

CAPOTE CHRISTMAS
True crime chronicle

CREATIVE CHAOS
Art of fire and clay

kansasalumni

ISSUE 4 | FALL 2024 | \$7

Functional Fitness

Researcher Lyndsie Koon studies how adaptive exercise builds health, community and confidence for people with disabilities

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR KU ALUMNI



Central Bank

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT WITH JAYHAWK CHECKING



GET \$300¹

When you open any eligible checking account and have **two or more direct deposits** with a **cumulative total of \$250** within the **first 90 days**.

Use offer code

KUALUMNI

by December 31, 2024!

Visit CentralBank.net/KUALUMNI or scan to get started!



PROUD COMMUNITY BANKING PARTNER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

MEMBER FDIC © 2024 Central Banccompany. All rights reserved. 1. To receive the \$300 checking bonus, open and maintain any personal checking account except Free Checking. Free Checking is not an eligible checking account. Deposit \$50 or more at account opening; and have at least two or more direct deposits with a cumulative total of \$250 within 90 days of account opening. No minimum balance required for Bonus. Qualifying types of Direct Deposits include any direct deposit from Payroll, Pension or Government Benefit. Bonuses are reported to the IRS as interest. Bonuses will be deposited into the checking account within 15 business days after account(s) 1) meets all requirements AND 2) has been open for 90 days. Available to new checking account customers only. Offer is not available to those whose accounts have been closed with a negative balance within the last 2 years. You will receive only one new checking account opening related bonus every two years from the last date incentive was paid. Only one bonus per household. Customer must bring in mailer or use offer code to receive incentive. Offer may only be redeemed by the intended recipient and is nontransferable. Eligibility for this offer will be verified prior to providing the bonus. The new checking account must be open and in good standing up to and including the date any earned bonus is paid in order to receive the bonus. We reserve the right to not open accounts for customers outside our market area. Please contact us for further details. The official Jayhawk Debit Card is issued by The Central Trust Bank pursuant to a license by Mastercard International Incorporated. Mastercard is a registered trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated. All University of Kansas and Jayhawks trademarks and copyrights used by permission. The University of Kansas is not a lender and is not responsible for the use of any debit card. All rights reserved. **Promotion ends 12/31/2024.**

Talk and squawk in the news



“Taking a floppy disk to the Union computer lab to print is a core memory.”

—Lexie Hallman Nuell, c’06, commenting on KU’s Sept. 6 Facebook post reminiscing about life on the Hill in the early 2000s.



COLLECTION OF RENEE LEDESMA



“My dad still complains about how he skipped this show to study for an exam and how much he regrets it.”

—A comment on a Reddit post commemorating the 33rd anniversary of Nirvana performing at the Kansas Union Oct. 17, 1991. The band (in a rare photo in the Union) had released its groundbreaking album “Nevermind” the previous month. Tickets for the show were \$7.

ZUBIN, ERIC DUTTA



“My heart skipped a beat, because I never expected something like this to fall into my lap.”

—Kyle Atkins-Weltman, c’18, g’21, on discovering a new dinosaur species, in an interview with KWTN News 9 in Oklahoma City in early 2024. Atkins-Weltman, a paleontology PhD student at Oklahoma State University, named the birdlike creature Eoneophron infernalis, or “Pharaoh’s dawn chicken from hell.”

Follow us on your favorite platform:



#KUalumni
@KUalumni

“We had \$12 a square foot to build this building.”

—Warren Corman, e’50, the last living Allen Field House architect, reflecting on the venue’s construction in an October interview with Bill Self. The 2024-’25 basketball season marks Allen Field House’s 70th anniversary and the debut of new renovations. Watch the interview at bit.ly/warren-corman.



KANSAS ATHLETICS



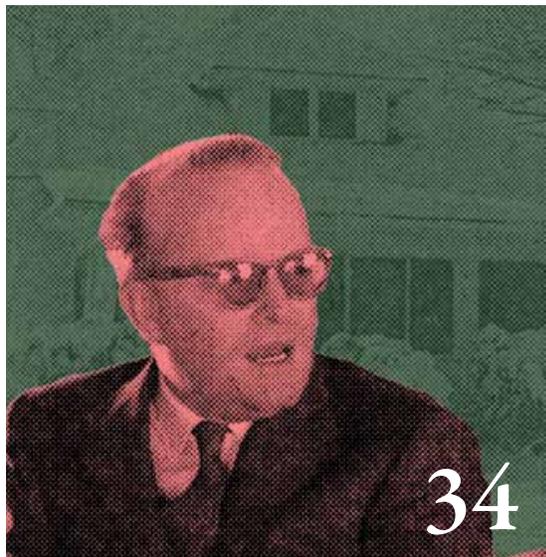
COVER STORY

Resilience in Every Rep

Life Span Institute researcher Lyndsie Koon studies the powerful benefits of strength training for people with disabilities.

by Christina Knott

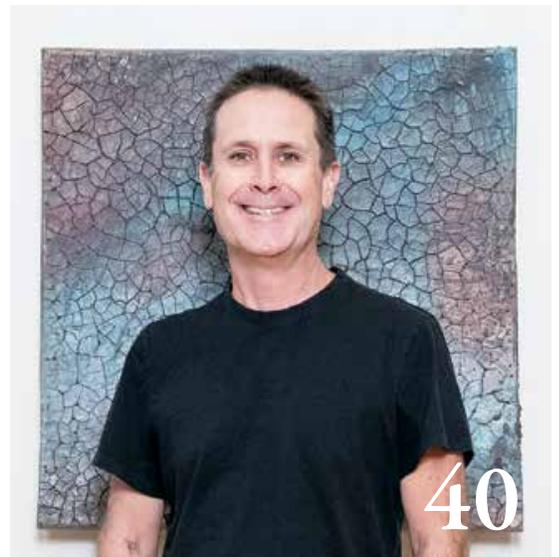
Cover photograph by Steve Puppe



A Capote Christmas

Before Truman Capote could write his classic novel *In Cold Blood*, he needed an entrée into Garden City society. The author remembers the family holiday that helped launch him on his way.

by Rosemary Hope



'Controlled chaos'

Ceramicist Marshall Maude finds inspiration for teaching and art in the elemental basics of clay, water and fire.

by Chris Lazzarino



FALL 2024

Publisher

Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09

Editor

Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81

Associate Editors

Chris Lazzarino, j'86

Steven Hill

Associate Digital

Editor

Megan Hirt, c'08, j'08

Graphic Designer

Chris Millsbaugh, f'97

Photographers

Steve Puppe, j'98

Dan Storey

Marketing

Mary Padilla, j'88

Ryan Camenzind, j'17

Noelle Husmann

Kate Neuner

Janella Williams

Advertising Sales

Austin Harris

Brett Leonard, d'09

Established in 1902 as

The Graduate Magazine

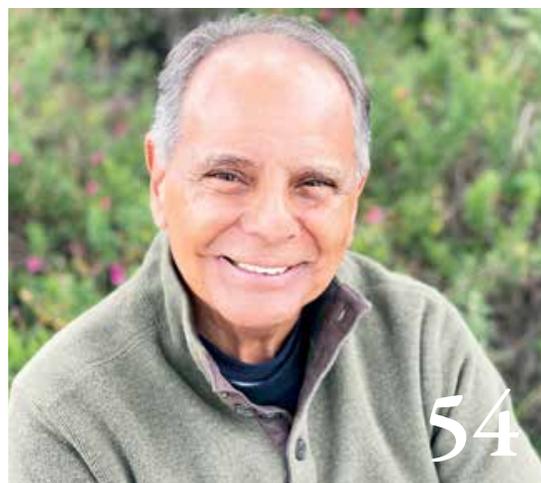
Volume 122, No. 4, 2024

**kansasalumni
magazine.org**



Always Jayhawks: Welcome home

Alumni Association celebrates Jayhawks from across the eras during 112th Homecoming.



Profile: Dennis Garcia

A retired lawyer's family histories are also chronicles of America's immigrant story.

by Steven Hill

5

Lift the Chorus

Letters from our readers

7

KU Voice

The life-changing power of Study Abroad

8

First Glance

Amber autumn

10

Rock Chalk Review

Largest freshman class helps University set enrollment record.

24

Jayhawk Sports

Basketball starts season at No. 1; soccer wins Big 12 championship.

48

Always Jayhawks

Association news and alumni profiles

61

Class Notes

78

In Memory

82

Photo Finish

Hoops heaven

84

Hail to Old KU

Vespers turns 100.

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.

KANSAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE (ISSN 0745-3345)

is published by the KU Alumni Association four times a year in February, June, September and November. \$60 annual subscription includes membership in the Alumni Association. Office of Publication: 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Periodicals postage paid at Lawrence, KS, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Kansas Alumni Magazine*, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100 © 2024 by *Kansas Alumni Magazine*.

Non-member issue price: \$10



ULTIMATE POWER. ULTIMATE LUXURY.

Are you one of the few who dare to go beyond? Meet the BMW XM—a vehicle that transcends ordinary notions of adrenaline and aesthetics.

You've never held such force in your hands. The BMW 4.4 liter TwinPower Turbo engine is paired with a high-performance electric motor to put out a staggering 644 horsepower and 590 lb-ft of torque.

Be extravagant and expressive. Set your legacy in motion by being one of the first to transcend all others.

Build your own BMW XM and discover the edge of yo your world or contact a Client Advisor at bmwtopeka.com to learn more about the BMW XM

BMW. The Ultimate Driving Machine.®

BMW of Topeka
3030 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66611-2233
(785) 266-8480
www.bmwtopeka.com



Proud sponsor of Kansas Athletics

©2024 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



STATEMENT OF OWNER-SHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

LIFT THE CHORUS

- 1. Publication Title** KANSAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE
- 2. Publication No.** 0745-3345
- 3. Filing Date** September 16, 2024
- 4. Issue Frequency** Quarterly (Feb., June, Sept., Nov.)
- 5. No. Issues Published Annually** 4
- 6. Annual Subscription Price** \$60
- 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication**
The Kansas University Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
- 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher**
The Kansas University Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
- 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor**
Publisher
Heath Peterson
The Kansas University Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
Editor
Jennifer Jackson Sanner
The Kansas University Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
- 10. Owner**
The Kansas University Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
- 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities.**
If none, check box. None
- 12. Tax Status. The Purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:**
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months
- 13. Publication Title** KANSAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE
- 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below** September 2024
- 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation**

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Pub. Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	26,500	26,500
b. Paid Circulation		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	25,496	25,517
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers & Carriers, Street Vendors Counter Sales, & Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution	25,496	25,517
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	50	50
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	300	300
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	350	350
f. Total Print Distribution	25,846	25,867
g. Copies Not Distributed	654	633
h. Total	26,500	26,500
i. Percent Paid	98.65%	98.65%

- 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2024 issue of this publication.**
- 17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Jennifer Jackson Sanner, Editor September 16, 2024



Rare find

KUDOS TO CHRIS Lazzarino for shining a light on Joseph Kennedy, g'37, the Manhattan Project's head of chemistry and the co-discoverer of plutonium ["Discoverer, discovered," Hail to Old KU, issue No. 2, 2024].

Actor Troy Bronson played Kennedy in the movie "Oppenheimer," and his observations of working with director Christopher Nolan were spot on. As a background actor on the film, I had a special role and was privileged to see Nolan and some of the actors in action. Clearly, they were all devoted to this film, gave the story their best and demonstrated how to work beyond all measure as a team. It was a "rarefied realm" on set, too.

Hooray for Kennedy and KU.
—Sandra Smith, j'70, g'72
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Coincidence or kismet?

I JUST READ your article on Joseph Kennedy and his affiliation with the discovery of plutonium (which is named after the now dwarf planet Pluto) in 1940 and his connection to KU from 1936 to 1938. You may also recall that Clyde Tombaugh, c'36, g'39, is credited with discovering Pluto in 1930, and his connection to KU overlies that same 1936-1938 time frame.

It would appear that KU has the market cornered in the naming of a planet and its corresponding namesake element. Admittedly there is a lot of room for coincidence here, but these two Jayhawks *could* have crossed paths at KU, and this naming convergence could be intentional. I'm just saying that this is worth exploring.

—Stephen Franklin, g'00
Appleton, Wisconsin

Good to know

YOUR HAIL TO OLD KU article about Joseph Kennedy was incredible! We are always learning new things about Jayhawks, aren't we? Way to go! Timely and fascinating.

—Norma Hoagland, c'75
Leavenworth



Jayhawks: We welcome your reactions to recent stories in print or online (kansasalumnimagazine.org). Scan here to send us a letter to the editor; please limit your message to 350 words. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Thank you, and Rock Chalk!



ROCK CHALK

forever

SAVE *the* DATE



Saturday, April 26th, 2025
The Lex at Municipal Auditorium

We're excited to announce that Rock Chalk Forever, presented by Truist Credit Union, is returning to Kansas City on April 26th at The LEX at Municipal Arena! Join us for a memorable night with the Jayhawks!

Editor's note: A lovely email about momentous Study Abroad experiences exemplifies a KU Voice that we consider worth sharing. If KU Study Abroad brought you similar life-changing adventures, please share your story in a letter to the editor.

DEAR KANSAS ALUMNI and Study Abroad,

We hope this message finds you well. We are Ben, c'04, g'06, and Jessica Kirby, c'04. We are reaching out to share a special story about how the University of Kansas and KU Study Abroad have had a profound impact on our lives and our family.

We ended up at KU from different parts of the country—Ben from Dallas, and Jessica from Stilwell—but we both have parents who attended, so KU was in our blood. In 2002, we both participated in a KU Study Abroad program to Costa Rica, biology majors driven by our interest in science. We saw the program as a unique opportunity to earn credit toward our degrees while immersing ourselves in the vibrant culture and stunning landscapes of Costa Rica.

We did not know each other at that time, and neither of us knew anyone else in the program except for random lab partners from biology classes. Our goals were simple: travel, learn a bit of Spanish, and dive into field biology, including marine biology and ethnobotany.

Truth be told, this story almost never took off because Jess' father was hesitant to let his daughter travel abroad alone. He ultimately relented on the application deadline, and the rest is history.

During our time in Costa Rica, we lived with generous host families, took classes in a rainforest, and went on excursions to stunning locations like Fortuna Waterfall, Quepos, Jaco, Golfito and Manuel Antonio. It was on these weekend trips that we often found ourselves talking and discovering commonalities in our life goals. We were both pre-med students, and while we both returned to Lawrence and took the MCAT, we each ultimately decided that medicine was not our calling.

Ben pursued a PhD and a career as a science teacher and school administrator at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, and Jess ventured into event planning and



COURTESY KIRBY FAMILY

Kirby family

sales. So, despite our best intentions and some serious studying, neither of us ended up in a white coat.

The Study Abroad program was life-changing for us. We started dating about six months after we returned to Lawrence and married two years after graduation. We returned to Costa Rica for our honeymoon in 2006 and for our five-year anniversary.

Eighteen years of marriage later, we again returned to Costa Rica this past summer with our children, Charlie (12), Cora (11), and Chloe (5). We were thrilled to show them where we met and to take pictures at the same places we visited and photographed years ago.

It was a full-circle moment. We can definitely say that KU's Study Abroad program profoundly influenced our lives and, by way of us, the lives of our family. Taking the kids to KU basketball games always gives us chills because it is *KU basketball*, but taking them to beautiful Costa Rica was unbelievably special.

Because of our experiences, one of the requirements for our children is that they study abroad while in school. We don't expect them to find that special someone, but we hope they learn about themselves and the amazing world around us.

Ben has carried on the passion by directing travel programs at his school, including personally leading a marine

biology program he started in 2010 that has taken students to Virgin Gorda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Hawaii and the Florida Keys.

We are grateful for the opportunity that KU provided and wanted to share how it has resonated through our lives. Thank you for continuing to offer such impactful programs and fostering experiences that shape the lives of students and alumni.

Rock Chalk,

—BEN AND JESSICA GNAU KIRBY

The Kirbys and their three children live in Dallas. The photo was taken during their family trip to Costa Rica in summer 2024.

STUDY ABROAD, BY THE NUMBERS

According to KU Study Abroad & Global Engagement, as the popular program is now known, one in four KU undergraduates will study abroad before graduating.

KU established its first program with the Universidad de Costa Rica in 1958. Today, Study Abroad offers **165 programs** in more than **70 countries**, and about **1,400 students** go abroad every year.

—THE EDITORS

FALL FANDOM: The amber leaves of a ginkgo tree make a colorful backdrop for an autumn selfie.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
ANDY WHITE/KU MARKETING



STUDENTS

Historic success

KU welcomes largest enrollment, sets records in several key metrics

FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT at the University grew to a record total of 30,770 Jayhawks, including 5,323 freshmen, the largest class in history.

Total enrollment increased 4.8% over fall 2023 and surpassed the previous record of 30,102 in 2008. The combined headcount on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses surged 5.6%, while overall enrollment on the KU Medical Center campuses in Kansas City, Wichita and Salina dipped by a slight 0.1%.

This year’s freshman class tops the all-time mark set in fall 2023, when the class included 5,259 students.

“We are pleased to welcome this historic freshman class and to have grown our overall enrollment to the highest level in the 159-year history of the institution,” Chancellor Doug Girod said Oct. 2, as KU announced its enrollment in conjunction with all Kansas Board of Regents universities and colleges. “These numbers confirm that talented students from across Kansas and the world see the value of attending a leading research institution like KU. Additionally, these enrollment numbers speak to the work our faculty and staff do to recruit talented students and support them as they earn their degrees.”

The year’s freshman class also set a record-high average high school GPA of 3.68. Students from outside Kansas make up 45% of the class, and freshman minority students total 26.5%.

Along with overall enrollment, KU also made history in retention and graduation rates, as well as in enrollment of minority students and those who are veterans, active-duty military or military-connected (see box).

KU’s momentum is especially impressive amid the formidable challenges that beset higher education, Girod said Oct. 10, as he delivered his annual State of the University address to faculty and staff. Despite declining national populations of high school graduates—a trend that will continue for the next decade—and a decrease in the number of students who choose to pursue any form of higher education, KU continues to succeed. Girod credited recent strategic revamping of student recruitment and scholarships as well as overall retention efforts that help students complete their degrees. These transformations have required work across the entire KU community. “No one of us is responsible for any one of those things, but we’re all responsible for all of them,” he told faculty and staff.

As the community celebrates this year’s record-setting enrollment, KU must continue to make long-term strategic changes, Girod added. “Those institutions that are nimble and those that can be innovative are going to fare far better than those that are stuck in the past, and I’m really proud of the way our teams have come together.”

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

“These numbers confirm that talented students from across Kansas and the world see the value of attending a leading research institution like KU.”

—Chancellor Doug Girod

HISTORIC HIGH MARKS

Overall enrollment

30,770

students on all campuses (2008 record was 30,102)

26,887 Lawrence/Edwards

3,883 KU Medical Center

4.8% increase over fall 2023

5,323

freshmen

1.2% increase

over 2023 record of 5,259

3.68

average high school GPA

25.9% overall minority enrollment (7,960 total)

2,258 veteran, active-duty or military-connected students

17,402 in-state students (the most of any university in Kansas), from all 105 counties

13,368 out-of-state students (the most of any university in Kansas) from all 49 other states and 116 countries

Retention and graduation

86.5% of freshmen returned as sophomores.

55.8% of the fall 2023 freshman class graduated in four years.

67.7% of 2019 freshmen completed degrees in five years.

68.8% of 2018 freshmen earned diplomas in six years.

Phenomenal first year

Ever Onward campaign surges toward lofty goal

WHEN KU ENDOWMENT President Dan Martin stood in front of the crowd on Oct. 19, 2023, at the Jayhawk Welcome Center to formally launch Ever Onward, the most ambitious capital campaign in the history of the University, The University of Kansas Health System and Kansas Athletics, he knew the \$2.5 billion goal was a reach.

“Let’s be clear,” Martin explained. “We set an incredibly ambitious goal to financially elevate this University, this health system and this athletics department. We are not naive about the challenge ahead nor do we shy away from the work it requires.”

As the second year of the public campaign commences, more than 76,000 donors already have contributed nearly \$2 billion to the campaign.

“The Jayhawk community is passionate and can see the vision for the University,” says Martin, g’93, l’93, EdD’98. “Whether it’s at the medical center, athletics or here on campus, our community is showing their dedication to the impact and the level of excellence that we exhibit and are pursuing. It has been a tremendous year for sure, but the job is far from complete.”

After the campaign kickoff in Lawrence, KU Endowment representatives traveled throughout Kansas and the country to ignite excitement and celebrate the idea of giving. Groups gathered in Salina and Wichita, Houston and Denver, to listen to Martin and other KU leaders outline the campaign priorities and hear stories from those whose lives have been changed by their KU experiences. Alumni recalled how scholarships made an otherwise

unaffordable education a reality, and faculty emphasized the need for funding to advance research.

“Campaigns are built upon the community seeing and understanding, at every level of the University, there are dreams and visions not yet achieved,” Martin says. “Together we can elevate every unit, every discipline, every school.”

In the first year, donors have contributed thousands of transformative gifts, benefiting hundreds of programs across the University. Examples include:

- In memory of her late husband, Dr. Bart Lindsley, m’66, Dr. Carol Lindsley, c’63, established the first endowed professorship in precision medicine at the KU Medical Center with a gift of \$2 million.
- The Cinelli Family Foundation honored the family’s deep connection to KU and the Kansas City area by providing \$10 million to help enable the creation of a state-of-the-art Good Manufacturing Practice lab to be housed in the new KU Cancer Center facility. The gift will directly impact cancer care today and shape future treatments.
- The Winter family, which includes two generations of KU football players, followed decades of philanthropic support for Kansas Athletics by giving \$10 million for the KU Gateway District to help elevate the academic mission of KU.
- On Sept. 19, at “Rhapsody in Jayhawk Blue: The Centennial Celebration of Watson Library,” the KU Libraries Board of Advocates surprised Dean Carol Smith with a check for

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

KU Endowment

Feb. 20-21 One Day One KU

onedayoneku.org

Lied Center

Dec. 8 100th annual Vespers

Dec. 11 Jazz Vespers

Dec. 18 Winter Solstice Celebration

Jan. 16 Crys Matthews

Feb. 8 Prairie Winds Festival with Project Trio

Feb. 10 “Pretty Woman: The Musical”

Feb. 13 KU Symphony Orchestra

Feb. 16 “The Simon & Garfunkel Story”

Feb. 17 Czech National Philharmonic Orchestra

Feb. 20 “Jim Henson’s Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live”

lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

“Inked Bodies” through **Dec. 15**

“Eternal Spring: Cranes” through **Dec. 29**

“Native Fashion” through **Jan. 5**

spencerart.ku.edu

University Theatre

March 7-13 “John Proctor Is the Villain”

March 28-30 Jayhawk Performance Lab

April 11-19 “Pippin”
kutheatre.com

Academic calendar

Dec. 12 Last day of fall classes

Dec. 16-20 Finals

Jan. 21 First day of spring classes

“The generosity and passion displayed by donors are equal parts humbling and inspiring.”

—Nancy Jackson

\$100,000 in unrestricted funds to benefit KU Libraries and commemorate the centennial.

- With no previous affiliation to KU and only recently retiring in the Kansas City area, Charles J. Gallardo and Evelene D. Gallardo established the Charles and Evelene Gallardo Nursing Scholarship “to make becoming a nurse just a little bit easier on those who were inspired.”

“The generosity and passion displayed by donors are equal parts humbling and inspiring,” says Nancy Scott Jackson, c’92, g’01, KU Endowment’s senior vice president for development. When we succeed, so many Jayhawk lives will be changed, and even saved, by the overwhelming success of this campaign.”

The most noticeable result of the Ever Onward campaign is the construction of the Gateway District on the north end of the Lawrence campus, connected to the new David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium.

“The Gateway District is a generational project that requires tremendous fundraising aspirations,” says Travis Goff, c’03, j’03, Kansas Athletics director and KU vice chancellor. “The response of our donors since launch has been inspiring and representative of what it means to be a Jayhawk. We are incredibly proud of the progress we’ve made to this point and eager to continue working with our amazing donors to the very end.”

Every year since 1891, KU Endowment has worked with donors and organizations to build a



COURTESY DEREK HELMS

Dan Martin and Nancy Jackson

greater KU, but specific, multiyear campaigns such as Ever Onward help energize and expand the donor base, Jackson explains: “Campaigns are catalysts for transformative change. So many donors coming together creates energizing momentum. Simply put, they help us to help more students, drive more discoveries, faster.”

Ever Onward is set to run through 2028, and Martin is eager to reach as many people as possible.

“Maybe you can help a first-generation student access campus, provide funding for groundbreaking research or provide emergency funds for those students on the edge—something as small as the cost of baby formula can keep a new parent in school,” Martin says. “No amount of help is too small, and nothing is taken for granted.”

—DEREK HELMS

Helms, j’01, is content director for KU Endowment.

Kudos for J-School leader

Ann Brill, dean of KU’s William Allen White School of Journalism, was named Administrator of the Year by the Scripps Howard Fund and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The honor, which includes a trophy and a \$10,000 prize, was bestowed during the 71st Scripps Howard Journalism Awards show Oct. 20.

It has been a busy year on the awards front for Brill, who is in her 20th year as dean. In May the Kansas Scholastic Press Association named her the 2024 Friend of KSPA, which recognizes a journalism

professional who supports the group and scholastic journalism on a state or local level. In November Brill was one of 12 journalists inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame by the Kansas Press Association.

The Scripps Howard Fund, dedicated to creating informed and engaged communities through journalism education, childhood literacy and local causes, is one of journalism’s top awards programs. The 2024 prizes included a Distinguished Service to the First Amendment award for The Kansas City Star and The Wichita Eagle for the papers’ coverage of the 2023 police raid on a local Kansas newspaper edited by Eric Meyer, j’75



COURTESY SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

(“Kansas newspaper receives William Allen White Citation,” Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 2).

Powerhouse of discovery

\$26 million federal grant launches new engineering research center

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE Foundation (NSF) has awarded KU \$26 million to establish a new Gen-4 Engineering Research Center (ERC)—known as the Environmentally Applied Refrigerant Technology Hub (EARTH)—that will create a sustainable and circular refrigerant economy.

NSF's Engineering Research Centers bring universities and businesses together to strengthen the competitive position of American industry in the global marketplace.

"NSF's Engineering Research Centers ask big questions in order to catalyze solutions with far-reaching impacts," NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan says. "NSF Engineering Research Centers are powerhouses of discovery and innovation, bringing America's great engineering minds to bear on our toughest challenges. By collaborating with industry and training the workforce of the future, ERCs create an innovation ecosystem that can accelerate engineering innovations, producing tremendous economic and societal benefits for the nation."

KU's ERC EARTH was selected from among hundreds of proposed centers.

"Working closely with industry partners, EARTH will have the resources and expertise to solve the technical, environmental and economic challenges required to create a sustainable refrigerant life cycle that will benefit Kansans, the nation and the world," says Chancellor Doug Girod. "In doing this work, the center is a prime example of how the University of Kansas is driving economic development in Kansas."

KU is well positioned to lead this effort.

"The University of Kansas has a talented workforce and robust research capabilities," says Sen. Jerry Moran, c'76, l'82. "This new research center will allow

Kansans to lead the way in developing the next generation of refrigerant technology, increasing U.S. competitiveness in an important technology and industry. Through my leadership role on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee, which funds federal scientific priorities, I am pleased to help fund the U.S. National Science Foundation, which is critical to advancing U.S. research and development."

KU is the lead institution and is joined by partners at the University of Notre Dame, University of Maryland, University of Hawaii, University of South Dakota and Lehigh University.

Mark Shiflett serves as director for ERC EARTH. Shiflett is a KU Foundation Distinguished Professor in the department of chemical & petroleum engineering and director of the Wonderful Institute for Sustainable Engineering.

"EARTH's operational design will cultivate inclusive, interdisciplinary research collaborations and foster workforce development" Shiflett says. "The EARTH team will partner with community colleges and technical schools to ensure availability of the needed workforce at all levels."

At the heart of ERC EARTH's work is reimagining the process for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) systems across the globe. EARTH will develop sustainable, accessible and equitable refrigerant technologies and practices through research, education and innovation that will improve quality of life and combat climate change.

HVACR systems are widespread throughout society, enabling transportation and preservation of fresh foods, storage of medicines and cooling of buildings. Most current refrigerants are



Shiflett

COURTESY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which have high global-warming potential. As a result of leaks from existing systems and the energy required to operate them, HFCs account for nearly 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

In response, the U.S. and 170 other countries are phasing down HFCs in accordance with domestic and international agreements signed in recent years, which creates a tremendous challenge to responsibly and sustainably replace billions of kilograms of refrigerants.

ERC EARTH will take a multifaceted approach to reduce the environmental impact of refrigerants and HFCs.

“Multidisciplinary research teams will focus on three key areas: promoting the recycling and repurposing of refrigerants, developing transformative refrigerants and creating next-generation cooling and heating technologies with higher energy efficiency,” Shiflett says.

At its core, ERC EARTH will address a critical challenge facing society.

“There is a tremendous need to develop cooling/heating technologies that use less energy and new refrigerants that are safe for the environment. EARTH will be a critical national resource to address these challenges. The University of Kansas School of Engineering is proud to be

leading this collaboration, which leverages multiple academic and industrial partners,” says Mary Rezac, dean of the school.

This is one of the largest federally funded grants in KU history, with the potential to become the largest if the renewal option is successful. The project is renewable after five years for another \$26 million, for a total of 10 years and \$52 million.

—CODY HOWARD

Howard, '99, is public relations director for the School of Engineering.

“‘The Tables Will Turn’ is saying that no matter what you go through in life, if you hold fast to what you believe in, the tables will turn.”

—Brandon Sanders

Second effort

Building on the momentum of his chart-topping first album, “Compton’s Finest,” jazz drummer Brandon Sanders follows that 2023 debut with “The Tables Will Turn.” The nine-song recording, released Oct. 4 by Savant Records, follows a similar format as the first, blending solid readings of standards (Duke Ellington’s “Prelude to a Kiss,” John Coltrane’s “Aisha” and Charlie Parker’s “Moose the Mooche”), original compositions (“Miss Ernestine,” “Central and El Segundo” and “The Tables Will Turn”), and a jazz interpretation of a pop hit (Michael Jackson’s “Human Nature”). Saxophonist Chris Lewis, vibraphonist Warren Wolf and pianist Keith Brown are back, too, joined this time by bassist David Wong and vocalist Christie Dashiell.

Sanders, c’94, g’98, who was 25 when he took up the drums and 52 when he released his first album (“Beat of a Different Drum,” issue No. 4, 2023), initially encountered skepticism from musicians who told him he was starting too late. Seeing “Compton’s Finest” ascend to No. 1 on JazzWeek’s Top 50 chart, “was a lesson in believing in yourself,” he says. That same resilient positivity is encoded in the new album’s title song, which he introduced during a two-night appearance at KU’s Lied Center in September as “a James Brown feel” with gospel overtones.

“‘The Tables Will Turn’ is saying that no matter what you go through in life, if you hold fast to what you believe in, the tables will turn,” Sanders says. “I stuck with it, and the tables did turn.”

On Oct. 21 the album was JazzWeek’s biggest mover and highest debut, at No. 46, and its first single—“Miss Ernestine,” a bluesy tribute to Sanders’ grandmother, who at one time ran the Kansas City jazz club Casablanca—piled up 25,000 streams in five days.

—STEVEN HILL



HUSTLE

with Truicity

SIGN UP & GET
\$25
FOR YOU,



& WE'LL GIVE
\$25
TO KC CHARITY!*

Get a Charlie Hustle KC Heart debit card today!

Open your account today! Every transaction gives back to the Kansas City community.

HustleWithTruicity.org




TRUITY
CREDIT UNION



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

The University of Kansas

The Official Credit Union of the KU Alumni Association

*Federally insured by the NCUA. New debit card holders only. Use code CharlieHustle25. Bonus amounts of \$10 or more may be reported on IRS form 1099INT. Offer ends 08.31.25.

ARCHAEOLOGY

What lies beneath*Students, faculty search site of 1870s murders*

TO TIRED, HUNGRY TRAVELERS on the southeast Kansas prairie in the early 1870s, the Bender family cabin offered a welcome waystation. The Benders—John Sr.; his wife, Anna Marie; and their adult children, John Jr. and Kate—had arrived in Kansas in 1870 and established their homestead about 8 miles northeast of the town of Cherryvale, along the Osage Mission Trail, and regularly opened their home to those passing through the lonely expanse.

But the Benders' hospitality belied nefarious intent: The family robbed and brutally murdered at least 11 patrons of their modest inn between 1871 and 1873.

The Benders' dark deeds came to light only when Alexander York, a Kansas state senator, set out to retrace the last known steps of his missing brother, William. York's search led him to the abandoned Bender property, where in May 1873 investigators found the bodies of William and other missing travelers buried in the orchard.

By then, the Benders had fled the state, their unknown fate lending the story the enduring allure of mystery, and their violent crimes earning them the name "Bloody Benders."

Now, students and faculty in KU's anthropology department are looking to add details to the 150-year-old account through a scientific search of the land on which the events unfolded.

"We hope to find where everything was situated on the property—where the Bender house was, where the barn was, and maybe where some of the graves were," says Lauren Norman, assistant professor of anthropology, who over the summer led a

two-week field school for archaeology students on the Bender property, about two hours south of Lawrence in Labette County.

The project doubles as valuable, hands-on education: "The archaeology track requires a field school component, so this allows students to fulfill that without having to go too far," Norman says, noting that the time and cost to travel to far-off

archaeological sites can present barriers for some students. "We hadn't run a local field school for a while, so I thought this might be a really great opportunity for students to work on a historic site as well as a site that generates a lot of interest."

The 162-acre property is owned by Bob Miller of nearby Independence, who purchased the land at auction in February 2020. Long intrigued by the Bender tale, Miller wondered what additional information the land, in the right hands, might reveal.

"I wanted to bring in people who have the knowledge of what to do and how to do it, and who have the workforce and the equipment," Miller says. He reached out to a few organizations and other universities in the state in early 2022 and says KU's anthropology department was the best fit. "KU was interested in doing all the things I wanted to do," Miller says. "And I knew it would benefit students to have a place to get archaeology experience that's closer to home."

On-site work began in summer 2023, when Blair Schneider, g'12, PhD'18, associate researcher and science outreach manager for the Kansas Geological Survey, led the first field school. She and students used remote sensing technology to identify anomalies in the soil beneath the ground, setting the stage for Norman and students to begin excavating some of those unusual areas this summer.

The two-year effort has turned up about 1,200 artifacts, Norman says, including pieces of broken tableware, broken glass from windows and containers, wagon parts, and nails and other materials likely used to build the cabin.

"The artifacts themselves are interesting, but they're only about 20% of what we're interested in," Norman says. "Where they're found, the context in which they're found, is more important to us. That can tell us a lot. When you're able to say, 'This is next to that' versus 'This is over here,' you get a better understanding of the people and their behaviors."

COURTESY LAUREN NORMAN (3)



KU anthropology students and faculty work on the "Bloody Benders" property in Labette County in summer 2024. Landowner Bob Miller is third from left in the top photo.

The KU team records GPS points for each artifact, then brings the items to Lawrence to be cleaned, cataloged, photographed and analyzed, with some items then sent elsewhere for further analysis. Norman says KU will continue to work at the Bender property for two more summers, with the goal of gleaning as much as possible about not only the Bender story, but also about Kansas during the 1870s.

“A lot of places in Kansas were occupied over and over again, but because of the morbid history of this, people didn’t do anything with the land until the late 1950s, 1960s, and that’s when they started

farming it,” Norman says. “But otherwise, it was just left.” Findings from the site might thus offer a unique glimpse into Kansas frontier life.

For Miller, who would ultimately like to see a museum dedicated to this sliver of Kansas history—perhaps containing a replica Bender cabin—created in a nearby town, both the progress and the process itself have been gratifying. “The KU students have a lot of excitement and energy,” Miller says. “They’re young, they’re learning, and it’s just been a lot of fun to be around them and learn from them.”

—MEGAN HIRT

MASS STREET & MORE

Iconic bookstore turns a page

THE RAVEN, LAWRENCE’S longtime independent bookstore, will start the New Year with a new chapter: Danny Caine, g’17, who began working at the downtown shop while a KU grad student before buying it in 2017, is selling the 37-year-old business to Mary Wahlmeier Bracciano, Chris Luxem, ’09, and Kelly Barth, ’97—booksellers with a combined 40-plus years of experience at The Raven who also have been minority owners since January 2022.

Caine expanded the store’s online sales, steered the business through the COVID pandemic, and engineered the move from the original Seventh Street location to its new, higher-profile home at 809 Massachusetts St.

His flair for social media promotion and for standing up to bookselling behemoths (“Danny and Goliath,” issue No. 1, 2022) also raised The Raven’s national profile. His book *How To Resist Amazon and Why* (which started as an open letter to Jeff Bezos inviting the world’s richest man to visit Lawrence to see firsthand the kind of downtown business districts his internet superstore threatens) became a surprise indie hit in 2021.

“Being a steward of The Raven for the last seven-plus years has been the biggest honor of my life,” Caine said in a press release announcing the transition, which includes a move back to his hometown of Cleveland, where he works as multimedia content creator for The Institute of Local Self-Reliance. “I’m really excited to see the amazing things Chris, Kelly and Mary will do with this wonderful store.”

Barth joined The Raven in 1997, and her tenure has spanned all three of the store’s ownership teams: founders Pat Kehde, g’80, and Mary Lou Wright; their successor, Heidi Raak; and Caine.

“After nearly 30 years as a bookseller,” Barth said, “I’m so humbled and thrilled being entrusted with this beloved store.”

—STEVEN HILL



The Bender cabin (top) and William York’s gravesite, depicted in the June 7, 1873, edition of Harper’s Weekly.



ANDREW WYMORE

Senior Realtor with ReeceNichols

has partnered with the KU Alumni Association to create a

New, Unique **GIVE BACK PROGRAM**

As your Realtor, Andrew will **gift to you a KU Alumni Association Life membership**

or— if already a Life Member— one year of membership in the KU Alumni Association Presidents Club! This program is offered nationwide through Andrew's vast network of real estate partners.

Serving all of your real estate needs: buying, selling, and property management.

- Licensed in Kansas and Missouri.
- Specializing in the Greater Kansas City metro area.
- Nationwide referral network of trusted Realtors.

Contact me to invest in you and invest in KU.

📞 913-515-2386 | ✉️ AWymore@ReeceNichols.com



BOOKS

Popular science

New book of essays reflects on evolution in the spirit of renowned scientist

EVOLUTION, IT SEEMS, has always been on our minds—for curiosity’s sake, at least, if not highbrow study of the human condition—and for the deepest insights, many of us turned to the late Stephen Jay Gould, evolutionary biologist of the highest order with a rare talent for writing for broad audiences.

Along with his stacks of scientific honors, Gould, who spent much of his career at Harvard University, won a MacArthur Fellowship, a National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; he hosted his own PBS “Nova” special and was a featured voice on Ken Burns’ “Baseball” series.

The anchor of his public commentary, however, was his renowned and beloved “This View of Life” essay series in *Natural History* magazine, through which Gould dove deeply into evolutionary topics on his mind at a given moment while always respecting his popular audience. Colleagues could be reached and influenced via academic journals and international conferences; the everyday folks, though, were an audience with whom few others of his stature could reliably relate.

It was in Gould’s spirit of rigorous science presented without pretense that Bruce Lieberman, Dean’s Professor of Evolutionary Biology, senior curator of invertebrate paleontology and director of the Paleontological Institute at KU’s Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, joined with fellow invertebrate paleontologist and evolutionary biologist Niles Eldredge to write *Macroevolutionaries: Reflections on Natural History, Paleontology, and Stephen Jay Gould*, a book of essays, published in September by Columbia University Press, honoring their mentor, who died in 2002.

“His essays were designed to be accessible,” Lieberman told KU News Service writer Brendan Lynch, g’22, “and discussed interesting issues in natural history, paleontology and evolution. Niles and I are trying to revive the natural history essay for a new audience and generation, focusing on paleontology, science, popular culture, music and art.”

One of the book’s charms is evident at its outset: In the opening paragraphs of the preface, the authors reference both the comedic actor Super Dave Osborne and “Steve” Gould, signaling that we are setting off on an insider’s journey into topics near and dear to the great public intellectual. Eldredge attended graduate school with “Steve” Gould and was a lifelong collaborator, and Lieberman had Gould as both his undergraduate adviser at Harvard and career mentor.

“Although we don’t always ask or answer the toughest questions,” the authors write, “such as ‘What did Beavis and Butt-Head think of Elisabeth Vrba’s turnover pulse hypothesis?’ and ‘What city has the best natural history museum?’ we do ask and answer some pretty tough ones, like ‘What did Elisabeth Vrba think of Beavis and Butt-head?’ and ‘What city has the best pizza?’”

Vrba, a Yale University paleontologist, was, along with Eldredge and Gould, a member of the trio that Gould dubbed the Three Musketeers; as told in *Macroevolutionaries*, the famous fourth Musketeer, D’Artagnan, is represented by Lieberman, who, after the good fortune of having Gould guide his undergraduate career, had Eldredge as his doctoral adviser and served his postdoctoral fellowship with Vrba. All four have focused their research “in the arena of macroevolution, the subdiscipline dedicated to studying the major features in the history of life and understanding their relevance to evolutionary biology.”

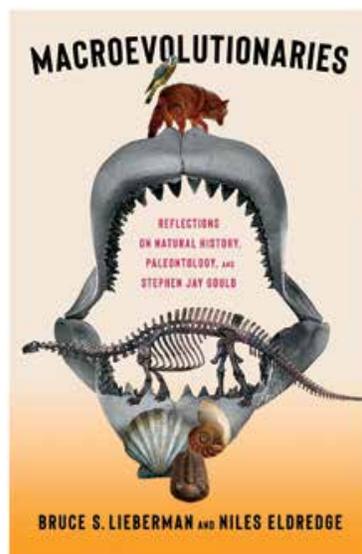
Macroevolutionaries gently guides lay and expert audiences through a tour of the Four Musketeers’ investigations into such foundational principles as punctuated equilibria (the theory that species tend to remain stable over long periods of time,

but once change begins, it can transpire, within geologic measures, relatively quickly), mass extinctions, the fossil record and the history of life.

As seen in briefly furious attempts, in 1999, to amend the teaching of Darwinian evolution in Kansas public schools, evolution remains both foundational and controversial. Inquiring minds can now turn to a charming, insightful road map of essays through which some of the topic’s great thinkers and their great ideas are presented, all in great fun.

“In our book,” Lieberman told KU News, “we aimed to show how developments in music, for example, can be analogous to how we understand biology, or how phenomena in distant stars can affect patterns of extinction on Earth. We wanted to make these connections clear. We also aimed to keep the book light and humorous.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



Macroevolutionaries: Reflections on Natural History, Paleontology, and Stephen Jay Gould

by Bruce S. Lieberman and Niles Eldredge

Columbia University Press, \$27.95

BOOKS

Working class hero

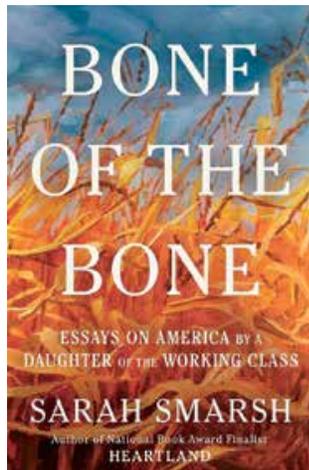
BEFORE SHE WAS a New York Times bestselling author and National Book Award finalist, Sarah Smarsh was hustling up freelance assignments during a time of foundational transformation in the newspaper industry. While working on the manuscript that would become her acclaimed 2018 book, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*, Smarsh, c'03, j'03, was filing news stories, culture pieces and essays for midsize dailies and small magazines. By the time *Heartland* appeared ("Hard Stories," issue No. 5, 2018), she was writing for publications with global reach like *The Guardian* and *The Times* itself, having honed an approach that melds objective reporting with "subjective personal truth": direct witness accounts that draw on her life growing up in a working-class family in rural Kansas.

Bone of the Bone: Essays on America by a Daughter of the Working Class collects three dozen essays and articles that gain authenticity from the firsthand familiarity that Smarsh—a fifth-generation Kansas farm girl and first-generation college graduate—has with the disadvantages and stereotypes heaped on the working poor, rural or otherwise. As she writes in "Poor Teeth," a 2014 essay in *Aeon* that details the challenges faced by those who lack dental insurance, "I am bone of the bone of them that live in trailer homes." She brings a fierceness to her core mission of setting the record straight on red state America. Piece by piece, Smarsh builds her case that rural America is more racially and culturally diverse than the coastal media portrays, and that class, far from a nonissue in these United States in the 2020s, is *the* issue of the 21st century. That she made that argument in the pages of *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *Harper's*—where

some of these essays first appeared—only heightens the sense that Smarsh is driven to speak truth to power.

From the dedication ("For the unseen") to the closing line in the final essay, a moving, previously unpublished remembrance of her mother, *Bone of the Bone* displays Smarsh's determination in "revealing what I am: a defender of those whose sacredness goes unseen."

—STEVEN HILL



Bone of the Bone: Essays on America by a Daughter of the Working Class

by Sarah Smarsh

Scribner, \$30

FACULTY

Classroom champions

Annual program honors KU's best teachers

THE KU COMMUNITY gathered Oct. 8 at the Jayhawk Welcome Center to honor professors for their stellar teaching. The University Teaching Awards celebration is the companion to the annual spring recognition of outstanding researchers—a pairing that reflects the deep connections between teaching and research at KU.

Chancellor Doug Girod welcomed guests and presented the awards. Jennifer Roberts, senior vice provost for academic affairs and graduate studies on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, and Robert Klein, KU Medical Center's vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, introduced the 16 award winners.

Roberts described the distinctive challenges of teaching. "Great teaching really requires a personal level of introspection and reflection that many of us are just not capable of," she said. "Teaching is a singularly personal endeavor because learning is a singularly personal endeavor. Everyone here tonight who's receiving an award has really stepped outside of their own experience to center the learning and achievement of others."

The Lawrence and Edwards campus awards and honorees are:

Bob & Kathie Taylor Excellence in Teaching Award

- Dyan Morgan, c'05, associate teaching professor, undergraduate biology program

Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award

- Brian Laird, professor, chemistry

'One KU' for all

New leadership structure seeks to unify operations across campuses, schools

Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship

- Shannon O'Lear, professor, geography & atmospheric science

International Affairs Advisory Board International Teaching Award

- Melinda Carden Lewis, s'99, professor of the practice, social welfare

Ned Fleming Trust Award for Excellence in Teaching

- Jennifer Gleason, associate professor, ecology & evolutionary biology

William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

- Jenny Archibald, associate teaching professor, undergraduate biology program
- Alison Gabriele, professor, linguistics
- Tim Jackson, professor, chemistry
- Allison Kirkpatrick, associate professor, physics & astronomy
- Nilou Vakil, associate professor, architecture

The KU Medical Center awards and recipients are:

Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship

- Nelda Godfrey, g'81, professor, nursing
- Wolfram Zueckert, professor, microbiology, molecular genetics & immunology

Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awards

- Cheen Alkhatib, m'10, associate professor, anesthesiology, pain & perioperative medicine
- David Becker, c'01, m'05, assistant professor, internal medicine
- Kirk Miller, m'08, associate professor, radiology
- Ericka Sanner-Stiehr, clinical associate professor, nursing

AFTER 30 YEARS at the University, Chancellor Doug Girod knows all too well the decades-old quirks of KU's structure, including the silos that stifle collaboration.

Before becoming chancellor in 2017, Girod spent 23 years at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, the last four as executive vice chancellor. In that role, he and his team took on the challenge of simplifying a mammoth bureaucracy. They combined more than 50 independent clinical departments into a single practice plan, and they merged that organization with the KU hospital to become The University of Kansas Health System.

"That alignment, which really allowed us to unite not only around our missions and our strategies, but also align our resources, has really had tremendous results," Girod recalled in an Aug. 13 video message to the KU community.

He cited several examples of success: The health system grew from one hospital to five; the number of faculty more than doubled; federal research dollars nearly doubled; and the number of clinical trials tripled.

When he became chancellor, Girod hoped to lay the groundwork for similar improvements across the entire University, an initiative he calls "One KU." In August he announced a significant shift in the leadership structure for the entire University—the first steps toward bridging longtime disconnects between the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, which function as a single academic unit, and the KU Medical Center.

Under the new structure, top leaders will now have responsibilities for all five KU campuses: Lawrence and Edwards as well as the KU Medical Center campuses in Kansas City, Salina and Wichita. In addition, KU Medical Center and The University

of Kansas Health System will collaborate more closely in pursuing the shared mission of caring, healing, teaching and discovery that distinguishes KU as one of the nation's leading academic medical centers.

The goal, Girod explained in the video, is to "align everything we do every day for the entire enterprise, the entire University, across all five of our campuses and all of our schools. It means bringing the full strength of the University to our challenges and our opportunities as we go forward. Doing so will strengthen the position of the University as an institution and in the state, in the region and nationally."

KU has essentially functioned as two universities with one chancellor, Girod explained, because the chancellor was the only leader responsible for both the Lawrence/Edwards campuses and the KU Medical Center, which have traditionally operated on separate systems for enrollment, human resources and benefits, financial management, and other key administrative processes.

Separate systems have caused snags for faculty and staff who yearn to collaborate more closely on research—and needless roadblocks to navigating the most mundane matters. Girod cited instances of medical center students who wanted to take classes in Lawrence but could not apply for parking passes because the Lawrence/Edwards system didn't recognize them as KU students. He also noted the absurd fact that even his own KU badge does not gain him access to certain KU Medical Center buildings.

The new structure expands the roles of key leaders, who will "wake up every day thinking about all five campuses," Girod said. The following team members have taken on new duties:

- Barbara Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92, is now chief academic officer for the entire University, as well as provost and executive vice chancellor for the Lawrence and Edwards campuses.
- Steven Stites, m'93, is chief health officer, serving as executive vice chancellor for KU Medical Center while also maintaining his current role as executive vice president for clinical affairs and chief medical officer for The University of Kansas Health System. He will continue to work closely with Bob Page, president and CEO of the health system, and Tammy Mauck Peterman, n'81, g'97, president of the health system's Kansas City division.
- Matthias Salathé is the new chief research officer for the University, and he will work closely with Shelley Hooks, who arrived at KU in August to become vice chancellor for research on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses. Salathé previously oversaw

research at KU Medical Center and served in recent months as interim executive vice chancellor there.

- Jeff DeWitt is chief financial officer for all five campuses. He has guided the financial operations of the Lawrence and Edwards campuses since 2021.
- David Vranicar is chief operations officer, having recently served as chief financial officer for KU Medical Center.
- Chari Young is chief human resources officer for the University after guiding human resources at KU Medical Center.

"I really want to thank all these leaders for their initiative, their vision and their courage to think about doing things differently in service of the University, and to think about their jobs in a very different fashion than they have been historically," Girod said.

He also cited the leaders of KU auxiliary organizations, including Travis Goff, c'03, j'03, director of Kansas Athletics, who has added the role of vice chancellor; Dan Martin, g'93, l'93, EdD'98, president of KU Endowment; and Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, Alumni Association president.

"We have some of the best leadership we've had in a very long time across the broader KU family," Girod said, "leaders who not only share a vision but get along well together, work well together and are really committed to the future. We all agree that we are all just stewards of this place, and it's our job to leave the University better than when we found it."

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

Editor's note: As part of the One KU initiative, the KU Medical Center Alumni Association will integrate with the KU Alumni Association. For details, see the story on p. 51.

Girod helps guide top research universities

Chancellor Doug Girod this fall was elected vice chair of the board of directors for the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Girod serves with board chair Christopher Eisgruber, president of Princeton University, to guide AAU's work over the next year and represent the association, particularly on federal policy issues affecting research universities and in discussions with lawmakers. Girod has served on the AAU board since October 2021.

KU is one of only 71 AAU research universities; 38 are public institutions. KU was invited to join the AAU in 1909, just nine years after the organization was founded.

"KU can be proud of our long-standing membership in the AAU, and we will continue to prioritize research and discovery that enhances our position among the nation's leading institutions," Girod says. "The advantage of being a member, beyond being recognized as one of the top research programs nationally, is that we have greater opportunities to grow federal funding for research that improves public health, addresses national challenges and strengthens the nation. In addition, KU derives great benefit from the AAU's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., for research and higher education funding and for policy and regulatory issues that affect research universities."



Girod

Thank you for celebrating the 2024 KU Homecoming!

Congratulations and special thanks to the following individuals, groups and corporate partners who helped make KU Homecoming week a success.



Homecoming Award Recipients

- **Ex.C.E.L. Award**
Presented by Konica Minolta
Emma Saville
Aarush Sehgal
- **Rich and Judy Billings Spirit of 1912 Award**
Michael Anthony Chavez
- **Jennifer Alderdice Award**
Ariana Siddique



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas

Homecoming Student Competition Winners

- **1st: Kappa Delta Sorority**
- **2nd: Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity**
- **3rd: Sigma Kappa Sorority**

Judges: Noelle Husmann, Ryan Camenzind, Lacey Swanson, Cambre Morrow, Emma Bentzinger, Mackenzie Chinn, and Adam Holmes

Thank You To:

- **Homecoming Steering Committee**
Anna Korn
Tithi Patel
Andy Denekas

Eris Rindt
Jess Mumm
Emma Klingler
Aria Woolsey
Nana Amfo Sackey Jr.

- **Adviser**
Ryan Edmonds,
Assistant Director of Student Programs
KU Alumni Association

- **Homecoming Awards Committee**
Jennifer Alderdice
Rachel Barnes
Hala Hamid
Kate Kemper
Mikayla Leader

Visit kualumni.org/homecoming

Title Sponsor:



Central Bank

Presenting Sponsors:



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Supporting Sponsors:



“I think we are old, but I also think we’re inexperienced in the way we do things.”

—Coach Bill Self



STEVE PUPPE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

New-look roster a sign of the times

‘Transfer portal era’ brings infusion of talent to complement returning stars

ONE OF THE JOYS of following KU men’s basketball is watching coach Bill Self solve the annual puzzle of assembling his ’Hawks into their most effective combinations. It’s a process he seems to relish, putting his big basketball brain to work noodling with lineups through the nonconference season, fine-tuning until about Valentine’s Day, and then, fingers crossed, plowing through the postseason with every player in his optimal role.

Self’s success at navigating the challenging process is a big reason why he’s in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. But now that players are more free to transfer to other programs, the challenge is unprecedented: Self’s roster includes *nine* newcomers, only three of whom are freshmen.

“When you look at your team,” Self says, “do you look at experience or do you look at newbies? I would say you could make a case for still looking at them as newcomers, even though they’ve been in another college program for a couple of years. I think we are old, but I also think we’re inexperienced in the way we do things.”

While fans will surely be enthralled with the new-car vibe of the 2025 lineup, the keys remain 7-foot-2 center Hunter Dickinson and 6-2 point

guard Dajuan Harris Jr., both graduate students, and 6-7 senior forward KJ Adams Jr.

Dickinson—named Big 12 Preseason Player of the Year for the second consecutive season—earned his undergraduate degree at Michigan, following his third season with the Wolverines. Now in his second year at Kansas, Dickinson, who has played 127 career games, finds himself one of the team’s old players, both literally and figuratively.

“In the transfer portal era,” Dickinson says, “it’s funny how quickly you go from being the new guy to being a vet.”

Harris, c’23, is also in his second season as a graduate student. Unlike Dickinson, all of his previous 140 games have been at KU, and Harris says he’s never been tempted to test the transfer portal.

“I have blood, sweat and tears in this program,” he says. “Even when we brought in other guards throughout the years, I wasn’t going to transfer like a lot of people do when their teams bring in great players. Coach Self gave me a shot. I was an academic redshirt, so I had a story. He actually changed my life, so I’ve got to pay the respect due to him for looking out for me.”

Adams, in his fourth season, is a playmaking forward who electrifies Allen Field House with

his muscular moves; he says he spent the offseason trying to complement his power game by “tweaking some little things, like the jump shot, trying to find more ways to score.” More crucial, though, are the leadership responsibilities that have fallen to him as KU tries to live up to its preseason No. 1 ranking.

“It can only happen if Juan, Hunter and I all take that next step and actually start leading more than we did last year,” Adams says. “Last year I felt like we weren’t the best leaders that we could have been, at least on my part, so having that to learn from, and having the opportunity to have one more year, it makes everything a lot better.”

Prominent among the newcomers are 6-6 junior AJ Storr, a Wisconsin transfer named to the Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Watch List; 6-4 senior guard Zeke Mayo, a Lawrence High alumnus and South Dakota State transfer named to the Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year Watch List; 6-1 graduate guard Shakeel Moore, who spent three seasons at Mississippi State after starting out at North Carolina State; and 6-6 junior guard Rylan Griffen, coming off two years at Alabama.

“The thing that stands out to me more than anything is probably just *options*,” Self says. “We have more bodies, more athletes. I think we’re a much better shooting team, and I think we’ve helped ourselves athletically, for sure.”



Lawrencian Zeke Mayo (5) scored 21 points, Dajuan Harris Jr. (left) returned to highlight-film form with 10 points and three assists, and coach Bill Self tied Phog Allen for most wins at Kansas (590) in the top-ranked Jayhawks' 92-89 victory over North Carolina in Allen Field House. The Nov. 8 matchup was the Tar Heels' first visit to Allen Field House since 1960.

UPDATE

Soccer shocked the Big 12 with its second conference tournament title in program history, thanks to a penalty kick goal by graduate midfielder **Makayla Merlo** that gave KU a 1-0 victory over No. 7 TCU Nov. 9 in Kansas City's CPKC Stadium. The win, KU's eighth in a row, landed the 'Hawks their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2019. “The growth in this group is remarkable,” said first-year coach **Nate Lie**. Junior forward **Lexi Watts** and freshman goalkeeper **Sophie Dawe** won Most Outstanding

Player awards. ... Senior running back **Devin Neal** rushed for 116 yards and two touchdowns in KU's 45-36 upset of No. 17 ISU Nov. 9 in Arrowhead Stadium, eclipsing career records of 3,851 career rushing yards and 41 rushing TDs set in 1996 by **June Henley**. ... With the women's basketball team returning just two starters, Preseason All-Big 12 guard **S'Mya Nichols** finds herself the face of the program as a sophomore. “We’re coming together really well,” she says. “It’s never a dull moment.” ... Women's golf won the Oct. 20 Bahamas Fall Invitational for its



third-straight team title. Junior **Amy DeKock** helped the 'Hawks erase an 11-stroke deficit by moving 28 spots up the leaderboard with a final-round 70. “Our team is good,” DeKock says, “and we enjoy the chase.” ... Until losing at Arizona State and Arizona, volleyball

was 11-0 in the Big 12. With five matches until NCAAs, leaders included senior outside hitter **Ayah Elnady**, senior setter **Camryn Turner**, sophomore libero **Raegan Burns** and senior middle blocker **Toyosi Onabanjo**.



by Christina Knott

RESILIENCE IN EVERY REP

A KU researcher documents the power of adaptive fitness to boost independence and quality of life for people with disabilities as they age

The men and women gathered for an Adaptive Athletes in Motion training session at FitNKC catch their breath while the remaining seconds between warmup and workout count down.

Lucy, a large black dog with just a bit of a gray beard, watches from her bed beneath an American flag in a corner, just beyond the black rubber flooring and exposed air ducts of the Kansas City gym.

Across the room, glowing red numbers on the digital clock tick off. “Three, two, one. Let’s go!” trainer Samantha Walker calls out as the timer hits zero.

Some participants take their seats at the rowing machines, while those in wheelchairs roll into position to use the wall-mounted vertical ski machines. Twenty minutes go back on the clock as “Welcome to the Jungle” by Guns N’ Roses booms over the speakers.

Nearest to Lucy, Mike Aldridge alternates between swiftly slicing the air with his arms during reps on the vertical machine and pulling himself up to a standing position by gripping the handles of two bars at about the height of his shoulders.

Aldridge, c’94, has trained with the Adaptive Athletes in Motion (AAIM) for over a year. He was injured in a fall four years ago that left him with permanent damage to his spinal cord.

He and the rest of the class are part of KU research to inform how high-intensity functional training (HIFT), often known by the brand name CrossFit, can benefit people with disabilities.



Researcher Lyndsie Koon overcame her initial skepticism about HIFT after seeing how the workouts can be adapted to benefit people with a wide range of abilities. Previous spread: Lynne Ellis, j'85, during an Adaptive Athletes In Motion session at CrossFit Lawrence.

“I had a preconception about CrossFit when I was an able-bodied guy, and it wasn’t my thing, never was going to be—nor was exercise—was my perception,” Aldridge explains after class. “This accident changed my life, in that respect, in a good way.”

The research is led by Lyndsie Koon, assistant research professor at the KU Life Span Institute. She is studying the effectiveness of HIFT focused on people with disabilities as part of three pilot projects in several facilities in the Greater Kansas City area.

Koon, who has a doctorate in sport and exercise science with a focus on the social psychology of sport and physical activity, was skeptical of HIFT at first. Then a friend convinced her to go to a CrossFit class.

“I thought I knew just about everything about exercises,” she says. “I finally went, and it was like, ‘Oh, I’ve been doing it wrong this whole time.’”

As a former athlete, Koon had been studying the health and activity of older adults. She thought HIFT, with its focus on individually tailored workouts, might help fill an important need for physical activity for people with disabilities.

Koon says she has seen HIFT work for a variety of people—from ages 8 to 80, people with amputations or spinal cord injuries, and individuals with Down syndrome or cerebral palsy.

“The methods of CrossFit are unbelievably effective. And because they’re so adaptable, anybody can do it,” she says.

THE NEED TO ADAPT

The roots of Koon’s research program began when she met Josh Snyder, owner and manager of FitNKC. Koon had spoken with Alec Barowka, ’16, at Kaw Valley CrossFit in Lawrence, and he recommended Snyder as someone to connect with.

Snyder, who developed the AAIM program, emphasizes that fitness and its benefits are for everybody. Several years earlier, before he started his first adaptive class, his nonprofit Chalk Up For Burpees program introduced HIFT to veterans and first responders as a method to build health, healing and community.

However, Snyder didn’t have an adaptive fitness class when, in 2017, a former first responder with a traumatic brain injury came into his gym in a wheelchair to ask if Snyder could train him too.

Snyder wasn’t sure he could.

“So, I’m just going to say no, right?” Snyder recalls. “Well, that doesn’t sit very well with me. So, I said, ‘The answer is no for right now, but I’m going to figure this thing out.’”

To begin helping individuals with disabilities, Snyder completed certification for adaptive and inclusive training through the Adaptive Training Academy, an organization established in 2012 by adaptive fitness community leaders. Training people who have limited mobility, are recovering from a stroke, have chronic health conditions or have spinal cord injuries takes some thought, Snyder says, but it isn’t as difficult as he feared it would be.

“It’s just looking at something and knowing, ‘Hey, what is it we are trying to do to our bodies?’ And then from that standpoint, ‘How do you get creative with that?’”

Before beginning, all AAIM participants complete two orientation sessions with HIFT trainers who inventory their health and physical condition and work with them to adapt routines before they join others in completing the workout of the day, or WOD.

“Josh has a knack for this stuff,” Koon says. “He can take any disability type and go, ‘OK, I see where you are. Now, I’m going to get you to here based on your capabilities and goals.’”

Adaptations, which are modifications in how an exercise is performed, may seem small, but they are necessary. Someone who cannot do pushups, for example, can work the same muscle group by tossing a medicine ball against a wall. An adaptation could also involve lowering the handlebars of a ski machine so they can be reached from a seated position, or rotating the screen of a rowing machine so it can be used by a person seated in a wheelchair on the other side.

Mike Aldridge knows firsthand how small things



Mike Aldridge draws strength from the workouts and the camaraderie (including that of Lucy the dog) he finds in the gym. “If I could do anything, I would want to see this place full all the time,” he says.



STEVE PUPPE (2)

FUNCTION OF FITNESS

HIFT challenges participants to focus on functional movements, considered more natural with real-life application, rather than on sports- or gym-specific movements.

Functional movements are actions that mimic activities of daily life, such as walking, sit-to-stand, bending to pick something up or reaching to put something away. This term is used to distinguish HIFT from exercises that focus on isolated muscles or that are not part of everyday movements.

There’s nothing wrong with performing calf raises, for instance, but such exercises may be less helpful to someone whose goal is to improve their health and independence rather than compete in a physical activity.

HIFT classes focus less on muscles needed to bench press a certain weight, for example. Instead, strength and movement efficiency are built around more functional activities—getting in and out of bed, retrieving an object from the floor, putting a bag in an overhead bin on an airplane, or picking up a child.

“The basis of this HIFT stuff is these functional movements,” Koon says. “These are things people with disabilities have to do as well. They just do it a little bit differently.”

Maureen “Moe” Flynn-Hart, a retired high school coach who began training girls sports teams right after Title IX was enacted, is used to working out. But a stroke left her with tremors that made it difficult to function as she used to.

“Exercise is control, I feel, for motivation and wellness,” she explained with the assistance of a writing app on her phone during the second orientation session for the adaptive HIFT classes back in January. She practiced standing from a seated position without using her arms.

At FitNKC several months later, Flynn-Hart, ’98, reflects on her progress. Having a routine of physical fitness, she says, helps her cognitive abilities. On this day, she does shoulder touches from a straight plank position after taking a break from the rowing machine.

In her 70s, Flynn-Hart is raising her active 3-year-old granddaughter, who loves riding her bike and trying to reenact the Olympic gymnastics she sees on TV. The energetic young girl keeps her busy.

“I can’t run,” Flynn-Hart says. Still, “I have to create leverage for me to keep up.”

can make a big difference. On July 11, 2020, just one day after his 50th birthday, Aldridge was working on his roof when his hammer slipped from his hand. He asked his wife, who was holding the ladder, to retrieve it for him.

“She didn’t want to let go,” Aldridge remembers. “But it was hot up there, and I’ve rolled the dice so many times in my life. I never thought I was going to fall.”

Aldridge insisted—“I probably used some expletives,” he says—and his wife reluctantly took her first few steps away before “the ladder slipped completely out.” The impact of the fall broke bones throughout his body and fractured his spine, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

After his injury, Aldridge recalls lying in the hospital, feeling broken everywhere.

“The thing I was saying to myself,” he says, “is that I got to get strong.”

His first physical therapy class focused on just getting out of bed. It was a struggle, for the first time using only his upper body to maneuver himself.

After training with AAIM, Aldridge now has the strength to get out of bed and much more.

“You get into this zone, and you start feeling the results, seeing the results, and then sharing the results with other people,” he says. “If I could do anything, I would want to see this place full all the time.”

While people with disabilities worldwide engage in HIFT, Koon says there is little to no empirical evidence on the effectiveness of this type of exercise for the disability community.

Much of Koon's research is focused on documenting how adaptive fitness can help empower and improve people's independence. While her data have shown increases in grip strength and improvements in balance and flexibility, those aren't the factors that motivate her work.

"I want to know that these people are getting on the floor to play with their grandchildren or carrying in their groceries alone," Koon says. "The functional independence piece of it is, I think, the most compelling."

CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY

For the first time in her life, AAIM participant and author Rebekah Taussig loves going to the gym, meeting up with the other people in class and challenging herself physically. It is an experience the KU alumna didn't always think she could have.

"I'm 38. And this is the first time I've ever worked out consistently with other people," she says.

Paralyzed at age 4, she says she didn't fit into "that traditional, tiny, narrow box" around which most exercise plans are designed. That changed when she joined AAIM.

"When I first started working out at this gym, I would have this big smile on my face just, like, lifting weights," says Taussig, PhD'17. "I've never done that. And it was amazing."

She attended accessible exercise classes as part of a study several years ago, but when the study ended, so did her workouts. This time, she has stuck with it, and she feels pride in the strength she's able to demonstrate to her family, including her 4-year-old son.

"One thing that I actually really love about it is the way that my son perceives it," she says. "It matters to me that he sees me pushing myself physically."

While she exercised some in the past, what has felt different to her this time is the support from her trainer. But what she loves most has been working out with people like herself.

"This is the first time I've ever worked out consistently with other people," she says. "That feels really important to me."

Taussig wrote the bestselling memoir *Sitting Pretty* ("In Her Words," issue No. 1, 2021), which discusses growing up with physical disabilities in a body unlike those around her. Because she works from home, she says, the community aspect of HIFT has been important to her. Her fellow gymgoers greet her when she



Josh Snyder, owner of FitNKC, developed AAIM after a first responder with a traumatic brain injury asked for training help.

shows up and ask about her if she doesn't.

"We're all doing similar things together, but in our own ways. And there's something about that social component of it, like we're all doing this together."

Having a gym buddy or workout community can increase motivation to stick to fitness goals, research has shown. HIFT has a built-in culture of community that keeps participants engaged, which Koon says is important to her goal of improving people's health.

This is one of the reasons Koon's research projects take place in the real-world environment of a gym and not in a lab, where she would have much more control over variables.

"I get the point of that, because we do need that sort of efficacy research," Koon says. "But what's the point if they have to stop exercising after the intervention is done?"

About 70% of those who join the classes continue with the program even after her research is finished.

"I like doing it out in the community, because these people don't have to stop once the research is done," Koon says. "And that's why I haven't pulled it into a lab."

THE NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING

Despite the benefits of exercise for maintaining brain health, managing weight, reducing disease risk, strengthening bones and muscles, and improving the ability to complete everyday activities, most community-based facilities are not accessible, or even inclusive, to people with physical disabilities, Koon says.

It is an area understudied by researchers and overlooked by physicians.

Lack of exercise can contribute to reduced muscle mass, coordination, flexibility and bone health. Other risks include increased likelihood of chronic disease, osteoporosis, high blood pressure, excess body fat, cognitive decline, anxiety and mood disorders.

Even though Taussig knew about the importance of regular exercise, for most of her life, “I didn’t get my heart rate up. I didn’t, you know, push myself until I was sweating.”

Her doctor encouraged her to work out, but she says the conversation ended there.

“I didn’t do any sports, and I just didn’t exercise at all. It just didn’t feel like something that I could do or that I was very capable of doing.

“When I would see my doctors, they’d be like, ‘Well, you know, you should be getting your heart rate up three times a week,’” she says. “It was like, ‘OK. Where would you suggest I do that?’”

AAIM participants haven’t been referred to the program by a physician. Instead, many of them heard about it from neighbors, friends, social media posts or their community.

Research shows doctors are more likely to suggest surgery or pharmacological treatment than exercise for people with disabilities. And outside of short-term physical or occupational therapy, exercise practices are

not well translated for the millions of people in the U.S. who have disabilities.

After Brian McMillan, 65, lost mobility of his legs in a motorcycle accident, he worked with a therapist to learn how to get dressed, move around and take care of himself. “But that only lasts for so long, and then, after that, you’re just kind of on your own,” McMillan says. “There’s a huge need in the community for people that are disabled.”

Less than half of adults with a mobility disability are physically active. Physical limitations are the most frequently reported obstacle to exercise for people with disabilities, with 57.5% describing this as a challenge to participation, according to “Understanding Exercise Challenges and Barriers for Older Adults with Mobility Disabilities,” an article that Koon co-authored and published in Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting in 2020.

Even if people don’t have a disability today, there’s no guarantee they won’t tomorrow.

“Most people age into a disability,” Koon says. “We all kind of do that, whether it’s our eyesight or some sort of mobility disability.”

Physical fitness can help delay some of the expected effects of aging, which is important to retaining physical abilities. Taussig says the challenges of aging with a disability aren’t common topics of conversations with her doctors.

As she nears 40, she’s paying more attention to her body.

“That’s kind of a newer idea, to me—learning to take care of my body,” she says. “I think about that in terms of long term, wanting to be able to sustain a certain level of physical independence, and I’m wanting to make sure that I’m staying on top of that now.”

Permanent or temporary disabilities can happen to anyone at any time. In fact, after age 75, the U.S. Census Bureau reports, 46% of Americans will have a disability. This is one of the reasons Taussig says adaptive fitness can be important to people both in and outside the disability community.

“A lot of people with aging bodies feel insecure joining a yoga class or something because they don’t feel like they’ll be able to fit in or match or keep up,” Taussig says.

When she tells others about her experiences with AAIM, they often share that they’d love something like that.

“It just made me think, ‘How many people across the board would benefit from a little bit of a reimagining what it means to go to a CrossFit class or be a part of a gym?’” Taussig says. “The art of just creating more points of access—it’s good for everyone.”



Longtime Kansas disability advocate Ray Petty, '85, asked to help recruit participants for Koon's study, decided to join it himself after meeting the researcher. "I'm a cheerleader without a uniform to keep this going," Petty says.

KU MARKETING

As people age, fitness is even more important for function.

Muscle mass is known to decline after age 30, with an average 40% decrease by age 80. Regular exercise has positive effects mitigating the many hallmarks of aging, with several studies pointing to an increase in life expectancy by as much as four to six years.

But engaging in exercise carries higher risks for people who are older or have a disability, which is why working with experienced trainers who are familiar with an individual's condition is important.

Adaptive athlete Martha Hodgesmith, c'74, l'78, who retired from KU as associate director and knowledge translation manager of the Life Span Institute's Research and Training Center on Independent Living, believes this is one of the strengths of the AAIM classes. All trainers in the program must earn Adaptive and Inclusive Trainer certification from the Adaptive Training Academy.

"People with disabilities and older people want to be fit for functional purposes," Hodgesmith says. "Of

course, everybody wants to be fit, but the key is you can't hurt yourself. And (the trainers) are very attentive in this project."

While all research has meaning, Hodgesmith says, it has been exciting to participate in work that has been so important to her and many others.

Access to physical fitness is no small thing.

"This literally changes people's lives every day," she says.

During classes, adaptive coaches like FitNKC's Samantha Walker who are trained to understand safe movement patterns keep an eye out for anyone who may be overexerting themselves by using too much weight or intensity. This means not only gauging form and speed of movement, which can vary between individu-

als, but also body language and facial expressions, Walker says: "In this way, we are able to provide safe and effective instructions and corrections during workouts that are feasible and catered to each athlete."

In many ways, she adds, the AAIM training isn't too different from training people without disabilities. While the needs might vary, the approach is the same—assessing the individual's capabilities and limits and having empathy for their personal situation.

"It may require a bit more setup and potentially more assistance throughout the workout sessions, but it is the same attention to detail we would provide to any athlete regardless of whether they have a disability or not," she says.

As an example, she describes a participant who is an above-the-knee amputee and how his form differs from other exercisers during squats.

"We know his heel needs to come off the ground to allow proper form, whereas proper form for a bipedal athlete would be to keep both heels on the ground," she explains.

Walker says trainers are intentional about making sure each person feels comfortable saying no or communicating concerns, including pain. Trainers need to know how to push participants to challenge themselves without forcing them to do anything that increases the risk of injury or emotional distress.

One potential benefit of HIFT classes for people with disabilities is that the CrossFit-style programs are widespread throughout the country and internationally. But while the reach of adaptive HIFT is virtually limitless, programs must first be willing to host people with disabilities. Although some do actively include people with disabilities, others have yet to follow. Empirical evidence generated by Koon's research could help change that, by showing that these adaptive HIFT programs are indeed feasible and effective.

For Walker, the value of empowering people with disabilities through training is personal. Her sister lost her sight in 2018, and at the time, it seemed all hope was gone.

"This program has shown me and the athletes who work their butts off that the only limit is inside the mind," Walker says. "My hope is that one day every single gym in America offers this program or something similar to it."

—Knott, a graduate student in digital integrated marketing at KU, is a communications specialist at the Life Span Institute.



Martha Hodgesmith, whose KU career focused on helping people with disabilities participate more fully in their communities, is excited to be involved in research that improves access to physical fitness.



GOLF CLUB

BROOKRIDGE



10,000 sq. ft. Fitness Center



Fitness Classes Included



Two-Bay Golf Simulator

ASK ABOUT OUR KU ALUMNI
WINTER PROMOTION!

Course
Renovations
NOW
COMPLETE

Including White Sand Billy Bunkers



Scan QR Code for Membership Programs and Contact Information
8223 W 103rd Street Overland Park, KS 66212 (913) 948-8639



A Truman Capote, Harper Lee and a Garden City Christmas memory

Capote Christmas

by
Rosemary
Hope

This is the story of my house and the foursome who gathered for dinner Christmas Day 1959: Truman Capote, Nelle Harper Lee, and my parents, Dolores, c'46, and Clifford Hope Jr.

It was at the beginning of Truman's seven or so years of entanglement with Kansas for *In Cold Blood*, his nonfiction novel chronicling the murders of the Herbert Clutter family and the prosecution of their killers. Herb, his wife Bonnie, and teenaged children Nancy and Kenyon had been killed by gunshots in the early hours of Nov. 15, 1959.

Truman and his childhood friend Nelle came by train from New York a few weeks later: Truman to cover the murders for *The New Yorker* and Nelle to help with reporting.

My father was Herb Clutter's lawyer. Shortly after Truman and Nelle's arrival, Daddy and the estate's administrator opened the doors to the crime scene, a tidy farmhouse outside Holcomb, Kansas, 5 miles west of Garden City. Truman sniffed about while Nelle took notes.

Otherwise, the pair did not get much help from the community throughout December. Truman, a flamboyant, pushy, gay man, was puzzling to townsfolk and stymied by local press and law enforcement.

He and Nelle faced Christmas alone at the Warren Hotel in Garden City. Until my mother issued an invitation.

"Come at 1," she said.

"Make it 2," Truman replied.

Mom always looked out for those new in town, young reporters at The Garden City Telegram, neighbors, teachers, singletons—all would be invited for dinner. She knew who Truman was; she subscribed to The New Yorker. And for a woman who claimed she spent the 1950s with her “head in the diaper pail,” an adults-only dinner was welcome.

She fed the four little Hopes in the kitchen ahead of time. When Truman and Nelle arrived around 2 p.m., Christine, 10; Nancy, 8; Quentin, 5; and Holly, 3, were introduced and then whisked upstairs to play with their new toys.

He was “small and pinkish,” she “dark and tall.”

Years later, I learned that Chris and Nancy had discussed their meeting with Nelle and Truman in detail. They marveled at their voices—Truman’s high, Nelle’s low—and their appearances: He was “small and pinkish,” she “dark and tall.”

Our house sits on a two-block-long, tree-lined street flanked at either end by brick pillars with bronze plaques announcing

*Gillespie Place
Private Drive*

Truth: The street was not private and our house, a 1908 bungalow, was among the most ordinary on it. But the trees were special. Despite the name, “Garden City” was not a grower’s paradise. The vicissitudes of a semiarid climate and near constant wind—“hard blue skies and desert-clear air,” as Truman said on page one of *In Cold Blood*—made growing pretty things pretty hard. My grandfather, Clifford Sr., planted and irrigated the heck

out of the elms after he purchased the house in 1920.

Nelle volunteered to help Mom in the kitchen and shared her trick for getting the air out of baking batter. “You whomp it on the counter,” she instructed while smashing the bottom of the pan on the Formica. This method has now served three generations of Hopes baking hundreds of batches of cakes, rolls and brownies.

Mom debuted twice-baked potatoes and roast duck. Truman, who “noticed everything” according to Mom, zeroed in on the potatoes. “They lack *something*,” he observed. Perhaps it was sour cream and caviar (“the freshest, the grayest Beluga”), which he described in 1972 as the only way he could “bear to eat a potato.” This “most delicious ever potato lunch” was to be accompanied by chilled Russian vodka, which “must be 80 proof.”

On this day, Truman brought J&B scotch. Conversation flowed, with Truman holding court. “Most of the talk was about himself, but it was interesting,” Daddy later recalled. “He loved to gossip, especially about his rich and famous friends.” (These were likely Truman’s “Swans,” ladies at the top of New York society.) At some point in the meal, Daddy rose from the table and recited the kings and queens of England in order.

Back in New York in January, Nelle wrote my mother that Christmas Day with the Hopes, Daddy’s tour of the town, and other shared meals were the “high spots” of the stay.

By all accounts, Christmas lunch launched Truman into Garden City society. Once word got around town that the Hopes had hosted Truman, he was honored with dinners and cocktail parties from Garden City high society. He even collected his own Garden City Swans, who were special guests at his Black and White Ball in 1966 after the publication of *In Cold Blood*.

People frequently ask why my parents were not at the ball. They weren’t invited,

COURTESY ROSEMARY HOPE



Dolores Sulzman Hope’s Garden City Telegram columnist photo, circa early 1960s



Hope family home
on Gillespie Place,
Garden City

and Daddy knew why. Although he was a Kansas state senator and son of a retired U.S. Congressman Clifford Hope Sr., and although Mom wrote a daily column, “The Distaff Side,” for *The Telegram*, my parents were not in the country club set, not the “in” crowd. Mom did not pick up smoking and bridge as she’d been advised to do when she was society editor for *The Telegram*. Daddy didn’t golf. They didn’t have a modern house with a conversation pit and intercom system like those who lived on “the Hill.”

But Truman knew what he had with my parents. He retained Daddy as his Kansas lawyer throughout the writing of the book and filming of the 1967 movie. He relied on Daddy’s insider view of Kansas politics, particularly the 1960 gubernatorial race, which could have threatened the death penalty in the state. Daddy is one of five people mentioned in the book’s acknowledgments.

Truman genuinely liked my mother. He insisted on writing a guest column for her, and it was a charming recount of his luncheon with Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the home of royal photographer Cecil Beaton.

I liked to tease my parents that I was Truman Capote’s love child. I mean, there are similarities between my baby pictures and his “fat years” photos. And he sent

Mom a bottle of Chanel No. 5 when I, her fifth child, was born in June 1961. My fantasy stems from the story I was told over and over: Truman showed up at the house midday in early 1962 wanting my mother to join him at the Warren Hotel coffee shop for a gab session. She answered the door, baby me on her hip, making dinner, phone ringing. She plopped me in his lap, noticing his look of horror and confusion as she ran to answer the phone. Like any other Garden City housewife, Mom had no nanny for the baby, no cook for lunch. Truman left alone for the coffee shop, perhaps a bit sticky from our encounter.

The four from Christmas dinner 1959 are gone now. My parents lost touch with Truman after the filming of the movie. Nelle and my parents remained friends, with sporadic correspondence through the years. The house on Gillespie Place, with some replacement trees on the driveway side, remains in the family. ❧

—HOPE, J’84, C’85, IS A FREELANCE
MEDICAL WRITER AND EDITOR IN
ROELAND PARK.

*A version of this essay first appeared in *The New Territory* (newterritorymag.com) as part of its *Literary Landscapes* series. An abbreviated audio version that aired on *High Plains Public Radio* can be found at hppr.org.*

Capote on campus:

Last stop before film production began



CAPOTE PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY



During his KU stopover (above and opening spread), Capote posed for news photographers with hosts Alvin Dewey (l-r, top) and Odd Williams, and signed books at a breakfast for Garden City students.

WHILE TRAVELING TO Garden City with *In Cold Blood*'s filmmaking team, to begin preproduction on the movie adaptation of his wildly popular true crime novel, Truman Capote on April 20, 1966, made a stop at Allen Field House in a rare public appearance. A crowd of about 3,000 KU students gathered to see the celebrated author and hear him share “gory details” from his “blood-curdling best-seller.”

Lawrence Journal-World reporter Marian Warden began her of-its-time coverage by describing outfits worn by “Kansas University coeds”—“stretch pants, gym shoes, sweaters and skirts, cocktail dresses and high, spike heels.” Men, she noted, were dressed casually in faded blue jeans or decked out in pressed suits and starched collars, making it “difficult for this observer to guess whether they were going to a jam session or a semi-formal dance.”

Along with breathless description of confounding fashion on a campus in the early throes of transition into late 1960s pop culture, Warden emphasized that before they heard a word of *In Cold Blood*, the eager attendees first sat through Capote reading—in his “high, thin voice”—two now-revered short stories.

The first, “A Christmas Story,” drew “a healthy round of applause,” and was followed by soft drinks and cigarettes as attendees sat through a 15-minute intermission.

“Soon the audience was again all set to hear ‘In Cold Blood,’” Warden reported.

“But instead they heard Capote’s description of ‘A Ride Through Spain.’” When the “short, greying author” finally picked up his copy of the slim, genre-defining book, he read only from its introduction. To his audience’s dismay, Capote shared none of the “gruesome details of the stranger-than-fiction” Clutter family murders that had shattered western Kansas seven years earlier, and certainly none of the insider gossip for which Capote was renowned.

“The name ‘Clutter,’” wrote the Journal-World’s reporter, “never was mentioned during the entire program.”

Kansas Bureau of Investigation special agent Alvin Dewey, *In Cold Blood*'s fearless and capable protagonist, accompanied Capote and reportedly drew the largest applause of the evening. Dewey’s son, Alvin III, c’69, g’71, who would go on to become assistant dean of admissions for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, was a KU freshman at the time, and, with the help of Lawrence businessman Odd Williams, b’49, l’52, the KBI investigator had arranged for Capote’s Lawrence stopover.

Capote and his entourage—including director and screenwriter Richard Brooks and Columbia Pictures executive Tom Shaw—stayed in Lawrence that evening, and the next morning joined KU students from the Garden City area for breakfast before departing for western Kansas on a chartered airplane.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



Hey KU Alumni:

You could save hundreds on insurance

That's right – You could save an average of **\$745*** when you switch your auto and home insurance to **Farmers®**.

Auto and home are just the start.

Farmers offers a wide range of products** to help you simplify your insurance life.

With Farmers you'll get quality coverage at a great price.

Call 800-840-8646 or visit farmers.com/jayhawks for a free quote today.



Scan to
get a quote



*Based on average nationwide annual savings of new customers surveyed, excluding HI & SC & Farmers GroupSelectSM, from 7/1/22 to 7/1/23 who switched their Home and Auto insurance policies to Farmers® branded policies, responded to the survey, and realized savings. Potential savings vary by customer and may vary by state and product.

**Advertisement produced on behalf of the following specific insurers and seeking to obtain business for insurance underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Company of Washington (Bellevue, WA) or affiliates. In TX: insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Fire Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company, Farmers Texas County Mutual Insurance Company, Mid-Century Insurance Company of Texas or Texas Farmers Insurance Company. In NY: insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange, Truck Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century Insurance Company or Farmers New Century Insurance Company. Home office, Los Angeles, CA.

Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. List of all insurers and states where licensed at farmers.com/companies/state/. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Not all products, coverages, and discounts are available in every state and may vary by state. Restrictions, exclusions, limits, and conditions apply. See agent for details.



Artist and educator Marshall Maude
examines life's mysteries within
cauldrons of clay and fire

'Controlled Chaos'

by Chris Lazzarino
Photographs by Steve Puppe





D

raw near, friends, and let us noodle around with some stereotyping. So often it's the unsupported and potentially offensive observation that peppers up a drab pot of storytelling, and rarely does it turn out badly, right? So it is, with apologies, that one might have expected interest in Marshall Maude's Oct. 10 artist talk for his solo exhibition at the Lawrence Arts Center, "The Sun and the Moon," to run low.

Not for the art or artist, but, heck, the first pitch of Game 4 of the American League Division Series—a savory renewal of the Yankees-Royals playoff slugfests of old that turned many of us into baseball fans, and Yankee haters, for life—was set for the exact same time. After three games decided by a total of four runs, the Royals trailed two games to one, needing a win to advance to a decisive Game 5. So who, exactly, would bother showing up for an *art talk*? And how clueless could an artist—*arteest*?—be, pitting a ceramics lecture against the Royals' do-or-die playoff game?

Mere minutes before the event began, few art fans had yet to show up. If he even noticed, Maude didn't comment on it—*did he even grasp why this whole thing was such a terrible idea?*—and even someone irritated at missing the game might have felt bad for the guy, having to stand before an empty room and talk art while the big game was played on innumerable TVs in a dozen crowded bars within blocks of the New Hampshire Street art exhibition.

But no, Maude just carried on with his preparations while politely indulging a few early questions about the assembled pieces.

"Ceramics," he explains, "is *all about timing*," and resistance to the idea of spending the next 90 minutes in his company, and not Bobby Witt Jr.'s, begins

to peel away. He explains about how clay shrinks, and shares some of his thoughts on "the making process," and seemingly as if by magic, his audience has arrived and assembled, filling nearly every seat.

"Well, we're missing Game 4," Maude whispers, "so we'd better make it good, right?" OK, *that* was unexpected. "But maybe," he continues, "we can all party on Saturday."

An artist who knows that, should the Royals win, the series would end the day after tomorrow? Yep, we're all in. Come, then, let us discuss art, ceramics, creativity, dualities of life and death, sun and moon, Royals and Yankees be damned.



"Ceramics is all about timing."



Marshall Maude, f'96, g'03, is an associate professor and chairperson of KU's department of visual art. He is an internationally recognized ceramic artist who specializes in firing his work in 2,400-degree wood kilns, a chaotic, organic process completely different from predictable firings in electric or gas ovens. Compared with the dynamic environments of wood kilns, graduate student Meredith Smith explains, firing in electric kilns is akin to "programming what is basically a big toaster and walking away."

Maude is a man on the move. Always. Reached on his phone during fall break—a time when students and faculty are supposed to rest and recuperate ahead of the mad dash toward semester's end—Maude explains that he's having "a little bit of a studio day," and the thought occurs: Does an artist get time off? Can the creative process ever reach full stop? "That's one of the positives and negatives about it," he replies. "For sure you can't take a day off, and you can never retire."

Maude somewhat reluctantly accepted the administrative load of department chair following Tanya Hartman's 2021 departure for Michigan State University. He honored what he saw as a service obligation to the department where he'd earned both of his degrees and had established his professional home, but also because he already had significant projects in mind.

"It's a little easier to enact change from the top," Maude says, "but I don't really have any ambition to be in any kind of administrative leadership role. I mean, I literally have *no* ambition for that. Basically, nobody else wanted to do it, and I was sort of willing, and I think most people would agree there's some element of service that needs to be taken on."

Graduate director Sarah Gross, associate professor of ceramics, says that as a "small program in a large research university," it was important that Maude embrace the department's traditional strength as "a setting that isn't cutthroat. ... It's a competitive program to get into, but we try to create an atmosphere that is comfortable and warm, and not about outdoing everybody or making other people look bad with your own successes. It's more about lifting each other up."

Maude last year realized a dream project by creating gallery space for students in East Lawrence, in what had been a popular houseplant store, and he's currently enmeshed in plans to move KU's photography program from its current home in the School of Architecture & Design into the visual art department within the School of the Arts, a transition set for fall 2025.

And, reclaiming what had been a facilities maintenance shed bordering Bob Billings Parkway, on West Campus, Maude created what he calls the Interdisciplinary Ceramics Research Center (ICRC), wel-

"It's more about lifting each other up."



Maude (in his solo exhibition, above and previous spreads) says red lines in “Connections # 12” could represent arrow-straight highways cut through desert vistas, as well as their depiction in the old-school atlas he keeps handy while driving throughout the Southwest.

coming both international ceramic artists and KU faculty interested in exploring ceramics for their own research.

“He puts his money where his mouth is. He takes risks,” Gross says. “The ICRC is his brainchild. We’ve had all these wonderful, yearlong artists-in-residence come and teach and work and exhibit, based on this space, and we have studio spaces there where grad students and faculty can work. That was all something that that came out of his brain, but also his blood, sweat and tears. The same with the new downtown student art gallery.

“It’s such a great idea, and not only does he have the vision to think about it, but he has the sort of connections to the community to actually find a place to make it happen. And then he has the construction skills to completely renovate the old Jungle House and turn it into this cool gallery space that gives students a chance to put their work out in our community.”

Ben Ahlvers, the Lawrence Arts Center’s exhibitions director, says he and Maude, friends and colleagues of many years, began discussing this fall’s show 18 months ago. Yet as well-versed as he is in Maude’s concepts, even Ahlvers, intrigued by laser-cut etchings imposed on diamond-hard glazed surfaces, had questions about his techniques.

“It’s an interesting combination of technologies, with firing, a process that’s hundreds if not thousands of years old, and then laser etching,” Ahlvers says. “The principle isn’t revelatory. People have been advancing and combining things since the beginning of time. But I don’t know of anybody else that’s doing it quite the way he does. I think putting a hard line on that surface is a deliberate touch that echoes everything he talks about. At almost every step in the process, the dualities ring true, and they’re universal.”

As Maude prepared for his talk, he decided to experiment with the format. Rather than save questions for the end, when a few truncated answers are typically shoved into a five-minute window, he dedicated the entire hour and a half to answering questions, which touched on the full array of works on display: imposing black vessels, glimmering with coats of graphite and India ink, occupying the center of the room; collections of copper-glazed, wall-mounted pieces, their variety of dazzling colors created entirely by the firing process; and an intriguing time-lapse video of a clay vessel perched in a river, to be viewed through a ceramic frame hanging a few feet away.

“What I’ve been thinking about when I approached the work in this show,”

Maude says, “was the idea of dualities. The meanings are relatively layered, I guess, and complex, but the forms are pretty simple. I was thinking about relationships. Some of the grounding principles behind all this are ceramic history, art history, and, I would say, nature, and permanence or impermanence, whichever way you want to go.

“I started thinking about the idea of impermanence and permanence being the same thing, basically, so, with that duality, the title of the show is ‘The Sun and the Moon.’ I don’t think I wanted to call it ‘Life and Death,’ but it could have been that.”

Duality—the state of having two different or opposite elements—is the ideal concept for Maude to work through in his creative output, because it seems to capture his own ways of being, thinking, doing.

“He’s casual and charismatic,” Ahlvers says, “but he’s also really intelligent, and he’s very thoughtful about what he’s doing. He and his ideas are very approachable.”

Gross offers additional examples. “His work is well respected, but he’s also not somebody who’s promoting himself,” she says. “He’s not constantly out there, posting to his online followers, ‘This is

what I'm working on!' There's this sort of absence of ego that I'm pretty jealous of. There's just something about him that's, like, unburdened and irreverent. That lack of ego. Like, it just doesn't even occur to him to worry, you know?"

Maude grew up in Topeka, and credits his mother, a graphic designer, and "really great" art teachers at Shawnee Heights High School for his development as an artist, although he also recalls an innate interest that announced itself when he was 5, digging around in clay on a lakeshore behind his grandparents' home.

"I remember making pots and drying them out and then sticking them back in the water and letting them fall apart," Maude says. "There's some sort of serendipity that sometimes happens in life where it's like ... I don't know that it was somehow a memory that caused that ..."

In his unbounded, meandering manner, Maude seems to be referencing the video installment in his arts center show, "Re:claim," featuring a time-lapse video of an unglazed vessel. As he told the audience and later discussed in detail, Maude created the vessel in situ, digging into clay near the bank of the Verde River in Arizona. He placed it in the tributary's small stream and, relying more on intuition than actual skill, filmed 24 hours of the vessel's brief existence.

"I guess my entry point into clay was the vessel, right? That's pretty common with young people," he says. "They take a class, or they see somebody throwing pots on the potter's wheel, where you can take this amorphous lump and transform it into an object, and there's seemingly magic involved with that, right?"

"In 2017, I made an intentional shift in my focus to reinvestigate the vessel, a signifier of our culture, a signifier of humans, or even the signifier of self. Food storage, grain storage, water storage, these foundational principles, these fundamental elements of humanity. We couldn't exist in our current state if we didn't have these things, right?"

Although "Re:claim" perhaps reflects Maude's earliest experience with clay dug out of a watery bank, the connection to his

past was completed after he shot the video, as upriver rains suddenly swept through and the swelling Verde reclaimed its own, exactly as Lake Quivira had done with his first artistic output.

Maude admits that his nascent videography skills failed him at that moment, and he did not capture footage of the pot dissolving back into river clay. Yet he also hints that he's happy that he simply watched it happen, without technology interrupting his reverie.

"I have a lot to learn, and I want to go into any project without knowing what the outcome is going to be," he says. "I don't really, particularly, have any kind of point. Like, I'm not advocating anything, right? I'm not trying to push an idea or an agenda. I'm just sort of looking. I'm interested in certain things, so it's just a way to sort of ask questions and sort of think about things."

The artist's mindset, Maude has discovered, happens to blend beautifully with the rigors demanded of an educator, a concept he embraced while complying with KU requirements that "specific learning outcomes" be delineated in every syllabus.

"Sometimes that sort of system is a little bit difficult to wrap your mind around, right? I would think that in some sort of math class or something, it might be a little bit more straightforward, but in an art class, the learning outcomes are not always super clear. Or, they seemingly might not be."

The solution Maude hit upon is, like his art, elegantly simple and deeply thoughtful:

- Build skills that translate to confidence in decision-making.
- Trust your instincts.
- Understand failure as a component of success.
- Develop patience and an acceptance of loss.

"I'm not sure that's what the provost had in mind when they asked us to do that," Maude says, laughing, "but I tell my students, 'This can potentially be the most

"I want to go into any project without knowing what the outcome is going to be."

important class you'll have, because there's a lot of failure involved with ceramics, right? Just like learning to play the piano, it's a skill to learn how to manipulate clay. You're going to have to go through a process to learn that skill, and one of the things that you can learn is patience, and that there's a lot of loss involved. Especially with the ceramics world, there's failure in every stage.

"So, for patience and the acceptance of loss, I tell my students, 'If you can learn those two things, your life will be a lot better.'"

One of the joys of the study and practice of ceramics, Maude and Gross agree, is that dirty hands discourage the use of cellphones. When students are in their twice-weekly three-hour classes and the mandatory six hours of studio time, they are loosed of their modern distractions and free, finally, to *focus*.

Given how proud he is of his department's embrace of technology—including a computer numerical control (CNC) router, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, machines that make digital screenprints and ceramic decals, and digital drawing tablets—Maude concedes, but won't apologize for, hypocrisy in his art form's eternal fascination with the basics of clay, water and fire.

"There are no phone rules," he says of classes. "Then I just turn into a weird policeman or whatever. But just the very nature of the process is engaging. It's physically and mentally engaging. Our students all pretty much cut themselves off from their phones, and I've had a lot of students tell me about how that's really important for them and how much they appreciate it."



“For me, teaching and working in my studio are not too dissimilar, in a lot of ways.”



October preparations for the Nov. 13 firing of the anagama kiln (top) at the Chamney Barn Complex on West Campus.

time”—and just as quickly he’s over by the woodpile, firing up a very serious chain saw, a gnashing brute that appears to exist somewhere between dad’s backyard trimmer and a lumberjack’s pro model.

“Students really value the space and opportunity that they get with ceramics classes,” Gross says, “especially doing those wood firings where they’re outdoors, working, doing physical labor with their bodies, chopping and stacking wood. And more and more, students are interested in digging their own clay, finding local clay and testing it, processing it, even learning chemistry to adjust the clays.

“The University is often trying to encourage other faculty to do what we are always doing: engaged, hands-on learning.”

To Maude’s fast-paced, fast-firing mind, the educational process comes down to basics as simple and pure as clay, fire, ash: conceptualize, create, repeat.

“Take the thoughts that you have in your mind and the skills that you have in your hands and blend them into some kind of thing, whether it be an object or an expression or whatever it is,” Maude advises. “Those are skills that can actually be learned, and it’s the same thing I’m doing in my studio. For me, teaching and working in my studio are not too dissimilar, in a lot of ways.”

“You know, there’s no *one* type of artist. I mean, even though everybody probably has some kind of stereotype of what an artist is, that doesn’t really ... that’s not really ... there’s no *truth* there, right?”

The whole ballgame, stereotyping be damned. And the Yankees, too. 

On a recent Friday morning, KU ceramics students and local artists from the Lawrence Arts Center gathered at the Chamney Barn Complex on West Campus to chop donated wood in preparation for the November firing of the beastly anagama kiln, the largest of five kilns housed within the covered, open-walled space, every inch of it built and maintained with private funds donated through KU Endowment. This year’s event was the 15th renewal of a KU-LAC collaboration that unites the vibrant regional ceramics

community in a celebration of transforming clay and glaze within the “controlled chaos,” by Ahlvers’ description, of turbulent tubes filled with deep beds of embers and swirling ash.

Climbing out of his 1998 Toyota T100 pickup truck, Maude offers visitors a tour, taking particular joy in pointing out the “pizza kiln,” where, you guessed it, tasty eats are baked during the four days required to fire the big anagama—“There’s people out here 24 hours a day,” he says, “so you might as well make it a fun little

If it matters to you, it matters to us.

What matters most to you? At Commerce Bank, we've been providing financial solutions that are tailored to your ever-changing wants and needs for nearly 160 years. So if you have questions about your money, or just want some new ideas on how to get where you want to go, we'll find the answers that matter. Together.



commercebank.com/ChallengeAccepted

©2024 Commerce Bancshares, Inc.



**Commerce
Bank**
Member FDIC

Challenge Accepted.



STEVE PUPPE

More than 800 students participated in activities that included Chalk 'n' Rock on Wescoe Beach.

TRADITIONS

Homecoming combines spirit and service

Association partners with 18 campus and alumni groups for an eventful week

WITH THE THEME “Jayhawks Through the Eras,” the University continued its rich Homecoming tradition Oct. 14-20, welcoming alumni back to Mount Oread and engaging students and the community with activities that celebrated shared bonds and instilled Jayhawk pride. KU’s 112th Homecoming featured the occasion’s mainstays—a lively competition among student organizations, a picture-perfect fall football game—plus a few firsts.

New this year, the Alumni Association hosted a KU Alumni Welcome on Friday, Oct. 18, inviting all alumni to the Jayhawk Welcome Center for an evening of camaraderie ahead of Late Night in the Phog in Allen Field House. The Association also organized Homecoming service events to assist the campus community and extend goodwill beyond Lawrence. Opportunities included a food drive for KU’s Campus

Cupboard; the Rock Chalk 5K Run/Walk at the Edwards campus in Overland Park, which raised funds for scholarships for first-generation students; and a supply drive for Simply Hygiene, a Wichita-based organization that provides essential hygiene products to those in need.

During halftime of KU’s Oct. 19 football game against Houston at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, the Association recognized students and alumni who embody Jayhawk pride and dedication to the University:

- Emma Saville, a senior in multimedia journalism from Mulvane, and Aarush Sehgal, a senior in molecular, cellular & developmental biology from Chandigarh, India, received the Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award. Sponsored by Konica Minolta, the award has been given since



KAITLYN KOKOSKI

Ryan Edmonds (back left), assistant director of student programs, and student leaders gathered at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium for the Homecoming game. Students (l to r, back to front) included: Andy Denekas, Nana Amfo Sackey, Anna Korn, Jess Mumm, Eris Rindt, Emma Klingler, Aria Woolsey and Tithi Patel.



RYAN EDMONDS (2)

As part of the Homecoming competition, 16 student organizations created banners to highlight this year's theme.

1991 to student leaders who uphold the highest standards for service.

- Ariana Siddique, a junior in molecular, cellular & developmental biology from Overland Park, received the Jennifer Alderdice Homecoming Award, given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the University.
- Kappa Delta sorority was crowned the winner of the Homecoming Student Competition, which included 16 student teams.
- Michael Chavez, c'11, g'14, received the Rich and Judy Billings Spirit of 1912 Award, which honors alumni dedication to the University and its traditions. In his role as associate director for community engagement initiatives at KU Admissions, Chavez helps bring new generations of Jayhawks into the flock and guide students toward success on the Hill.

Kansas football's 42-14 victory over Houston provided a resounding Homecoming finale.

This year's celebration was sponsored by Central Bank, with presenting partners Konica Minolta, KU Bookstore, Pepsi Zero Sugar and The University of Kansas Health System, and additional support from Active & Fit Direct, Jostens, Wendy's, the Jayhawk License Plate program and Flying Jayhawks.

ATHLETICS

Two for the team

Board selects alumni reps to help advise Athletics

THE ASSOCIATION'S national Board of Directors last spring elected two new representatives to the Athletics Advisory Committee: Julie Garney Andrews, j'95, of Waukee, Iowa, and Braden Hopkins, j'96, of Lander, Wyoming. They will serve three-year terms.

Andrews, also an Association national board member since 2019, is president and chairman of the board for Briarcliff Development Co., a mixed-use real estate firm based in Kansas City. She previously owned The Event Pros, a corporate events

planning company, and worked for the Kansas City Chiefs in sales and corporate hospitality. She and her husband, Chris, j'92, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors. One of their three sons, Charlie, is a 2024 KU business graduate.

Hopkins is managing director of Mountain Bluebird Capital Management, a private family firm, and Rain Shadow Ranching LLC, a livestock and hay operation in Fremont County, Wyoming. He completed his master's in business administration at Pepperdine University and devoted much of his career to gasoline trading with Koch Industries, as a partner in Glencore Limited, and as president and co-founder of SC Fuels Trading LLC. He and his wife, Ashley Stout Hopkins, j'96, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Andrews and Hopkins will join current alumni representatives on the Athletics Advisory Committee: Barbara Gill MacArthur, g'81, of Kansas City, and Elizabeth Schartz, l'88, Dallas. They were elected in spring 2023.



Andrews



Hopkins



AFFINITY NETWORKS

Calling all Hispanic alumni

Network is off to a fast start

A PACT AMONG LIFELONG FRIENDS led to the Sept. 15 relaunch of the Hispanic Alumni Network (HAN). By Oct. 31, the group had surpassed 350 members.

More than a year ago, Marisol Romero, who now lives in Kansas City, and Monique Garcia, from Wichita, attended an event for a new book, *Latina Leadership Lessons: 50 Latinas Speak*, written by Garcia's sister Delia Garcia. As they considered the many success stories highlighted, "we both had this epiphany," Romero recalls.

Vowing to restart the HAN, the two promised to forge ahead, "and we didn't let each other off the hook," says Romero, c'06, who recently began a new professional role as events manager for Hope House, a Kansas City agency that serves survivors of domestic abuse.

Garcia, c'96, owns Garcia Group LLC, which works with state and federal agencies to expand access to health care in underserved communities. As a KU volunteer who has long been passionate about student recruitment and mentoring, Garcia now serves on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors. In 2009, she was one of about 10 Jayhawk

volunteers who launched the original HAN with the support of Association staff members, including Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, now president. The network published email newsletters and hosted several tailgates as well as a graduation banquet for KU seniors, but unfortunately momentum slowed.

As Romero and Garcia planned to revitalize the group, they enlisted the help of Mary Padilla, j'88, the Association's associate vice president of marketing and content strategy, who as a student had helped found the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) on campus. "We couldn't have done any of this without her," Romero says. "She kept us on track."

Over the next few months, the three reached out to more alumni and crafted a mission statement. Meanwhile, the Association's marketing and content strategy team planned and created graphics, a Facebook group, an email campaign and a web page (kualumni.org/ku-hispanic-alumni-network).

"We've had such an outpouring of excitement in bringing together Hispanic alumni

who span generations from across the globe," Garcia says. "We enjoy welcoming each new member to our Facebook group—from a 2023 graduate from Dodge City to a 1994 graduate from Betania, Panama."

With more than 350 Facebook group members and counting, Romero is eager for the HAN to ultimately host events in Kansas and Kansas City as well as in Chicago and other KU communities. She also hopes to cultivate more volunteers. "That's our message—start something wherever you are," she says. "Represent KU, and do good in your community."

Padilla, who credits her HALO involvement for profoundly shaping her student years, says, "As we reconnect with Hispanic alumni, it has been truly heartwarming to witness the enduring bonds we've cultivated over the years, as well as the new friendships blossoming within our community. We are united by our shared love for KU and the common experiences that continue to bring us together."



Alumni gathered to celebrate the HAN launch (clockwise from top left): Monique Garcia, Robert Lopez, Eladio Valdez III, Octavio Hinojosa Mier, Matt Battiston, Marisol Romero, Mary Padilla and Regina Esteban.

DAN STOREY

ASSOCIATION

Stronger together

Medical Center alumni groups integrate with the Alumni Association

AS PART OF A UNIVERSITYWIDE, comprehensive initiative to optimize resources and better serve the KU community, the KU Medical Center Alumni Association will merge with the KU Alumni Association, creating a unified organization dedicated to serving all alumni. The shift will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025. The KU Medical Center Alumni Association includes the KU Health Professions, KU Medical and KU Nurses Alumni Associations.

“We couldn’t be more excited about uniting with the KU Alumni Association,” says Jordann Parsons Snow, c’08, director of alumni relations at the Medical Center. “Serving the growing alumni community is our top priority, and being one organization enables us to best meet their needs now and in the future.”

The decision to integrate follows a thorough review process that began in fall 2023 to evaluate both associations’ operating models and identify opportunities for collaboration to align with Chancellor Doug Girod’s “One KU” initiative, which aims to unify leadership and operations across the entire University (see story, p. 21). While both associations have rich histories of operating independently, the structure has led to duplicate efforts and confusion regarding separate membership programs, events and initiatives.

Girod, who led the KU Medical Center as executive vice chancellor from 2013 to 2017 and began his Medical Center career in 1994, strongly endorses the strategic integration of the alumni associations. “This greater alignment and unity will better serve alumni, students, faculty, staff and all KU stakeholders,” Girod says. “I applaud the associations’ leaders and alumni volunteers for their initiative, vision and courage to think about how the organizations can collaborate more closely. This

structural change is a powerful step toward amplifying our collective impact and significantly enhancing the alumni experience for KU Medical Center graduates and all Jayhawks.”

Starting Jan. 1, the two associations will fully integrate and operate as the KU Alumni Association, the primary resource for the entire alumni community. As part of this transition, all membership programs were consolidated under the KU Alumni Association in August 2024.

“We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the KU Medical Center Alumni Association team,” says Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, KU Alumni Association president. “This powerful partnership marks a new era of connection and support for our community. Together, we will build a more vibrant and impactful alumni association for all Jayhawks.”

For more information, please read the FAQs at kualumni.org/kumca.

“This powerful partnership marks a new era of connection and support for our community. Together, we will build a more vibrant and impactful alumni association for all Jayhawks.”

—Heath Peterson



MAKE IT A

Rock Chalk HOLIDAY!



**Celebrate Big 12 Days the right way,
with great deals only at the KU Bookstore!**



Shop in-store and online at [KUBookstore.com](https://www.kubookstore.com)

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.
SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. PURCHASES BENEFIT THE KU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.



Jayhawk Profiles

COURTESY MICAH BROWN (2)



MICAH BROWN

Orange Bowl star builds filmmaking career with his sports expertise

by KEVIN FLAHERTY

The play that most Kansas football fans remember Micah Brown for—his catch of a fake-punt pass from fullback Brandon McAnderson in the 2008 Orange Bowl—was a life-changing event he never saw coming.

Brown, c'09, recalls that throughout practice, McAnderson, c'08, had thrown the pass to the other side of the field; when he saw the ball headed toward him during the tense, back-and-forth game, Brown wasn't certain whether it was a pass or a blocked punt.

"I just saw a ball come flying out of the crowd of people, wobbling all over the place," Brown remembers. "I stopped, turned around, caught it a little bit off the ground, like my life was flashing before my eyes."

The play, which elevated Brown from a walk-on team member to a scholarship player, might have come out of nowhere, yet his foray into documentary filmmaking was easy to foresee. Some of his early work as a theatre and media arts major involved

YouTube clips he published of his band, highlight packages of the football team, and short films that included teammates.

Brown's football background and documentary success helped him get a strong foothold in the film industry, and most recently helped him direct "Sign Stealer," a feature on Netflix's "Untold" series that quickly rose to the network's No. 1 documentary spot. That result came after an accelerated timeline that started with an invitation to attend the 2023 season's national championship football game with Connor Stalions, a University of Michigan staffer who had resigned earlier in the season amid sign-stealing allegations.

The Stalions reaction footage from that game that appears in the documentary was shot on Brown's phone.

"That was the first day I met him, and we hit it off," Brown says. "And then from there, it's about seeing whether you think that person who has an interesting story that became national news could carry a documentary. And so it's really about kind of exploring what all of the story beats are. I thought that it could, then Netflix greenlit it, and then we were off to the races."

That's an apt description, as Brown and his production team compacted a yearlong production process into five months, with Netflix airing "Sign Stealer" Aug. 27.

This was not Brown's first rodeo with

Launched by an insider's series on KU football, Micah Brown has documented fascinating athletes from the worlds of mixed martial arts, professional rodeo, college football and more.

college football documentaries. In fact, his skills and ties to Kansas led to his making "The Gridiron," the first all-access, "Hard Knocks"-style documentary series that followed a college football program. It was an idea that grew from then-Kansas coach Turner Gill asking Brown to produce recruiting videos. Brown had other ideas.

"I said, 'I have this bigger vision that I want to do if I'm going to leave (making) movie trailers,'" Brown says, referencing his early professional credits. "I want to make films, and I feel like I could do 'Hard Knocks' for a college team, and you could use that for recruiting."

"The Gridiron" was a hit, collecting regional Emmys in 2010 and 2011; Brown notes that he picked up 50 job offers that first year as other college programs quickly developed their own iterations.

After Gill's departure, Brown founded his production company, Second Wind Creative, and began producing and directing for such prominent outlets as ESPN, "Last Chance U" and Showtime. His breakout came in 2017 with his long-form docu-



mentary debut, “Prison Fighters: 5 Rounds to Freedom,” about a Thai prison where inmates fight each other for their release.

“Prison Fighters” earned a nomination for Documentary of the Year at the 2018 Cynopsis Awards, and led to Brown joining the talented “30 for 30” lineup with “Chuck and Tito,” a feature on the rivalry between UFC fighters Chuck Liddell and Tito Ortiz.

“That was the goal when I went into documentaries,” Brown says. “The dream was to do a ‘30 for 30,’ and I achieved it pretty quickly.”

Brown continued widening his creative interests with “WWE Evil” on Peacock and “The Ride,” a look at professional bull riders that streams on Amazon Prime. Brown also directs “Coach Prime,” an Amazon Prime series that examines the sensational rise of Deion Sanders at the University of Colorado.

His projects have hit at a terrific rate: “Chuck and Tito” and “The Ride” are their sports’ most-viewed documentaries, and “WWE Evil,” “Coach Prime” and “Sign Stealer” debuted as the No. 1 documentaries on Peacock, Amazon Prime and Netflix, respectively.

Stalions comes across as a multilayered character in “Sign Stealer,” and getting NCAA commentary on camera was a

coup for Brown. Even superfans from rival Ohio State helped stir the pot as the allegations began to bubble to the surface. Brown said that part was perhaps the most shocking to him.

“I’ve been a part of a lot of great rivalries. That Kansas-Missouri rivalry is very intense for a lot of different reasons,” he says. “But whenever you have what would be seen as a crime involved between the two schools—or a scandal, I guess you would say—it kind of takes that rivalry to a whole new level.”

—*Flaherty, j’05, an Olathe freelance writer, has covered Kansas and the Big 12 for several outlets for more than 20 years.*

DENNIS GARCIA

Family histories chronicle tribulations, triumphs of immigrant experience

by STEVEN HILL

Retired attorney and Kansas native Dennis Garcia’s latest book tells the story of three generations of women in his family: Candelaria Garcia (his great-grandmother, born 1865 in Mexico), Rafaela Padilla (grandmother, born 1906 in El Paso, Texas) and Irene Rodriguez (mother, born 1920 in Dodge City). Each followed separate paths, Garcia writes in the introduction to *Las Madres: Latinas in the Heartland Who Led Their Family to Success*, but shared the same goal: “security, and freedom from want.”

In the lives of these three strong women, Garcia sees the broad outlines of an archetypal American story—the U.S. immigrant experience.

“If you ask Americans from every race and culture why their families came to the United States, regardless of the century, it’s pretty much the same story,” Garcia says. “They wanted to change their circumstances and make their lives better.”

By fleshing out the details of one family saga, *Las Madres* (the mothers, in English)

helps fill in important gaps in that larger American story, believes Garcia, l’80.

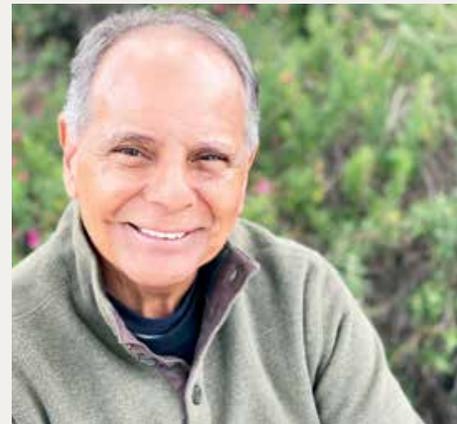
“One unique thing about the book is that it’s about the Mexican American Latina experience in the Midwest,” Garcia notes. “A lot of literature and movies involve families in California and the Southwest, but very few I have come across talk about families in the Midwest—and those that do a lot of times focus on the men.”

Published by University Press of Kansas in November, *Las Madres* follows Garcia’s 2018 book, *Marine, Public Servant, Kansan: The Life of Ernest Garcia*, also published by UPK. That title, which won first place in the Latino International Book Awards for best biography, chronicles Garcia’s cousin, Ernest, s’74, g’75, g’77, a Marine Corps veteran whose long career included a stint as sergeant at arms in the U.S. Senate, where he escorted President Ronald Reagan to the podium to deliver the State of the Union address.

Several common threads connect the stories in Garcia’s two books: In both cases, migration from Mexico to the U.S. was instigated by a desire to escape poverty,



Brown’s star turn as a KU football player: His catch of a fake-punt pass that helped his ‘Hawks defeat Virginia Tech in the 2008 Orange Bowl.



“When the Santa Fe brought in Mexican workers to build and maintain their railroad, some communities and politicians publicly voiced opposition,” Garcia says of the attitudes his immigrant ancestors faced. “The arguments they offered were often precisely word for word the arguments you hear today: ‘They’re on welfare, they’re criminals, they’re dirty. They will ruin our society. They don’t speak English.’ A hundred years later, it’s the same argument. You would hope that our society would’ve learned from that history.”

high infant mortality and the threat of military impressment during the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. Pushed by a need to keep their families safe, migrants were also pulled by the lure of work offered by the Santa Fe Railroad, which recruited men in rural Mexican villages to do the difficult labor of building out America's burgeoning rail system.

"Both families had their origins on haciendas doing ranch work, and during the revolution they were caught in the middle" of government and rebel armies looking for soldiers, Garcia says. "Both families chose to leave the hacienda system of life, which had existed for 300 years, to go to a new country, a new language and a new way of life. They brought with them what they could carry, and slowly but surely began to be settled and stable."

For Candelaria and her husband, Ascencion Padilla, stability took the form of a gradual economic rise fueled by hard work, first in the border barrio of El Paso and eventually in the railyards near the Santa Fe tracks in Dodge City. Successive generations completed their education—often in segregated schools—and served their country. Garcia and Rodriguez men enlisted in the U.S. military from World War I through Vietnam.

"Both families did their patriotic duty and fought in the wars," Garcia says, "and when they returned, the common thread was they had a desire to lift their status from second-class to first-class citizens, to get into the middle class."

Dennis Garcia grew up in Garden City and lives now in Chula Vista, California. After earning his KU law degree,

he practiced law for 30 years, mostly in Arizona. He worked in legal aid, served as a prosecutor and judge pro tem, did criminal defense work in his own firm, and represented the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. He also taught high school classes in government and law for 16 years.

His law and teaching experiences all proved helpful when he set out to put his family stories on the page.

"When you're standing in front of a jury, you try to tell a convincing story, a good narrative for the jury to hear. And teaching was actually much harder than being a lawyer. But the combination of those experiences set me up to tell the history and story of the Mexican Americans in the Midwest, particularly those in Kansas and my family."

The lesson he hopes to impart—to his own descendants and to general readers—is one of determination, faith, hard work and love of community and country.

"I hope people who face challenges find a ray of hope to hold on to, to change their circumstances and make their lives better, not only for themselves, but the people around them, their community," Garcia says. "It can be as small as the neighborhood you live in or the city that you might want to be the mayor of. I want people to draw inspiration and say, 'No matter how hard it gets, there's a way; let's keep looking. Let's keep our ambition; let's keep our determination. Let's get the job done so our lives will be better, so our lives will be without want.'"

MEL MCDANIEL

Grad creates homes for youths who age out of foster care

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

When Mel McDaniel describes her student years on the Hill as her "great awakening," she refers to revelations far more dramatic than the changes typical among countless college students.

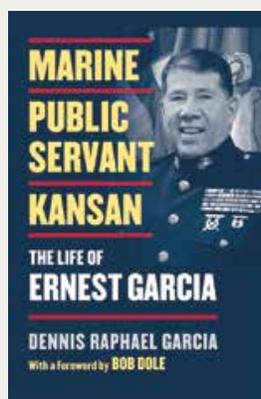
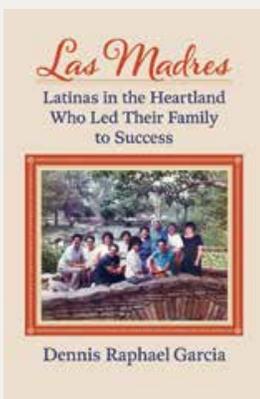
McDaniel, s'02, grew up in an isolated forest region of Canada, where her parents belonged to a strict religious cult, cut off from conventional society. Cult leaders decreed that children spend much of their time closely monitored and separated from their parents and siblings. She and her two older sisters never experienced a true sense of family or home. She had food and a place to sleep, but the cult regarded children as "a little army of free labor," says McDaniel, who recalls her early yearning for a real home and a dog.

As she grew older, she never thought college was an option until her aunt, Maggie Childs, a KU professor (now emerita) of Japanese, reached out and suggested that her niece come to Lawrence. "I owe her so



COURTESY MEL MCDANIEL

After longing for a traditional home as a child, McDaniel now helps furnish empty apartments or homes for former foster care youths, who often start out on their own with few possessions and little family support.





COURTESY MEL MCDANIEL

Though Marvin is her immediate family, McDaniel has reconnected with her two older sisters, who also left the now-defunct cult. Their newfound relationship is “pretty rare” among those who grew up in similar settings, she says.

much,” says McDaniel (whose name as a student was Mary Ellen Childs).

McDaniel reveled in the wide-open spaces and possibilities on Mount Oread, eventually making her way to the School of Social Welfare, where she spent her practicum year working with children in foster care. They, too, longed for the security of stable families and homes.

Though at first glance her career in interior design appears to have veered far from her KU degree, McDaniel says “my social welfare heart never left me.” In 2019, she founded Marvin’s Home, a nonprofit organization in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, just outside Philadelphia. Marvin’s Home furnishes first apartments or homes for young adults who have spent their teenage years in foster care or other temporary shelters. Partnering with Valley Youth House, a well-known agency in Pennsylvania, McDaniel and her crew of 40 volunteers have created homes for more than 60 young

clients starting new lives on their own.

Named for her beloved rescue dog, the venture grew from the success of Mel McDaniel Design, her full-time career “that pays my bills and helps fund Marvin’s Home,” she says. As she refurbished and revitalized homes for paying clients, McDaniel began to accumulate cast-off yet perfectly good furniture. She knew the forsaken beds, sofas, tables and chairs could become cherished furnishings for youths who had few possessions of their own.

Through financial and furniture donations, McDaniel and her volunteers by 2022 had acquired enough inventory to open Home on Main, a showroom in downtown Lansdale that features gently used and vintage items for sale. All proceeds benefit Marvin’s Home.

“Moving often implies a coming together. Your friends, or your parents, or your aunt and uncle come with their truck,” says McDaniel, who still recalls her solo move

to KU and being amazed that other new students arrived with families who helped them move into their dorm rooms. “These kids move in with literally just their bags of stuff. I want them to see this team of people come together for them and do things you can’t really do all on your own. You can’t move a sofa up a flight of steps on your own. You just can’t.”

Some young adults leaving foster care also are parents themselves, and McDaniel especially enjoys creating rooms for their children. “Without fail, when we do a kid’s room, they go straight to the lamp and turn it on. I always try to find lamps with pull chains, so it’s easier for kids. Many of them have known only awful overhead lighting. There’s a simplicity to home, but you need certain things. And a lamp and a bed and a nightstand are essential to a bedroom.”

McDaniel has been a homeowner herself only since 2018, and she credits Marvin for leading her to that milestone. “When he

was found, he was as abused and awful as a dog can be in a city,” she says of Marvin, who, though full grown, weighed only 38 pounds when McDaniel welcomed him into her apartment. She vowed to find a house with a fenced backyard.

Six years later, McDaniel marvels every day that she now has all she longed for as a child. “I just dreamed of a house with a mailbox—a home and a dog,” she says as Marvin, now 88 pounds, bounds into view on the Zoom screen and cozies up to his human. “Marvin’s Home is just a way of showing that once you get something, you want other people to have it. I want them to also feel that same inner peace of having a home where they’re safe.

“And that is no small thing.”

BRIANNA MATZKE

Pianist’s tremor shapes her art, inspires advocacy

by MEGAN HIRT

Like all professional pianists, Brianna Matzke relies on deliberate, precise movements of her hands and fingers to expertly strike the keys. She has perfected her playing since childhood, each motion ingrained through countless hours of practice.

Movements that she cannot control, however, are also an element of her work.

“I shake all day, every day,” says Matzke, f’09, who in 2020 was diagnosed with essential tremor, a neurological condition that causes shaking in the body, often in the hands, as it does for Matzke. “I don’t know how to exist in a body that doesn’t have essential tremor, so if I woke up tomorrow and the shaking in my hands was gone and I tried to sit down and play the piano, I would probably have to relearn my approach. My artistry is the shaking—it’s an inherent part of it.”

Piano has been part of Matzke’s life as far back as she can remember. Her mother taught high school band and owned a



Matzke

piano, and Matzke, who grew up in Minnesota, fast developed a fondness. “Piano has always been my safe place,” she says. “If I’m having a bad day or need to work out my emotions, I go sit in front of the piano, and it helps me work through things and feel better.”

When Matzke was ready to apply to colleges, a mentor who was a professional pianist put KU’s School of Music on the young artist’s radar. On Mount Oread, Matzke joined the University’s Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Forrest Pierce, professor of composition, who found Matzke’s talent transcended just hitting all the right notes.

“There’s a kind of soulfulness about Brianna’s playing that’s not present in everyone,” Pierce says. “There was something solid all the way to the core about the way she approached making music, and there still is. She’s a very special musician, and it’s something on the inside, not just her fast and fancy fingers.”

After graduating with her degree in piano performance, Matzke pursued her master’s and doctorate at the University of Cincinnati, which is when a shaking in her hands first became apparent. “I didn’t notice it—other people did,” says Matzke, who shared a campus office with fellow graduate teaching assistants. “They would remark from time to time, ‘Brianna, are

you OK? Your hands are shaking.’ I just thought I’d had too much coffee or didn’t sleep enough.”

She didn’t know whether she should be concerned about her persistent trembling—or whether it was affecting her work. “It’s really hard, when you’re experiencing the nerves that come along with a performance, to distinguish what are normal nerves and what isn’t normal,” Matzke says. “It was hard to tell if I missed a note because I just didn’t practice enough or some other human error was at play, or if my body was truly out of my control.”

Doctors gradually ruled out other possible causes of the shaking and referred Matzke to a neurologist, who diagnosed her with essential tremor, which can apply to involuntary shaking in different parts of the body, such as the head, voice and legs. According to the International Essential Tremor Foundation, the condition affects an estimated 7 to 10 million Americans and has no known cure.

“For some people, it’s extremely debilitating. For me, it’s mild,” Matzke says. “Putting on eyeliner or mascara is challenging. I don’t always have the neatest handwriting. Eating soup in public on certain days doesn’t go very well. But other than that, there’s very little stress. Most people who have essential tremor describe the worst parts of it, other than difficulties

with the shaking, as the feeling of embarrassment or being misunderstood, because there's a lot of stigma associated with someone who is shaking."

Tense muscles tend to exacerbate shaking from essential tremor, so given that proper piano technique minimizes tension in the hands, Matzke says her shaking does not hinder her playing. Yet working in the world of classical music, which prizes perfection, Matzke worried that negative perceptions of her shaking could harm her career as a professor and avid performer (she is an associate professor of music at Wilmington College in Ohio). She ultimately decided to share her diagnosis so she could control the narrative and, she hoped, use her art to foster understanding and connection.

Early in her career, Matzke developed "The Response Project," which commissions artists of diverse disciplines—musicians, dancers, sculptors, painters, poets and others—to create works around a given theme. For her latest installment,

she invited artists to respond to essential tremor and their personal experiences with matters of ability and disability.

"Tremor," a concert and art exhibition, debuted in May at the American Sign Museum in Cincinnati. Matzke, who is on sabbatical, has taken the project on the road this fall, performing throughout the Midwest and eastern U.S.

Among the artists featured in "Tremor" is Pierce, who composed the piano solo "Something, Shimmering" for Matzke.

"It's not that Brianna is the only pianist who can play it," Pierce says. "But she's the only pianist I know of whose natural physical embodiment already automatically produces some of the movements."

The piece employs a tool Pierce devised called the "Shimmermitten," a stainless steel glove with dangling silver, leaf-shaped charms. At the end of the piece, Matzke dons the Shimmermitten and, over the upper strings of the piano, extends her hand to exaggerate her shaking. The action makes the mitten sing against the vibrating strings.

"One of the things that's really special about the project, as it developed, was to see how flexible and humble Brianna was in approaching the subject of disability, recognizing that it takes a huge variety of forms in human bodies and minds," Pierce says.

For Matzke, who partnered with the International Essential Tremor Foundation on "Tremor," the opportunity to contribute to advocacy has been particularly rewarding. She has received messages from people around the world who have essential tremor, many of whom are not public about their diagnosis, thanking her for increasing awareness of the condition.

"That really makes this so worth it for me," Matzke says. "To know that sharing this part of myself is helping other people feel safer or more seen or understood in some way."

Visit the online version of this article at kansasalumnimagazine.org to listen to Matzke play and watch a teaser for "Tremor."



Helping Jayhawks protect life's adventures.

Call **1-800-922-1245** today or visit **www.TheAIP.com/Kansas**

Dental • Vision • Disability • Health • Life • Long-Term Care • Pet Health Insurance • Travel



N O M I N A T E

a Jayhawk to serve on the national board



We need your assistance in nominating future members of the KU Alumni Association's national Board of Directors. With your help, the Association will continue to recruit directors who represent the diversity and dedication of the KU family. **To nominate** a fellow Jayhawk, please complete the form at kualumni.org/board and submit all materials by **March 1**.

Questions? Contact us at **800-584-2957** or visit kualumni.org



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas



In With The NEW YOU



No Enrollment Fee
with code: **FITNESSFIRST¹**

Get Started:

<https://kualumni.org/active-fit-direct/>

- Choose from **12,700+** standard gyms for just **\$28/mo.²**
- **No long-term contracts.** Switch gyms or cancel with ease.
- **1:1 well-being coaching** to help you reach your health goals at no additional cost.

Standard Fitness Network



¹ \$28 enrollment fee waived for standard and premium gyms 12/1/24 12:01 a.m. - 2/28/25 11:59 p.m. PT.

² Monthly fees are subject to applicable enrollment fees and taxes. Costs for premium exercise studios exceed \$28/mo. plus applicable enrollment fees and taxes. Fees vary based on premium exercise studios selected.

M196-940A-KUAA 18/24 © 2024 American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH). All rights reserved. The Active&Fit Direct™ program is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc., a subsidiary of ASH. Active&Fit Direct, Fit at Home, and the Active&Fit Direct logos are trademarks of ASH. Other names or logos may be trademarks of their respective owners. Standard fitness center and premium studio participation varies by location and is subject to change. Other restrictions may apply based on the location of your selected fitness center. Some large chains may not offer access to multiple locations with their brand. Some fitness centers do not participate in the Active&Fit Direct network for all Program Sponsors. On-demand workout videos are subject to change. ASH reserves the right to modify any aspect of the Program (including, without limitation, the Enrollment Fee(s), the Monthly Fee(s), any future Annual Maintenance fees, and/or the Introductory Period) at any time per the terms and conditions. If we modify a fee or make a material change to the Program, we will provide you with no less than 30 days' notice prior to the effective date of the change. We may discontinue the Program at any time upon advance written notice.



Pay with PRIDE

Show your KU pride with the Jayhawk® Credit Card*.
Only from INTRUST Bank. Learn more at kucard.com.

*The creditor and issuer of the credit card is Elan Financial Services, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc.



by MEGAN HIRT

1964 Suzanne Tubby Batra, PhD'64, an entomologist who has made significant contributions to bee and insect science, was recently honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Saranac Lake, New York, school district, where she attended high school. Suzanne is retired from a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1966 Duane Miller, p'66, is professor emeritus in the college of pharmacy at the University of Tennessee, where he was on the faculty for over 20 years. He holds over 100 patents and is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

1968 Elbert Russell, PhD'68, a retired clinical psychologist and former chief of neuropsychology at the Miami VA Medical Center, wrote *Building 51*, a memoir of working in a state mental hospital in Pennsylvania, published last year. He lives in Miami.

Dennis Taylor, c'68, in July received the 2024 Meloy Stevenson Award of Distinction, which recognizes outstanding service to the Archie Bray Foundation, an arts center in Helena, Montana. Dennis is a retired city manager and former deputy director of the Montana Department of

Justice. He and his wife, Joan, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October.

1969 Kyle Craig, j'69, a retired restaurant industry executive, in October was inducted into the Joplin Schools Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame in Joplin, Missouri. He owns Outlook Consulting and lives in Denver with his wife, Elyse.

1970 H. Edward Flentje, PhD'70, professor emeritus at Wichita State University, co-wrote and co-edited the book *Reform and Reaction: The Arc of Kansas Politics*, published in June by University Press of Kansas.

Richard Juarez, e'70, is retired from a 21-year career at Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. and served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Wichita.

1971 Tom McCormick, f'71, owns McCormick Gallery in Chicago, which shows paintings, drawings and sculptures from modern and contemporary artists.

1975 Ronald Shaklee, c'75, g'79, PhD'83, professor emeritus of geography at Youngstown State University in Ohio, in August was elected

to the board of directors of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

1978 Richard Arnsperger II, c'78, m'82, in July was promoted to associate professor of surgery in the division of vascular surgery at KU Medical Center.

Deric Gilliard, j'78, is retired from a 25-year career as a public affairs adviser with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is an author, journalist, historian and speaker. His latest book, *The Longest Four Years of My Life: A View from the Field by a Black Fed in the Trump Administration*, was published in September. He lives in Atlanta.

Ann Mracek, f'78, g'79, wrote the book *Unpacking the Attic: A Path to Healing Your Inner Child*, published in September. She lives in St. Louis, where she teaches piano, voice and music composition at Mracek Studio.

1979 Scott Bakula, '79, portrayed Abraham Lincoln in the fall production of the play "Mister Lincoln" at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Robert Berry, g'79, DE'80, in September was inducted into the Rolla High School Hall of Fame in Rolla, Missouri. He is retired as vice president and general manager

of Burns & McDonnell's St. Louis office. He worked at the engineering firm for 32 years.

Carol Hunter, j'79, executive editor of the Des Moines Register, in February was honored by the Iowa Newspaper Association as a Master Editor-Publisher, the organization's lifetime achievement award.

1980 Dennis Garcia, l'80, a retired attorney, wrote *Las Madres: Latinas in the Heartland Who Led Their Family to Success*, published in November by University Press of Kansas. The book tells the stories of three generations of women in Dennis' family.

Tracy Camp Kaufman, b'80, retired last year as a project manager at NeuNet Consultants.

Richard Konzem, b'80, in September was named executive director of the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. He previously served on the organization's board of directors and is a former senior associate athletics director at KU. He and his wife, **Debbie Vignatelli**, c'77, d'78, live in Lawrence.

1981 Philip Brouard, '81, retired as an architect with Brouard Architects in the U.K. He founded the practice in 1999.

School codes

- a** School of Architecture & Design
- b** School of Business
- c** College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- d** School of Education & 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



Jan Anne Dubin, j’81, is founder and CEO of Jan Anne Dubin Consulting, which works with law firms and corporate law departments. She wrote the chapter “Grateful: A Life Well Served” in the anthology *Own Your Story: Empower. Connect. Create Change.*, published in May.

William Katherman, b’81, is retired as chief operating officer at Fox Factory Holding Corp.

1982 Julie Black Wellner, a’82, e’82, a’92, has been the principal owner of Kansas City-based Wellner Architects since 1987. The firm recently expanded to Wellner Architects + Engineers.

1985 Cherie Haury-Artz, g’85, is an education assistant in the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa.

Michael Stiles, m’85, is an ophthalmologist and medical director at Stiles Eyecare Excellence in Overland Park.

Michella McKinney Stiles, c’85, m’90, is an anesthesiologist at Kansas City Orthopedic Institute in Leawood. They have two adult daughters and live in Prairie Village with their golden retriever, Lulu.

1987 Clare Weinrich Graham, b’87, retired in August from a 37-year career in accounting, during which she worked in the mutual fund,

trust and retirement plan areas at State Street Bank and Trust Co. and Benefit Trust Co. She and her husband, Darren, live in Olathe and have a son, **Anthony**, c’19.

Tom Gregoire, g’87, PhD’95, serves on the board of directors of the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, a state initiative that supports prevention and treatment efforts for the opioid epidemic. He is associate professor and dean emeritus of the college of social work at Ohio State University. Tom and his wife, **Carolann Buckley Gregoire**, s’77, g’87, live in Upper Arlington, Ohio.

Keiko Kira, c’87, f’93, is an artist and co-owns Keiko

Furoshiki, which makes multi-purpose fabric wraps inspired by the Japanese tradition of furoshiki and designed to be a reusable alternative to paper gift wrapping. The products have been featured on the Martha Stewart, Wired and The Spruce websites. She lives in Kansas City.

Jim Pusateri, c’87, in June was named chief sales officer at LCS, which manages senior living communities.

Bridget Huerter Richards, j’87, is vice president of marketing at the Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation.

1988 Kay Cathcart Bronshteyn, c’88, in June joined Luther College in



ROCK CHALK, JAYHAWK!



THE OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CLASS RING

Fellow Jayhawks share a rich tradition and love for the campus, which is now embodied in the new Official Ring collection. The ring tradition creates the lifelong connection between the wearing of the ring and the pride and passion we share for our alma mater. Don't miss your opportunity to participate and show your Jayhawk pride. Rock Chalk!

SAVE \$50

*on your qualifying College Ring purchase now through 12/31/2024.**

WITH CODE: SHOP50

Shop now at jostens.com/collegerings or call **800.854.7464**



*Save \$50 when you design and purchase your college class ring or jewelry item on jostens.com by December 31, 2024 and use promo code SHOP50 at checkout. Promotion applies to standard college jewelry catalog offering only and excludes any other products. Product collections vary by school. Offer excludes: Nursing pins, watches, keepsake jewelry boxes, military academy rings, and high school jewelry. Limit one promo code per order. Promotion cannot be combined with any other offer or discounts. Discount will not be applied to taxes, applicable shipping/handling and other fees. Offer subject to adjustment due to returns, cancellations and exchanges. Not valid on prior purchases. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. Valid only for online orders placed on [http://jostens.com](https://jostens.com) and shipped to U.S. addresses. Expires 12/31/2024 at 11:59pm CT. Offer may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice.
©2024 Jostens, Inc. 241385



Travel the World

FLYING JAYHAWKS

ICELANDIC REACHES | JULY 31 - AUGUST 11, 2025

Embark on a journey filled with stunning coastal beauty and captivating fjords. Explore serene waterfalls surrounded by dramatic mountains, charming wooden houses and fascinating wildlife. Experience Icelandic folk culture in Iceland and the quirky local culture of Denmark. Gorgeous green coasts, museums and more await you on this iconic voyage!

GREAT EUROPEAN JOURNEY JUNE 10-22, 2025

Embark on an exhilarating European adventure steeped in storied history, grand architecture and breathtaking scenery on this fabulous, 12-day, 11-night itinerary featuring a deluxe river cruise and unforgettable mountain rail journeys. Discover the timeless beauty of the Rhine as you wind past storybook towns, terraced vineyards and forested hills crowned by castles. Marvel at the sweeping grandeur of the Alps on a panoramic train ride that traverses mountain terrain and affords gorgeous views.



ALPINE SPLENDOR SEPTEMBER 4-17, 2025

The towering peaks of the Alps serve as the stunning backdrop for our Swiss and Austrian exploration. As our small group discovers mountain villages and European cities, rides the famed Glacier Express, cruises on glassine lakes, and ascends snowcapped summits, borders disappear and the region's history and beauty enchant.



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

The University of Kansas

Visit kualumni.org/travel for more extraordinary destinations!

For the latest dates and detailed trip descriptions, go to kualumni.org/travel or call 800-584-2957.

Trip dates are subject to change.

THE 2024 FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

JOIN TODAY FOR AS LITTLE AS A CUP OF COFFEE A MONTH TO PROVIDE
CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR 500+ STUDENT-ATHLETES TO SUCCEED IN
COMPETITION, IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE COMMUNITY.



VISIT

WILLIAMSFUND.COM TODAY TO BECOME A MEMBER!

Decorah, Iowa, as director of its Preus Library.

Andy Guzman, c'88, is a research and development scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Security Campus in Kansas City. He and his wife, Avi, have four children, Carlos, Jose, Hannah and Angelina. Their oldest, **Carlos**, m'23, is completing his family practice residency at the School of Medicine-Salina.

Alison Young, j'88, an investigative journalist, in September joined the nonprofit service journalism organization Houston Landing as a reporter and associate editor for investigations. She is the author of the book *Pandora's Gamble: Lab Leaks, Pandemics, and a World at Risk*.

1990 Mary Baker

Boucher, d'90, g'98, is music director at Overland Park Christian Church. She and her husband, **David**, c'88, live in Olathe.

Jack Del Rio, c'90, a former NFL linebacker and coach, is senior adviser to the University of Wisconsin head football coach.

Gerry Dixon, b'90, in July retired from Ernst & Young as managing partner of the company's government and public services sector. His wife, **Carrie Woodling Dixon**, b'90, and daughter, **Katherine**, b'22, are also Jayhawks.

Glen Martin, m'90, in August was appointed vice president of medical affairs at Baptist Health's Beaches and Nassau medical centers in

Florida. An anesthesiologist, he has been on Baptist Health's medical staff since 2005.

John Milburn, j'90, c'98, is special assistant for communications and policy to the Kansas secretary of state.

Brian Wimes, c'90, is a federal judge for the Eastern and Western districts of Missouri.

1991 Ronald Baker, c'91, in August was named senior vice president of operations and clinic enterprise at LMH Health in Lawrence.

Gina Bleile Hartigan, g'91, is chief people officer at Kantata, a software development company based in Irvine, California.

John Hutton, c'91, l'94, is managing partner of the Topeka law firm Henson,

Hutton, Mudrick, Gragson & Vogelsberg.

Andrea Broers Melanson, h'91, OTD'11, a pediatric occupational therapist, is a program manager at Children's Mercy Kansas City.

Kristina Mitchell Walker, f'91, g'97, director of education and interpretation at KU's Spencer Museum of Art, received the 2024-'25 Outstanding Museum Educator of the Year award from the Kansas Art Education Association.

1992 Lisa Krigsten, c'92, in August was elected chair of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City. She is managing partner of the Kansas City office of Dentons and a member of the law firm's U.S. board of directors.



Hey, Jayhawk!
Scan here to
submit your Class Note.

Amy Lucas Whitaker, j'92, is a Plano, Texas-based artist who creates some of her paintings using coffee. She sells her works at local shops and art shows and on her website, Art by Amy.

1993 Jamee Fritzemeier Ross, j'93, is chief development officer at the Tanganyika Wildlife Foundation in Goddard.

Karen Wickersty Schoenly, c'93, is human resources manager at Performance Gear Systems in Plainfield, Illinois.

1994 Jen Brill, c'94, m'98, a family physician in Fort Collins, Colorado, in September was named president of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Chad Cowan, c'94, c'95, in October was appointed chief scientific officer at Century Therapeutics, a biotechnology company.

Gretchen Starnes Fitzgerald, c'94, in September joined IMA Financial Group as a client advocate. She lives in Kansas City.

Eric Mersmann, a'94, is an associate principal and senior project manager at Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architecture in Chicago.

Dean Newton, c'94, is president and CEO of Delta Dental of Kansas and Surency.

Peter Tebben, c'94, m'98, an endocrinologist, in October joined the school of medicine

at Yale University as director of the Yale Bone Center.

Eric Zabilka, a'94, is president of Omni Architects in Lexington, Kentucky. He has worked at the firm since 1995.

1995 Jim Beitel, e'95, in August was named chief business officer at the San Diego-based biotechnology company Cidara Therapeutics.

Tonya Cole, '95, is administrator for school operations and enrichment programs at Saint Anne's Day School in Atlanta.

Jodi Snook Fincher, n'95, is CEO of St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City.

Melissa Lacey, j'95, is a marketing manager at Ascension Via Christi in Wichita.

Molly Harris Laughlin, j'95, is a substitute teacher in the Blue Valley school district in Overland Park.

1996 Latisa Carson, m'96, is an OB-GYN in private practice in Chula Vista, California.

George Evans, m'96, practices family medicine with Stormont Vail Health in Topeka.

Steve Woodberry, c'96, a former KU men's basketball player, in August was named assistant men's basketball coach at Missouri State University.

1997 Kevin Bates, d'97, g'03, is a senior budget analyst at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

David Teska, g'97, in February retired from a 30-year career with the federal government, primarily with FEMA and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. He recently joined KU's Study Abroad & Global Engagement office as assistant director of health and safety. He is also a retired captain in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. David and his wife, **Kristy**, b'88, g'99, live in Lawrence and have a son, **Stephen**, d'23, and daughter, Laura, who is a senior at KU.

1998 Jim Knight, PhD'98, and **Michael Faggella-Luby**, PhD'06, co-wrote the book *Data Rules: Elevating Teaching with Objective Reflection*, published in September. Jim is a senior research associate at KU's Center for Research on Learning, and Michael is professor of special education at Texas Christian University.

1999 Diamond Williams Bronson, a'99, is associate vice president and health care studio leader at the architecture firm Hoefler Welker.

Kayla Knaup Crowell, c'99, is a family nurse practitioner at the Crawford County Health Department in Pittsburg. She has two sons, Gabe and Max.

Tony Fuemmeler, f'99, is an artist who specializes in masks, puppetry and theatre arts. He created the collaborative mask installation "A

Universal Feeling," recently on display at the Ink People Center for the Arts in Eureka, California. Tony lives in Blue Lake, California.

William "Butch" Graham, g'99, a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army, in July was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He assumed the duties in September.

Kyllene "Kelly" Jones, e'99, is president and co-CEO of Lighting Design Alliance, an architectural lighting design firm based in Long Beach, California.

Jan Guidry Lacina, PhD'99, is senior associate dean for research, graduate studies and strategic partnerships in the college of education at Texas Christian University, where she is also the Bezos Family Foundation endowed chair for early childhood education.

Matthew Snyder, m'99, is a neuropathologist with Aurora Health Care in Wisconsin.

Judson Stanion, c'99, g'00, is managing director in capital markets at Academy Bank in Kansas City.

2000 James Grogan, l'00, a restructuring and bankruptcy attorney, in June joined the law firm Greenberg Traurig as shareholder.

Ryan Munro, a'00, c'00, is a partner at Lake Munro law firm in St. Louis.

The Lifelong Perks of Being a KU Alum.



Thanks to your alum status, you and qualifying family members have opportunities to save on senior living. You may be eligible for exclusive discounts that can help you and your family get the lifestyle and care you deserve.



SENIOR LIVING:

7.5% OFF
monthly fee/basic service rate*



IN-HOME SERVICES:

10% OFF
service rate**



SHORT-TERM STAY:

% DISCOUNTED RATES VARY
by community***

► Call us at **(866) 749-7445** or drop in for a visit and mention University of Kansas to learn more.

For more details, visit brookdale.com/kualumni.

Applicable to all discounts: Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Discounts are available to members and their family members, including spouse, adult children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and corresponding in-law or step adult children. Subject to availability. Discounts cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Further restrictions may apply.

* The Senior Living discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale independent living, assisted living, or memory care community admitting under an executed residency agreement. Discount applies only to the monthly fee/basic service rate, excluding care costs and other fees and is calculated based on the initial monthly fee/basic service rate.

** The In-Home Services discount is only applicable to new clients of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.

*** A Short-Term Stay discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate.



SUMNER ONE

Welcome to the one place where everything works.

Imagine if technology got out of the way of your success.

SumnerOne is a managed service company that makes your document, print, and information technology work together seamlessly.

When you work with us, your team is able to collaborate, create, discuss, and share freely. We bring your biggest ideas to life in print.

No matter what your business needs, we've got you covered.

Proudly Partnered With:



Services

Production Print Solutions

Large Format
Printers & Scanners

Managed Print Services

Managed Voice Services

Enterprise Content
Management

Multifunction
Printers & Scanners

Workgroup
Printers & Scanners

Mailing Solutions

Contact a SumnerOne representative today at 913.599.0299 or info@sumnerone.com.

2001 Mandi Chace, c'01, is a stormwater program administrator for the city of Lawrence.

Gabe Clements, g'01, DPT'08, in May was named CEO of Lee's Summit Medical Center in Missouri.

Tansy Brooks Hayward, c'01, g'03, is Thornton, Colorado, city manager.

Jill Bachman Kenney, l'01, is a municipal court judge for the city of Olathe.

Trish Ward, c'01, in August was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization. Trish is retired as a lead project manager at Lumen Technologies.

2002 Ashley Crosby Davidson, g'02, in September was named senior vice president and chief marketing officer at Black & Veatch.

Tabitha Reavis Gibson, g'02, is senior vice president of permanency services at The Family Initiative, a child welfare agency.

Zachary Leacox, g'02, l'02, is an attorney at Norden Leacox Accident & Injury Law, which has five offices in central Florida.

Matthew Porubsky, c'02, wrote *Stand in Old Light*, his sixth book of poetry, published in August. He lives in Lawrence and is a copywriter for KU Marketing.

Nathan Rodriguez, c'02, g'10, PhD'15, is associate professor of communication at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

Sarai Interiano Tobon, c'02, is a human resources business partner at Koch. She

and her husband, Fabio, live in Wichita and have two children, Joaquin and Brielle.

Nicole Clark Van Denabeele, b'02, g'04, in September was promoted to chief financial officer at National Bank Holdings Corp.

2003 Maria Lara-Ojeda, g'03, is San Pablo, California, assistant city manager.

Jonathan Ng, c'03, j'03, is a foreign service attorney with the U.S. Agency for International Development. He is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ana Nixon, g'03, in July was named communications director for Gov. Laura Kelly.

Chris O'Brien, PhD'03, a Cold War historian, in September was named executive director of the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, Maine.

Basil Sherman II, e'03, g'05, is a principal at Pulse Design Group, a Kansas City-based architecture firm.

2004 Denise Guttery, g'04, in September was promoted to assistant executive director of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. She has worked for the organization since 2010.

Melanie Weiser Krugel, c'04, is senior MBA admissions officer at the University of Texas at Austin. She and her husband, Brad, have a daughter, Isabella.

Regan Lemke, c'04, g'06, in October was promoted to chief practice strategy officer and chief of staff at the law firm Polsinelli.

Lauren Sturm Marinaro, l'04, is a partner at Fink Ros-

ner Ershow-Levenberg Marinaro, an elder and disability law firm in Clark, New Jersey.

2005 Tadd Blair, c'05, l'08, is an associate business litigation attorney at Gunster Yoakley & Stewart in the law firm's Jacksonville, Florida, office.

David Burkhart, e'05, is CEO of Kansas City-based Garney Construction, where he has worked since 2005.

Andrew Crouch, c'05, is chief fiduciary officer at Byline Bank in Chicago.

Sam Hopkins, c'05, is senior adviser at Mind Over Machines, a data and software consultancy based in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Jose Interiano, c'05, is an attorney with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office in New York. He and his wife, Lea, have a daughter, Valentina.

Maya Davis Israel, g'05, PhD'09, is associate professor of educational technology and computer science education at the University of Florida.

J. Matthew Leavitt, c'05, j'05, l'09, is a partner at Hulinick, Stang, Gering & Leavitt, a criminal defense law firm in Wichita.

2006 Chris Beal, c'06, g'23, is a clinician at Johnson County Mental Health Center in Mission.

Mikki Brock, c'06, is professor of history at Washington and Lee University in Virginia, where she has been on the faculty since 2014.

Jack Cauley, g'06, is Castle Rock, Colorado, police chief.

Joel Leader, d'06, is director of principal preparation programs and an assistant professor in the department

of teacher and administrator preparation at the University of Texas at Arlington. He and his husband, Brad Grant, live in Frisco.

Marisol Romero, c'06, is events manager at Hope House, which provides services to those impacted by domestic violence in eastern Jackson County, Missouri.

Lyndsay Rush Sanders, c'06, is a humor writer and co-founder of the branding agency Obedient. Her debut poetry collection, *A Bit Much*, was published in September. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and son.

Born to:

Weston Rockers, b'06, and his wife, Kelly, daughter, Penelope "Poppy," Dec. 14, 2023. Weston is a principal at Polsinelli, based in the law firm's Dallas office.

2007 Dan Dakhil, d'07, in August was promoted to Wichita market president at CrossFirst Bank, where he has worked since 2010.

Dan Partridge, g'07, in July was elected to the board of directors of the Kansas Health Institute. He retired in 2023 as director of the Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department.

Taylor Schreiner, c'07, teaches in the Turner school district in Kansas City.

Stephanie Tijerina, g'07, in August was named chief operating officer at HCA Florida Northside Hospital in St. Petersburg.

2008 Eric Elsinghorst, g'08, h'17, is chair of the clinical laboratory sciences department at KU Medical Center.

The Perfect Gift, For Less!



Save \$10
on KU orders \$160+

Code: KUAASave10



SHOP TODAY!

diplomaframe.com/KUAA

A portion of all proceeds goes to support
The University of Kansas AA.

Officially Licensed,
USA-Made Frames by

Church Hill Classics
diplomaframe.com™

Milagros Figueroa-Tetuan, g'08, g'15, is a technical project manager at Guidant Measurement. She lives in Merriam with her husband and daughter.

Sandy Moore, g'08, in July was named director of university libraries at Yeshiva University in New York City.

Laura Tate, c'08, is an OB-GYN at The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Topeka.

Tristan Telander, f'08, is an exhibition designer at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Tamisha Grimes Tenorio, g'08, is chief beneficiary services officer at the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development recently named her one of its 2024 "40 Under 40" honorees. The program recognizes young Native Americans for leadership, dedication and contributions to their communities.

2009 Carol Journey Adler, b'09, is an account executive at Apple in New York City. She and her husband, Jonathan, have two sons, Cameron, 5, and Micah, 1. The family lives in Scarsdale, New York.

Sara Adkins Asher, g'09, teaches social studies at Bishop Seabury Academy in Lawrence. She was recently among 51 teachers nationwide selected by the U.S. Institute of Peace to participate in its Peace Teachers program. Sara lives in Lawrence with her husband, Jaron, and their 16-year-old twins.

Joe DeLissio, d'09, is senior

director of partner strategy at Elevate, a consulting firm that works with sports and entertainment organizations.

Patrick Housby, c'09, lives in Salem, Oregon, where he is assistant winemaker at Zenith Vineyard.

Sean Pederson, c'09, is deputy county administrator for Douglas County.

2010 Adam Brewer, g'10, PhD'13, received the 2024 Provost's Teaching Award from Western Connecticut State University, where he is professor of educational psychology.

Allison Chase, c'10, a makeup and costume artist, partnered with Paramount Pictures to create a 7-foot costume of the Transformer Bumblebee for the U.S. premiere of the movie "Transformers One." Bumblebee walked the red carpet at the Sept. 17 event in New York City. Allison lives in Orlando, Florida.

2011 Katy Cortese Bisanti, u'11, teaches elementary music and high school choir at Pacelli Catholic Schools in Austin, Minnesota. She is a founding member of the Hometown Opera Company in Rochester.

Lily Boyce, c'11, is a graphics editor at The New York Times.

Danielle White Dulin, g'11, in August was appointed Manhattan city manager.

Alberto Gonzalez, f'11, is a New York City Housing Court judge.

Kevin Gremmelsbacher, g'11, is a project manager at Hastings+Chivetta Architects in St. Louis.

Jordan Jacobson, a'11, is a creative director at The New York Times.

2012 David Elliott, j'12, news director at KRSL Russell Radio, in July received the Community Impact Award from the city of Russell.

Chris Fields, c'12, is an economic development and member relations specialist for the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance in South Dakota.

Guy Foster, g'12, is a supervisory hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's New York Water Science Center.

Andrew Jones, h'12, is a clinical assistant professor in the clinical laboratory sciences department at KU Medical Center.

Francis Park, PhD'12, a colonel in the U.S. Army and military strategist, retired in June as director of the U.S. Army War College's basic strategic art program. He was on active duty for 30 years and was the first recipient of the Army Strategist Association's Order of Saint Gabriel gold medallion for lifetime achievement. **Eric Hartunian**, PhD'19, succeeded Francis as director.

Brian Steele, g'12, EdD'21, is associate dean for admissions at the University of Georgia school of medicine. He and his wife, **Katelyn Carr Steele**, p'14, PharmD'14, have two children, Graham and Brooke.

Married:

Jacob Estes, c'12, and Junmo Cho, April 3 in Belleville, Illinois. The couple lives in Lenexa. Jacob is a program specialist at the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, and Junmo is a veterinarian.

2013 Hayley Budden, j'13, is director of field marketing for Saint James Iced Tea.

Brooke Taylor Fischer, j'13, is a development officer for the School of Medicine at KU Endowment.

Tyler Shriver, c'13, practices family medicine at Hanover Hospital in Hanover.

Married:

Abby Montgomery, c'13, and Nick Ellingson, May 11 in Duluth, Minnesota.

Born to:

Tyler, c'13, m'17, and **Laura Prohaska Darland**, p'15, PharmD'15, son, Damian, Dec. 18, 2023. Tyler practices family medicine at Amberwell Health in Atchison, and Laura is a pharmacist at The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

2014 Mala Alahmadi, e'14, leads the social value advisory group in the Middle East region for Jacobs, a global engineering, environmental and technology consulting firm.

Caitlin Doornbos, j'14, covers politics and federal government for the New York Post. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Kenny Enriquez, c'14, in July was promoted to vice president of U.S. fragrance sales at Bell Flavors & Fragrances.

Matt Giunta, e'14, is a marketing manager at SOR Controls Group, which designs and manufactures measurement and control devices.

Cole McGregor, c'14, m'18, is an orthopedic surgeon at OrthoKansas in Lawrence.

Laila Tawfik, c'14, is an optometrist with Optometric Physicians of Middle Tennessee. She lives in Nashville.

Gifts to the Presidents Club are more than a donation

It's an investment in the continued excellence and legacy of the University of Kansas.

Your annual Presidents Club gifts of \$1,000 will make a lasting impact by directly contributing to the following key areas:



Jayhawk Career Network:

Empowering alumni and students at every stage of their professional journeys.



Global Connections: Expanding your network with fellow Jayhawks across Kansas, the nation and the world.



Investing in Future Leaders:

Strengthening ties with tomorrow's alumni through the Student Alumni Network.



Advocacy for KU: Amplifying the University's voice through informed legislative advocacy.



For more information, contact Angie Storey:

angiestorey@kualumni.org

kualumni.org/presidents-club



Ryan Xiao, c'14, c'14, is an orthopedic surgeon at OrthoKansas in Lawrence.

2015 Eddie Glenn, PhD'15, is assistant professor of media communication at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Anna Boyd Shook, p'15, PharmD'17, is assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and director of the university's pharmacy residency program at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames.

2016 Brennan Keller, d'16, is associate director of donor relations at Child Bridge, a Montana-based

nonprofit that works with foster children and families.

Gabrielle Munoz, c'16, is a protection order project coordinator for the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Bianca Sisillo-DeFries, c'16, is founder and owner of Inspired Play Cafe in Overland Park, which offers an educational play environment for children alongside a full-service cafe.

Thomas Visel, g'16, in June joined the research staff at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, Virginia.

2017 Elizabeth Anstine, g'17, in September was named the 2025 Kansas Teacher of the Year. She teaches business

marketing, entrepreneurship and finance courses at Leavenworth High School.

Cassie Caedo, n'17, DNP'23, is a nurse-midwife at Bothwell OB/GYN Associates in Sedalia, Missouri.

Elizabeth Mitchell, b'17, is a dentist at Love Dentistry in Wichita.

Ryan Moog, g'17, is head of life sciences solutions at Datavant, a health care data platform.

Raul Picazo, b'17, is a senior account executive at Worldwide Express, a logistics company.

Wade Reed, g'17, in July was promoted to colonel in the Army National Guard. He commands the Tennessee Na-

tional Guard's 117th Regional Training Institute in Smyrna and is a regional director of operations at Southern Orthodontic Partners.

Anna Herrick Supalla, b'17, m'21, is a physician with Olathe Health Family Medicine and practices at its Louisburg and Osawatomie locations.

Haley Wiaz, j'17, is group director for digital media at Scale Marketing in Chicago.

Berkleigh Wright, j'17, a former Rock Chalk Dancer, modeled for the 2024 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue. She is a professional model, Denver Broncos cheerleader and account manager at the technology company Oracle.



DRIVE **YOUR**  **PRIDE**

When you put the official KU license plate on your car, you help support the Jayhawk Career Network and academic excellence.

Help us enhance visibility for the University by creating rolling billboards!

There's no better way to show your Crimson and Blue pride on the open road than by displaying a KU license plate on your car.

License plates are currently available in Kansas, Oklahoma, Maryland and Texas. [Visit **kualumni.org/license**](http://kualumni.org/license) for application forms.



[**kualumni.org/license**](http://kualumni.org/license)



Since the Jayhawk Career Network launched in 2018, more than **14,000** students, alumni and other users have signed up to participate through **KU Mentoring+**



KU MENTORING+

Networking+Opportunity+Community

One Jayhawk connection can change your world!

Opportunities include:

KU MENTORING+

- An online networking platform that connects students to alumni and alumni to alumni for career advice and advancement. The platform is easy to use and connections can be formed online. To join the KU Mentoring+ platform, sign up at mentoring.ku.edu.

CAREER NETWORKING

- Online and in-person events for both students and alumni including our signature **Mocktails & Mingle** events in the Jayhawk Welcome Center.
- Employment opportunities for students through University partnerships at hirejayhawks.com and for alumni through the KU Mentoring+ platform.

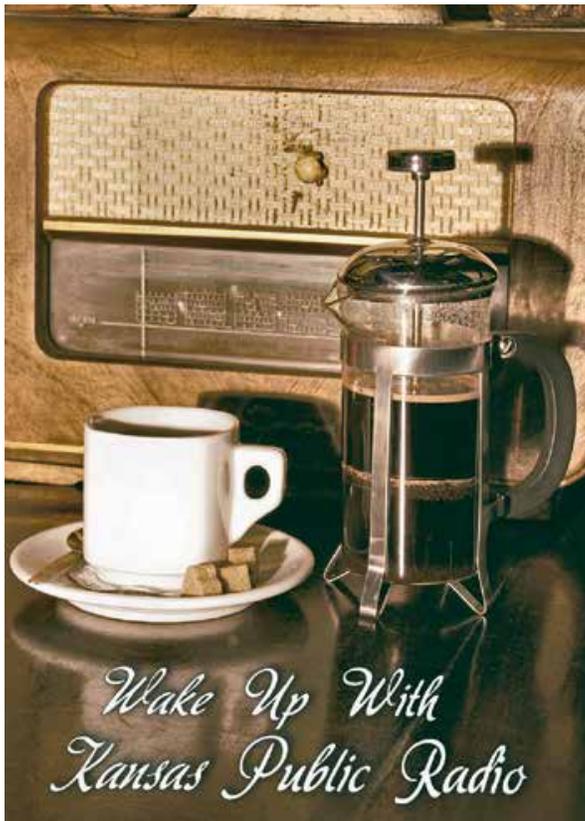
AFFINITY NETWORKS

- Our affinity networks connect Jayhawks who share identities, experiences and interests. These networks allow you to build and sustain community through the KU Alumni Association in ways that are unique to you.



Powered by
TRUITY
CREDIT UNION

kualumni.org/jayhawk-career-network



Lawrence **91.5 FM**
96.1 FM Lawrence
 Emporia **89.7 FM**
91.3 FM Junction City
 Manhattan **97.9 FM**
99.5 FM Manhattan
 Atchison **89.9 FM**
90.3 FM Chanute



2018 Caroline Fiss, a'18, is a fashion and commercial photographer based in New York City. Her work has appeared in *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*, and she has photographed for brands such as Givenchy Beauty and Isaac Mizrahi.

Melissa Precht, g'18, is a radiation oncology ambassador with The University of Kansas Health System. She and her husband, Mike, live in Lansing.

Kyle Sagendorph, j'18, manages digital content for USA Swimming. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jordan Willis, m'18, is an orthopedic surgeon at the OrthoKansas clinic at Newman Regional Health in Emporia.

2019 Robert Armstrong Jr., d'19, is an estate planning attorney at Oath Law in Kansas City.

Abby Berkery, d'19, manages corporate partnerships for the Los Angeles Chargers.

Nikhil Biju, e'19, g'23, is a staff application engineer at Gamma Technologies, an engineering software company in Westmont, Illinois.

Rachel Windham Gonzales, j'19, is an associate attorney at Foulston Siefkin in the law firm's Kansas City office.

Jose Montoya, d'19, j'19, is an assistant athletic director at Eastern New Mexico University.

Christina Peterson, m'19, is a urologist at The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Topeka.

Jannet Rios, g'19, supervises the Basic Needs Center at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California.

Bryan Sandoval, b'19, g'20, is a finance manager at Huhtamaki, a food packaging company.

2020 Aseret Bertram Grant, j'20, is director of communications and graphic design at Mercy High School in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sierra Franklin-Morton, c'20, is assistant director of the Wichita-based Tallgrass Film Association.

Michael Ponce, c'20, is a regional director at NuMedica, a nutritional supplements company.

Truman Solverud, g'20, is director of alternative

learning at Clayton High School in St. Louis, where he lives with his wife, Donna, and their Labrador retriever, Lila. They have three adult children and three grandsons.

Ingrid Yew, d'20, g'23, g'23, teaches kindergarten at Sunset Hill Elementary School in Lawrence. In August she was voted by the Lawrence community as the city's No. 1 K-5 teacher in the annual "Best of Lawrence" competition.

2021 Shaye Maetzold Anderson, l'21, in July joined Holland & Hart as a real estate associate in the law firm's Denver office.

Emma Greenwood, j'21, is a social media analyst at Hill's Pet Nutrition. She lives in Olathe.

Maci Hicks, m'21, is a family physician at Heartland Health Care Clinic in Abilene. She and her husband, Michael Poland, have a son, Myer.

Ethan Wagoner, g'21, teaches band at Derby Middle School.

Elizabeth Wolfe-Meyer, m'21, practices family medicine at The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Valley Falls.

2022 Christopher Arrington, e'22, is a manufacturing engineer at Boeing.

Chris Brown, PhD'22, in July was named associate commissioner for governance and compliance for the Mountain West collegiate athletic conference.

Tom Davoren, DMA'22, is assistant professor and director of bands and instrumental music at Benedictine College in Atchison.

Keegan Hewitt, j'22, is sports director at News 9 WAOW in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Alyssa Jones, a'22, b'22, is a marketing manager at Mission Critical Electronics.

Andrew Lind, j'22, is a sports reporter and weekend sports anchor at KOTA Territory News in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Nolan Sagan, g'22, is sustainability coordinator for the city of Ames, Iowa.

2023 Audrey Hanna, j'23, an artist and graphic designer, founded the home decor brand Auds & Ends. She lives in Dallas.

SK Reed, g'23, is an artist, curator of Beco Gallery in Kansas City, and lecturer at the Kansas City Art Institute.

Alex Ruhland, e'23, is a facility engineer at Lifecore Biomedical.

Jeffrey Weinell, PhD'23, is an evolutionary biologist and postdoctoral fellow at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

2024 Roger Booker Jr., PhD'24, is assistant professor of instruction in the department of history at Texas State University.

Julia Carter, l'24, is an assistant district attorney with the Queens District Attorney's Office in New York.

Elson Core, g'24, is an operations geologist at Chevron.

Lauri Goheen, g'24, is a therapist at Pawnee Mental Health, which serves 10 counties in north-central Kansas.

Emily Green, b'24, c'24, is a business technology solutions

analyst at Deloitte Consulting.

Molly Heitz, j'24, is a digital account executive at Steel City Media in Kansas City.

Andrew Lensmeyer, d'24, teaches sixth grade English language arts at Merriam Park Elementary School in Merriam.

Joshua Martin, b'24, is a sales development representative at AlphaSense, an AI-powered market intelligence platform. He lives in New York City.

Jessica Mzhickteno, e'24, is an air quality specialist at Providence, an engineering and environmental consulting firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Makaela Stevens, l'24, in August joined Hinkle Law Firm as an associate attorney in its Wichita office.

Timothy Sullivan, c'24, e'24, is a student naval flight officer in the U.S. Navy.

Aaron Thomas, c'24, is founder and CEO of GearBrokers, an electronics retailer in Kansas City.

Elizabeth Walters, j'24, is a marketing analyst at Kimley-Horn, a planning and design consulting firm.

Jeremy Wegiel, e'24, is a design certification engineer at Garmin in Olathe.

ASSOCIATES

Ann Brill, assoc., dean of the School of Journalism, was honored as the 2024 Administrator of the Year by the Scripps Howard Fund and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

JAYHAWK BUSINESS DIRECTORY

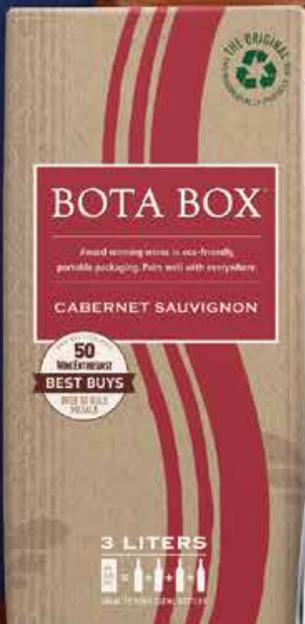


If you are a Jayhawk who owns or leads a business, list your company in the Jayhawk Business Directory and gain exposure to the worldwide network of Jayhawks!

Visit kualumni.org/jayhawk-business-directory

kualumni.org/jayhawk-business-directory

PROUD PARTNER OF KANSAS ATHLETICS



1940s Betty Jo Everly Davis, c'45, Overland Park, 99, May 5. Betty Jo was a realtor and later worked at Baker University. Her husband, Bill, preceded her in death.

Bud Hinkle, b'49, Overland Park, 101, June 9. Bud, a U.S. Army veteran, was an executive at Interstate Bakeries Corp. His wife, Margaret Herschberger Hinkle, '53, preceded him in death.

Ralph Martin, b'49, g'70, Brenham, Texas, 98, July 2. Ralph was an insurance broker and city manager. His wife, Toni Spaun Martin, '69, preceded him in death.

Rosalie Mayer Remley, g'47, Denton, Texas, 99, April 6. Rosalie was a teacher and hospital volunteer. Her husband, William, c'41, preceded her in death.

Dorothy Hendrikson Thorman, d'41, Altadena, California, 103, Jan. 4, 2024. Dorothy was a music teacher. Her husband, Carl, preceded her in death.

1950s Jane Underwood Baker, d'55, Lawrence, 90, Feb. 16, 2024. Her husband, David, c'55, preceded her in death.

Richard Bucher, c'53, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, 93, Aug. 8. Richard, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was an executive in the chemical industry. He is survived by his wife, Alice Kauer Bucher, '56.

Marilyn Groom Chamberlin, n'54, Lawrence, 93, June 7. Marilyn was a nurse at Lawrence Memorial Hospital for many years. Her husband, Vernon, g'53, PhD'57, preceded her in death.

Dorothea Crawford Clark, b'54, Hewitt, Texas, 103, Jan. 4, 2024. Dorothea served in

the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II. Her husband, George, preceded her in death.

John Dealy, e'58, Westmount, Quebec, 86, Jan. 15, 2024. John was professor emeritus of chemical engineering at McGill University. His first wife, Jacqueline, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Andrea Deardorff Dealy, '58.

Gary Dierking, f'58, Council Grove, 88, April 8. Gary was a publications artist for the Cooperative Extension at K-State and later curator of the First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site in Fort Riley.

Ann Harrison Durham, d'58, g'68, Boise, Idaho, 88, July 9. Ann taught high school art for over 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Gene, '61.

Kenneth Esau, p'57, Overland Park, 89, Aug. 17. Ken was a pharmacist. His wife, Nancy, preceded him in death.

Albert Gardner, c'59, Cottage Grove, Oregon, 87, Oct. 15, 2023. Al worked in the oil industry and was later a teacher and coach. His wife, Barbara, preceded him in death.

Jacob "Jack" Goble, e'58, Enon, Ohio, 89, March 29. Jack was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and retired as lieutenant colonel. His wife, Cornelia "Toni" Barnes Goble, c'60, preceded him in death.

Duane Hirsch, b'52, l'57, Bellevue, Washington, 93, Feb. 25, 2024. Duane, a U.S. Army veteran, worked at Boeing for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

Fred Kauffman Jr., b'57, Lakewood, Colorado, 94, Sept. 14. Fred worked in the electrical industry in Denver. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Cool Kauffman, d'52.

Forrest "Skip" Kendall Jr., c'59, m'63, Overland Park, 86, April 23. Skip, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was an ear, nose and throat physician. His wife, Nancy Gilliland Kendall, d'60, preceded him in death.

Michael Kenney, '59, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 88, Oct. 10, 2023. Michael was president of the Florida 4-H Foundation for many years. He is survived by his wife, Tracey.

Anne Longworth Kruger, c'53, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 92, Feb. 10, 2024. Anne was an environmental scientist and consultant. Her husband, Leo, PhD'55, preceded her in death.

John MacCormack, e'53, Lenexa, 92, Feb. 24, 2024. His wife, Jewell, preceded him in death.

Geneva Briggs MacMillan, n'57, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, 87, June 23. Geneva was a nurse and worked in VA hospitals for many years.

Nolin Masih, g'53, PhD'89, St. Paul, Minnesota, 95, Aug. 24. Nolin, a U.S. Army veteran, was on the economics faculty at St. Cloud State University for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie.

Gordon Maxwell, c'52, m'55, Salina, 94, March 10. Gordon practiced medicine for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Westhoff Maxwell, n'55, g'85.

Edward Miller, b'55, Iola, 91, Jan. 20, 2024. Ed served in the U.S. Navy and later managed his family's business, H.L. Miller and Son, a dress factory in Iola. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

Anna Wilson Mills, c'58, Wichita, 86, Jan. 19, 2024. Anna was a longtime community volunteer. Her husband, Belden, c'56, g'61, preceded her in death.

J. Harold Morris Jr., c'52, m'56, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 93, Feb. 28, 2024. Harold was a U.S. Navy veteran, physician and professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann.

Lawrence Perry Jr., m'59, Overland Park, 89, Oct. 21, 2023. Larry served in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps and was a family physician. He is survived by his wife, Gerry.

Marilyn Thompson Ritchie, '52, Wichita, 93, Jan. 15, 2024. Her husband, Dave, b'50, preceded her in death.

Ronald Salyer, c'56, Hutchinson, 88, Aug. 14, 2023. Ron was a U.S. Navy intelligence officer and later an investment broker. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Thomas Schafer, e'57, Houston, 89, Jan. 13, 2024. Tom, a U.S. Army veteran, worked in the energy industry. His first wife, Sandra, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Linda Carstensen.

Jo Pownall Shawger, c'50, d'53, g'54, Olathe, 92, March 18, 2022. Jo was a teacher and later worked in accounting. Her husband, Steve, preceded her in death.

Richard Siemens, m'59, North Newton, 94, Feb. 3, 2024; and **Frances Siemens**, assoc., North Newton, 91, July 25, 2023. Richard practiced medicine in Lyons for over 40 years. Frances was a teacher.

Theron "Ted" Sills, c'57, m'62, Greeley, Colorado, 87, March 2. Ted, a U.S. Army veteran, practiced psychiatry for over 50 years. His wife, Caryl Dillon Sills, d'58, preceded him in death.

Delores Wunsch Stevens, f'52, Pacific Palisades, California, 94, March 7. Delores was a

renowned solo and chamber pianist and music educator. Her husband, James, survives.

Martha Odell Taylor, f'59, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 87, July 1. Martha worked in real estate for many years. Her husband, Jerry, d'54, preceded her in death.

Peter Thompson, e'56, Linwood, 89, April 7. Peter was a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. He is survived by his wife, Ann Jeffries Thompson, c'58.

Virgil Wenger, b'53, Darien, Connecticut, 93, Feb. 12, 2024. Virgil was a consultant and senior partner at Arthur Young. He is survived by his wife, Jo Putney Wenger, c'52.

Richard West, b'58, Wichita, 86, Oct. 31, 2023. Dick worked in corporate finance and was president of West Consulting Group. He is survived by his wife, Alisa.

Marilyn Hafer Zinn, d'57, Topeka, 88, Nov. 30, 2023. Marilyn taught kindergarten and Sunday school. She is survived by her husband, James.

1960s Harold Ackerman, g'67, Berwick, Pennsylvania, 81, April 6. Harold taught at Bloomsburg University for over 20 years. His wife, Jane Archer Ackerman, '66, survives.

David All, l'65, Lawrence, 83, Nov. 9, 2023. David was Augusta city attorney for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla Osborn All, '65.

Dale Atkinson, e'61, Mooresville, North Carolina, 88, Nov. 19, 2023. Dale, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a pioneer in aircraft survivability design and worked for the U.S. government for many years. His wife, Caroll, preceded him in death.

Ruth Mawdsley Ayers, d'67, g'86, Ottawa, 78, Jan. 31, 2024. Ruth taught elementary school for nearly 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

Deborah Grinstead Beene, d'65, Lawrence, Jan. 19, 2024. Debbie was a teacher in Lawrence and Eudora. She is survived by her husband, Daryl, b'61.

George Benson III, c'65, Andover, 80, Feb. 7, 2024. George, a U.S. military veteran, was professor of surgery at the University of Texas and later worked for the Food and Drug Administration. His wife, Mary Ruth Lanning Benson, c'66, preceded him in death.

William Bryant, e'62, g'69, Bessemer, Alabama, 84, Feb. 26, 2024. William, a U.S. Navy veteran, was an environmental attorney at Vulcan Materials.

William Cibes Jr., c'65, Hartford, Connecticut, 80, Feb. 15, 2024. Bill served six terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives and was later president of the state's university system. His wife, Peg, preceded him in death.

Jan Collins, c'61, m'65, Portland, Oregon, 84, Oct. 27, 2023. Jan served in the U.S. Navy and later practiced medicine for 30 years. He is survived by his wife, June.

Thomas Collins Sr., c'67, Carmel, Indiana, 79, May 7. Tom served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and worked in information technology. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne.

F. Alan Coombs, c'60, Salt Lake City, 85, Feb. 2, 2024. Alan, a U.S. Navy veteran, was on the history faculty at the University of Utah for 36 years. His wife, Marjorie Williamson Coombs, d'60, preceded him in death.

Wayne Coulter, d'61, Prairie Village, 85, Nov. 4, 2023. Wayne served in the U.S. Marines for 20 years, retiring as a major, and later worked in logistics. His wife, Carole Peltier Coulter, c'61, g'95, survives.

Lauralie Harriman DePriest, c'65, Martinez, California, 80, Oct. 16, 2023.

Larry Ehrlich, c'61, g'62, Westwood Hills, 84, Oct. 24, 2023. Larry was a professor in the communication department at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Bob Gilbert, f'62, West Lafayette, Indiana, 87, Feb. 15, 2024. Bob was an occupational therapist and served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Medical Corps. His wife, Patricia Hanger Gilbert, '58, preceded him in death.

Edwin Hammer, g'66, Dallas, 90, Nov. 23, 2023. Edwin, a U.S. Army veteran, was a counselor and clinical professor of pediatrics at Texas Tech University.

Cornelius "Connie" Hoffmans, g'62, Henderson, Nevada, 91, Feb. 7, 2024. Connie, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked in production and manufacturing management. His wife, Sharron Dye Hoffmans, b'58, preceded him in death.

William Huls, d'65, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 79, May 9, 2023. Bill was a high school teacher and coach. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

Michael Johnston, e'60, Gladstone, New Jersey, 85, Jan. 30, 2024. Mike served in the U.S. Army and later worked in finance. His wife, Mary Bennett Johnston, f'61, preceded him in death.

Gail Eberhardt Johnstone, c'63, Olathe, 82, Nov. 30, 2023. Gail was director of planning for Buffalo, New York, and later led the Community Founda-

tion for Greater Buffalo. Her husband, D. Bruce, survives.

Francis Kearny III, b'65, Neenah, Wisconsin, 80, April 24. Frank served in the U.S. Coast Guard and was co-founder of Banner Packaging. He is survived by his wife, Kim.

D. Clark Lacy, g'64, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 86, April 11. Clark taught anthropology and sociology at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Lajuana.

Philip Lunt, c'60, l'64, Garden Plain, 86, Feb. 17, 2024. Philip was an attorney and later taught in the Wichita school district. He is survived by his wife, Rose Ann.

Edward Markel, e'62, Pretty Prairie, 83, March 29. Ed was president of Master Machine Tools. His wife, Judy, preceded him in death.

H. Edward Martin, c'65, Overland Park, 80, Jan. 1, 2024. Ed, a dentist, served in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps and later practiced in Overland Park for 40 years. His wife, Judith Lister Martin, c'65, survives.

Fred Morrison, c'61, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 84, Aug. 16. Fred was professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, where he was on the law faculty for over 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte.

Mary Sloan Mozingo, c'63, Lawrence, 82, April 14. Mary was a realtor and later worked for the Social Security Administration.

Steve Olsen, c'68, g'70, Denver, 78, March 14. Steve worked for FEMA for many years. His wife, Nancee Coard Olsen, d'68, preceded him in death.

Howard Pankratz Jr., j'67, Lakewood, Colorado, 78, Nov. 2, 2023. Howard was the long-

time legal affairs writer at The Denver Post, where he worked for over 40 years. He is survived by his partner, Peggy Marlow.

Dennis Park, b'61, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 85, Dec. 1, 2023. Dennis worked at Cessna and was later treasurer at Industrial Vehicles International. He is survived by his wife, Anne.

Linda Bahr Rawlings, d'66, San Luis Obispo, California, 79, March 31. Linda was a teacher and later a therapist. Her husband, Roy, c'67, preceded her in death.

Norma Spresser Reeves, c'60, Augusta, 85, Feb. 2, 2024. Norma was a physical therapist. Her husband, James, a'65, preceded her in death.

Harold Riechers, g'66, Edmond, Oklahoma, 88, April 4. Harold was an engineer and worked for Conoco for over 25 years. His first wife, Ruth, preceded him in death. His second wife, Donna, survives.

Clifford "Joe" Robertson, c'62, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 84, Aug. 23, 2023. Joe was an attorney and later managed a credit union. His wife, Pat Selim Robertson, '64, survives.

Edward Robertson, c'68, m'76, Olathe, 77, Dec. 8, 2023. Ed was an anesthesiologist. His wife, Margery Golden Robertson, c'68, g'70, survives.

Steven Rospopo, f'67, Mishawaka, Indiana, 81, March 25. Steven was a designer.

Carroll Rucker, d'69, Kansas City, 76, Oct. 5, 2023. Carroll was a teacher.

Joyce Tobiasen Schwartz, c'62, g'65, Kansas City, 83, March 11. Joyce was a psychologist. Her husband, Larry, b'59, preceded her in death.

George Skladal, g'67, Anchorage, Alaska, 91, June 25. George, a U.S. Army veteran,

was an attorney and worked in the energy industry. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Gallo Skladal, '67.

Sylvia Herbert Steinshouer, p'66, Wichita, 80, Jan. 4, 2024. Sylvia was a pharmacist and, with her late husband, Darrel, p'65, l'68, owned Ken-Mar Family Drugs in Wichita for over 40 years.

James Stevens, j'63, Evergreen, Colorado, 82, Nov. 21, 2023. Jimmy owned Jimmy Lee's Hot Dogs and Tamales in Kittredge, Colorado, for 25 years.

John Suder, b'60, g'61, Lawrence, 85, Feb. 7, 2024. John, a former KU football player, worked in financial planning and insurance sales. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

Rodger Taylor, c'69, Leawood, 77, Jan. 24, 2024. Rod was a restaurant industry executive and later a financial adviser. His first wife, Patricia Berkley Taylor, '69, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Linda.

Judith Lesch Thierolf, '61, Beloit, 84, Jan. 19, 2024. Judy was an artist and school secretary. Her husband, Judd, '59, preceded her in death.

Morrison "Tom" Thomas Jr., b'61, Puyallup, Washington, 84, Feb. 15, 2024. Tom worked at the Kirk Co. for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Beth.

Denise Storck Troyer, c'64, c'65, Lake Jackson, Texas, 80, Oct. 17, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Glen.

Lily Feng Weinshilbom, g'62, Rochester, Minnesota, 86, June 13, 2023. Lily was a medical researcher, anatomy teacher, painter and calligrapher. She is survived by her husband, Richard, c'62, m'67.

Kay Miller Wertzberger, c'60, f'86, Lawrence, 85, March

22. Kay was a physical therapist and later an interior designer and realtor.

W. Robert Wisman, m'65, Roanoke, Virginia, 94, Oct. 29, 2023. Bob was an OB-GYN.

Douglas Young, p'65, m'71, Park Hill, Oklahoma, 82, July 5. Doug, a U.S. Air Force veteran, practiced medicine for over 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Sharilyn.

Richard Zinn, l'66, Lawrence, 82, Oct. 19, 2023. Dick practiced law for over 50 years and served on the boards of several local organizations. He is survived by his wife, Diane.

1970s R. Kent Allingham, b'78, Lake Mary, Florida, 67, Dec. 22, 2023. Kent was a CPA and worked at Verizon for 30 years. His wife, Jane La Gree Allingham, c'77, l'80, survives.

Harriet Gray Bell, d'72, g'78, Weatherby Lake, Missouri, 84, Feb. 9, 2024. Harriet was an elementary and middle school teacher. Her husband, Jerry, preceded her in death.

Ralph "Steve" Bonner, c'75, Naperville, Illinois, 79, Sept. 27, 2023. Steve, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at Mobil Pipeline Co. for 30 years. His wife, Sonya Bristow Bonner, g'73, survives.

Brenda Brown, d'72, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, 79, Sept. 6. Brenda was a teacher for 30 years.

Marcy Campbell, d'77, j'77, West Des Moines, Iowa, 69, May 28. Marcy was a teacher and photographer, and later served as a Presbyterian minister for over 30 years. Her wife, Peri Van Tassel, survives.

Jerry Cormack, d'73, g'77, Kansas City, 77, Aug. 18. Jerry, a U.S. Navy veteran, taught high school English and social studies. His wife, Sandy Brown

Cormack, '80, survives.

Donald Crowe, c'76, Lawrence, 74, Sept. 19. Don was a lieutenant with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. He is survived by his wife, Karen Seiwald Crowe, d'76, g'79.

John Dooner, m'79, Toledo, Ohio, 69, Dec. 20, 2023. John was an anesthesiologist. He is survived by his wife, Marja.

Cathy Blosser Finger, c'75, Jackson, Tennessee, 72, Aug. 30, 2023. Cathy was an acquisitions specialist at the Lambuth University library. She is survived by her husband, James.

James Galle, a'76, g'96, Overland Park, 71, Jan. 5, 2024. Jim was an architect and led several large projects in the Kansas City area, including the Kansas Speedway. He is survived by his wife, Diane.

Elizabeth Wilson Gildea, f'71, Ankeny, Iowa, 75, April 10. Elizabeth worked for the Social Security Administration for 47 years. Her husband, Jim, preceded her in death.

Ann Huycke, c'77, m'80, Boise, Idaho, 68, Jan. 14, 2023. Ann practiced medicine for over 25 years.

Daniel Kass, d'73, g'83, Mission, 73, Feb. 25, 2024. Dan was an entrepreneur and youth sports coach. He is survived by his partner, Lori Klarfeld.

Patricia Yadon Keefer, b'75, Irving, Texas, 70, Feb. 4, 2024. Pat worked in accounting. She is survived by her husband, Kevin, b'74, g'75.

Kimberley Utter Legler, d'75, West Des Moines, Iowa, 72, April 25. Kim was a horticulturist and floral designer. She is survived by her husband, Stephen, e'76.

Sylvia Waxse Mansfield, n'71, Overland Park, 74, Oct. 14, 2023. Sylvia was a nurse. Her

husband, Charlie, g'78, preceded her in death.

Scott McIntyre, c'79, h'79, Bonner Springs, 67, Nov. 5, 2023. Scott worked in health care administration. He is survived by his wife, Lise.

Patricia O'Brien, d'70, Montgomery Village, Maryland, 75, July 14, 2023. Patricia worked at the World Bank and Deltek, a software company.

Rosemary Kreider O'Tey, d'72, Lawrence, 74, April 3. Rosemary was a teacher. Her husband, Max, preceded her in death.

Michael Randles, c'70, m'74, Rose Hill, 75, Jan. 4, 2024.

Timothy Ricketts, g'73, Ottawa, 75, Jan. 16, 2024. Tim was a music teacher and later pastor at First Baptist Church in Waverly. His wife, Rebecca Scott Ricketts, d'76, survives.

Michael "Mick" Rydquist, h'77, Kansas City, 71, Feb. 26, 2024. Mick was a paramedic for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, g'01.

David Sapp, c'71, Farragut, Tennessee, 74, March 24. David was a restaurant industry executive and later worked in food donation initiatives.

John Schroll, c'73, m'76, Olathe, 72, Feb. 3, 2024. John, a former KU football player, was an OB-GYN and practiced for 30 years. His wife, Valjean Parker Schroll, d'73, survives.

Maurice Shapiro Jr., c'70, Merriam, 80, Dec. 6, 2023. Maurice worked in radiology and was a photographer.

Steven Simon, c'76, St. Louis, 69, Nov. 28, 2023. Steve worked in insurance benefits for over 40 years.

Karen McCain Stewart, d'72, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 73, Dec. 26, 2023. Karen was the medical library coordinator at a Kansas City hospital. Her

husband, Robert, survives.

Walter Wesley, c'79, Fort Myers, Florida, 79, March 28. Walt was a decorated KU men's basketball player and played 10 years in the NBA. He later coached at KU and other universities. He is survived by his wife, Denise.

John Williamson II, e'79, g'81, Flower Mound, Texas, 67, April 3. John co-founded Interactive Sales Solutions, a software development company. His wife, Barbara, survives.

1980s Howard Baldwin, c'82, Kansas City, 73, Feb. 3, 2024. Howard, a U.S. Army veteran, taught English in Costa Rica and Mexico and later worked at Johnson County Mental Health Center.

Lois Plank Capps, g'83, Lawrence, 92, Aug. 28. Lois founded Montessori Children's House in Lawrence. Her husband, Lelon, preceded her in death.

Sandra Kail David, n'81, g'96, Leawood, 89, Sept. 8. Sandra was a nurse and worked in neonatal care with The University of Kansas Health System. Her husband, Wayne, preceded her in death.

Sarah Simpson Dean, g'84, Lawrence, 86, Nov. 2, 2023. Sarah was a founding board member of the Kansas Land Trust. She is survived by her husband, Ray, e'58.

Linda Wheeler McFarlane, c'89, Natchez, Mississippi, 80, Jan. 25, 2024. Linda worked at American Express. She is survived by her husband, Duncan.

Dara Trum Miles, l'87, Boulder, Colorado, 69, Sept. 14. Dara was a journalist and attorney. She is survived by her husband, Robin, l'86.

Martin Pryor, b'83, Darien,

Connecticut, 62, Dec. 2, 2023. Martin was a managing director at Citigroup and other banks. His wife, Megan, survives.

Chris Rhodes, c'87, g'89, Queen Creek, Arizona, 59, Feb. 16, 2024. Chris was a managing partner at Edward Jones. He is survived by his wife, Beth.

1990s Jeffrey Pratt, b'90, Hays, 57, April 5. Jeff worked at Microsoft for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Janssen Pratt, c'91.

Adrian Romero, '95, La Grange Park, Illinois, 53, Jan. 11, 2024. Adrian worked in the electrical industry. He is survived by his wife, Stacy Riordan Romero, c'94.

2000s Marcia Barber, g'04, Shawnee, 47, Nov. 2, 2023.

Marcia worked in telecommunications, most recently as a director at Cisco. She is survived by her husband, Scott, f'07.

Sima Bhakta, c'08, Olathe, 46, June 14. Sima was a nurse case manager with The University of Kansas Health System. She is survived by her husband, Timir, c'00.

Kristen Kuhn Windschelfel, b'08, g'09, Russell, 39, Jan. 6, 2024. Kristen was a CPA and later a financial adviser. She is survived by her husband, Jake, PharmD'08.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

David Griffin, Lawrence, 90, Aug. 13. David, a U.S. Army veteran, was an architect and professor emeritus of architecture at KU, where he taught for 36 years. He is survived by his wife, Gail Harris Griffin, '74.

Don Hall, assoc., Mission Hills, 96, Oct. 13. Don, a noted businessman and philanthro-

pist, was chairman emeritus of the Hall Family Foundation and oversaw numerous transformational gifts to the University that supported cancer research, humanities programs, faculty and more. He received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Alumni Association in 1980. His wife, Adele, preceded him in death.

Ruth Noyce, assoc., Overland Park, 98, Aug. 27. Ruth taught in the School of Education for nearly 20 years. Her husband, John, preceded her in death.

Jeff Reene, 69, Aug. 7. Jeff was chief operating officer at KU Cancer Center for 15 years. During his tenure, the center achieved the prestigious National Cancer Institute designation.

ASSOCIATES

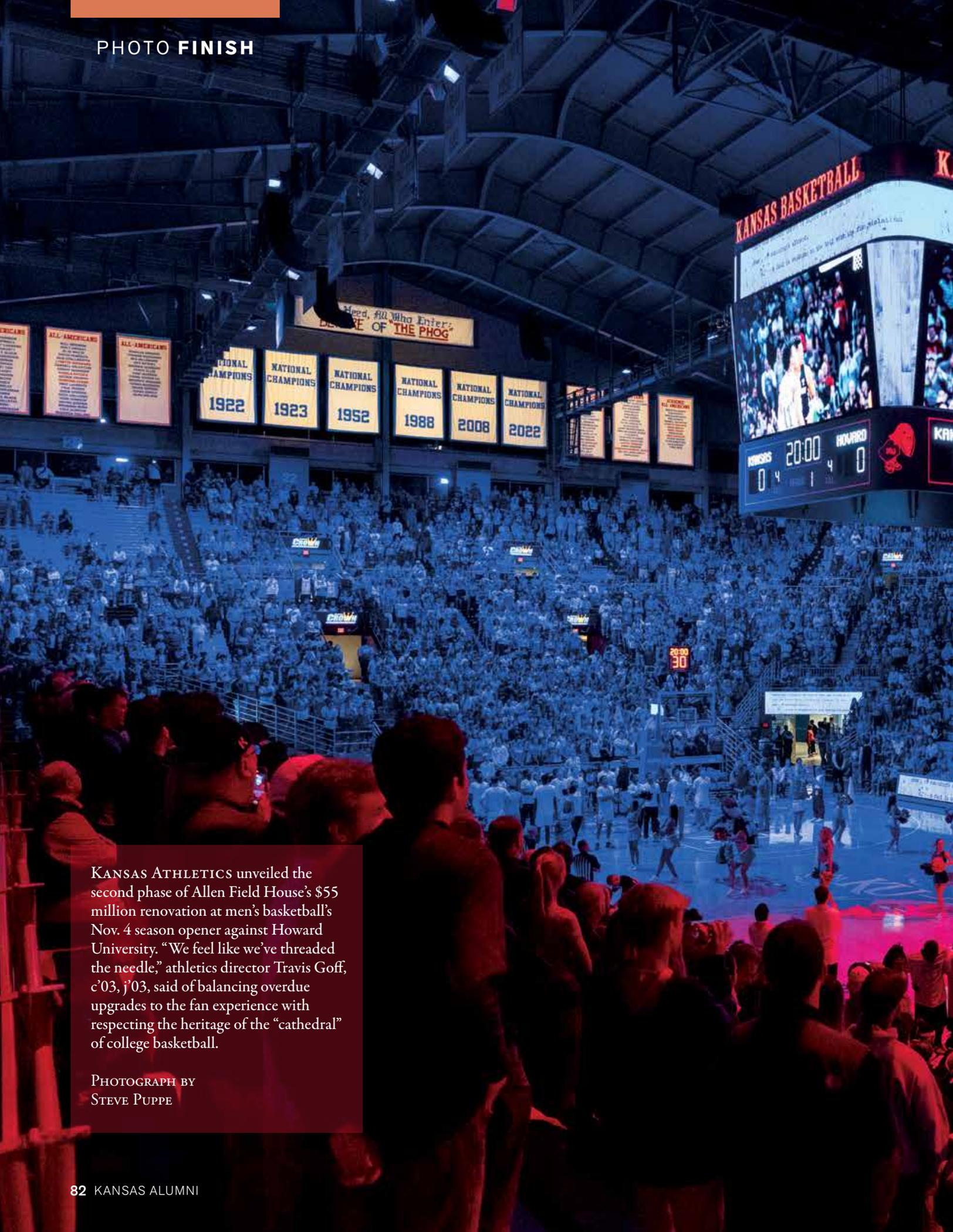
Dick Boerger, assoc., Leawood, 83, Feb. 9, 2024. Dick worked for Southwestern Bell and AT&T. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

Joyce Dryden-Damron, assoc., Topeka, 86, Sept. 26, 2023. Joyce taught elementary school for 40 years. Her husband, William, preceded her in death.

Loretta Logan Martin, assoc., Metairie, Louisiana, 87, June 10, 2023. Loretta was a medical technologist. Her husband, Eddie, preceded her in death.

William Shackelford III, assoc., Prairie Village, 93, Jan. 4, 2024. Bill served in the U.S. Navy and later worked in banking. His wife, Virginia Child Shackelford, c'58, survives.

Joanie Humes Vignatelli, assoc., Lawrence, 90, Oct. 10. Joanie was a paraeducator. Her husband, Gene, d'55, preceded her in death.



KANSAS ATHLETICS unveiled the second phase of Allen Field House's \$55 million renovation at men's basketball's Nov. 4 season opener against Howard University. "We feel like we've threaded the needle," athletics director Travis Goff, c'03, j'03, said of balancing overdue upgrades to the fan experience with respecting the heritage of the "cathedral" of college basketball.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
STEVE PUPPE

KANSAS BASKETBALL



KANSAS 0 4 20:00 HOWARD 0 4
T.O.L. PERIOD T.O.L.

BIG EIGHT CHAMPIONS
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957

BIG SEVEN CHAMPIONS
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957

BIG SIX CHAMPIONS
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957

BIG TEN CHAMPIONS
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957

6:59

20:00
30



TRADITIONS

A century of songs of the season

School of Music celebrates 100th holiday fanfare

JAMES BARNES' memories of *Vespers*, the University's cherished concert to herald the holiday season, begin in 1967, when he played trumpet in the orchestra as a freshman.

As a KU professor of composition and University Bands for 40 years, Barnes recalls decades of *Vespers* in the adored (though acoustically challenged) Hoch Auditorium and at the Lied Center, the far more suitable venue that has hosted the tradition since 1993.

"The only time I thought Hoch was appropriate for a concert was during *Vespers*," says Barnes, f'74, g'75, who recalls the choir's candlelight processions down the long darkened aisles. "At that time we still used real candles."

His favorite flashback is a scene on Hoch's third-floor outdoor balcony. For many years, Barnes led the brass choir out to the balcony to brave the frigid cold and play a welcoming fanfare for the arriving *Vespers* audience. One year, a wicked Saturday ice storm had coated Hoch's roof. On *Vespers* Sunday, warm sunshine sent sheets of ice sliding down. "We'd be playing, and I'd say, 'Duck!' and the ice would fall," Barnes recounts with a laugh. "The kids called it the ice show. It was so cold up there, I had to bribe them with candy bars."

This year Barnes, a long-retired professor emeritus, composed a centennial tribute, "Holiday *Vespers* Overture, op. 173," one of two special compositions to premiere during the afternoon and evening performances of the 100th *Vespers* Concert, Dec. 8 at the Lied Center.

To mark the milestone, the School of Music also commissioned a new work by Forrest Pierce, professor of composition, who wrote "I Only Want to Say (Blessings for the New Year)," for choir and four-hand piano.



SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY (4)



Images of holiday cheer in Hoch include scenes (top to bottom) from 1983, the 1940s and the 1970s. The Lied Center (left) has hosted *Vespers* since 1993.

In addition, the school invited past performers to return to the Hill and sing in a special Alumni Choir. As *Kansas Alumni* went to press in mid-November, more than 60 Jayhawks (and counting) planned to return and lift their voices.

Another graduate, who fondly recalls Lied Center *Vespers* as a student, will conduct the concert in his role as KU's director of orchestral activities. Creston Herron, f'08, played violin during his

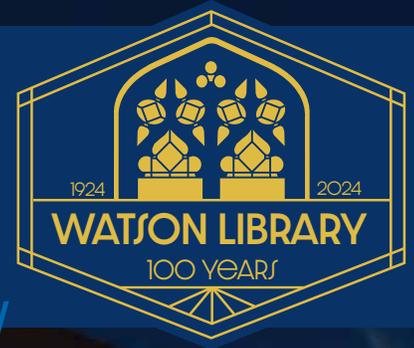
undergraduate years and came home to the Hill as a faculty member in 2023.

"Every year, like clockwork, we performed in *Vespers*. I sat in the same seats as a student musician, and I have so many wonderful memories of this tradition," Herron says, "so to be a part of the 100th, it's just, oh my gosh, a joyous opportunity."

For one and all.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



From 1920s-themed dance lessons to original artwork, a library employee reunion, live music on the lawn, and an enchanted “Rhapsody in Jayhawk Blue” dinner party in the Reading Room — students, faculty, supporters and friends have come together during this multifaceted milestone semester, illustrating all the ways Watson Library continues to be a cornerstone of connection, learning and discovery.

Read more about the history of Watson Library and see snapshots of the Libraries' Centennial Celebration at lib.ku.edu/watson100.



1920s Dance Lessons



“A Rhapsody in Jayhawk Blue” Celebration Dinner



Library on the Lawn

KU LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas



Make your gift to honor
Watson's Centennial:
rockcha.ik/GiveWatson100



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas
1266 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045-3100

“For me, it’s not just...
‘I’m the doctor and you’re
the patient.’

We’re partners.”

- Raed Al-Rajabi, MD
Physician
Medicine Clinical Oncology

I don't know any other way to treat my cancer patients than to become their partner. To be available to them whenever they need me. And that's not just when they're sitting across from me at an appointment. Cancer is a unique journey. And for me and all of my team, the only way to undertake it is together.

To schedule an appointment, call **913-588-1227** or visit KUCancerCenter.org to learn more.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER