared experiences is very, very nice, and I want to help foster that on campus in the future," Turner says.

April Blackmon Strange, director of the student center, says she nominated Turner for the fellowship because of "her desire to grow as a leader, her unique experiences as a military dependent, and her passion for improving KU for other military-affiliated students." She noted Turner's nontraditional college experience as a strength.

"As a military dependent who moved 10 times growing up, graduated from an overseas high school and spent her first year and a half of college in Italy attending KU virtually because of COVID-19, Aurora brings a unique perspective and passion to connect with others who are transitioning from the military world to college life," Strange says. "The opportunity to work with a cohort of students with similar identities and their own unique stories will not only benefit her personally and professionally but will also help us better serve KU's military-affiliated community."

The fellows started the development program in January and will conclude their tenure with a conference in June.

"It's really going to focus on networking and giving us different skills we can implement to help further our connections with people, especially on campus," Turner says. "They really emphasize connecting us to people who can not only help further our professional careers outside of school, but also can help us further our work on campus."

The National Veterans Leadership Foundation is a philanthropic group dedicated to developing leadership, fostering a spirit of service, and supporting military men and women and their families. The NVLF partners with institutions committed to serving veterans and other military-connected students, and each year those partner institutions nominate top students to serve as Leadership Fellows. KU joined the alliance in early 2022. The University ranks fifth nationally among Tier 1 research institutions in the 2022-'23 Military Friendly Schools survey.

COURTESY KU NEWS



Turner



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“We support the governor’s higher education budget and believe that it moves higher education and the state forward.”

—Chancellor Doug Girod



STEVE PUPPE

BUDGET

Optimistic outlook

Governor proposes second year of added support for universities

BUDGET DEBATES have only just begun in the Kansas Legislature, but Gov. Laura Kelly’s initial proposal Jan. 12 gave higher education leaders hope for a second consecutive year of healthy state support.

As the state continues to benefit from a budget surplus of \$2.8 billion, Kelly recommended \$107.9 million in additional funds for Kansas Board of Regents universities.

“We support the governor’s higher education budget and believe that it moves higher education and the state forward,” Chancellor Doug Girod said Jan. 13 to leaders of Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Alumni Association’s statewide network of volunteer legislative advocates.

Kelly’s fiscal year 2024 proposal designates \$65.9 million in ongoing funding for universities,

including \$20 million in need-based financial aid for students, an important advance for access to higher education across the state. According to Girod, Kansas currently ranks 47th out of 50 states in need-based scholarships.

Access and affordability continue as themes for Kelly, but she signaled her willingness to allow universities flexibility in setting tuition rates, a process that will not begin until the summer, after the Legislature and the governor have crafted the final budget. After four years of flat tuition at KU, a fifth consecutive year without an increase would be difficult, Girod said, especially considering that the state provides only 18% of KU’s operating budget.

Kelly acknowledged the challenges that inflation presents to universities and all Kansans. Her proposal for universities’ ongoing base budgets includes an additional \$21.8 million to “mitigate the impact from inflation.”

She also recommended \$8.5 million to support programs that help increase students’ retention and graduation rates.

In addition, Kelly proposed one-time funds for universities’ infrastructure:

- \$20 million for deferred maintenance expenses, to be matched by universities;
- \$10 million for demolition;
- \$12 million for information technology and cybersecurity upgrades.

The Regents also requested funds for a new health education campus in Wichita, where KU has long maintained a campus for the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy; the new campus would combine KU's schools with programs offered by Wichita State University. Although Kelly's proposal did not include direct funding for the Wichita campus, KU and WSU leaders will continue to work with legislators—as well as other policymakers and partners both inside and outside the legislative process—to pursue that project.

Along with her higher education recommendations, Kelly included faculty and staff in proposing 5% salary increases for all state employees. State funds cover only a portion of KU faculty and staff salaries, so the University would need to designate money from other sources to provide these increases, as it did for all faculty and staff in the 2023 fiscal year.

For details of legislative priorities, visit governmentrelations.ku.edu. To join Jayhawks for Higher Education and receive email updates throughout the legislative session, visit kualumni.org/jhe.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL AT A GLANCE:

\$107.9 million total additional funds for Kansas Board of Regents universities, including:

\$65.9 million ongoing funding for universities, including:

\$20 million in need-based financial aid for students—Kansas ranks **47th** out of **50** states in need-based scholarships.

\$21.8 million in funds to “mitigate the impact from inflation”

\$8.5 million for programs to improve student retention and graduation

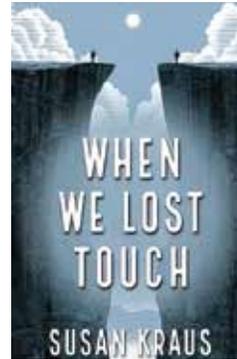
One-time funds for infrastructure:

\$20 million for deferred maintenance expenses, to be matched by universities

\$10 million for demolition

\$12 million for information technology and cybersecurity upgrades

Book brief



When We Lost Touch
By Susan Kraus
Flint Hills Publishing,
\$17.99

IT WAS LATE 2019 when one of Grace McDonald's Kaw Valley, Kansas, friends, Chelle, pitched the idea of a 12-night Caribbean cruise, departing Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in late February 2020. Tired of waiting for her husband to warm to the idea, Chelle asked Grace, a family therapist who had not been on a cruise since the death of her husband, and both were startled with how quickly Grace accepted: “Yes, yes, yes. When and where?”

So begins one of many journeys explored in *When We Lost Touch*, the fourth installment of the Grace McDonald series by Lawrence author and therapist Susan Kraus.

“Grace was confused, as if she'd stepped back into her life but with missing pieces,” Kraus writes of her protagonist's return to frightening new realities. “The world had shifted somehow while she was gone, and it did not feel right.”

In *When We Lost Touch*, Kraus, '93, explores 18 months of the pandemic's intricate and intimate details, and she makes the brave decision to include “historical context” chapters that summarize current events as they unfolded.

It is a startling reading experience, not only for the jolt of encountering one of our first fictionalized visions of pandemic times, but also for the simple act of reliving what was once so unthinkable.



Gov. Kelly

Mass Street & more



A tale of two Remys

REMY MARTIN is a former KU basketball player. Rémy Martin is also a brand of cognac. For a downtown Lawrence bar, an adjustment seemed only fitting.

“When Remy announced he was transferring to KU, we switched our cognac from Hennessy to Rémy Martin,” says Chris Nerverve, ’02, general manager of the Red Lyon Tavern, 944 Massachusetts St. That was in 2021, before the Jayhawks—with Martin on the roster—became the reigning national champions. “I’m sure we’d joked around about having him sign a bottle,” Nerverve adds, “but there was no official plan.”

But with NCAA titles come Mass Street parades, and with the Red Lyon’s prime location on the route, Nerverve decided a Remy Martin-autographed bottle of Rémy Martin indeed deserved a shot.

He bought a silver Sharpie to contrast with the black bottle and, on the day of the parade, managed to step away from bartending to join fans gathered out front. As Martin rode past, others in the crowd helped Nerverve, bottle in hand, get his attention. “He looked back a couple of times,” Nerverve says. “Then the parade got held up for a bit, and he jumped out,



Chris Nerverve, general manager of the Red Lyon Tavern, with the bar’s Remy Martin-signed bottle of Rémy Martin cognac. Left: The signature moment during the national championship parade on April 10, 2022.

jogged over, signed the bottle, signed a basketball, and ran right back to the car.” University Daily Kansan sports editor Nathan Swaffar happened to be nearby and snapped a photo of the moment.

The Remy-Rémy memento is now on display at the Red Lyon for every men’s basketball game as a special reminder of the unstoppable 2021-’22 Jayhawks. Says Nerverve of the keepsake: “It’s pretty unique as a championship relic.”

—MEGAN HIRT



Summer school: In partnership with Jayhawk Global’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the KU Mini College will offer non-credit courses June 5-7 for alumni and others who yearn to learn on Mount Oread and stroll Jayhawk Boulevard between classes. Professors teach a variety of subjects, and participants gather for social events on and off campus. Register at jayhawkglobal.ku.edu/ku-mini-college.



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“When you say this is the point where he takes his game to the next level, well, his game has been *on the next level.*”

—coach Bill Self, on Jalen Wilson’s midseason scoring surge



STEVE PURPE (3)

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Follow the leader

Jalen Wilson’s midseason streak powers ’Hawks toward postseason

WINNERS OF 10 consecutive games, including five in the rugged Big 12, the men’s basketball team on Jan. 17 rolled into Manhattan ranked No. 2 in the country. But the 13th-ranked Wildcats handed KU a one-point loss in overtime, which was followed by a 23-point loss at home to TCU and a six-point loss at Baylor.

The ’Hawks entered the Jan. 28 SEC/Big 12 Challenge game at Kentucky ranked No. 9 and in the rare position of desperately needing a win against a nonconference opponent. Powered by junior forward Jalen Wilson’s 22 points—along with their best rebounding performance of the season, limiting consensus National Player of the Year Oscar Tshiebwe to nine boards—KU left Lexing-



Jalen Wilson (10), with sophomore forward KJ Adams Jr. (24) above, was the Big 12’s midseason leader in scoring, rebounding and double-doubles.

ton with a 77-68 victory and an injection of fresh energy. The Jayhawks matched that performance three days later with a 90-78 victory in the home rematch against K-State.

In the five-game stretch heading into the Feb. 4 game at Iowa State, Wilson had scored 133 points, the most a KU player had tallied in five games since the inception of the Big 12.

Coach Bill Self, however, refused to describe Wilson's remarkable midseason burst as extra effort to get the 'Hawks out of an unexpected hole.

"When you say this is the point where he takes his game to the next level, well, his game has been on the next level," Self said Feb. 2. "So we just want him to keep doing what he's been doing. We're thrilled with how he's been competing. When you have a best player, you look to that best player to lead you, and he's certainly been doing that all year long. But I don't think you'd go into it thinking he's got to get 30 for us to win. I've never looked at it that way.

"He just needs to play well, and playing well is a lot more than scoring points."

Wilson added 26 at Iowa State, running his six-game streak to 26.5 points per game, and he was leading the Big 12 in scoring (21.3), rebounding (8.5) and double-doubles (eight).

"That's an impressive dude," said sophomore forward Zach Clemence. "He's just doing his thing, a great basketball player just being who he is."

Despite yet another heroic effort by their unquestioned leader, however, the No. 8-ranked Jayhawks lost that game to the 13th-ranked Cyclones, 68-53, in one of their flattest performances of the season, reinforcing Self's earlier estimation that the country's toughest league might be won by whichever team avoids losing three conference games in a row.

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, the defending national champions were moving into the second half of league play with a crucial Feb. 6 home game against Texas, the league's unlikely leader, to be followed by road games at Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, a home rematch with Baylor, a road trip to TCU, home games with West Virginia and Texas Tech, and the March 4 regular-season finale at Texas.

Asked whether he was amazed at having played ranked opponents in six of seven games heading into the rematch at Ames—the lone exception being perennial powerhouse Kentucky—Self replied, "I can't remember ever going through a stretch like this since I've been here at Kansas. But it's good.

I mean, it's good for our league, it's good for fans, all those things, but I can never remember going through a stretch like this."

For his part, Wilson, ever the steady, mature presence this season, remains focused not on his own offensive production, but rather his squad's performance, especially on defense.

"This is when we all come together as a team and show how unified we are and how determined we are to turn things around," Wilson said after the Kentucky game. "It's just coming together to figure out what it's going to take, and I think it's pretty evident that teams have scored on us pretty easily, certainly more than usual. I think making teams play bad, getting back to that, is what it's going to take to get these wins piling back up.

"It's not that we don't know what it is, it's just that we've got to execute."

Play ball!

New arms anchor baseball's entry into Fitzgerald era

WHEN FORMER KU catcher and veteran Major League coach Rob Thomson was promoted last June from bench coach to interim manager of the Philadelphia Phillies, the club, seven games under .500 at the time, rallied all the way to the World Series, igniting a burst of passion in a city yearning for baseball success.

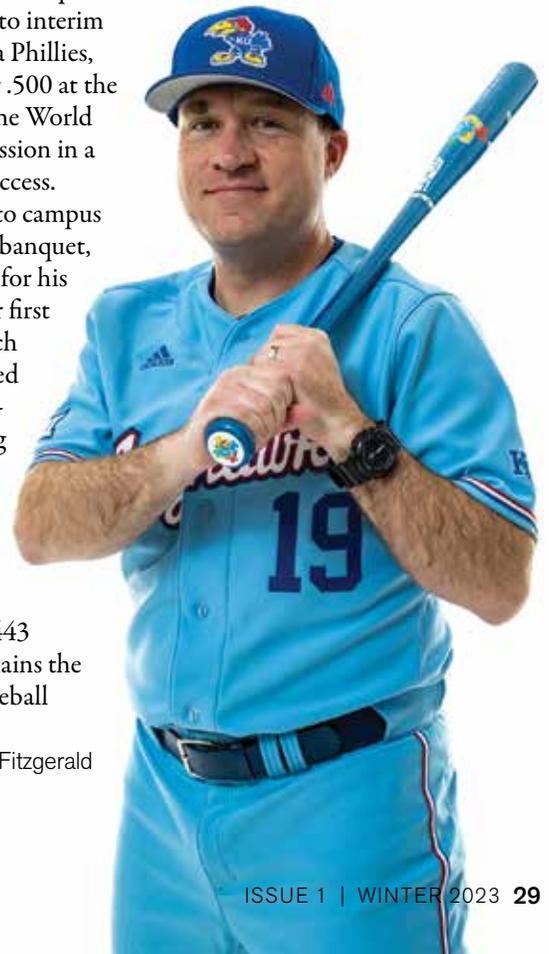
Thomson, who returned to campus for the Jan. 20 KU baseball banquet, forecasts similar resurgence for his Jayhawks as they begin their first season under new head coach Dan Fitzgerald, who replaced Ritch Price after KU's veteran skipper retired last spring following 20 memorable seasons.

"I spent a lot of time with Fitz, and I think he's going to do a fantastic job," says Thomson, '86, whose .443 batting average in 1984 remains the best season mark in KU baseball

Fitzgerald

"I spent a lot of time with Fitz, and I think he's going to do a fantastic job. He understands the game, he's energetic, he loves the players. ... Kansas baseball is going to climb to places we haven't seen before."

—Rob Thomson



KANSAS ATHLETICS

history. “He understands the game, he’s energetic, he loves the players. He’s got a lot of great qualities, and I don’t think it’s too far from a national championship for this program. Kansas baseball is going to climb to places we haven’t seen before.”

Fans planning to go along for the ride are advised to buy a program when they get to Hogle Ballpark for the March 8 home opener against Wichita State, because Fitzgerald predicts a starting rotation entirely new to KU:

- Right-hander Collin Baumgartner, a graduate student with one year of eligibility who transferred from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville along with new pitching coach Brandon Scott;
- Sam Ireland, a junior right-hander who transferred from Minnesota;
- Junior lefty Ethan Bradford, a Lawrence Free State grad who began at Nebraska;

- Hunter Cranton, a junior right-hander who transferred from San Diego State.

“Those are four guys who are big, strong, durable and tough,” Fitzgerald says. “They have some experience under their belts and really have the stuff you’d want to start a game.”

Fitzgerald says the likely closer is the “really tough, gritty” junior right-hander JJ Tylicki, a Cowley County Community College transfer with “a big fastball and a good breaking ball.” Senior Cole Elvis, a Cal-Berkeley transfer, and sophomore Jake English are expected to split time at catcher.

“In a perfect world, we have four starters this year who all log 100 innings,” Fitzgerald says. “And we have two unbelievable defensive catchers who can both block and can both throw. We have two awesome options back there.”

At the conclusion of fall practice, Fitz-



Hogle Ballpark

gerald said his team had progressed from a tight, quiet bunch all trying to impress the new boss—“No laughter, no talking, everyone’s a little bit on pins and needles”—into a loose group ready to enter the next era of KU baseball.

“Now it feels like a baseball practice should,” Fitzgerald says. “I think we’re in a good spot. We’ve got a long way to go, but we’ve got unbelievable kids.”

KANSAS ATHLETICS (3)



Anderson

UPDATE

Senior high jumper **Rylee Anderson** was named Big 12 Athlete of the Week following her victory at the Jan. 27 Jayhawk Invitational. Anderson won with a jump a half-inch over 6 feet, her third 6-foot clearance of the season. She set the KU record at 6-2 in the Dec. 2

Timmons Invitational, good for second in the NCAA and best in the Big 12. ...

Senior center **Taiyanna Jackson** on Dec. 3 was named one of 10 finalists for the Lisa Leslie Award, honoring college basketball’s top center. At the time of the announcement, Jackson led the Big 12 in blocked shots (57), field goal

percentage (64.9), double-doubles (13) and rebounding (12.4 per game). She also led the Jayhawks in scoring at 15 points per game, closely followed by senior guards **Holly Kersgieter** (14.8) and **Zakiyah Franklin** (14.3). ...



Jackson

With four new member schools and Oklahoma and Texas remaining for one final season, Big 12 football teams will play nine of their 13 league opponents in 2023. KU will not face Baylor, Houston, TCU and West Virginia. Coach **Lance Leipold** said he requested the Thursday opener, Aug. 31 vs. Missouri State, rather than Friday (as in his first two KU seasons) to avoid conflicts with high school games and to attract students before they leave for the Labor Day holiday. “There’s a lot of benefits to that,” Leipold said. After the opener, KU faces Illinois Sept. 9 at home and travels to Nevada Sept. 16 before meeting BYU in Lawrence to open conference play Sept. 23.



JALEN WILSON (10) scored 20 points with eight rebounds and four assists in KU's 90-78 victory over Kansas State (and David N'Guessan, 3) Jan. 31 in Allen Field House.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE



GATTO! TORTA!
TAZZA DI CARTA!
ANNI! TELEFONO!
PARLO COME UN LIBRO!
MI DISPIACE!!

MAKE
IT
STOP!

PODREBARAC

I'd Like to Pay for the Cat My Mother Ate

A retired professor prepares to return to the scene
of linguistic crimes | by Chuck Marsh

Sometime soon,

pandemics willing, my wife and I will base an Italian vacation in Paderno del Grappa, the small town where, 22 years ago, I taught for a semester as part of a KU Study Abroad & Global Engagement program. And *Ho un sogno*: I have a dream. At least, I think that's what those words mean. Experience has taught me that I am to the Italian language what Missouri Tigers basketball is to NCAA championships. However, I dream of once again, without exception, speaking Italian to Italians, this time without reducing that Ferrari of a language to a circus clown car.

Let me explain.

As a professor for 32 years, I was fortunate, thanks to KU Endowment funding, to represent our university at research conferences around the world. Wherever I traveled, I tried to learn and speak the language (OK, except for Slovenia and Kyrgyzstan). It's fun, and I think the locals appreciated the effort. So before teaching for a semester in Italy, I audited a KU Elementary Italian course. Once my family and I arrived in Paderno del Grappa, I stuck to Italian

in speaking with anyone born between Milan and Sicily, many of whom spoke no English. And my troubles began.

When the newlywed Italian couple who lived downstairs from our apartment adopted a golden retriever puppy, they became heroes to my two children, ages 10 and 5. I already had been entertaining these neighbors with my all-thumbs efforts to chat, but when, in the hallway, I asked the new puppy's name, the wife began snorting and had to lean against the wall for support. I mentally replayed my attempt and realized I had used the formal Italian expression: "What does he call himself—*Come si chiama?*" I think my neighbor was trying to say "Woof," but she finally choked out, "Giacomo!"

And then I became a legend in Paderno del Grappa. I tried to say, "And how old is he?" using the formal "And how many years does he have?" But I mispronounced *anni*, the Italian word for "years" (you have to really enunciate the two separate N's), and I asked, "And how many a##holes does he have?" She began laughing so hard that she started crying, and she slid down the wall, shaking her head.

Illustrations by Charlie Podrebarac

They remained wonderful neighbors, and we loved playing with Giacomo, but she could never really talk with me after that. She'd start laughing and would just wobble away.

Being a fairly generous guy—*un uomo generoso?*—I shared my linguistic innovations with Italians beyond Paderno del Grappa. On one of our first weekends in Italy, my wife, Kris, and the kids and I drove to nearby Padua. We wanted to see the Prato della Valle plaza with its 78 statues (one even has its own stone pigeon), and we were going to meet my mother-in-law, Betty, who was off on her own travels, for lunch. She joined us in time for dessert and ordered a slice of cake.

After we paid our bill (*il conto!*), I realized that our waiter had forgotten to include Betty's cake, so I went back to the counter. "*Voglio pagare la gâteau che mia madre ha mangiato,*" I proudly said. "I'd like to pay for the cake that my mother ate." I didn't know Italian for mother-in-law, so I just said mother.

The woman at the register flinched as sharply as if I had leaned over and tapped her on the nose. Her eyes fluttered, and she started gasping. She stumbled back from the counter and ran into the kitchen behind her, waving her arms and shouting, "Ah-ha-ha—ah-ha-ha-ha" mixed with "*Gatto! Gatto! Gatto!*"

I recognized the signs and calmly reviewed what I had said. Oops ... I had used the French word for "cake," *gâteau*, instead of the Italian word, *torta*. (Curse that conference in Paris.) Unfortunately, the French *gâteau* sounds a lot like the Italian *gatto*—cat. Basically, I had asked to pay for the cat that my mother ate.

"*Non gatto! Torta! Torta!*" I shouted to the vanishing cashier, but the kitchen had suddenly become pretty noisy, and they didn't hear me. We left quietly without paying for Betty's cake.

Rare moments

of triumph did interrupt my steady destruction of the language of Dante. In a train station near our little town, I queued up to purchase round-trip tickets to Venice and listened to the customer in front of me melt into incoherence when, to her query of "Do you speak English?," the ticket agent replied, "This is Italy. I speak Italian"—and then he proved it. The customer reeled away.

With visions of Giacomo and restaurant cats dancing in my head, I specified in stumbling Italian the tickets and times I wanted.

The agent looked at me without expression. "Ninety thousand lire," he said (about \$45). "Your train leaves on Track 7 in 30 minutes. Enjoy your trip." Every word in English.

Weeks later, while checking my family into a hotel above the Spanish Steps in Rome, I stuck with my Italian until the world's most diplomatic desk clerk said, in flawless English, "Perhaps we might switch to English, sir, so that your wife can join the conversation."

Such glories, however, were few, and linguistic pratfalls tainted most of my small victories. One of my favorite places to practice speaking Italian, for example, was a *tabacchi*, a little shop, just across the street from the gates of our campus. The owner spoke no English, and she'd listen patiently, with a beautiful smile, while I'd ask about cheese or lightbulbs, and she'd gently correct my many mistakes.

One afternoon, about midway through the semester, I walked in with Kris and our two different phones from two different makers that required two different cards. This was going to be complicated, and the owner's eyes widened.

But I had practiced. As I slogged through the detailed explanation of what we wanted, two of the owner's associates came from the back of the shop to listen.

When I finally finished, the owner smiled at me as if I were her prize pupil. She put her hands together, palm to palm, with her fingertips touching her chin and whispered, "*Perfetto!*"—"Perfect!" But she was trying not to laugh, and her two associates weren't even trying.

Kris looked from them to me and asked, "If it was perfect, why are they laughing?"

I said I didn't know: Perfect meant perfect.

"Ask them if it's because you spoke so slowly," Kris said.

OK—let's see: "*Mia ... moglie ... chiede ... ridete ... perché ... parlo ... lentamente?*" I asked in not-so-*perfetto Italiano*.

And no one needed a translator for their rapid answer. "*Sì!*" they said in unison.

The only time

any of our Italian neighbors smacked me down for my daily assault on their beautiful language is also, unfortunately, a bad-dad story.



My family’s favorite place in Paderno del Grappa was the Alpina, a coffee shop halfway between our apartment and the campus. On our first morning in the little university town, I stopped in to try out my Italian and get coffees to go. The owner, Alba, spoke no English, and I couldn’t convey the idea of “to-go” cup. Finally, I said, “*Voglio una tazza di carta*”—“I would like a cup of paper”—and I made a walking-away motion with my index and middle fingers.

Alba now understood—and was adamant. “No,” she said. “No cups of paper. Here, we sit and drink our coffee and talk with each other.” She was right, of course, and we grew to love the Alpina.

Near the end of our time in Italy, I was in the Alpina with my 5-year-old daughter, who was chattering away with an entranced coffee crowd in the Italian she had taught herself so that she could play with the dogs she met. Alba was beaming, loving every word.

Then I interrupted the conversation to correct my daughter’s Italian grammar. Inexcusable—just inexcus-

able. Even though I think this is a funny story, decades later that moment still fills me with shame.

And Alba wasn’t having it. “Stop!” she commanded, cutting me off. She smiled down at my daughter. “Your daughter is speaking our Veneto dialect,” she said. “Her, we can understand.” Then she looked up at me and shook her head. “But you—you talk like a book.”

Soon, with luck,

Kris and I will return to Paderno del Grappa, and I will speak Italian. Some old-timers might remember my earlier blunders. I might even make a few more. And if that happens? Well ... words fail me.

—Marsh, c’77, g’80, PhD’85, is professor emeritus of journalism. He began his career as a staff writer and assistant editor of *Kansas Alumni* from 1982 to 1985.



Plot *Twist*



After his stellar career in teaching and public service, Charles Forrest Jones retires to his happy place: a fictional Kansas town of his own creation

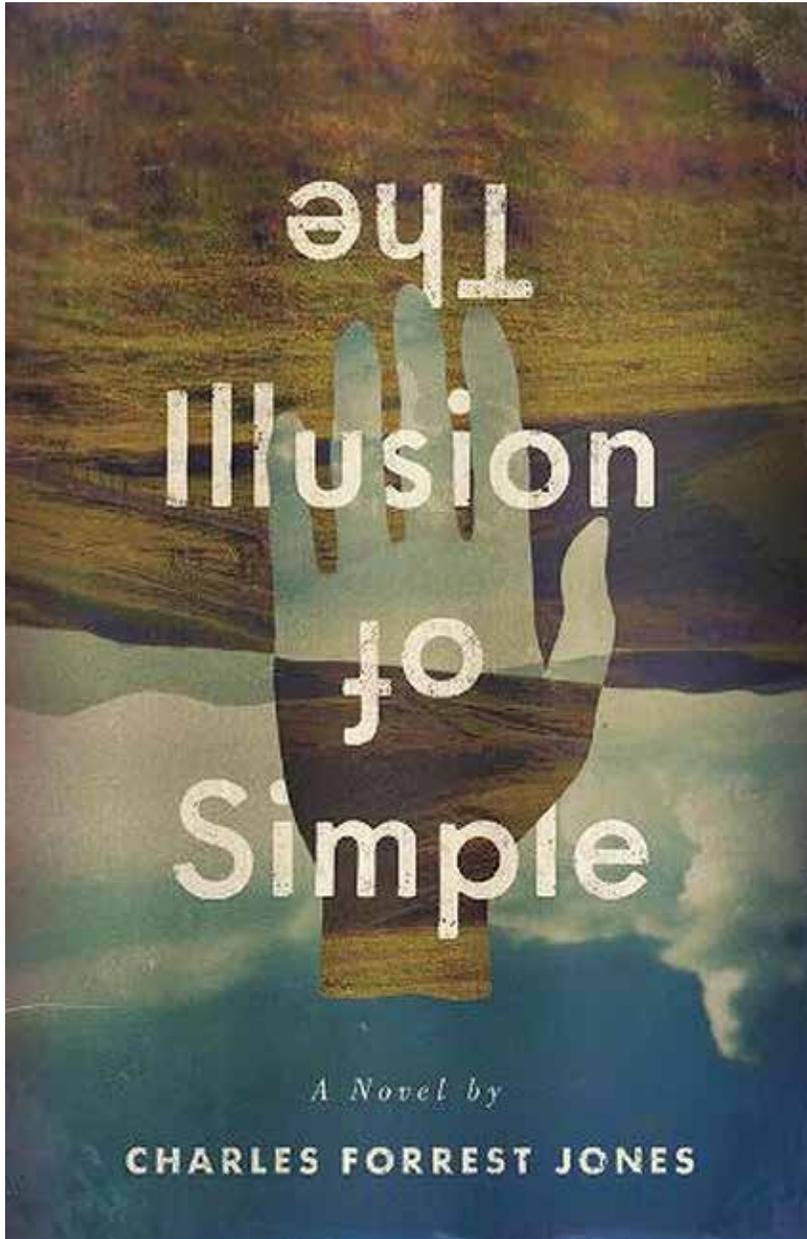


by Chris Lazzarino

Photographs by Steve Puppe







The Illusion of Simple
by Charles Forrest Jones
University of Iowa Press, \$16



Sheriff Billy Spire is so physically unattractive that his face startles people, including the troop of girls from Garden City, Kansas, 20 miles to the west, who found the unattached hand on the bank of a roadside stream. The sheriff is steady and tough, competent and fair. A former football star and Marine with axe-handle shoulders, Sheriff Spire doesn't start fights—at least not since a cheap hit during a high school football game that haunts him still—but he can and does end them, though rarely now with his fists, thanks less to his badge than a stony glare that few dare challenge.

Billy Spire knows how the world sees him—the world, in his case, being the citizens of Ewing County, who have kept him at his post for 12 years. He carries 240 brutish pounds on his 48-year-old, 5-foot-9 frame, the picture of rugged, rural masculinity, a true man's man. Yet before he exits the cab of his silver Dodge Ram 1500, the sheriff forces himself to breathe steadily while repeating his mantra: "The first pulse to take is your own."

He has arrived at a crime scene and needs to make certain he projects confidence and competence. There is a mystery to solve, but let's be calm about it. No sense in anyone getting ruffled or rushed.

Good thing, too, because Sheriff Billy Spire won't solve the mystery of the unattached hand for more than 30 years. Not

for laziness, but because he does not exist. Nor does Ewing County, nor his constituents, nor the girls who found the hand or the trucker they first flagged down for help. Until the 2022 publication of *The Illusion of Simple*, they existed only in the mind of a storyteller who at the time was devoting his writing skills to explaining complex water issues to worried and sometimes annoyed Kansans, and later teaching those communication skills to his KU public administration students.

Thankfully for the rest of us, Charles Forrest Jones never forgot about Billy Spire. After his retirement in 2014, Jones, c'79, sat down at his computer, opened a fresh document and set about learning more about life in Ewing County, Kansas, population 1,232, nearly all of it in Stonewall, the county seat, where there's a farm equipment dealer, an independent telephone company, a rural electric cooperative, a grain elevator, a bank, a mechanic's garage, a liquor store, the Gas-N-Go, Effie's Diner and a half-dozen churches—only enough “to sustain that which has endured.”



We each carry with us the vision of a perfect retirement. Travel, perhaps. Tending the tidiest lawn in the neighborhood. Woodworking in the basement. Golf. Painting. Sculpture class at the community arts center. Yoga. Pickleball. Grandkids. Middle-of-the-day margaritas.

For Charles Jones, retirement as director of KU's Public Management Center and courtesy associate professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration was less about writing the Great American Novel than it was a long-overdue chance to spend quality time with his wife, Carol, c'68, g'70, l'79—a noted quilter who had retired as a research attorney for the Kan-

sas Supreme Court—at their second home in Creede, Colorado.

He also viewed retirement as the perfect opportunity to step aside and make way for others in the profession he adored.

“I felt like I got a lot of great things done, and I was very proud of my work,” Jones says. “But then it's somebody else's turn. Somebody else brings new energy, new vision, new possibilities.”

And, yes, there remained the unfinished business of Sheriff Billy Spire and the mysterious hand, a story to which he yearned to return, but writing wouldn't be something Jones would pick back up.

He'd been writing all along.

“All through my career, the fact that I wrote well was a source of real pride, but, more importantly, real power to me,” Jones says. “Any organization has limited resources. And so whether you're talking about wanting money from the budget, or if you want to advance a policy idea or you want to develop a new program, you face a great deal of competition among everybody else who wants to do those things. If it [a proposal] is well written in a way that has a human face, it gives you an advantage in that competition.”

Growing up in a troubled family dogged by a grandfather's unfortunate business scandal in New Mexico, Jones moved 18 times before he was 18 years old and changed schools 12 times. He recalls being, understandably, “not a very good student,” and with only a stint at a Los Angeles community college to show for a halfhearted effort at higher education, Jones was 27 when he arrived in Lawrence, at the suggestion of a friend, and enrolled at KU as a pre-med biology major.

“There are lots of things that could have taken me the other way. I'm lucky,” Jones says. “I was very, very fortunate to find people who could see things in me that I couldn't see in myself.”

His intention to become a doctor was, in retrospect, less than sincere; rather than hoping to tend to sick people in

their times of need, Jones saw it as “a good job to have.” A rough semester packed with physics, chemistry and population statistics changed his mind, but Mount Oread's magic had already cast its spell: He'd entered a campus poetry contest and, to his still undimmed delight, took third place: “Not bad for a biology major.”

Buoyed by his bronze medal, Jones sought out creative writing for an elective course. In another fateful turn, he fell in with Professor Floyd Horowitz and soon became a regular at Friday night dinners hosted by the English department titan and his wife, legendary KU administrator Frances Horowitz, then vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

“I think the thing about Chuck is, he listens,” says the Horowitzes' son, Benjamin Levi, now a philosopher, bioethicist and pediatrician in Hershey, Pennsylvania, who has maintained his friendship with Jones. “He has a fascination with people, and a sympathy for people who are down and out, although I don't think he'd characterize them in that way. They might even see themselves as down and out, but Chuck looks to see what else is going on there.”

With his biology degree and a blossoming interest in writing, Jones landed a job at the Kansas Corporation Commission, the state's utilities regulator. When his employer won a grant to host a conference on energy conservation, talk turned to how best to promote it. Jones decided he had little to lose, so he spoke up, suggesting they land a big-name movie star to tape a public service announcement.

“Everybody laughed and said, ‘Yeah, well good luck with that. Give it a try.’ And maybe three months later I was in the radio station in Topeka and we were talking with Gregory Peck on the telephone.”

The idea, Jones concedes, was “naïve and simple,” but it worked. Jones found a reference book with contact information for Hollywood agents whose famous clients, Jones hoped, might be inclined

toward environmental awareness. He wrote a one-minute script and sent it off. Paul Newman did not respond. Gregory Peck did.

Suddenly a somebody around the office, Jones was asked by Pete Loux, the commission's chairman, to write speeches. "Once you're writing speeches, you begin to say, 'Well, why would you do this?' and 'why would you do that?'" Jones explains. "That put me into the line of policy analysis, which is what I pretty much did throughout the rest of my public career."

During a change of administration in the statehouse, Jones decided it was time to move on. A friend in Boston suggested he consider graduate work at Harvard University.

"I just rolled my eyes and said, 'Sure.' He said, 'Well, you could try,' and I said, 'OK, I'll try,' and I got accepted."



Like Jones, Harvard classmate Elisa Speranza worked as a communicator for large public-service agencies, specializing in water-related critical infrastructure. She, too, dreamed of doing more with her writing, and published her first novel, *The Italian Prisoner*, in April 2022, just months before Jones published *The Illusion of Simple*.

"Charles is a very sensitive guy, a very empathetic kind of person," Speranza says from her home in New Orleans, the setting for her World War II-era story of unlikely love. "He's a very deep guy, in a great way. He's a lot of fun, too, but he's very thoughtful."

Forging lifelong personal and career connections with colleagues such as Speranza was, Jones says, one of the primary benefits of earning a degree from the Kennedy School of Government's mid-career master's of public administration program. The other was discovering



that he belonged in their lofty company.

"I learned I can run with the fast horses," he says. "I did fine. I did really well. And it gave me a much greater sense of intellectual competence than I'd had before."

Jones followed his Harvard sojourn with work in private-sector environmental consulting firms, and in 1991 he was named director of the division of the environment at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. His four-year tenure took Jones to every corner of the state, meeting with constituents in good times and bad. He learned, for instance, that a leaking underground storage tank that drives a mom-and-pop gas station out of business can gut the economic health of an already-struggling tiny town.

Jones became more aware than ever of the importance of effective communication, figuring out how to explain complex scientific topics in the sweet spot between obfuscation and pandering, lessons Jones

carried with him when he successfully ran for the Douglas County Commission in 1999 and joined the faculty in KU's nationally acclaimed public administration program in 2003.

As he compiled reading lists for his students, Jones added seemingly unlikely choices for future government and nonprofit administrators: Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*; *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls; and *Man's Search for Meaning*, by Viktor Frankl.

Within the context of their own career interests, Jones assured his students, effective writing is the surest path toward gaining attention. It's also the only way to communicate the complex issues of their trade with the citizens they'll need to win over.

Jones says he learned the concept of "bounded rationality" from another of his KU mentors, Distinguished

Jones, seen here and on page 35 in his West Campus home, advises aspiring authors, "It's really important, probably essential, to write because you love writing, and not as a business plan. It has to be the joy of writing that sustains you."

Professor H. George Frederickson, and it became central to his career: People are rational within the limits of their ability and time to understand a concept. Once a topic exceeds their bounds, they tend to fall back on self-defining fundamentals, which ends productive discussion.

It's a timeworn opposition strategy that can sink even the most well-positioned arguments: Keep pushing for ever-growing complexity, and eventually the audience stops engaging.

"That's why it's important for public servants—who I still believe are kind of on the side of the angels—to make sure that they stay within rational bounds to be effective," Jones says, "and don't let themselves get sucked into a technical discussion that people roll their eyes and walk away from."

Good governance, it turns out, is much the same as selling that long-dreamt-of first novel: Good writing carries the day.



Write a really good book. That's step one," Isabelle Bleecker, a founding agent at Nordlyset Literary Agency, based in New York's Hudson River Valley, advises unpublished authors seeking to crack the code. It worked for Jones, whose pitch rose from her slush pile in part because Jones followed the rules—*do not include attachments in any unsolicited emails!*—but mostly for his manuscript's insightful

journey into a part of the world known to few outsiders, including urban Kansans. Bleecker landed *The Illusion of Simple* with University of Iowa Press, which is fastidious in curating a limited fiction catalog that reflects well on the school's vaunted reputation for creative writing programs.

"I loved the hook, with that mystery starting out," Bleecker says. "But then you realize that it's also a masterful look at the human condition, with complex, carefully drawn characters, and just a beautiful look at complexity and compromise and politics. It was so much a book of the times because he really didn't shy away from looking at racial and economic tensions."

After Sheriff Billy Spire encounters the unattached hand, *The Illusion of Simple* explores generations of life in small-town Kansas, evoking flavors depicted by Kent Haruf, '68, the late, great novelist of Colorado's High Plains. Observations on people and place slip into the narrative page after page. All we need to know about the local mechanic, Leo Ace, is that he's "never had an unspoken thought." Billy's father, Joe, taught his son "a capacity for rage," and a radio playing inside an empty shed signals to Billy "the queer space of unexpected death."

When Billy falls in love with a roadhouse beauty and proposes marriage, Nadine doesn't say yes, doesn't say no, only that she won't stop drinking for him. He tells her she's beautiful, to which Nadine replies, "And you're a fool." By which she means not to mock, but only to point out what she saw as obvious: Billy was taking on more than he knew, and would not be the better for it.

"She can see in him the things he can't see in himself," Jones says, "and, in her own broken way, she's there's for him."

Nadine sees in Billy the strength of character he can't see in himself. It is the storyteller's story, the good fortune that carried Charles Forrest Jones from an itinerant life in California to life-changing experiences at KU and Harvard, through

his multifaceted career as public servant and devoted teacher, and, finally, as a novelist with plenty to say about his adopted home state.

Peering down from 30,000 feet, coastal travelers sick with the affluenza of the upwardly mobile might scan a tableau of serene villages and geometrically tidy pivot-irrigated fields. It is an illusion of simple, and even Kansans who live far from the farms and feedlots that sustain us commit similar sins of dismissiveness, kidding ourselves into thinking we know something about small-town life by visiting quaint Main Street cafes for a slow-paced Sunday breakfast.

"And so the whole point of the book," Jones says, "was to expose the myth of simpleness. What's happening in western Kansas right now is complex, difficult and hard. There are populations being displaced, and some of those displaced populations are going to turn to malevolent causes.

"All I can say to you is, I love those people. I had to know what was going to happen to them."

It wasn't until retirement that Jones could finally see it through, but see it through he did. He even has a second book already with his agent, which he describes as a departure from the complex tale that unfolds within *The Illusion of Simple*.

"It was something that I yearned to do, and I looked forward to doing in retirement," Jones says of retrieving his early notes about a character called Billy Spire. "And then when I did retire, I found it even more necessary than a luxury, because, you know, I want to have some purpose to my life. I wanted to be doing something. I wanted to be working on something. I didn't want to sit around bored.

"So, writing has become not just a luxury, but, yes, it gives my life its meaning right now."

The first pulse to take, said the man wiser than he knows, is your own.

by Chris Lazzarino

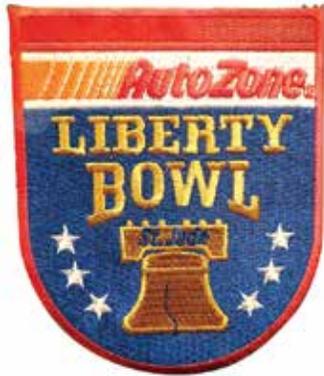
FEEL REAL YET?





Football's season of surprises writes its final unlikely chapter

Photographs by Dan Storey and Kansas Athletics



Long before KU's triple-overtime, 55-53 loss to Arkansas Dec. 28 in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl—a memorable, thrilling game despite the outcome—and even before the Jayhawks on Dec. 4 accepted the invitation to participate in one of the country's oldest bowl traditions, coach Lance Leipold and his staff preached the value of bowl games. Postseason play means not only an extra game, on national TV, but also vital extra practices in December.

The bonus sessions lay the foundation for productive spring practices, which in turn means fall camp can focus more on preparation to face opponents instead of player evaluation and playbook instruction—a cycle that associate head coach and offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki describes as “the compounding effect.”

And, Kotelnicki notes, when players “see themselves grow” and experience success, along with the festive team-building of a weeklong bowl trip, a program's culture strengthens.

“It's been a long time since we've been to a bowl game, so we're pumped about this,” said All-Big 12 sophomore cornerback Cobee Bryant. “It feels good just to be in the bowl game and not go home for Christmas.”

As the Jayhawks wound down their three weeks of postseason practices, with the thrills of a 2022 season that included five consecutive victories and a campus



Quarterback Jalon Daniels (6) on his way to 565 yards of total offense; wide receiver Lawrence Arnold (2) making one of his eight receptions for 119 yards; and defensive end Lonnie Phelps (47), safety Marvin Grant (4) and linebacker Lorenzo McCaskill (7) teaming up for one of their 13 combined total tackles.

broadcast of ESPN's College GameDay still fresh in their memories, did the looming game even seem real?

“Honestly, no. I don't think it's going to hit me until we get on a plane headed for Memphis,” super-senior defensive lineman Caleb Sampson said Dec. 18, a week before the Jayhawks' Christmas Day departure for Tennessee. “I don't think it's hit me that we're in a bowl game. Yet.”

The reality of their new status began to

sink in shortly after, when the Jayhawks unwrapped boxed gifts placed in each of their lockers: swank white backpacks and jackets. Christmas came early at the Anderson Family Football Complex, and, as evidenced by video on the team's social media feeds, the joy was real.

“Trust me,” senior linebacker Rich Miller said in Memphis, “it's more fun than you think. It's always great to get new things, and we're grateful. We un-



KANSAS ATHLETICS (3)

derstand nothing comes easy, and we feel that even with stuff like that, it's what we worked for."

For super-senior defensive lineman Sam Burt, the reality of making it to a bowl game, after so many frustrating seasons playing for so many coaches, began to register the first time he pulled on his No. 93 jersey with a patriotic-themed Liberty Bowl patch sewn onto the shoulder. The complementary color schemes—red, white and blue patch against KU blue fabric—legit looked good, and Burt beamed with pride.

"Being here has definitely made it real," Burt said. "Like I've been telling people, it's just a dream come true for me. And, yeah, the patches, we just got those today. They look really sharp, don't they? This is all something I'm going to remember for a long time."

Perhaps Burt, who is already organizing years of game-prep notebooks for a possible career in coaching, was just then



grasping the significance of the moment because until then, he'd hoped to avoid "getting myself overhyped" and leaving too much energy on the practice field. As the showdown with Arkansas neared, however, he allowed himself to ponder a personal odyssey nearing its conclusion as well as the adventure that is just beginning for those who will follow.

"A lot of coaches have cycled through here, so there's been a lot of different cultures brought in, and it takes a while for the players to adapt," Burt reflected. "This time, with this full offseason with coach Leipold, I think we had a lot of buying in with the culture. We've really taken it upon ourselves to spend more time together.

"I've been here a long time, and this is the best team I've ever seen, talent-wise, but also in terms of being friends. Liking each other. And that pays dividends during the season."



DAN STOREY (2)

The Girods (above) in their parade buggy; post-parade celebration (top) at B.B. King's Blues Club; and players (opposite) relaxing during their downtime and on a team visit to the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, a memorable highlight of the Jayhawks' four-day Memphis stay.

Although Memphis was hobbled by extreme cold weather that froze water mains and closed some hotels, bars and restaurants, KU faithful still flocked to the old river city. Outside the Peabody Hotel, home of a famous duck parade that plays far better in the imagination than reality, a sidewalk poster lured chilly pedestrians with “Come for the ducks, stay for the biscuits!” Shrimp and grits, French onion soup, and, of course, barbecue and world-class coleslaw were highlights of downtown fare on Christmas Day, and as fans began arriving in earnest Dec. 26—perhaps the worst day of the water crisis that gripped the city for more than a week—attention began turning toward the next day’s parade on Beale Street.

After the stress and uncertainty of canceled flights, revoked hotel reservations and boil-water orders, it felt good to see the festive KU flock flanking Beale ahead of the 2 p.m. parade on Dec. 27. Asked which school’s fans were buying more souvenir T-shirts, a vendor replied, “So far Kansas, because Arkansas people, they either ain’t woke up yet or ain’t come over the bridge yet.”

Crimson-and-blue revelers cheered wildly for the Marching Jayhawks and Spirit Squad, Chancellor Doug Girod and his wife, Susan, waved from inside a baffling fairy tale carriage-type-contraption, and fans made their way to a rally for both teams at Handy Park before flooding into B.B. King’s Blues Club for the official KU pep party, hosted by the Alumni Association and Kansas Athletics.

Many fans visited the National Civil Rights Museum the morning of Dec. 28—a solemn excursion the team had made earlier as one of its private group outings. Early that afternoon, all attention turned toward Simmons Bank Liberty Bowl Stadium, under a stream of inbound FedEx cargo planes.

“I know our guys want to be here,” Leipold said, “especially our upperclassmen, guys who’ve been through a lot, guys who’ve had three head coaches and five to eight position coaches. Crazy stuff like that, stuff that no young man ever thought

he signed up for when he went to college.”

A crowd of 52,847 nearly filled the oddly elegant old stadium’s 58,325 capacity, thanks to strong turnout from fans of both teams. For KU players who had long dreamed of seeing themselves on the field for a big bowl event, the new day of Kansas football had finally arrived.

The Liberty Bowl trophy went, of course, to the Razorbacks. (When asked to drape his arm across the Liberty Bell trophy during his pregame photo-op, Leipold declined and said, “I’ll touch it if we win it.”) Regardless, no Jayhawk fan, player or coach left the stadium feeling anything but pride.

Junior quarterback Jalon Daniels set KU and Liberty Bowl records with 544 passing yards and 565 total yards of offense, leading KU on a 25-point comeback that sent the game into what turned into a heart-stopping triple overtime.

The Jayhawks fell one conversion short, yet still soared.

“I actually told Lance after the game, ‘You know, you should be proud,’” men’s basketball coach Bill Self said two days later. “And I know he is, because Jayhawk Nation is proud. There were a lot of positives that happened this year, *including* the ending, because what the ending showed is that there’s fight in our program, and, hey, no matter what, we’ll compete. I think those things definitely provide a foundation for momentum moving forward as much as anything else.

“I don’t know that anybody’s talking about the actual outcome as much as they’re talking about how good the game was. And I think that’s a pretty good way to go into the offseason. The players and coaches deserve a lot of credit for a job well done, without question.”

Exceedingly well done. And next time—and there most certainly will be a next time, sooner rather than later—the ‘Hawks will once again be old hands at the business of bowl-game football.

That’s as real as it gets. 



KANSAS ATHLETICS (4)



RIGHT: Members of the Girard family have made KU's Vets Day 5K a tradition, including (clockwise from left): Jeff Carlson; Freya, Hunter, Lee and Debbie Girard; and Dianna Carlson.

BELOW: Family members also joined in virtually, including son Garrett Girard, who is deployed to the Middle East, and son Robert and his wife Alyssa Girard, who live in Indiana.



COURTESY LEE GIRARD (3)

TRADITION

Vets Day 5K runs in the family

On the Hill and from afar, the Girards join forces for annual event

WHEN KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD officer and Department of Defense contractor Lee Girard returned from his last overseas deployment, in 2018, he and a few co-workers at Fort Leavenworth saw advertisements for an upcoming 5K road race and agreed to sign up together.

Those plans fell through, unfortunately, but Girard, b'90, g'93, was still itching to find a road race to help motivate his personal and professional fitness goals. That's when he noticed promotions for the Alumni Association's 2019 Veterans Day 5K and mentioned it to his son Garrett, then a KU ROTC student.

"He said, 'Yeah, let's do it,'" Girard recalls from Lawrence, where he and his wife, Debbie, live. "So, he and I ran it together that year."

After the COVID break of 2020, Lee and Garrett in 2021 were joined by the Girards' youngest child, Freya, then a Lawrence High School fresh-

man and cross-country runner. As the 2022 Vets Day 5K approached, Girard mentioned it during a family dinner with his in-laws, Jeff and Dianna Carlson, of Olathe. Both were quick to take up the challenge, Girard says, "and it just kind of grew from there."

Garrett, c'18—now an officer in the Kansas National Guard like his father—participated virtually while on deployment in the Middle East. The Girards' oldest son, Robert, c'16, and his wife, Alyssa Denneleer Girard, c'16, joined in virtually, too, from Bloomington, Indiana. The Girards' son Hunter, a KU freshman, signed up, as did Debbie, who chose to affiliate with the event's merry band of 5K walkers rather than be relegated once again to camera duty.

In all, the extended Girard clan signed up 10 family members for the 2022 Vets Day 5K, which on Nov. 13 attracted a record 669 participants—in-

cluding 219 who joined virtually—from 28 states, Washington, D.C., and nine countries. All proceeds from the event support KU’s Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center, Veterans Alumni Network and the Student Veterans of America chapter.

“It’s important to me, and it’s important to us,” Girard says. “It has a lot of meaning, and I think it’s a great thing that KU does that.”

The day is even more of a celebration for the Girard family because it’s also Lee’s birthday, yet he concedes that while actually running the challenging course—up Mississippi Street and Memorial Drive, down Jayhawk Boulevard and Sunflower Road to Sunnyside Avenue, back up Naismith Drive, around the Chi Omega Fountain, and finally circling back to the stadium down 11th Street—he isn’t thinking about his birthday, his family, veterans

with whom he served, or even the solemnity of the occasion.

“Whenever I’m running a 5K, that’s all I can focus on, especially on that course. That uphill seems like forever,” Girard says with a laugh. “There’s no time to be thinking about other stuff. I’m concentrating on what I’m doing, which is trying to stay alive. I just turned 57. It’s not getting any easier.

“They’re not fun when you’re running ’em, but they’re sure fun when you’re done.”

And what about when he’s 58? Will he still be willing to challenge that long, winding uphill from the stadium to Jayhawk Boulevard next year?

“We’ll be there,” he replies firmly. “And Garrett will be back off deployment, so he’ll be geared up to do it in person.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

DAN STOREY (2)



DAN STOREY (3)



CHRIS LAZZARINO



Festive runners, walkers and strollers of all ages braved bone-deep chill for the Nov. 13 Vets Day 5K, but the race went to the young (left, l-r): bronze medalist James McDermott, Overland Park senior; winner Jon Kazmaier, a senior at Liberty, Missouri, High School; and runner-up Brandon Sikes, Lawrence Free State High School junior.

TOP: Cindy Steineger Blair, a'74, a'75, and Martin Blair, g'78 (seated at top left), owners of Kansas City Barbeque in San Diego, welcomed prospective Jayhawks to their restaurant, which for 40 years has honored their Kansas City roots and proudly touted its claim to fame as the setting for scenes in the original "Top Gun" movie. The Blairs in 2013 received the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award for their longtime volunteer service to KU.



STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Hospitality tour

Recruitment receptions add personal touch in key cities

REVIVING A PRE-PANDEMIC tradition that has proved effective in student recruitment beyond the state's borders, alumni in seven cities teamed with representatives from KU Admissions and the Alumni Association to host January receptions for prospective students and their families. This year's tour included events in Arizona (Phoenix), California (Los Angeles and San Diego), Texas (Austin and Houston), Iowa (Des Moines) and Tennessee (Nashville).

The receptions also welcomed current KU students, who took time during their winter breaks in their hometowns to share their experiences with local students who might follow their examples. The small, informal gatherings provided ideal settings for conversations and the personal touches that increase "yield," which in student-recruitment parlance means the number of students already admitted to the University who decide that KU is where they belong.

"This year has been the most normal since the pandemic, and it was great to be back in person and hosting the winter receptions," says Lisa Pinamonti Kress, g'98, director of admissions. "The receptions have been part of our yield efforts since 2012, and they provide out-of-state students who haven't visited campus the chance to hear what it's like to be a Jayhawk directly from our current students and our alumni."

LOWER RIGHT: The Los Angeles-area reception included (l-r) Dan Storey, the Association's photographer and videographer; Angie Riffey Storey, b'04, g'07, senior vice president of donor relations; host Aerin LeDuc-Gummesson, j'87, Westlake Village; Kate Otto, a KU junior from Agoura Hills; and Admissions representative Joel Perkins.





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Black Alumni Network

KU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders *and* Innovators Award

Emerging Leaders Award

The KU Black Alumni Network is proud to honor African American alumni who have distinguished themselves and made a difference through leadership and/or innovation to the University, their profession or society at large.

Through the Leaders and Innovators and Emerging Leaders programs, the network honors Jayhawks who are established in their professions as well as younger alumni who have demonstrated their talent and promise. Recipients are selected from nominations submitted to the KU Black Alumni Network Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award Committee.

The committee will accept nominations for the 2023 awards through **March 31**.

To nominate an individual, complete the nomination form online at kualumni.org/ban



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Jonathan Ng, c'03, j'03, Bethesda, Maryland

During the pandemic, board members could choose to extend their terms by one additional year, and the Association suspended nominations and elections in 2021. For more information on board members and staff, visit kualumni.org.

Two for the team

EVENT SPECIALISTS Justin Cohen and Heidi McCormick joined the Association staff in January to help develop and implement event services operations for the Jayhawk Welcome Center at the Adams Alumni Center, which opened in February as the new launching point for campus visits by prospective students and their families. (*Kansas Alumni* will highlight the new complex and the events of its first three months in issue No. 2.)

Justin, c'11, is the senior director of hospitality and events. He earned his degree in communication studies and has worked in multiple industries and organizations, including KPMG, the Markham Group and the administrations of Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden. When he's not poring over processes, procedures and protocols, Justin enjoys being outdoors, climbing, camping and, of course, cheering for the 'Hawks.

Heidi, c'93, is assistant director of event services. An Iowa native, she has worked for the past 15 years in nonprofit programming and special events, most recently at Johnson County Community College. She has three sons: Jackson, 24, who lives in Oregon; Jonah, 21, a senior at Kansas State University; and Colby, 19, a freshman studying business and playing baseball at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. Now that she's an empty nester, Heidi spends fewer days at the ballpark and much more time with her two golden retrievers, Kearney and Charlie.



Cohen



McCormick



New Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Nov. 1 through Jan. 31. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

- | | |
|--|--|
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Jayhawk Profiles**MUGABI BYENKYA****Author's creative flame burns brightly for others**

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

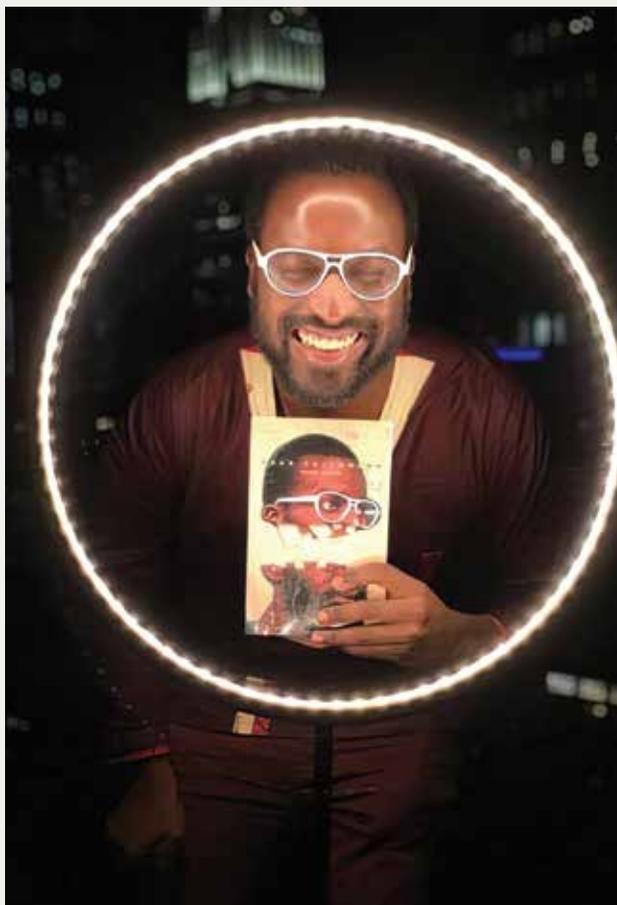
When Ugandan author and poet Mugabi Byenkya describes his creative emergence as a “very painful form of artistry,” he’s not referencing coffeehouse angst salved with clove cigarettes and expensive leather notebooks. Rather, Byenkya speaks of the paralysis that has clenched the right side of his body since experiencing his first stroke as a 9-year-old schoolboy then living with his family in Bangladesh.

“I would write for 15 minutes, and the exertion that entailed on my body was like having an hourlong seizure afterward,” says Byenkya, c’14, c’14, who makes his home in Kampala, Uganda. “There was a lot of, ‘Is this worth it, all the pain I’m putting my body through?’ Now that I’m removed from it, I can see that it was worth it, for all the lives I’ve been able to impact.”

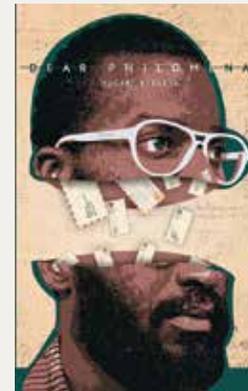
Byenkya “very deliberately” crafted *Dear Philomena*, his 2017 debut novel-memoir, with text-message conversations between himself and a character named Philomena, interspersed with diary entries and social media posts, to make the book accessible for readers, such as himself, who find heavy blocks of text incomprehensibly dizzying.

“I’ve had people tell me it was the first book that they’ve been able to read in years, because of their disabilities,” Byenkya says. “I’m still in awe, and uncomfortable, because of the power that words have, but it teaches me that it’s a power that should be wielded responsibly.”

Byenkya’s father worked for the United Nations Development Programme, which took the family to stations around the world, and he fondly recalls gaining awareness of the power of books during happy Sundays spent with the entire family curled up on the couch, lost in their books.



CALEB CHIN



Mugabi Byenkya, who has experienced paralysis since having a stroke when he was 9, says children with disabilities should receive “care and compassion” for the obstacles they’ll face in a world designed for the convenience of the nondisabled majority. “Ableism,” he says, “is a systematic, societal oppression of disabled people worldwide.”

Although he experienced occasional migraines, Byenkya felt the first stirrings of the childhood stroke that changed his life at a school carnival; later that day, during an argument about whose turn was next in their board game, he grew frustrated as his brothers and friends ignored his shouts: “*It’s Nadine’s turn! It’s Nadine’s turn!*” And then I realized, no sound was actually coming out of my mouth. The only thing coming out of my mouth was an awkward croaking sound.”

His mother, a nurse, took him to a doctor, who dismissed the episode as dehydration from playing outside all day at the carnival. The next day, his teacher commented that his beautiful handwriting was faltering, his mother asked why he kept clenching his right hand, and he even



COURTESY, MUGABI BYENKYA

walked with a limp—none of which he was aware of.

Thanks to benefits provided by his father’s job with the U.N., Byenkya was soon being treated in Singapore, and he began a new life filled with physical therapy, intense pain, and growing feelings of anger and confusion. He was 13, living in Thailand, when his father died unex-

pectedly. Along with the emotional pain, the family suddenly faced financial ruin and the loss of their health and education benefits.

After five years in his parents' native Uganda, Byenkya began sending out college scholarship applications; KU answered his call, and on Mount Oread he found welcoming communities in residence halls, where he lived and worked, and the University Honors Program. He graduated with departmental honors, earning degrees in global & international studies and environmental studies.

Although he had yearned to become an author since he learned to read, Byenkya opted for a "practical and stable" career path, and won a fellowship to the University of Michigan's graduate program in environmental justice. Everything crashed to a halt at the end of his first year in Ann Arbor, when a pair of strokes struck within a week, leading to chronic pain and fatigue, a seizure disorder, and a "volatile" recovery process.

When doctors told him he would not live to see his 24th birthday, Byenkya heeded his heart's longing to write.

"I wanted to be an author my whole life, but I never fully embraced that," he says. "So I was like, I need to at least try my best to write a book before I die."

Dear Philomena was a 2018 bestseller in Uganda, and he continued his creative burst with poetry, comic books and theatre residencies. With his second book already with his publisher, Byenkya, now 31, recently released a "concept mixtape" titled "Songs For Wo(Men) 2." (Cassette tapes and digital downloads are available at helloamerica.bandcamp.com/album/songs-for-wo-men-2.)

"When somebody calls me an inspiration, it honestly makes me uncomfortable, because I feel like I haven't done enough to be an inspiration," Byenkya says. "The most important thing I've learned is that you can't overcome everything in life, but you can figure out ways to manage. And I've managed pretty well, so I'm proud of myself."

SOPHIA DOMINGUEZ-HEITHOFF

Social concerns shape law student's career plan

by STEVEN HILL

Just days before fall classes began in 2017, incoming Parkville, Missouri, freshman Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff was crowned Miss Teen USA during the pageant's final round in Phoenix. The next morning she flew to New York City for an appearance on "Good Morning America." So began a whirlwind year of traveling the country to attend events and advocate for adults with developmental disabilities—while also adjusting to college life.

"I had a very unique experience because I was traveling almost every weekend. I'd have classes Monday through Thursday, then Thursday afternoon fly wherever I needed to be, take a red-eye home Sunday night and be back in the Budig lecture halls Monday morning," she says. "It was not your normal first year of college."

Dominguez-Heithoff didn't grow up in a "pageant family," where competing often spans generations and starts early; she entered Miss Teen Missouri primarily because of the scholarship money, wearing her prom dress rather than buying an evening gown. But for someone whose awareness of social issues was encouraged from childhood by her mother (a nurse who grew up on a Nebraska farm and began her career in the Air Force) and father (who immigrated from the border state of Coahuila, Mexico, and led Project Choice, a Kauffman Foundation scholarship program for Kansas City high school students), the service requirement that came with the crown proved fulfilling.

"It allowed me to see so much of the country I had never seen before, and experiencing different states, different cities and lots of different types of people inspired my interest in international studies," says Dominguez-Heithoff, c'20. "To gain

those experiences while traveling and then bring them back to KU and learn about them in the classroom was just wonderful. That was really helpful for me freshman year."

Majoring in political science and minoring in global & international studies, she was active in Student Senate, chairing the student rights committee and helping create Campus Cupboard, a resource for students experiencing food insecurity. She was also involved in the KU chapter of Best Buddies, a program that promotes friendships between students and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"That cause is very important to me because my aunt has Down syndrome and essentially grew up as a sister to me," Dominguez-Heithoff says. "Recognizing that a lot of her friends were wards of the state and didn't have family members to take care of them like my aunt did, to provide for them and make sure they have simple things, like a present on Christmas—I realized from a young age that was just not right."



COURTESY SOPHIA DOMINGUEZ-HEITHOFF

Dominguez-Heithoff

Now in her final year of law school at the University of Southern California, Dominguez-Heithoff works for change on an international level, building on efforts she began at KU. Through the Alumni Association's Jayhawk Career Network, she landed a summer internship sophomore year with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the country's delegation to the U.N.

"I really utilized the alumni network, talking to anyone I could who worked in the federal government, and so many people gave me advice on my State Department application," she says. "A lot of those people were attorneys, and they became instrumental in me applying and receiving acceptances and scholarships to law school. KU alums have guided me throughout almost every part of my career."

Dominguez-Heithoff helped document human rights violations around the world during her time at the U.N., but she yearned to do more than simply write about the problems she found. "As an intern, I wasn't really able to do anything about them," she says. "I felt powerless."

That changed when she got involved in USC's International Human Rights Clinic. There she has worked with the Clooney Foundation for Justice, which sent her to

Kyrgyzstan to monitor the trial of a human rights lawyer; with survivors of human trafficking in the Los Angeles area who cooperate with police to prosecute their traffickers; and with Afghan immigrants who came to America after working alongside the U.S. military during the war. "We were able to successfully get nine families to the United States, and to offer immigration relief to families who were already here," she says.

She plans to continue that activism—and her reliance on the KU alumni, faculty and staff, family friends, law colleagues, and other mentors she calls her "board of directors"—after finishing law school in May. She looks forward to launching a legal career with the global firm Latham & Watkins that will prominently feature pro bono work, and she's already mentoring high school, college and law students, with a particular interest in guiding Latina women who want to be first-generation lawyers.

"I am the first in my family to go to law school, and I would not be here today if it weren't for the mentors I've had along the way," Dominguez-Heithoff says. "Every opportunity I've had was, one way or another, connected to my mentors. I'm happy to be that person for others now."

THE STARKEY FAMILY

Wichita med student is family's third generation to train at KU

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

David Starkey doesn't recall who had the bright idea to pack something extra before his family drove from Hutchinson to Kansas City in July 2019, but he's thankful inspiration struck. "Somebody said we should take our white coats," he recalls. "It was almost an afterthought, but it turned out to be pretty special."

The Starkeys were headed to the KU School of Medicine's Kansas City campus, where all first-year students celebrate their entrance into the profession by receiving their short white coats, emblematic of students in training, as family, friends and faculty applaud. On that July afternoon, David's son, Jared, received his white coat, extending a family tradition of KU-trained physicians that began with his grandfather, Jerald, m'56, and continued with David, m'86. The photo of the three is a family treasure.

COURTESY, SOPHIA DOMINGUEZ-HEITHOFF



"I had a very unique experience because I was traveling almost every weekend. I'd have classes Monday through Thursday, then Thursday afternoon fly wherever I needed to be, take a red-eye home Sunday night and be back in the Budig lecture halls Monday morning. It was not your normal first year of college." —Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff

“It’s a really neat moment for family to see,” Jared says of the annual ceremony. “It was cool to have my dad and grandpa there to share that moment with me.”

Now in his fourth year of medical school, Jared, 28, is completing his clinical rotations on KU’s Wichita campus, a short drive from Hutchinson, where he grew up and where David, 62, is a family practice physician at the Hutchinson Clinic. David is beginning his 24th year with the clinic and his 34th as a doctor.

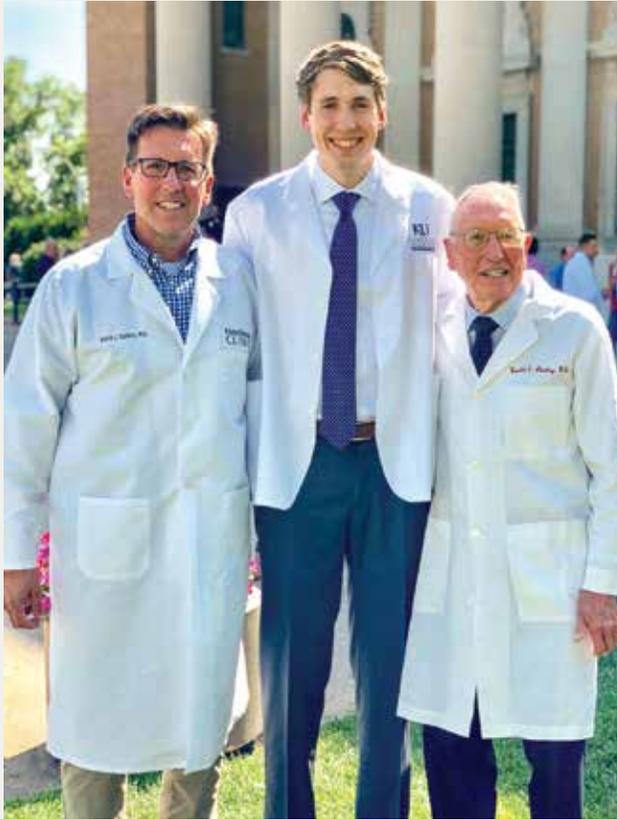
Jerald, 92, retired in Hutchinson after his long career in family practice, which began in Alaska, where he served two years with the U.S. Public Health Service. He returned to Kansas, caring for patients in Lindsborg for two years before landing in Russell for 29 years.

Jared, who earned his bachelor’s degree at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City, says his dad and granddad provided “good examples for me of what life as a dedicated, compassionate physician would look like.”

They never pressured or coached him to choose medicine, he adds, “but I really got to see the impact they had through their careers, serving their communities, and the way that they were able to just change people’s lives. Just walking through town, you run into people they’ve touched, people whose grandparents they’ve cared for or babies they’ve delivered.”

Grandfather Jerald grew up on a farm near Cullison in Pratt County and earned his bachelor’s degree at Fort Hays State University. He names obstetrics as the most enjoyable aspect of his practice in Russell, where he and his partner, Earl Merkel, m’57, cared for families from many surrounding towns that did not have

COURTESY STARKEY FAMILY



The Starkeys—David, Jared and Jerald—all sported white coats to celebrate Jared’s start as a KU medical student. Now they’re counting the weeks until his graduation in May.

physicians. Jerald cites just one of several multigenerational examples: “I delivered a pair of twins, and the girls grew up, married and moved to different towns, one in Great Bend and the other in Ellsworth. They both came back to Russell so I could deliver their babies.”

He thought the late-night deliveries and other demands of rural practice might dissuade his son from choosing the same career. “I was very happy to see David go into medicine,” Jerald says. “I wasn’t sure that he was very impressed, because we worked very hard when he was growing up and didn’t have as much time to be together. I was surprised that he followed in the

same routine and was glad that he did. ... I was very happy to see Jared follow in his dad’s and granddad’s direction.”

David says his father’s unpredictable hours did prompt him to set one requirement when he ultimately chose to settle in Hutchinson after 10 years out of state: “I was looking for a community that was big enough to have emergency room services so I wasn’t up every night,” he says.

After graduating from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, David became enthralled with mission work during medical school in Kansas City and spent three months of his fourth year in Africa. He chose family practice and moved to Wichita for his residency, working at St. Joseph hospital (now Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph) in a KU program that trained physicians for rural communities. He set his sights on Plainville, but his college-sweetheart bride, Karla, who had grown up in Alaska, craved a bit more adventure, so they moved to Washington. After 10 years near Seattle, city life and traffic became overwhelming, he says. Kansas beckoned.

David has especially enjoyed working with third-year medical students, often from the Wichita campus (which in 2011 grew from a two- to four-year program). Numerous KU students have completed their family-practice rotations at the Hutchinson Clinic, and three have returned to join the team. “That level of engagement with the University and with the practicing physicians is really helpful to keep doctors in the community and in the state,” David says.

Though his specialty is urology, Jared sees similarities. “We get to see patients of all ages, with all sorts of problems, and urology provides a good mix of getting to

operate and seeing patients in clinic,” he says, noting that his specialty will enable him to develop long-term relationships with patients.

Jared’s medical residency could take him out of state (he soon will learn the results of the matching process), but he can envision a small-town practice someday: “I would definitely like to come back and serve in the Midwest, either in a smaller community or one that doesn’t have as many resources for urologic care—to take my skills closer to home.”

As Jared prepares to walk down the Hill in May, David eagerly awaits a celebration that echoes the day in Kansas City four years ago, when his classmate, Rob Simari, m’86, now KU Medical Center executive vice chancellor, presented white coats to Jared and the son of David’s med school roommate. “It’s fun to go back 35 years later and see the continuity of training and contributions to medicine,” he says, “and how that has continued a legacy, I think, of really good medical care in the state.”

JOHN KOPROWSKI

Biologist recognized for wildlife conservation

by MICHAEL PEARCE

John Koprowski earned one of the greatest honors in wildlife conservation in November, when The Wildlife Society presented him the 2022 Aldo Leopold Memorial Award. The conservation group is made up of about 11,000 of the world’s top wildlife professionals.

“Anytime you get recognized by your peers, it’s meaningful, but especially this [award],” Koprowski says. “When I look at who’s won this in the past, it’s



absolutely humbling, honestly. They’re all people who’ve made a major impact. It is the top award from the top organization in our field.”

Leopold, the award’s namesake and the author of the seminal work of ecology and natural history, *A Sand County Almanac*, is considered the father of wildlife ecology and the creator of the influential “land ethic” idea. Though he died in 1948, he’s credited with helping start America’s modern wildlife conservation programs.

Koprowski’s peers say he is an apt choice to receive the honor.

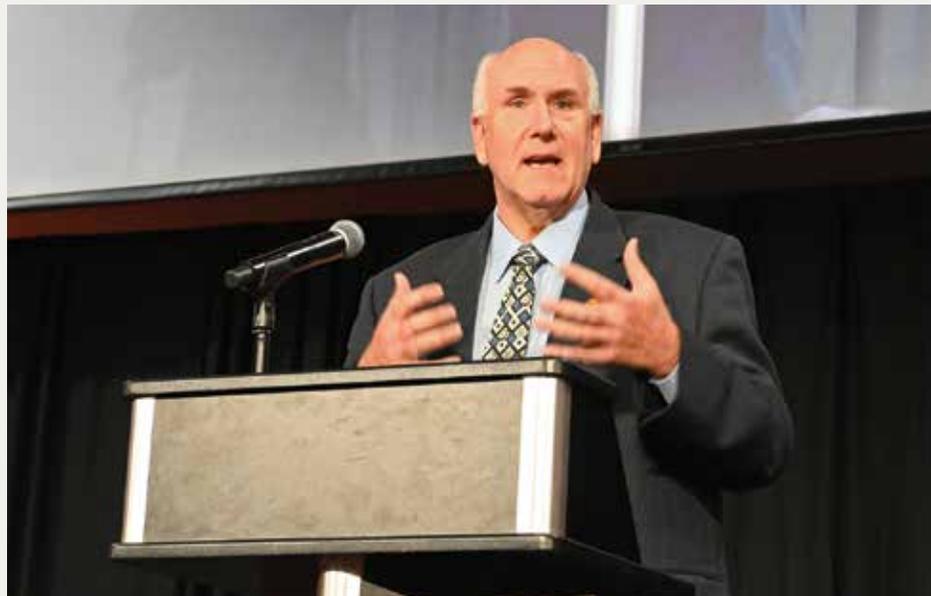
“If you were to list 10 biologists that have a reputation similar to Leopold’s, which is saying something, there’s no doubt [Koprowski] would be on

that list,” says Paul Krausman, editor of *The Journal of Wildlife Management* and a past recipient of the Leopold award.

Jamila Blake, The Wildlife Society’s professional development and inclusion manager, says Koprowski received the award based on his career accomplishments. His 30-year career has included a 20-year stint as an educator and researcher at the University of Arizona. Since 2020 he’s been dean of the University of Wyoming’s Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

His research has taken him to the far corners of the Earth to work with some of the planet’s most imperiled species. Koprowski, PhD’91, is involved with research on wolves in Mongolia; tigers and leopards in Nepal; and other rare and endangered species in India, South America and Mexico.

Yet some of the scientist’s most important research began on Mount Oread while working on his doctorate in the



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

In his acceptance speech at The Wildlife Society’s annual conference, John Koprowski said partnerships are key to conservation success. “I have been fortunate to work with wonderful public and private partners and to mentor amazingly talented students who have enabled us to maximize our impact.”

late 1980s. That's when he studied the population dynamics of squirrels living near Memorial Stadium.

The fact that the animals are so common and easy to observe during daylight hours, Koprowski says, helped provide a wealth of information that went beyond the daily routines of the eastern gray and fox squirrels that thrive on campus.

"They're like the 'canary in a bird cage' to miners, early indicators there may be problems developing for a forest ecosystem if their populations begin to drop," says Koprowski. "A lot of my work has been done with some kind of indicator species, mostly mammals that are forest or grassland species."

Krausman says Koprowski's dedication to helping and educating students may be as beneficial to the wildlife sciences as his many research projects. Krausman recalls a time when both were at the University of

Arizona, shortly after Koprowski arrived.

"I became deathly ill from handling an animal and was in the hospital for several weeks," Krausman says. "John was already swamped with an incredibly full schedule, but he immediately stepped up and started teaching my course, too. It was a very important course and a critical course for the students to complete. It probably wouldn't have been taught that semester if it wasn't for John. That speaks for the kind of individual he is."

Melissa Merrick worked with Koprowski from 2005 to 2020, studying an endangered species of tree squirrel found only on one mountain in southeastern Arizona. She agrees that he has a passion for wild animals, the habitats they live in, and anything research can do to benefit wildlife and those who study it.

"You can tell a lot about someone, like John, by the success of the students he's

worked with," says Merrick, associate director of recovery ecology at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. "John's former students include professors, department chairs, managers and biologists out there leading major research programs."

She also says Koprowski has long been a champion for bringing diversity to the wildlife field, encouraging and helping women and minority students to pursue education and careers in wildlife conservation.

"He was just given a very prestigious award that's very well deserved," Merrick says. "John has made some tremendous contributions to the field of wildlife conservation."

—Pearce, '81, is a Lawrence freelance writer and former outdoor columnist for the Wichita Eagle.

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by MEGAN HIRT

1957 Robert Boyd, e'57, is retired from teaching at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He lives in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

1963 Sandy Plaskett Gifford, d'63, concluded 40 years working as a legal professional for U.S. and international law firms. She and her husband, John, live in Mountain View, California.

1965 Bryan Shewmake, c'65, e'70, g'71, a U.S. Navy veteran, and his wife, Cheryl, in October attended a reunion in San Antonio for Navy officers who served on the USS Bennington during the Vietnam War. They live in Blairsden, California, and have traveled to 115 countries.

1967 Chuck Warner, b'67, l'70, wrote two essays that were recently featured in the literary publications *105 Meadowlark Reader* and *The Write Bridge*. He lives in Lawrence and is on the KU Biodiversity Institute's Board of Advisors.

1970 Dan Westphal, m'70, is a pulmonologist and a reviewing medical director for Humana. He lives in Boca Raton, Florida.

1972 Roger Davis, b'72, recently retired as owner and

CEO of Paxton/Patterson, an education technology company. He and his wife, Julie, live in Montecito, California.

Tom Slaughter, j'72, is executive director of the Inland Press Foundation and a former Associated Press reporter and executive. He and his wife, Pam, live in Lawrence.

1973 Michael Lacy, c'73, g'78, g'79, PhD'81, is emeritus associate professor in the sociology department at Colorado State University, where he taught for over 30 years.

1974 James Doepke, d'74, a trumpeter, played the national anthem and alma mater at the Baylor vs. KU basketball game Feb. 18, his 10th performance at Allen Field House.

1975 Paul Jungnickel, g'75, retired from Auburn University, where he was a professor and senior associate dean in the college of pharmacy.

Keith Lieppman, j'75, retired in November after 52 years with the Oakland Athletics, including 28 years as the team's director of player development and, most recently, three years as special adviser. He was inducted into the A's hall of fame in August.

Chitra Muliylil Walker, g'75, is retired from a career in health care and is a board

member for the Healthy Lakewood Foundation in Lakewood, Ohio.

Wint Winter Jr., c'75, l'78, a partner at Stevens & Brand law firm, is a 2023 inductee to the Lawrence Business Hall of Fame. Wint is a former state senator and current member of the Kansas Board of Regents.

1976 Ken Stone, j'76, contributing editor to the *Times of San Diego*, in October won nine Excellence in Journalism awards from the San Diego Press Club. He and his wife, Chris, live in La Mesa, California.

1977 Paul Coakley, c'77, is archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Barry Wells, c'77, m'83, leads business development at American Gene Technologies in Rockville, Maryland.

1978 Rosemary O'Leary, c'78, l'81, g'82, retired from KU in August as the Edwin O. Stene Distinguished Professor of Public Administration.

1979 Ralph Munyan II, c'79, g'84, practices business law in Kansas City and in October was appointed to the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners.

Mark Prochaska, c'79, m'84, retired in October after

34 years as a psychiatrist in private practice in the Kansas City area.

Jay Smith, e'79, g'81, was promoted to president and chief operating officer at Fischer Homes, a building company based in northern Kentucky.

1980 Lynette Rapp Hosek, d'80, g'07, teaches English as a second language in the Topeka school district.

Dennis Karns, e'80, g'94, retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after 43 years of service. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Keller, Texas.

1981 Matthew Keenan, c'81, l'84, in January became executive director of Kansas Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm. He and his wife, **Lori Hickman Keenan**, f'83, live in Kansas City, where Matthew is a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon.

Fred Osborn, c'81, works at Guaranty Bank as senior vice president and commercial banking manager for the Joplin, Missouri, region.

Lynette Woodard, c'81, in December was named special adviser to the Harlem Globetrotters. She played on the KU women's basketball team from 1978 to 1981, and in 1985 became the first woman to join the Globetrotters.

School Codes

- a School of Architecture and Design
- b School of Business
- c College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- d School of Education and Human Sciences
- e School of Engineering
- f School of Fine Arts

- g Master's Degree
- h School of Health Professions
- j School of Journalism
- l School of Law
- m School of Medicine
- n School of Nursing
- p School of Pharmacy
- PharmD School of Pharmacy
- s School of Social Welfare

- u School of Music
- AUD Doctor of Audiology
- DE Doctor of Engineering
- DMA Doctor of Musical Arts
- DNAP Doctor of Nursing Anesthesia Practice
- DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice
- DPT Doctor of Physical Therapy
- EdD Doctor of Education
- OTD Doctor of Occupational Therapy

- PhD Doctor of Philosophy
- SJD Doctor of Juridical Science
- (no letter) Former student
- assoc. Associate member of the Alumni Association



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SENIOR LIVING

Jayhawks: Fill out a Class Note at kualumni.org to tell us what you're up to!

1982 Peggy Eland, d'82, retired after 40 years as a high school English, speech and journalism teacher. She taught in Grinnell, Hoxie and Valley Falls.

Joe Hodnik, c'82, d'84, g'90, retired as a social studies teacher at Olathe East High School. He taught in the Olathe school district for 38 years.

Steven Perry, d'82, is a writer and retired high school English teacher. He and his wife, **Aurora Mendoza Perry**, c'82, live in Beaumont, California.

1983 Mike Atkins, e'83, g'89, retired as CEO of Open Technology Solutions in Centennial, Colorado. He led the company for 18 years.

1984 Phillip Clampitt, PhD'84, is the endowed chair in communication at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and co-authored the new book *Leading with Care in a Tough World*.

Richard Macias, l'84, is a district court judge in Sedgwick County.

Marcy Stonefield Nemeth, c'84, works at Archer Integrated Risk Management in Overland Park, where she is a professional services advisory consultant.

Jeanny Jackson Sharp, j'84, manages marketing and community development at Silver Lake Bank in Topeka.

Jeffrey Sheridan, j'84, is a criminal justice attorney with the law firm Sheridan, Dulas & Hunstad in Eagan, Minnesota.

1985 Debra Diehl, j'85, is an executive assistant at McDaniel Knutson Financial Partners in Lawrence.

Sherri Enright, c'85, is senior vice president and chief human resources officer at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Jennifer McLeod Kassebaum, j'85, l'89, owns Flint Hills Books in Council Grove, located in the town's historic National Bank building.

Janice Sterling, c'85, g'97, retired as a geographic systems analyst for the U.S. Army Environmental Command. She worked for the federal government for 20 years.

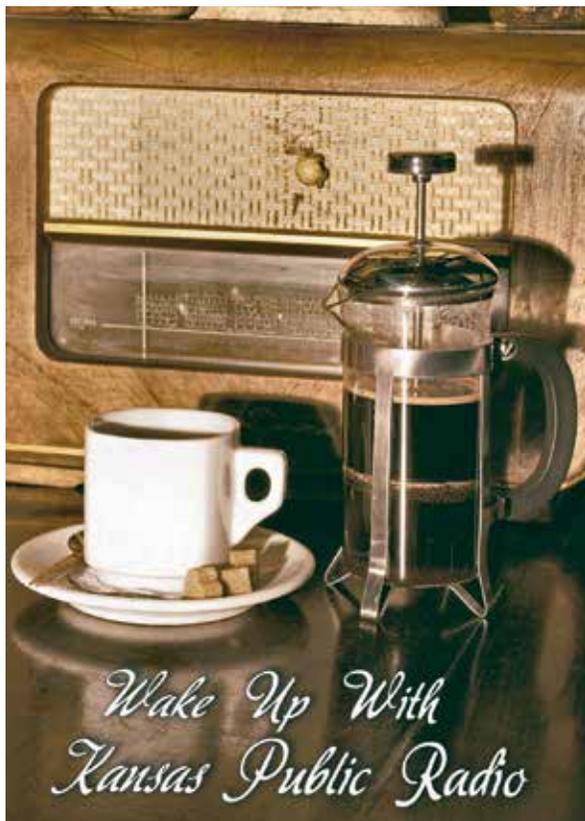
Michelle Worrall Tilton, j'85, l'88, is assistant vice president and cyber product specialist at Zurich North America.

1986 John Egan, j'86, wrote *The Stripped-Down Guide to Content Marketing: Success Secrets for Beginners*. He lives in Austin, Texas, and is a freelance writer and content marketing strategist.

David O'Brien, j'86, Atlanta Braves beat writer for The Athletic, was named Georgia Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Media Association. A past president of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, David has covered Major League Baseball for 29 years. He lives in Atlanta.

Rob Simari, m'86, executive vice chancellor and professor of cardiology at KU Medical Center, wrote the book *A Prescription to Lead: How Medical Training Prepares America's Physician Leaders*, published in November. In January, he received the Chairman's Award from the Sedgwick County Commission for his work on the forthcoming Wichita Biomedical Campus, a collaboration between KU and Wichita State University.

Brian Wagner, c'86, retired as a fisheries biologist for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, where he worked



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for over 30 years. He and his wife, Diane, live near Little Rock.

Paul Winslow, f'86, is a partner and alliance manager at Presidio Government Solutions in Reston, Virginia, which provides IT services to the federal government.

1987 Lance Luther, b'87, is a senior managing director at Accenture and leads the company's technology business for the southern U.S. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Atlanta.

JuliAnn Mazachek, g'87, PhD'94, in January was named president of Washburn University in Topeka.

1988 John Dolusic, c'88, is the meteorologist at WTVA 9 News in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Chris Hernandez, j'88, works for the city of Kansas City, Missouri, as a liaison officer in the civil rights and equal opportunity department.

Elizabeth Schartz, l'88, a partner at Holland & Knight law firm, is a member of the newly formed Big 12 Conference business advisory board. She lives in Dallas.

Marla Svoboda, s'88, is chief development officer for the Rose Brooks Center, a domestic violence shelter in Kansas City.

1989 Tony Balandran, j'89, is editor of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin in Walla Walla, Washington.

1990 Joe Crane, c'90, is a pilot for Delta Airlines and

hosts the podcast "Veteran on the Move." He is a retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant colonel and lives in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Brian Gower, e'90, retired in December as chief of the traffic engineering bureau at the Kansas Department of Transportation, where he worked for 30 years.

Eric Montgomery, j'90, chief of staff for former Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, received the 2022 Senior Staff of the Year Award from the National Association of Attorneys General.

1991 Matthew Coleman, d'91, g'95, in December was named vice president of annuity and life product innovation at AmeriLife.

Jyll Standiford Kafer, c'91, retired as director of alumni engagement at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Jon Mohatt, b'91, g'97, is a real estate consultant in Kalispell, Montana.

Ashley Sherard, c'91, c'91, l'94, in November became CEO of the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce.

Thomas Thompson, c'91, g'93, is senior economist at the marketing agency Havas Edge in Dallas.

Andrew Wroblewski, d'91, in October was named deputy assistant secretary and assistant director of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. He has worked for the State Department since 1998.



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1992 John Allen Jr., g'92, lives in Rome, where he reports on the Vatican for the website Crux. He is senior Vatican analyst for CNN and author of 11 books on the Catholic Church.

Howard Hendrickson, g'92, is a professor in the school of pharmacy at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Julia Mathias Manglitz, e'92, g'99, was named to the Association for Preservation Technology International's 2022 class of Recognized Professionals for her work as a preservation architect. She is associate principal at the architecture firm TreanorHL in Lawrence.

Mike Nicco, c'92, is chief meteorologist at KSHB 41 News in Kansas City.

Robert Wilson, m'92, practices family medicine at Island Primary Care on Orcas Island in Washington.

1993 Kris Belden-Adams, j'93, is associate professor of art history at the University of Mississippi.

Chris Lewis, c'93, is a general surgeon at Olathe Health in Paola.

Taylor McCammon, c'93, is a senior HR project manager at AMN Healthcare. He and his wife, Joy, live in Beaverton, Oregon.

1994 Mallika Edwards, c'94, is chief product officer at XSOLIS, a health care technology company. She lives in Kansas City.

David Johnston, j'94, g'06, in November became associate

vice president for alumni and constituent engagement at Boise State University. He worked at KU for over 20 years, most recently as the Alumni Association's senior vice president of strategic communications.

Allison Lippert, j'94, is a senior instructional designer for Adobe software. She lives in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Marlene Dearing Neill, j'94, was honored by the Public Relations Society of America with its 2022 Outstanding Educator Award. She is an associate professor and the graduate program director in the department of journalism, public relations and new media at Baylor University.

1995 Rina Bansal, c'95, c'95, is a physician and presi-

dent of Inova Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia.

Darrell Stein, e'95, in January was named chief operations officer at Lenexa-based Henderson Engineers and Henderson Building Solutions.

David Winans, EdD'95, is vice president of the Central Michigan Alumni Association of Sigma Chi. He and his wife, Cas, live in Charleston, South Carolina.

1996 David Alcindor, a'96, m'01, is a physician at South Lincoln Hospital District in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

David Deeds, g'96, is president of JSA Development, a property management firm in Waterloo, Iowa, and teaches accounting at the University of Northern Iowa.

Andrew Wymore

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To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by **March 31** at 800-584-2957 or kualumni.org



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

Laura Miser, l'96, in October was appointed Lyon County district court judge by Gov. Laura Kelly. She is the first woman to serve as a judge in the county.

Andrea Rupp, b'96, is executive vice president of human resources at Hudson Pacific Properties.

Karyn Ullman, c'96, is chief philanthropy officer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

1997 Susanna Loof, c'97, j'97, lives in the Netherlands, where she manages the communication office at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

Catherine Ousselin, c'97, g'01, teaches French at Mount Vernon High School in

Mount Vernon, Washington, and is on the board of directors of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Athena Thrift Pfeifer, b'97, is a senior buyer at Garmin. She and her husband, **Daniel**, '00, live in Olathe.

Jennifer Jackson Schoning, c'97, lives in Wichita, where she is an instructor at Club Pilates.

Jacque Vaughn, b'97, in November was named head coach of the Brooklyn Nets. He was a guard on the KU men's basketball team from 1993 to 1997.

1998 Kris Hargis, f'98, an artist, recently exhibited a collection of mixed-media drawings, "There Are No

Roads Here," at Froelick Gallery in Portland, Oregon.

Paul Melton, c'98, is associate professor of art market studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

1999 Jean Moore Block, l'99, is chief legal officer at the Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mike Harrity, j'99, g'02, is athletics director at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He and his wife, Megan, have two daughters, Evelyn and Grace.

Jessica Barr Marin, c'99, in December was named chief operating officer at Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

Brent Terstriep, e'99, is district engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Salina.

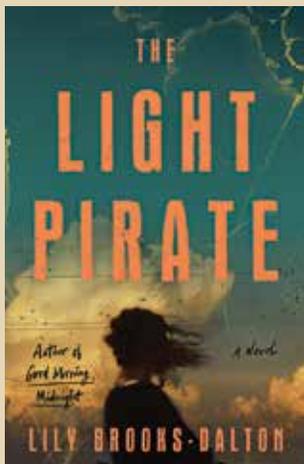
Melanie Kopf Whittenburg, f'99, is an agent with Chinowth & Cohen Realtors in Edmond, Oklahoma.

2000 Scott Dulitz, g'00, is CEO of TrialCard, a technology company serving the pharmaceutical industry. He lives in Shawnee.

Jane Irungu, g'00, PhD'10, is vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion at Utah State University.

Todd Larson, g'00, is planning manager for the city of Ramsey, Minnesota.

Jack Martin, c'00, g'08, in November was named vice president for marketing and

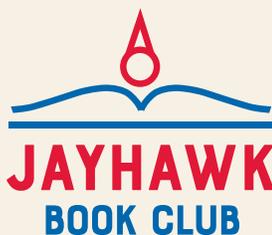


Spring 2023 book

The Light Pirate
by Lily Brooks-Dalton

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Questions?

Contact Kelsey Galle, assistant director of Kansas City programs, at kelseygalle@kualumni.org, or call 785.864.4760.



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communications at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Melissa Pepper, j'00, is vice president of membership at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

Valerie Bauman VanDer-Sluis, j'00, is general manager and executive director at KTWU/PBS in Topeka. She has worked at the TV station for 20 years.

2001 Travis Abicht, c'01, m'05, is a cardiac surgeon with Providence Health. He and his wife, **Elise Schnose Abicht**, m'10, live in Missoula, Montana.

Nicolle Farrell Ratliff, j'01, in December was named vice president of development at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

Kevin Saal, g'01, is director of athletics at Wichita State University.

Shannon Stull, c'01, works at Labcorp Drug Development as a principal clinical team lead. She lives in Tampa, Florida.

Ryan Werner, b'01, g'02, is senior vice president and chief accounting officer at Riot Platforms, a bitcoin mining company.

2002 Katherine McClure Coleman, b'02, g'03, is vice president of finance at CCC Intelligent Solutions in Chicago.

Kelly Evans, s'02, is executive director of Neighbor to Neighbor, a housing assistance nonprofit serving Larimer County, Colorado.

Carl Folsom III, c'02, l'05, was sworn in as a Douglas

County district court judge in December.

Jonathan Kaplan, c'02, is battalion chief of operations for Johnson County MED-ACT. He has worked in emergency medical services in the Kansas City area for 17 years.

Dianne Lord Miller, g'02, is city administrator of Eagan, Minnesota, where she lives with her husband, **Justin**, g'01, and their four daughters.

Chandler Poore, b'02, is director of network operations at Optum, a health services company.

Kim Pulvers, g'02, g'06, PhD'07, is a clinical health psychologist and associate professor of psychology at California State University San Marcos.

Jennifer Rosencrans, c'02, is a medical education program

coordinator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

2003 August Heffner, f'03, is executive creative director at Instrument, a branding and design agency. He has worked with Apple, J.Crew, Kate Spade and other prominent brands. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

2004 Angela Loucks Alexander, c'04, g'07, AUD'11, is an audiologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of auditory processing disorder. She lives in Australia.

Brian Berg, a'04, is a senior project manager at HNTB, an infrastructure design firm based in Kansas City.

Robert Carlson, c'04, in October was named chief financial

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See Lima's colonial-era buildings and explore the culture of the Incas with visits to Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and Cusco. This 10-night, small-group adventure features a three-night luxury cruise on the Amazon and includes first-class hotels, round-trip airfare and two round-trip flights within Peru.

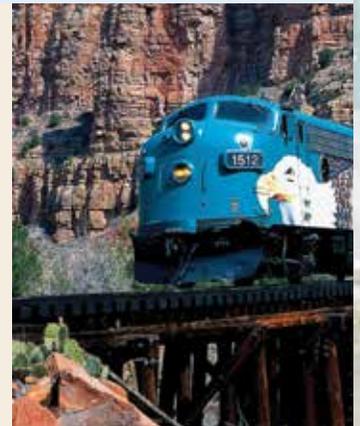


■ **Passions and Pursuits: Golfing in Southern France** September 20 - 28, 2023

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■ **Great Trains and Grand Canyons** September 24 - 29, 2023

On this six-day adventure, you'll board the Grand Canyon Railway for a journey to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. See Montezuma Castle National Monument and the restored mining town of Jerome, and ride the Verde Canyon Railroad along a spectacular route between two national forests.



■ **Grand Danube Passage** October 4 - 19, 2023

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■ **Radiant Spain and Italy** October 10 - 20, 2023

From Barcelona to Rome, live your best life on this 10-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' Riviera. Hosted by Jacques Pépin, Oceania Cruises' executive culinary director and world-renowned master chef, this culinary journey treats you to signature menus, exclusive talks, cooking demonstrations and other special opportunities.



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officer at the software company Vantaca.

Jeff Hodges, c'04, works for ADM as manager of its bakery, snacks and confections applications group in Decatur, Illinois.

Katie Macfee, c'04, j'04, g'08, is an analytics consultant at Campfire Analytics. She lives in Overland Park.

James Owen, l'04, is an attorney and executive director of the energy policy group Renew Missouri. He lives in Columbia and is a film columnist for the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Shannon Portillo, c'04, PhD'08, is a professor and director of the school of public affairs at Arizona State University.

Catherine Decena Triplett, b'04, c'05, l'08, in October was appointed Johnson County district court judge by Gov. Laura Kelly.

2005 Betsy Winetroub Lindsey, c'05, is executive director of Just Like You Films. She and her husband, **Seth**, b'01, live in Mission Hills with their daughter, Nell.

Michelle Burhenn Malashock, j'05, is a senior director at Target Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she lives with her husband, **Ryan**, j'03, and their children, Foster and Sylvie.

2006 Jeremy Huls, c'06, a U.S. Navy commander, is a combat systems officer on the PCU John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier.

Michael Stambaugh, j'06, g'08, is associate athletics communications director at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Britta Warren, l'06, lives in Portland, Oregon, where she

is managing partner at the law firm Black Helterline.

2007 Mary Showman Carpenter, c'07, is the individual giving officer at the Pi Beta Phi Foundation. She and her husband, Aaron, live in Lawrence.

Alison Gaines, DMA'07, is assistant professor of music and bass at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

John Kostelnick, PhD'07, is professor of geography at Illinois State University and directs its Institute for Geospatial Analysis & Mapping.

Cole McEwen, b'07, m'13, is a general surgeon at Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems in Beloit.

2008 Victor Aguilar, c'08, is language access manager for

Kansas City Public Schools.

Nathan Gill, j'08, is a public affairs specialist for the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute.

Hannah Johnson, c'08, j'08, is chief talent officer at Elsewhere Partners, a software investment firm based in Austin, Texas.

Skye Leedah, g'08, PhD'13, is associate professor of aging and health at the University of Rhode Island.

2009 Kyle Mock, c'09, m'13, is a physician at Integrus Health in Oklahoma City.

2010 Lindsay Tippet Beansmith, a'10, is art director for Hallmark Cards' content and marketing studio. She lives in Kansas City.

Melody Redburn, c'10, a sustainability engineer, is a managing consultant at Ramboll in Denver.

Scott Sturgeon, c'10, is the founder and senior wealth adviser at Oread Wealth Partners. He and his wife, **Jenny Guevel Sturgeon**, n'13, live in Prairie Village.

2011 Teresa Clouch, EdD'11, is associate vice president of student life and dean of students at Washburn University in Topeka.

Baris Kesgin, PhD'11, is associate professor of political science and policy studies at Elon University in North Carolina.

Maggie Searight Lamborn, c'11, m'17, is a psychiatrist at Blessing Health System in Quincy, Illinois.

Jake Laptad, b'11, g'14, is a finance manager at Euronet Worldwide in Leawood.

Tyler Luke, d'11, is an orthopedic clinical specialist and clinic director at Rocky Mountain Spine & Sport Physical Therapy in Westminster, Colorado.

Matthew Matheis, g'11, in October was named KU's associate director of emergency management.

Adam Roush, a'11, g'16, co-founder and chief design officer at Bryght Labs in Overland Park, in December appeared on the TV show "Shark Tank," where the company secured an investment for its product ChessUp, a smart chessboard.

Aric Toler, c'11, g'13, directs research and training for the investigative journalism website Bellingcat. He lives in Kansas City.



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Born to:

Matthew, j'11, and **Kelsey Smith Thiessen**, c'11, son, Caden, Aug. 23. The family lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.

2012 Megan Adams, c'12, joined Spencer Fane law firm in Overland Park as a litigation associate.

Chris Clark, g'12, is principal and **Bailey Knott Clark**, g'12, is design director at Clarkitecture, the couple's commercial architecture firm, which has offices in Wichita and Pensacola, Florida.

Michael Fee, j'12, is a global product marketing manager at TikTok. He lives in San Francisco.

Zachary Hettinger, a'12, is assistant project manager at Jack Miller Con-

tractors in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Meshaal Khan, c'12, m'16, is a medical oncologist at Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Care Center in Michigan City, Indiana.

Nathan Lindsey, l'12, an insurance defense attorney, is a member at the firm Rasmussen Dickey Moore in St. Louis.

Tyson Pankey, g'12, is an assistant professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Hilary Ferguson Postlethwaite, j'12, is a client retention analyst at Denver7 News.

Eileen Remley, c'12, is a merchandising director for

Walmart at its headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Born to:

Katie Farrington Bolton, b'12, and her husband, Evan, son, Joel, Oct. 2. Katie is director of advancement operations at Rockhurst University in Kansas City.

2013 Ebonie Davis, l'13, joined Lathrop GPM's real estate and tax credit practice group as counsel in the firm's Kansas City office. She is immediate past president of the Jackson County Bar Association.

Martha Elford, PhD'13, is an instructor in the department of teaching and learning at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Crystal Cook Leftridge, l'13, is an attorney at the litigation firm Stueve Siegel Hanson in Kansas City.

Ellen Lowery, g'13, is a veterinarian and directs the Purdue University Veterinary Hospital in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Kristi Marks, b'13, g'14, was promoted to senior manager at Deloitte and recently completed a two-year assignment in Helsinki. She lives in San Francisco.

Sam Seaman, c'13, is an associate at the law firm HunterMaclean in Savannah, Georgia. He and **Lauren Algarra Seaman**, c'14, have two daughters.

Miriam Brack Webber, g'13, PhD'21, is assistant professor of music at



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Bemidji State University in Minnesota and the principal bassoonist of the Bemidji Symphony and Heartland Symphony orchestras.

Brandon Woodard, c'13, manages philanthropic giving at KC CARE Health Center in Kansas City and represents District 108 in the Kansas House of Representatives.

2014 Dawn Cook, s'14, is a behavioral health social worker for Kansas City Public Schools.

Geoffrey Hulsey, l'14, is a staff attorney at the Washington State Office of Public Defense in Olympia. He and his wife, Flavia, have two children.

Ashleigh Lee, j'14, g'21, is communications coordinator for the School of Business.

Heba Mostafa, PhD'14, directs the molecular virology laboratory at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and is associate professor of pathology in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Joseph Sakumura, c'14, AUD'18, is chief science officer at the American Institute of Balance in Largo, Florida. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of balance disorders.

Eman Siddiqui, g'14, is an architect at GSBS Architects in Salt Lake City. She is the founder and president of the Utah chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects.

Nikki Wentling, j'14, covers technology and innovation for the Denver Business Journal.

2015 Nicole Gilmore, c'15, s'15, is a school social worker with SEK Learning Center in Girard and an adjunct instructor in the School of Social Welfare. She has a handcrafted candle and wax melt business, Peridot & Pearl.

Charla Smith, l'15, is an entertainment and contract law attorney at Wasserman Music in Nashville.

Christine Stanwood, j'15, is a reporter and weekend news anchor at ABC15 Arizona in Phoenix.

Erik Unruh, g'15, m'19, practices family medicine at the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Iola.

Born to:

Ian, d'15, and **Brie Mingus Simmons**, d'16, daughter,

Inverness, Jan. 1. The family lives in Overland Park.

2016 Maria Iliakova, m'16, is a bariatric and general surgeon in Iowa City, Iowa.

Swathi Iyer, PhD'16, is a postdoctoral researcher at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Jordan Jerkovich, c'16, b'17, g'22, directs community development for the city of Lindsborg.

Yan Jiang, PhD'16, is a senior associate at Terracon. He leads the engineering firm's geotechnical department in Savannah, Georgia.

Cristian Lozano, h'16, g'22, in October was named one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology's "40 Under



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40th honorees. He is a principal scientist at Quest Diagnostics in Lenexa.

Tyler Marr, g'16, is deputy city manager of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Abby Petrulis, p'16, g'18, PharmD'18, is a clinical pharmacist at Haskell Indian Health Center in Lawrence.

Danielle Dinkel Spencer, d'16, is a physician assistant at the Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute in Hays.

Alex Tharman, c'16, is an optometrist at ViewPointe Vision in Omaha, Nebraska. He and his wife, Karen, have a son, Preston, and daughter, Gracelynn.

Adam Vaughn, d'16, teaches in the Olathe school district.

2017 Nate Crosser, c'17, l'19, is a principal at Blue Horizon, a venture capital firm that invests in the sustainable food industry.

Jazmine Polk, j'17, is an associate attorney at Ahlers & Cooney law firm in Des Moines, Iowa.

Rachel Shannon, l'17, lives in Hutchinson, where she is an attorney at the law firm Martin-dell Swearer Shaffer Ridenour.

Rabin Valluri, c'17, is a sustainability consultant at Agendi, a climate change advisory firm in New York City.

Born to:

Alyssa Talbott Higgins, d'17, DPT'20, and her husband, Tanner, daughter, Margaret Anne, Sept. 1.

2018 Mattie Carter, c'18, j'18, is a senior sales development representative for Social-ive, a video production platform.

Anna Coleman Dagg, m'18, is a family physician with The University of Kansas Health System in Great Bend.

Mimi Mechache Delrahim, c'18, lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she is a regional admissions representative for KU.

Cassie Enriquez, d'18, g'21, is a member services account manager for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Susanna Geiger, c'18, g'20, is a staff auditor at KU.

Danya Issawi, j'18, is a fashion writer for The Cut.

2019 Abby Berkery, d'19, manages partnership marketing and activation for the Kansas City Current professional women's soccer team.

Maria Drouhard, l'19, is an associate attorney at Foulston Siefkin law firm in Kansas City.

Az Klymiuk, PhD'19, is an assistant professor in the department of biological sciences at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Yash Modha, c'19, is a financial analyst at BMO Financial Group.

Andrew Sandt, n'19, is a flight nurse for Air Methods emergency medical transportation.

Carter Stanley, c'19, is a financial adviser at UBS Financial Services. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Kaitlin Tennyson, m'19, practices family medicine at Newman Regional Health in Emporia.

Kevin Walker, c'19, is senior vice president of public policy at the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce.

Married:

Kalli Smith, j'19, to **Conner Winters**, c'19, Oct. 1 in Kansas City. Kalli is a magazine editor at Sunflower Publishing in Lawrence, and Conner is a student in the School of Medicine.

2020 Katey Burke, PhD'20, is an assistant research professor and director of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Cassandra Hall, g'20, is an architectural designer at GREC Architects in Chicago.

Todd Schmidt, PhD'20, a U.S. Army colonel, wrote the book *Silent Coup of the Guardians: The Influence of U.S. Military Elites on National Security*, published in November.

Ashley Urban, EdD'20, is education program manager for the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence at KU. She and her husband, **Joshua**, g'21, have two sons, Tyler and Kole.

2021 Brennan Davies, a'21, is an architectural associate at Helix Architecture + Design in Kansas City.

Jordan Emerson, j'21, is marketing and program manager at The Toolbox, a resource center for small businesses in Kansas City.

Trevor Jackson, c'21, is a commercial loan officer at Capitol Federal in Wichita.

Luke Kennedy, b'21, g'22, is a postgraduate technical assistant with the Financial Accounting Standards Board. He is one of only six recent graduates nationwide and the

first KU alumnus chosen for the assistantship.

Alexandra Lee, j'21, lives in Chicago, where she is a program assistant at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Tracey Lien, g'21, wrote *All That's Left Unsaid*, her first novel, published last year by HarperCollins. She lives in New York City.

Sowensky Lumene, l'21, is an intellectual property associate at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.

Maddie Rheinheimer, c'21, j'21, is an account manager at Big Marlin Group in Phoenix.

2022 Sydney Bennett, d'22, teaches social studies at Louisburg High School in Louisburg.

Julia Doyle, b'22, is an investment banking analyst at Citi in New York City.

Lane Gillespie, j'22, is a multimedia journalist at WIBW-TV in Topeka.

Lauren Paszkiewicz, b'22, is a procurement specialist at Hill's Pet Nutrition. She lives in Lawrence.

William Shinego, l'22, is an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

ASSOCIATES

Tom Dobski, assoc., is a 2023 inductee to the Lawrence Business Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Marilyn, assoc., own 12 McDonald's restaurants in northeast Kansas.

Gary Sollars, assoc., retired president and CEO of Charlton Manley Insurance, is a 2023 Lawrence Business Hall of Fame inductee.

1940s Frances "Jean"

Francisco Cook, c'48, g'54, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, 96, March 18, 2022. Jean was a librarian and teacher at elementary and high schools. Her husband, Arthur, c'42, g'47, PhD'57, preceded her in death.

Lawrence "Laurie"

Russell, e'43, Prairie Village, 101, Dec. 17. Laurie served in the Battle of Okinawa while in the U.S. Navy. He worked as a consulting mechanical engineer for over 40 years. His wife, June Hammett Russell, f'43, preceded him in death.

Christopher Thomas Jr., m'48, Prairie Village, 98, Sept. 7. Christopher was a surgeon at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City for 33 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Barbara Barcroft Thomas, c'46, and is survived by his wife, Carol.

1950s Francis "Ted" Applegate Jr.

c'51, m'55, Hays, 92, Feb. 27, 2022. Ted was an ophthalmologist and helped open Eye Specialists in Hays. He is survived by his wife, Haven Moore Applegate, n'55.

David Arthurs Sr., '52, Inverness, Florida, 92, Aug. 8. David served in the U.S. Army and worked in radio and newspapers in Florida. He was publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle for 20 years.

Paul Berkley, b'52, Downs, 91, March 6, 2022. Paul was a banker and lawyer. His wife, JoAnn, preceded him in death.

Judy Howard Billings, d'57, Lakewood, Colorado, 87, Nov. 10. Judy and her husband, Richard, c'57, created an endowment that supports KU's Homecoming festivities.

Richard Blowey, b'56, Lenexa, 88, Nov. 8. Richard, a U.S. military veteran, worked

at Capitol Federal his entire career. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn.

Jerry Brownlee, c'53, g'56, Stephenville, Texas, 91, July 28. Jerry served as city manager of Fort Worth, Texas, and held executive positions at several businesses. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Woodson Brownlee, '57.

Dorothy Brown Childers, d'54, Kingwood, Texas, 90, Dec. 9. Dorothy was a teacher.

Paul Coker Jr., f'51, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 93, July 23. Paul was an illustrator for MAD Magazine and designed the characters in several classic holiday TV specials, including "Frosty the Snowman." Through the years, he contributed many cartoons to *Kansas Alumni*.

Billy Cooney, m'58, Napa, California, 92, June 21. Bill, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a radiologist. His wife, Selma, preceded him in death.

Joseph Cox, b'55, g'70, Golden, Colorado, 89, Nov. 13. Joe worked in the oil business for over 30 years. With his late wife, Charlene Welsh Cox, '70, he ran several antique stores.

Charles Ewing, b'55, Birmingham, Alabama, 89, Feb. 13, 2022. Charles managed the radio reading service at WBHM 90.3 FM. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen.

Clara Nelson Hagerman, c'53, Chesterfield, Missouri, 91, June 29. Clara was a school secretary. Her husband, Max, b'56, preceded her in death.

Jerry Haggard, c'59, Phoenix, 85, June 15. Jerry practiced law for 57 years. He is survived by his wife, Mitzi.

Ruth Elser Harold, n'56, Blue Springs, Missouri, 89, Nov. 8. Ruth was a nurse, teacher and pianist. She was

preceded in death by her husband, Lane, e'51, g'55.

Don Cole Hendrix, c'56, g'63, Keswick, Virginia, 88, Nov. 15. Cole was city manager of Charlottesville, Virginia, for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Janet.

Judy Dold Higdon, d'58, Wichita, 85, Oct. 18. Judy was a painter and teacher. She is survived by her husband, Al, b'58.

Humphreys "Hump" Hodge, j'56, Augusta, 88, Dec. 3. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Hump owned Financial Insurance Group in Augusta. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

Marion Lee Foster Jacques, d'51, Overland Park, 92, Nov. 4. Lee taught elementary school in the Shawnee Mission School District her entire career.

Vern Knoop Jr., '54, Los Angeles, 89, Dec. 28, 2021. Vern, a U.S. Army veteran, was a civil engineer.

Delos "Dee" Lander, c'57, Garden Plain, 86, July 31. Dee worked in sales and marketing for Union Carbide Corp. He is survived by his wife, Lois Alberg Lander, c'57.

Joanne Perry Meeker, c'52, Wichita, 91, Feb. 6, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce, c'54, m'58.

Richard Nordstrom, b'54, Fresno, California, 89, Aug. 12. Dick, a U.S. Navy veteran, was professor emeritus of marketing at California State University, Fresno. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Throm Nordstrom, c'58.

Richard O'Neill Sr., c'50, Kansas City, 94, Aug. 9. Richard worked in car sales. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Fisher O'Neill, d'52.

Robert Payne, c'51, m'55, Topeka, 92, May 10, 2022.

Bob, a U.S. Navy veteran, was an orthopedic surgeon. He is survived by his wife, Doris Kendall Payne, n'54.

Ann Templin, c'57, g'60, Shawnee, 86, July 23. Ann was a researcher in the biochemistry laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley.

Karen Morgan Tetzlaff, n'58, Kansas City, 87, July 23. Karen was a nurse and accomplished seamstress. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arch.

Austin Turney, b'53, Lawrence, 93, July 13. A U.S. Army veteran, Austin worked as an accountant and business manager. He served on the Lawrence school board for eight years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth.

Carolyn Yates, f'58, Prairie Village, 86, May 31, 2022. Carolyn was a graphic designer at Hallmark Cards and later vice president of design for the company's jewelry line.

Linda Conner Young, f'55, Des Moines, Iowa, 89, Dec. 22. Linda was an occupational therapist. Her husband, Joe, preceded her in death.

1960s Robert Barker, c'65, l'69, Chanute, 79, Nov. 6. Bob served in the U.S. Army National Guard and was a lawyer and entrepreneur. He is survived by his wife, Ruby.

Gayle Dietz, b'62, Lenexa, 86, Oct. 29. He was preceded in death by his wife, Raelene Mai Dietz, '62.

John Hadl, d'68, Lawrence, 82, Nov. 30. John played football at KU from 1959 to 1961 and in the AFL and NFL for 16 seasons. He was an assistant coach at KU and in the NFL for six seasons and spent two seasons as head coach in the USFL. He was later associate

athletics director at KU and in 2020 received the Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion for longtime service to KU. He is survived by his wife, Diana.

Nancy Lintecum Hamilton, c'63, d'64, g'66, Houston, 81, Sept. 17. Nancy volunteered for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Her husband, Fred, e'65, preceded her in death.

Daniel House, e'68, Lake Wylie, South Carolina, 75, Sept. 6. Daniel worked in the aerospace industry for IBM, Loral Corp. and Lockheed Martin. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl.

Judith Allen Morris, c'60, Lawrence, 84, Nov. 23. Judy, Phog Allen's granddaughter, worked at Cottonwood Inc. in Lawrence. Her husband, Duane, b'59, preceded her in death.

Manny Moser, m'60, Holton, 87, Sept. 20. Manny was a surgeon in the U.S. Army and later worked in private practice as a plastic surgeon for 25 years.

Robert Nelson, c'68, g'69, PhD'84, Kennewick, Washington, 76, Dec. 26. Bob, a nuclear engineer, served in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years and later worked for the U.S. Department of Energy. He is survived by his wife, Lois Adams Nelson, c'78.

Phillip Norton, c'66, Oklahoma City, 83, May 31, 2022. Phil served in the U.S. Marine Corps and received three Purple Heart medals. He later worked in logistics engineering and education. He is survived by his wife, Carol.

Donald Sooby, e'60, Nashville, Indiana, 85, Oct. 24. Don was city engineer for Pleasanton, California, and

Lafayette, Indiana, and worked for Kaiser Engineering. He is survived by his wife, Gloria.

Gary Stubbs, a'64, Overland Park, 82, Nov. 25. Gary was director of works for Kansas City, Kansas, for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Deam Stubbs, f'64.

1970s Lyle Bowen, j'70, Boulder, Colorado, 95, Oct. 28. A U.S. Navy veteran, Lyle was an instructor at Boulder Valley Area Vocational Technical Center. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth.

Mary Beth Craig-Oatley, h'79, Ormond Beach, Florida, 64, April 27, 2022. Mary Beth was an occupational therapist and managed the occupational therapy assistant program at Daytona State College in Florida. She is survived by her husband, Jeff.

Melvin Miller, g'70, Kansas City, 83, March 18, 2022. Mel was a licensed psychologist.

Kimberly Smith Stevens, d'76, Sublette, 68, Nov. 10. Kim taught gifted education and volunteered with several community organizations.

Jeffrey Stinson, j'74, Basye, Virginia, 70, Oct. 19. During his 43-year career, Jeff was a reporter and editor for Gannett and USA Today, covering the White House, Europe, and state and national politics. He is survived by his wife, Christine Stevens Stinson, j'75.

Mary Stuart, c'78, Greensboro, North Carolina, 65, June 25.

1980s Georgette Page, g'82, Kansas City, 97, Nov. 8. Georgette taught special education. Her husband, Clark, c'43, preceded her in death.

Stephen Paige, g'81, Topeka, 74, Aug. 29. Steve worked at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Jacolin Montfoort-Paige, g'02.

Keith Sevedge, j'80, l'83, Lenexa, 63, Jan. 7. Keith practiced law for over 30 years and was a longtime volunteer for KU's Audio-Reader program. He is survived by his wife, Jan.

1990s Gail Green Figueiredo, g'92, Santa Cruz, California, 77, Nov. 29. Gail taught English in Portugal and worked as a translator. Her husband, Antonio, preceded her in death.

2010s Harlow "Hart" Sanders III, g'14, Branson, Missouri, 32, Oct. 16. Hart was an architect at firms in Phoenix, Seattle and Des Moines, Iowa.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

James Budde, EdD'76, Lawrence, 85, Nov. 28. A U.S. Army veteran, Jim worked at the University for 35 years and in 1980 founded KU's Research & Training Center on Independent Living. He served as its director until his retirement in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Jane.

Dennis Dailey, assoc., Lawrence, 84, Jan. 3. Dennis was professor emeritus in the School of Social Welfare and taught human sexuality courses at the University for 36 years. He was honored for his teaching with KU's HOPE Award in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Judy Brown Dailey, s'76, g'77.

Sharon Drullinger, assoc., Overland Park, 78, Nov. 16.

Sharon worked in computer operations at KU for over 15 years.

Shirley Garfield, assoc., Lawrence, 92, Jan. 3. Shirley mentored thousands of students as a field instructor for the School of Social Welfare from 1970 until her retirement in 2003. Her husband, Goodwin, PhD'80, preceded her in death.

Jack Keim, c'62, Lawrence, 82, Nov. 18. Jack worked in the geology department and at the Paleontological Institute at KU for 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Karen.

Todd Seymour, j'50, Lawrence, 95, Dec. 2. Todd worked for KU Endowment for 35 years, 17 as president. He was honored with the Fred Ellsworth Medallion from the Alumni Association in 1992 for his service to the University. His wife, Jeannot Barnes Seymour, f'64, preceded him in death.

Edwin Uyeki, McKinleyville, California, 94, Oct. 15. Ed was a cellular research scientist and professor emeritus of pharmacology at KU Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Aiko.

Lorie Vanchena, Lawrence, 61, Dec. 2. Lorie was associate professor of Slavic, German & Eurasian studies and directed the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies.

G. Paul Willhite, assoc., Lawrence, 85, Dec. 15. Paul worked at KU for 50 years, retiring as Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering in 2019. He received the School of Engineering's highest honor, the Distinguished Engineering Service Award, in 2022. He is survived by his wife, Jewell.

An aerial photograph of a university campus during a light snowfall. On the left is a large, Gothic-style stone church with a red-tiled roof. The surrounding area is covered in snow, with trees heavily laden with white snow. A paved road runs diagonally across the lower half of the image, with a blue and red bus driving on it. A pedestrian is visible crossing the street at a crosswalk. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building is partially visible. The overall scene is bright and wintry.

PHOTO FINISH

A LIGHT, LOVELY, late January snow adorned Snow, Budig and Marvin halls, as well as the rest of Jayhawk Boulevard, in a delightful dusting that caused no headaches other than which pretty pic to snap next.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
ANDY WHITE





STEVE PURPE (2)

REMEMBRANCE

A rededication

Stirring ceremony honors fallen airman

WHEN *KANSAS ALUMNI* first told the story of Lt. Harrison Manlove, c’21, discovering that Maj. Glenn McCubbin, whose F-4 Phantom had been shot down over North Vietnam in 1968, was erroneously listed as missing in action on the KU Vietnam Memorial [“Everybody has a Story,” issue No. 1, 2022], we included one especially heartbreaking detail:

Maj. McCubbin was buried in Norton Cemetery and, because his mother, Martha Colip, had died in 1991 with no other known surviving family members, there his story ended—until Harrison Manlove emailed the Alumni Association after his graduation and commission in the U.S. Army with news of his discovery.

We later learned that Maj. McCubbin, c’65, posthumously promoted from first lieutenant and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, indeed had a surviving brother, Harold, P’71, a retired attorney in Littleton, Colorado. When the KU Vietnam Memorial—amended with a second star chiseled next to McCubbin’s name, indicating that his remains had been recovered and identified—was rededicated at a 2022 Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony led by Chancellor Doug Girod, a Navy veteran, alongside a host

of other military-affiliated faculty and staff, we learned more about the extent of our error.

Although health issues prevented Harold McCubbin from attending, Maj. McCubbin’s family was well represented, including niece Michelle McCubbin Hack, c’86, a Lawrence real estate agent, and her son, Hunter, a KU junior; and Maj. McCubbin’s nephew Scott McCubbin, of Topeka, who shared that his uncle had not been buried at the cemetery.

Rather, his cremated remains, which had been identified in 2006 at Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency labs at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, were scattered in a family ceremony at the Norton farm where Maj. McCubbin and his brothers had been raised; McCubbin’s mother had earlier purchased and placed the cemetery headstone when the Department of Defense in 1979 officially declared that her son Glenn had been killed in action.

“This brings some closure, but the real closure was when he was sent back from Hawaii,” Scott McCubbin says. “I just wish my grandmother could have been here, because she worked tirelessly, going back and forth to Washington on behalf of MIAs and POWs, and she was not alive when we found out that his remains had been located.”

On Nov. 11, bright sun belied the deep chill of the season’s first biting cold day.

The chancellor choked back tears as he read a poem by author, poet and Vietnam



McCubbin

VIETNAM MEMORIAL FUND

veteran John Musgrave, ’74, that spoke of “limitless love and willingness to sacrifice for each other.” The Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department’s Honor Guard Pipe and Drum Band played “Amazing Grace.” ROTC cadets, their shoes shined to a radiant gloss, lowered their flags in salute. Family, dignitaries, songs of loss, promises of remembrance, all while campus still moved along in its daily rhythm, the passing students forever the same age as their fellow Jayhawks listed on the wall and etched into every other sacred station along Memorial Drive.

“It’s really special that the University cares this much,” reflected Hunter Hack, an industrial design major, “and is willing to do something like this for someone who really had passed so long ago. It means so much to so many people.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

ROCK CHALK RALLY



Celebrating Classic Kansas Comebacks



KU LIBRARIES

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Rock Chalk Rally: Celebrating Classic Kansas Comebacks is a new, traveling exhibit from KU Libraries that features historic images from the University Archives, offering a look back at inspiring moments where KU prevailed against the odds. From the rebuilding of Lawrence after Quantrill's Raid, to the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, *Rock Chalk Rally* serves to remind us of Jayhawks' fighting spirit and resilience.

KU Libraries play a key role in preserving the distinctive traditions of our celebrated university, and we aim to reconnect friends and alumni with campus by showcasing our *Rock Chalk Rally* exhibit at events across the country. We look forward to sharing our timeless history and traditions in a city near you! For more information, please visit rockcha.ik/RockChalkRally.



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