

GRASSROOTS GROOVES
KPR spotlights Kansas music

THEY PERSISTED
Medicine's first alumnae

kansasalumni

ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2025 | \$7



The Power of Grace

*Jayhawks bring
medicine, mission
and mercy to a
community in need*

KU Traditions Go *Further* with **Jayhawk Checking**



EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR KU ALUMNI

Get up to

\$800¹

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

Use offer code: **ALUMNI** by December 31, 2025

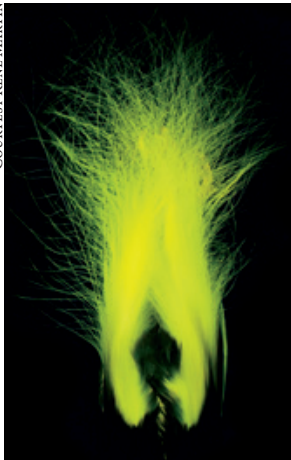


Member FDIC. © 2025 Central Banccompany. All rights reserved. ¹To receive a bonus, you must: (1) open and maintain any personal checking account except Free Checking. (2) Deposit \$50 or more at account opening, and (3) have at least two or more direct deposits within 90 days of account opening that total; \$800 to \$9,999.99 to earn the \$300 bonus or \$10,000 or more to earn the \$800 bonus. Minimum balance of \$50 required 90 days after account opening to receive bonus. Qualifying types of Direct Deposits include any direct deposit from Payroll, Pension or Government Benefit. 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 on the date any earned bonus is paid. We reserve the right not to open accounts for customers outside our market area. Please contact us for further details. 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 12/31/2025.

Talk and squawk in the news



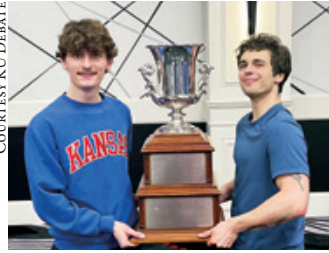
COURTESY RENE MARTIN



“It seems fitting that these flashy birds are likely signaling to each other in additional, flashy ways.”

—Rene Martin, PhD'23, assistant professor and biologist at the University of Nebraska, who was lead author of a study revealing that males in 82% of birds-of-paradise species rely on biofluorescence in mating displays. The research was published in the journal Royal Society Open Science, Smithsonian magazine and The New York Times.

COURTESY KU DEBATE



“This was another amazing season for KU Debate, and John and Graham deserve recognition as one of the greatest teams in the history of the program. They are not only extremely talented, but exhibit class and character in every debate.”

—Scott Harris, the David B. Pittaway Director of Debate at KU, on John Marshall and Graham Revare, the KU Debate duo who were runners-up in the National Debate Tournament in April. Their second-place finish marked the second consecutive year and ninth time overall that KU Debate made the final round, and the 22nd Final Four appearance for the storied program.

MINDIE PAGET



“We’ve got to tell the story of why this amazing economic engine, this amazing engine of understanding, this amazing engine of changing the lives of humanity is worthwhile for investment. ... It is a privilege to get to do what we do.”

—Sudip Parikh, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), during his March 26-27 visit to the University, which coincided with the news that four KU professors were named to the prestigious academy, bringing KU's total number of AAAS fellows to 33 across all campuses.

Follow us on your favorite platform:



#KUalumni
@KUalumni

“She’s my inspiration and she’s always there supporting me, so it was good to win and (for her to) be here to see all that. It feels so good. I cannot believe I am a champion!”

—Sharon Lokedi, b'19, who ran into her mother's arms after winning the Boston Marathon April 21 in a course record 2 hours, 17 minutes, 22 seconds. It was the second World Marathon major victory for the KU cross-country and track and field great, who was Big 12 cross-country champion in 2016 and 2017 and the 2018 NCAA outdoor champion in the 10,000-meter.



ERICA DENHOFF/ICON SPORTSWIRE VIA GETTY IMAGES



COVER STORY

Grace Notes

A Kansas City pharmacy founded by Jayhawks enables KU pharmacists to use their full training while serving the region's most vulnerable population—low-income and uninsured patients.

by Chris Lazzarino

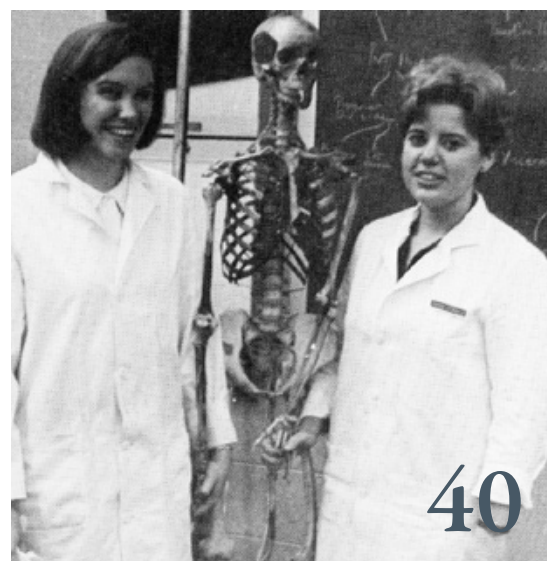
Cover: Photograph by Steve Puppe; photo illustration by Chris Millspaugh



Hometown Sounds

Celebrating music discovery and state pride, KPR's "105 Live" opens the KU station's airwaves to new music from every Kansas county.

by Steven Hill



Stories from the Girls in White

A professor emerita's book chronicles the pathfinding alumnae who became doctors between the 1940s and the 1970s, when women were vastly outnumbered by men in the School of Medicine.

by Anne Walling



SPRING 2025

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'88

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 123, No. 2, 2025

**kansasalumni
magazine.org**



Profile: Stacey Lamb

Illustrator finds rewarding second act creating art for kids and families navigating trauma and grief.

by Chris Lazzarino



Always Jayhawks: Thrice as nice

One family's Commencement was three times the fun, thanks to multiple siblings graduating simultaneously.

4

KU Voice

A time to change

6

First Glance

Fountain refurb

8

Rock Chalk Review

\$1 million gift aids
Natural History
Museum's iconic
Panorama.

24

Jayhawk Sports

Baseball surges and
women's golf takes
NCAA regional.

46

Always Jayhawks

KU Alumni news and
alumni profiles

65

Class Notes

82

In Memory

86

Photo Finish

Merry month of May

88

Hail to Old KU

End of an era

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent via email to kualumni@kualumni.org or mailed to 1266 Oread Ave., Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. 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 © 2025 by *Kansas Alumni Magazine*. Non-member issue price: \$10

ONE MID-1990S MORNING as I dressed for work, a performance on the “Today” show stopped me cold. Cast members from the new Broadway hit “Rent” were singing the show’s anthem, “Seasons of Love.” Instantly I was hooked. I memorized the lyrics and added the show to the top of my Broadway wish list. In October 1997, my husband, Bob, and my best friend, Karyn, gave me my favorite birthday surprise of all time: tickets to see “Rent” in Chicago.

Nearly 30 years later, the show’s entire score remains on my personal playlist, and “Seasons of Love” echoes in my head as I prepare to retire June 30 from my accidental 40-year career as editor of *Kansas Alumni*. Through my third-floor office window in the Adams Alumni Center, I have gazed upon gorgeous Mount Oread and relished the changing seasons of my alma mater. With a succession of supremely talented teams that I have cherished as true, enduring friends, I have reported and reflected on KU’s changes, and I have helped guide the Alumni Association through its own transitions. Most important, I have reveled in the sublime phases (and weathered the difficult days) of the family I adore, becoming a mom three times and, last December, a first-time grandmother.

As I take my leave, changes continue to unfold for this magazine and our organization. The KU Alumni Association is now known as KU Alumni, a shift that reflects our transition from an organization that requires membership dues to one that promotes annual giving to benefit all of KU, especially through the continued growth of innovative KU Alumni programs that elevate the lifelong experiences of students and alumni. Please watch your mail in July for details about this momentous new era.

Over the summer, this magazine will undergo only its fourth name change since 1902. In the fall, a new print magazine will continue to advance the University’s mission by offering vivid examples of KU’s impact in educating future leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. This new venture will enhance our strong collaboration with colleagues at KU Endowment and across

the University as we collectively share the best stories of KU. The print magazine will appear twice each year and be mailed to a much larger audience of KU faithful, expanding its reach from 25,300 households to nearly 48,000 households. Throughout the year, a revitalized website will prominently highlight new stories, complemented by email newsletters that encourage all who care about KU to explore the website and learn the latest about the University’s achievements and challenges; the successes of alumni, students and faculty; and the countless ways in which philanthropy continues to sustain and lift our alma mater.

Telling the stories of KU’s impact on Kansas, the nation and the world creates informed advocates. Over the years, we have encouraged advocacy not only through this magazine and numerous varied communications, but also through a statewide legislative advocacy network, Jayhawks for Higher Education (JHE), which I have been proud to coordinate since the mid-’90s. As KU and the nation’s entire higher education system face unprecedented challenges, the University needs energetic, informed advocates now more than ever. As you’ll read in our news story about KU’s phenomenal growth in research (see p. 10), the University continues to be a powerful, unmatched force in driving the Kansas economy and improving lives throughout the region.

This refrain cannot be overstated or repeated too often. We must continue to bear witness to the transformational impact of KU and the state’s universities, offering tangible, relevant evidence that we fervently hope leaders at all levels of government will hear.

Although the Kansas Legislature’s shortened 2025 session thankfully produced stable base-budget funding for universities and continued support for need-based scholarships for Kansas students, some leaders will continue to question the value of the fundamental faculty tenure system and the greater good of universities’ research. As Chancellor Doug Girod said in his April 16 video message to faculty and staff, “The tenure question is not going

away, so the conversation will continue. Our offseason work is cut out for us.”

It has been my honor to work with passionate JHE volunteers, and I hope the overall network will grow far beyond the current 1,500 volunteers—and a regular cadence of communication will reverberate in the seasons to come.

My decision to enter a new season of life began to simmer last summer, when my three children and I lost beloved Bob to cancer and, two days later, I lost my wise and wonderful friend and mentor, Dorothy Wohlgemuth Lynch, d’59. We met as I was just beginning my role as editor and she was starting her long stint as a volunteer and eventual leader of our national alumni Board of Directors—and trusted KU adviser in many realms. Our monthly lunches over the next 35 years provided sustenance, laughter and lessons that strengthened me in countless ways. Always matter-of-fact and willing to speak truth to power, Dorothy never wavered from her values.

She left her two devoted daughters strict instructions for her celebration of life: no fuss, no frills, no effusive praise—despite the fact that she deserved hefty helpings of each. She asked only for words from Ecclesiastes, 3:1-8: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. ...” The choice was pure Dorothy: This is the way of the world. Keep your chin up and march onward.

So I move on, deeply grateful for the adored Jayhawk friends, inspiring examples and memorable experiences this career has bestowed—and for the privilege of witnessing the many seasons of KU from my perfect perch atop the Hill. I choose to calibrate my KU life not in years, words or pages published, but in moments so dear.

I measure my life in seasons of love.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

"Through my third-floor office window in the Adams Alumni Center, I have gazed upon gorgeous Mount Oread and relished the changing seasons of my alma mater."

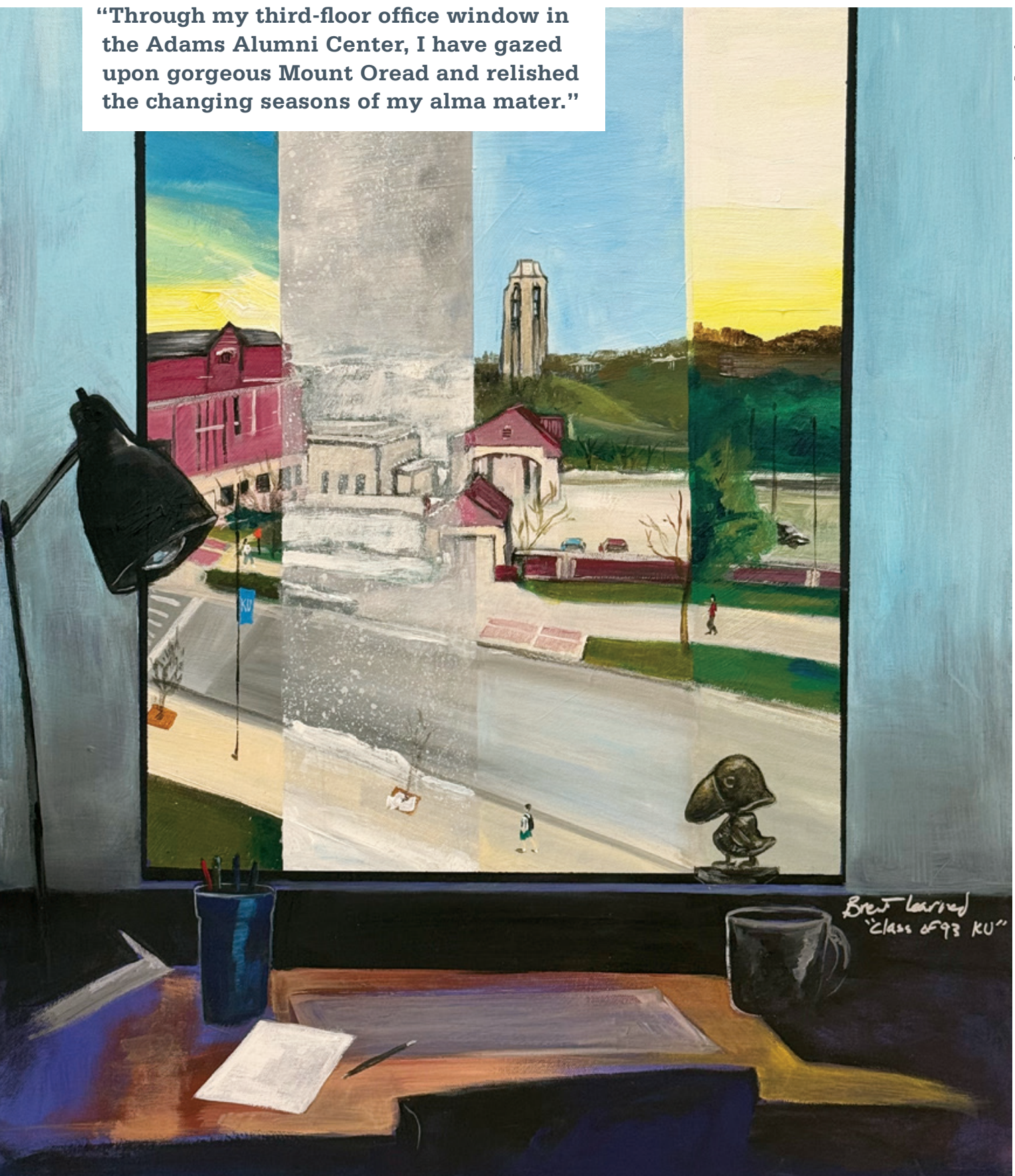


ILLUSTRATION BY BRENT LEARNED



Photograph, landscape design by
Reed Dillon & Associates



THE EXQUISITELY RESTORED Chi Omega Fountain was completed just in time for cap-and-gown photos, and Chi O sisters (l-r) Celine Khalife, Sophie Hill, Lily Ross and Maddie Rizk were among many new grads eager to capture their moment with the treasured landmark. Architect and Chi O alumna Lorie Kuchem Bowman, a'80, designed the new fountain, collaborating with artisan Asheer Akram of KC Metalworks and the donors, Chi O alumna Stacey Satterthwaite Dillon, c'79, and her husband, Reed Dillon, c'79. The basin and tower elements are exact copies of the 1955 design, and the center tower was restored to its original height. To ensure a stronger structure, all lead and stone elements have been replaced by bronze.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE

GIVING

Panorama preservation

\$2 million gift will help restore Natural History Museum's iconic exhibition

“Our motivation was to pick a place where we could—very literally—make a difference.”

—Tom Hardy

ALUMNI Tom and Jan Hardy have provided a \$2 million gift to the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum to fuel preservation efforts for the historic exhibit at the heart of the museum, the Panorama. The 132-year-old exhibit showcases a variety of preserved animal specimens in their habitats, with North American mammals at its center.

The Hardys' transformational gift is the largest single donation in the museum's history and will help secure the future of the unique, nearly 360-degree exhibit by providing essential infrastructure and environmental updates critical to an eventual full restoration and preservation of the displays.

“Our motivation was to pick a place where we could—very literally—make a difference,” says Tom Hardy, whose father, a letterman on the KU football team, was the first of his family to attend the University. “My dad enjoyed the exhibit, and he graduated in 1925. It's more than 100 years old now—it's time.”

The Hardys, who live in Cincinnati, are longtime supporters of the research center and museum and recognized the opportunity to ignite the project by funding some of the larger, unseen needs—HVAC upgrades for better climate control, replacing

important behind-the-scenes structures and other measures that will not only stabilize the Panorama, but also ensure its future.

“We thought maybe we can grab this one and run with it and make it work,” Tom Hardy says, “because we've really enjoyed it.”

The Panorama was constructed for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair by the museum's namesake, Lewis Lindsay Dyche, c1884, c1884, g1888, KU naturalist and a former Kansas Fish and Game warden. With support from the Kansas Legislature, Dyche Hall was completed in 1903 to house the popular exhibit, along with the University's growing scientific collections, which today number approximately 11 million plant, animal and fossil specimens, and 2 million archaeological artifacts. The renowned collections are used by KU researchers and students, as well as scientists in the region and across the world. The museum continues to draw thousands of visitors every year and is often a child's first introduction to the KU Lawrence campus.

“We are so grateful for the Hardys' generosity and dedicated service to KU,” says Chancellor Doug Girod. “Their gift ensures this vital KU landmark and educational resource will continue to inspire students and the public for years to come.”



One of the larger sections of the Panorama exhibit depicts the flora and fauna of a mountain region.



A variety of preserved specimens and habitats are represented in the exhibit, including the desert.

Tom Hardy, c'63, a Hoisington native, lived at KU's Battenfeld Scholarship Hall as a student and initially studied physics. He switched to economics after a University Honors Program adviser suggested he explore a business class. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and earned his MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He became a leader in the life insurance industry and since 2002 has been chairman and CEO of Unity Financial Life Insurance.

Jan Walters Hardy, c'61, met Tom at KU while she was also studying economics. She was one of only two women in the major. They wed after Tom's graduation and soon after made their first gift, \$150, to the KU Alumni Association.

"In the earliest years," Tom Hardy says, "you don't give very much, because you don't have very much." Since that time, their service and philanthropy have grown exponentially.

While Tom Hardy's job took him across the country for many years, the couple have visited the Lawrence campus for decades, in large part due to their service to the University. Tom was a member of the School of Business Dean's Advisory Board for 30 years. Since 2015, he has shared his expertise with the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum as a member of its Board of Advisors.

"The Hardys are exemplary and inspiring supporters of our mission," says Nico Franz, director of the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum. "Their gift will allow us to advance the Dyche Hall Panorama and related public programs to new heights."

Tom and Jan Hardy's shared passion for pre-Columbian art led to a conversation with KU Professor of Anthropology John Hoopes, who introduced them to the museum's work. They helped fund an exhibit of pre-Columbian artifacts at the museum and, after Tom joined the board, became more involved. Over the years, the Hardys have contributed their business acumen and funded initiatives such as a mobile museum program, which brought the museum's science outreach programs and specimens to communities across Kansas.

For the Hardys, the Panorama restoration is an opportunity for one of the University's largest and most unique attractions to shine for future generations.

"We hope people will bring their friends and prospective students," Tom Hardy says. "It's one of those things that's a real magnet for people."

—ANNE TANGEMAN
Tangeman, c'88, is a senior writer at KU Endowment.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Family Weekend

Sept. 26-28
family.ku.edu

Homecoming

Oct. 27-Nov. 2
kualumni.org/homecoming

Lied Center

June 21 "Panther Burn: From the Fields of Struggle to the Road of Hope"

Sept. 13 "#IMOMSOHARD: The Flashback Tour"

Sept. 28 The Romm Trio

Oct. 14 "TINA: The Tina Turner Musical"

Oct. 18 Imagination Movers

Oct. 19 Ellis Paul
lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

"Eternal Spring: Pines" through **June 29**

"Bold Women" through **July 6**

"Eternal Spring: Bamboo" **July 1-Dec. 7**

"Soundings: Making Culture at Sea" **Aug. 12-Dec. 14**

"In'zhúje'waxóbe: Return of the Sacred Red Rock"

Sept. 9-Jan. 25
spencerart.ku.edu

Academic calendar

June 2 First day of summer classes

July 25 Last day of summer classes

Aug. 18 First day of fall classes

DISCOVERIES

Research activity hits new high

Scholars attract more than \$500 million to advance knowledge, fuel state economy



RESEARCH and development expenditures spanning all University campuses soared to \$546.1 million in fiscal year 2024, surpassing the half-billion-dollar mark for the first time.

The record-high total represents a 17% increase over FY 2023 and the ninth consecutive year of research growth for KU.

That growth benefits people throughout the Sunflower State and beyond.

“As one of America’s leading research universities, KU is solving major problems facing Kansans and their communities while simultaneously serving as a vital economic engine for the state,” says Matthias Salathe, KU’s chief research officer.

“Our researchers are driven to improve human health and well-being, sustain life on our planet, enhance safety and security, and so much more,” says Shelley Hooks, vice chancellor for research on KU’s Lawrence campus. “In the process, they are also educating tomorrow’s workforce, creating jobs, launching and attracting businesses, attracting external funding to the state, and investing in the prosperity of Kansans.”

Last year alone, KU research expenditures supported the salaries of 5,595 people. In addition, the University spent

\$86.5 million in 91 Kansas counties on research-related goods and services in FY 2024, according to a report from the Institute for Research on Innovation & Science (IRIS). Vendors in 19 of those counties received more than \$102,000 in purchases.

Grants awarded during FY 2024 included support for projects to:

- Develop treatments for Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease
- Improve natural disaster resistance of housing
- Promote healthy brain aging among midlife adults
- Integrate in-farm solar arrays to diversify farmers’ income
- Prevent diabetes in rural communities
- Optimize missile-defense radars
- Build capacity to produce highly qualified STEM teachers
- Evaluate community supports for youth with disabilities, and more.

A majority of KU’s externally funded research—nearly 70% in 2024—is supported by federal agencies like the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. KU researchers win grant dollars from these agencies through competitions designed to identify

the most innovative ideas for addressing societal challenges.

However, this decades-long national model of federal investment in university research is under threat as the current administration seeks to change how grants are awarded and, thereby, cut research spending.

“KU is monitoring these developments closely, planning for a variety of outcomes, and partnering with our peers in national organizations like the Association of American Universities to advocate for our collective interests,” Salathe says. “We remain committed to sustaining research that’s vital to the health, safety and prosperity of our communities; and we’re cautiously optimistic that nationwide efforts to preserve federally funded research will help us avoid worst-case scenarios.”

Other sources of KU research funding include state and local governments, private businesses, individual donors, and nonprofit foundations.

RESEARCH ADVANCES ECONOMY, HEALTH

Additional IRIS reporting shows that KU research contributed \$1.34 billion to the U.S. economy between 2011 and 2023, with funds flowing to more than 7,700 vendors and subcontractors during those 12 years. Of the 59% of KU’s spending that could be matched with specific vendors and contractors, more than 990 were small businesses.

The IRIS reports encompass research spending across all campuses, including the KU Medical Center, where research ultimately contributes to life-changing medical advances.

“We continue to see significant growth in research at KU Medical Center in the quantity and quality of projects being funded,” Salathe says. “Our scientists and



Shelley Hooks (l) oversees research on the Lawrence campus, and Matthias Salathe is the University's chief research officer.

“Our researchers are driven to improve human health and well-being, sustain life on our planet, enhance safety and security, and so much more.”

—Shelley Hooks

researchers are seeking new treatments and health-related approaches to some of our most critical health issues, including cancer and Alzheimer's disease.”

In addition to nearly \$10 million in annual support for the KU Cancer Center, KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Frontiers Clinical & Translational Science Institute, KU Medical Center received a grant renewal for the Kansas Institute for Precision Medicine, which totals \$11.4 million over five years.

KU's research-related economic impact extends beyond the data captured in IRIS reporting. For example, 54 active startup companies have spun out of KU or are based on KU technologies, and more than half of those companies are located in Kansas. Through the University's relationship with KU Innovation Park, KU researchers help attract businesses to Lawrence, Kansas City and the surrounding area—companies like Merck and Security Benefit—that want to be near KU researchers and students. The Innovation Park system includes 74 companies and accounts for 765 private sector jobs and \$50.8 million in annual direct payroll.

—MINDIE PAGET

Paget, c'99, g'01, is assistant vice chancellor for impact & belonging and director of communications for the KU Office of Research.

RESEARCH RAISES KU'S PROMINENCE

Vibrant research activity sustains KU's stature and vital national rankings:

- Since 1909, KU has been a member of the Association of American Universities, the top 71 public and private research institutions in the U.S. and Canada.
- In the latest National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development survey, KU ranked:
 - 47th among public universities for research and development expenditures
 - 53rd among public universities for federally funded R&D
- KU's rankings in non-science and engineering research include:
 - 2nd overall in federally financed R&D
 - 3rd among public universities for overall R&D

We're built for community.

A community is built to support each other. To be a solid foundation from which to grow. And to provide the means for people to take care of each other. The best part of community: It always comes through when you need it. At Commerce Bank, we've been helping build communities for nearly 160 years, tackling challenges, growing businesses, serving from the heart, and doing work that matters. We're built for the long haul. We're built for taking care of each other.



Professor to be business dean



Jide Wintoki, who joined the School of Business faculty in 2008 and currently serves as Capitol Federal Professor of Finance and associate dean of graduate programs, will guide the school as dean beginning July 1.

Since 2020, Wintoki has directed all business master's and doctoral programs on the

Lawrence and Leavenworth campuses, along with the school's online MBA program.

In KU's May 12 news release, Barbara Bichelmeyer, chief academic officer and provost and executive vice chancellor of the Lawrence/Edwards campus, highlighted Wintoki's deep understanding, as a longtime professor, of the business school's faculty, staff and students and the ways in which they can reach new heights in the future. "I'm certain he will

continue to be a strong advocate for and facilitator of Jayhawks' excellence in scholarship and service," said Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92.

Wintoki will guide all aspects of the school's academic and research enterprise, work with faculty and staff to align programs with KU's Jayhawk Rising strategic plan, and lead fundraising.

His appointment comes as the school wraps up a yearlong celebration of its centennial. "As we celebrate the school's first century," Wintoki said, "I look forward to collaborating with our staff, faculty, alumni, partners across the University and well-wishers to continue to provide students with a transformative educational experience that leads to meaningful success and fulfillment. Working together, we will strengthen the foundation for the school's next hundred years and ensure that all who invest in our mission see the lasting impact of their support."

MASS ST. & MORE

Jayhawks with a taste for craft cocktails and Lawrence history toasted the ascendance of John Brown's Underground to the ranks of semifinalists in the coveted James Beard Awards national culinary competition. "We're used to being overlooked, so for that reason, it was a big surprise," says general manager Dante Colombo, b'17, c'17.

For more than a decade, the downtown downstairs speakeasy at 7 E. Seventh St. has charmed locals and visitors with creative concoctions and hearty hospitality. Research, whimsy and wit shine in John Brown's menus—works of art that highlight new cocktails and mainstays, including Free Lawrence, the house old-fashioned, and Let Me Be Clear, two kinds of rum, pineapple and lime mixed with exotic flavors.

"We like to say a drink is not menu-ready until it has been agonized over," Colombo says,

The team's scholarly approach to spirits adds zest to lighten small-business chores,



Colombo

says Colombo. In addition to poring over histories and recipes, the John Brown's brigade has traveled to Chicago, New York City, San Francisco and other destinations for field study or to host pop-up bars. Colombo even flew to Barbados to visit his favorite rum distillery, Foursquare. At each stop, the team has made friends in the industry. The best evidence of their goodwill? Lawrence emissaries who honor the memory of Kansas' fierce abolitionist hosted a pop-up bar in the most unlikely of locales—Springfield, Missouri.

STEVE PUPPE



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Buyer, meet seller*Program helps Kansas towns preserve crucial businesses as owners near retirement*

John Faerber (l-r) was able to sell his Prairie Village dentistry practice to Cody Welding thanks to the assistance of RedTire director Denton Zeeman.

WHEN MICHAEL JONES started thinking seriously about retirement, he knew stepping away from his Russell dental practice in the central Kansas town of 4,400 wouldn't be as simple as handing over the keys. Russell Dental Care is the only dental provider in the county; without it, patients would have to drive at least 30 minutes for care—a logistical headache and an economic loss.

Fortunately, Jones wasn't alone.

Enter RedTire, the School of Business' "Redefine Your Retirement" program. A clever blend of community service, economic development and real-world education, RedTire connects retiring small-business owners with qualified buyers through a meticulous, no-fee process that includes professional valuation and student analyst support.

Since launching in 2012, the program has guided more than 100 transitions, preserving jobs, local services and community institutions that might otherwise vanish. Among those transitions: 34 dental practices, including Russell's, with three more dental deals in the pipeline.

"This program serves as an economic development mechanism," says RedTire director Denton Zeeman, g'12, who has led the effort since day one. "It helps keep essential services local and allows

retiring owners to leave their businesses with peace of mind. It's also a co-curricular opportunity for our students to gain practical experience in valuation, analysis and negotiations."

RedTire's reach is wide: From Kansas' iconic rural locales such as Russell County to both sides of the state line in Kansas City—including Prairie Village, where dentist John Faerber, j'78, recently sold his practice to Cody Welding.

Faerber, a Creighton dental graduate and former KU football player, spent decades building his practice, specializing in implants and restorative dentistry. But as he approached 70, Faerber knew it was time to move on—carefully.

"I was very close with my patients, and my staff too," Faerber says. "And I didn't want to go through a broker. That often turns into a fire sale, or, worse, a bad fit. RedTire gave me confidence. Their valuation was thorough, objective and completely transparent."

The process, Faerber says, took months of preparation—including combing through years of financial records and practice data—but resulted in a smooth handoff in March. Faerber still pops in regularly to consult with Welding, whose transition into ownership has been equally smooth.

"I knew from the start that I wanted to own my own practice," says Welding, a Dallas native who attended Iowa State University before dental school at NYU, and moved to Kansas City in 2020. "But the brokerage model is messy. There are incentives, kickbacks and a real pressure to sell to big corporations. With RedTire, I knew exactly what I was getting into."

When Faerber's son married Welding's wife's cousin, the two dentists met at the wedding and quickly discovered their mutual interest: Welding, who had been working for a large group in west Lawrence since 2021, was eager to go into private practice, preferably in Johnson County, and Faerber, who had already been working for months with RedTire, was equally eager to sell his. RedTire's involvement—providing a deep-dive financial analysis through student analysts and faculty oversight—helped seal the deal.

"Denton Zeeman was very good at mediating and explaining everything: good points, bad points, all those things, just very up-front and not taking sides with the buyer or the seller," Faerber says. "That's what I wanted, and it gave me good peace of mind. And I think Dr. Welding had very good peace of mind when he decided to buy the practice."

That blend of academic muscle and community mission has become RedTire's hallmark. Students gain hands-on experience in small-business transitions while helping preserve the state's economic and health care fabrics.

Zeeman, a native South African, completed his undergraduate studies in the U.K. A visit to his sister in Olathe became permanent when he enrolled at KU to earn his MBA, then accepted an invitation to launch RedTire by joining the business school's faculty. The program, he says, has grown more complex over time, but also more helpful.

"Originally, we thought it would be more plug-and-play," he says. "But these are people's lives, their life's work. The process is often emotional and

unpredictable. We're not brokers; we don't close deals. But we do help both sides navigate toward a successful transition."

In Russell, that meant thinking creatively. After two potential buyers for Jones' practice fell through, the community rallied. A local banker—and long-time patient—suggested Russell Regional Hospital. With support from the Russell County Area Community Foundation and a \$100,000 grant, the hospital agreed to acquire the practice.

"This is about people coming together to do good," says Angela Muller, executive director of the Russell foundation. "That's one of the strengths of rural communities."

For Zeeman, such stories validate RedTire's role in public service.

"We're helping Kansas," he says. "We're keeping providers in business, jobs in towns, and giving our students a deeper understanding of how businesses really work."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

"This is about people coming together to do good. That's one of the strengths of rural communities."

—Angela Muller

Pharmacy school gains new dean



David Dietz will lead the School of Pharmacy as its new dean beginning Aug. 1. He is currently professor and chair of pharmacology & toxicology at the University of Buffalo, where he also serves as associate dean of research

strategy at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

When she announced Dietz's appointment May 1, Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU's chief academic officer and provost and executive vice chancellor of the Lawrence/Edwards campus, praised Dietz's proven success in scholarship and research, along with his innovations as an academic leader and administrator. "David will serve as a visionary leader to advance the School of Pharmacy in future years," said Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92.

As dean, Dietz will oversee all academic programs and research as well as external relations, including fundraising. He will bridge pharmacy research across the school, campus, KU Medical Center and The University of Kansas Health System.

"This represents a phenomenal opportunity to move the school forward, building on its already amazing track of progress and positioning the School of Pharmacy as a major hub of activity in terms of education and research at the University of Kansas," Dietz said. "I want to support faculty, staff and students in continuing excellence and empowering them to be even stronger members of KU. This will enable all of us to facilitate the opportunities we need to reach our goals, while connecting communities and partners throughout the state, nation and world."

FILM & MEDIA STUDIES

Wrap party*Film festival spotlights 'community' films that launched Oscar-winning career*

"I really love teaching, and KU has been a big part of my life, a great part of my life ..."

—Kevin Willmott

A FESTIVAL HONORING the retirement of Kevin Willmott, professor emeritus of film & media studies, at Liberty Hall in February screened four films written and directed by the Academy Award winner: "C.S.A.: Confederate States of America" (2004), "The Only Good Indian" (2009), "Destination Planet Negro" (2013) and "Jayhawkers" (2014).

The focus on Willmott's early work highlighted a key element of the Junction City native's approach to filmmaking, said his longtime creative partner and fellow film professor Matt Jacobson at the opening of the celebration.

"Before his rise to fame with films like 'Chi-Raq' and 'BlacKkKlansman' and 'Da Five Bloods,' Kevin was busy telling stories about race, politics, power and justice with a decidedly Midwestern accent," Jacobson told festival attendees. "He decided after going to school at NYU that he was going to come back to Kansas to tell the stories that he felt were important to people here in the Midwest, and to hopefully get those stories heard completely across the United States and across the world."

Those early movies are an important part of Willmott's filmography, Jacobson noted, "not just because of the subject matter, but because they showed a whole generation of filmmakers and students that you can make movies in Kansas."

Willmott reflected on the communal spirit that is a hallmark of so many of his film projects, joking that "C.S.A." "was a total community effort: I think half of the town was in that movie."

"That's one of the things that kind of made me stay in Lawrence, having KU and having Matt Jacobson and Mark (von Schlemmer, editor of many Willmott films) and creating a community of film people and a company of actors," Willmott added. "We were all friends, really. There were projects where they got paid to work with me, and projects where they didn't get paid and they were kind enough to lend me their talent. I never even attempted to try to get money from Hollywood, because I knew they wouldn't understand what the hell I was trying to do."

After "C.S.A." drew support from director Spike Lee, the two began a writing collaboration that led to "Chi-Raq," "Da 5 Bloods" and "BlacKkKlansman." For the latter film, Willmott and Lee shared

an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2019.

The Academy Award led to more high-profile screenwriting assignments for Willmott, but he continued making films with a local focus. His most recent film, "The Heroic True-Life Adventures of Alvin Brooks," portrays the life story of the Kansas City, Missouri, activist and leader. He wrote and directed "No Place Like Home: The Struggle Against Hate in Kansas" about LGBTQ rights in the state, and "William Allen White: What's the Matter With Kansas," a biopic about the newspaper editor and School of Journalism namesake known as the Sage of Emporia.

Although retirement brings down the curtain on Willmott's teaching career, his film work continues.

"Actually this is probably one of the busiest periods of my whole career," Willmott told "Up To Date" host Steve Kraske during a February appearance on the KCUR radio show. "Since winning the award, it has really stepped up the pace of projects, especially the writing projects."

"It was a tough decision. I really love teaching, and KU has been a big part of my life, a great part of my life, but because I am so busy now with writing films (and) directing a new movie, it's just a really busy time and I have to give it my entire focus."

—STEVEN HILL



Kevin Willmott in 2019 with his Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mission: Reimagined

Alumnus leads new National Defense Initiatives office with vision forged in service

THE UNIVERSITY IS reshaping its role in national defense—an evolution decades in the making and now formalized under a single, determined office. With this year's launch of National Defense Initiatives (NDI), KU is uniting military-focused research, education and service in a way that few public institutions have dared. Leading the charge is Mike Denning, a retired Marine colonel as adept at coordinating helicopter squadrons as he is at fine-tuning the University's support for the nation's defense community.

Denning, c'83, assistant vice chancellor for national defense initiatives, leads NDI with a mandate that's both strategic and personal.

"Jayhawks Rising, the University's strategic plan, was the driving force behind the new office," Denning says. "We came together to conceive how the office can better support the University's strategic priorities. Now we have the structure to better support these priorities while advancing our support to the military."

Formed by consolidating Denning's former KU office, Graduate Military Programs, with KU's Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC departments, NDI resides within the Office of Academic Affairs. The move is more than a bureaucratic realignment—it's KU's declaration that national security education and research are vital.

"This restructuring, which includes bringing KU ROTC programs under NDI, creates a powerful synergy and a single point of contact for the Department of Defense," says Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Jen Roberts.

It also sends a message: KU is not simply

participating in defense education; KU is helping define it for the next generation.

Denning's own journey makes him an ideal steward of that mission. A retired Marine colonel who joined KU in 2011, Denning brings decades of command experience and a strategic mind shaped by both war and academia.

He flew AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters and led the Marine Corps' V-22 Osprey training program. He also holds a degree from the Naval War College and completed a national security fellowship at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and his experience as a military officer informs his sense of purpose in higher education.

"Developing future officers who are educated, fit, and men and women of character isn't a bonus—it's mission-essential," Denning says. "When I was a squadron commander on a 48-hour deployment tether, every ounce of readiness mattered. That kind of readiness starts long before someone dons the uniform."

The new office's scope is intentionally broad. It facilitates undergraduate and graduate programs for ROTC cadets, active-duty officers and veterans alike. It supports online learners stationed around the globe—including those taking KU's popular Homeland Security course from active combat zones.

At Fort Leavenworth, KU offers seven graduate degree programs—up from just two when Denning arrived. Meanwhile, the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, launched in 2017 under his leadership, continues to flourish. The consortium includes four region-

al community colleges and five degree programs at KU's Edwards Campus, with emphases ranging from cybersecurity and information technology to criminal justice and health sciences.

"We're not just filling seats," Denning says. "We're preparing the next generation of intelligence professionals and officers with the depth and breadth they'll need to meet tomorrow's threats."

NDI isn't only about education. A key pillar is research, and Denning in 2024 enlisted Kurt Preston, a 20-year veteran of the Department of Defense research enterprise, to elevate KU's national profile.

Since Preston's hiring as director of National Defense Research Initiatives, KU has hosted multiple Pentagon research leaders and sent faculty to DOD labs across the country. The office also signed a memorandum of understanding with U.S. Cyber Command, leveraging KU's growing strength in radar and cybersecurity.

"Every discipline has a role to play in Department of Defense research," Denning says. "Most people don't realize the DOD is one of the largest funders of medical research, including cancer and autism studies. Our job is to connect KU's research excellence with DOD priorities."

For Denning, who also serves as president of KU Alumni's Veterans Alumni Network, NDI isn't about dollars or prestige. It's about service.

"Yes, there's funding involved, but the bigger story is our obligation to the nation," he says. "We're a public institution. We have an obligation to contribute to national security through education, research and service. That's integral to our identity."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



National Defense Initiatives staff (l-r) Sarah Weygand, education program manager at Fort Leavenworth; Trent Williams, director of education initiatives; Kurt Preston, director of research initiatives; Assistant Vice Chancellor Mike Denning; and Ashley Urban, education program manager at the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence.

Research honors span disciplines

Eleven scholars shared the spotlight April 9 during the annual University Research Awards celebration hosted by Matthias Salathe, KU's chief research officer, and Shelley Hooks, vice chancellor for research on the Lawrence campus. To watch brief video profiles of each researcher, visit rockcha.lk/2025-Research-Awards. The honorees are:

University Scholarly Achievement Awards

Markus Potter, associate professor of theatre & dance

Jennifer Raff, associate professor of anthropology

Elaine Sutley, associate professor of civil, environmental & architectural engineering

Chancellors Club Research Award

Darren Wallace, professor of internal medicine, nephrology division; adjunct professor, cell biology & physiology; and director, Kansas PKD Research and Translation Core Center

Research Postdoctoral Achievement Award

James Saulsbury, postdoctoral researcher, KU Biodiversity Institute and department of ecology & evolutionary biology

Research Staff Achievement Award

Scott Lovell, director, Protein Structure & X-Ray Crystallography Laboratory

Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award

Kathryn Bigelow, associate research professor, Juniper Gardens Children's Project/KU Life Span Institute

Higuchi-KU Research Achievement Awards

Johann Hans Coetzee, University Distinguished Professor & interim vice president for research, Kansas State University, Irvin E. Youngberg Award in the Applied Sciences

Walter Dodds, University Distinguished Professor & Edwin G. and Lillian J. Brychta Chair in the Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Olin K. Petefish Award in the Basic Sciences

Hartmut Jaeschke, University Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics, Dolph C. Simons Sr. Award in the Biomedical Sciences

David Tell, professor of communication studies and director, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, Balfour S. Jeffrey Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences



From noon to noon Feb. 20-21, the eighth edition of KU Endowment's annual giving day achieved record success:



Jayhawks contributed
\$5,441,521
in total gifts.



4,500 donors in all
50 states
and
8 other countries
made 6,166 gifts.



For the first time, student organizations benefited;
30 groups
received gifts.



KU Alumni received
\$80,688
in gifts from 126 donors.

Thank you, Jayhawks!



During his campus visit in April, Lester Holt of NBC News sat for an interview with junior journalism major Ryn Drummond and visited with students.

Holt receives WAW Citation

LESTER HOLT, anchor of NBC's nightly news broadcast since 2015, accepted the 75th William Allen White National Citation during an April 10 ceremony in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The award for outstanding journalism, named for the Kansas newspaperman and School of Journalism namesake, is given annually as part of the school's William Allen White Day festivities, which also honor journalism students and the school's donors.

Holt joined NBC News in 2000. He anchored weekend editions of "NBC Nightly News" for eight years and co-anchored "Weekend Today" for 12 years before ascending to the top spot on the network's flagship nightly newscast. During his acceptance speech, he noted several parallels between his career and that of White, 1890, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of the Emporia Gazette, including that both attended college but did not earn degrees.

"To the students here with us today in the audience, please do not misread my fast-track career path as mocking or somehow devaluing your academic path," Holt said, noting that he came up during very different times for journalism. "Right now the profession—our profession and our audiences—need you. They need the fully educated you who takes advantage of every opportunity to learn."

Holt got his first break at 16, when he talked his way into "hanging around doing odd jobs" at NBC's Sacramento affiliate. By 17 he had an over-night radio job as a country and western disc jockey, and at 19 he was a student reporter at Cal-State

Sacramento. By 20 he had left college to cover the police beat in San Francisco for CBS radio. His 14-year stint as a local reporter included time in Chicago, where his co-anchor was Bill Kurtis, j'62, the 1998 recipient of the White citation.

The National Citation is the latest high-profile recognition for Holt, who has won multiple Emmys and the Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award.

"I call this an incredible honor because I am a believer that awards are not just kind of nice to have, but are important to our belief in ourselves as an institution," he said. "Awards demonstrate a faith in the promise of journalism at large, highlighting the best of us and our commitments to truth and accuracy. Most important, they can remind news consumers that what we do matters, that our work and our role in a functioning democracy is relevant."

In February, Holt announced that he will leave NBC Nightly News later this year to concentrate on the NBC weekly newsmagazine "Dateline," where he has served as the principal anchor since 2011.

"I look forward to several more years as a working journalist," Holt said, noting that he had "seen a lot and learned a lot" already in his career. "What I know is that journalism is still a noble profession—and I want you to hear that again: It's a noble profession, but one of tremendous responsibility. There's no room for arrogance if we are to succeed in our mission. There is, however, room for compassion, humanity and respect."

— STEVEN HILL

"What I know is that journalism is still a noble profession—and I want you to hear that again: It's a noble profession."

—Lester Holt



Host your next event at legendary Allen Fieldhouse.

Dreaming of hosting an event at Allen Fieldhouse? The Jayhawk Hospitality team can make your dream a reality. Three newly renovated spaces — Banners Pub, the Cloud Family Suite, and the Crimson Club — are now available for booking special events.

KU alumni and members of the community are invited to book Allen Fieldhouse venues and other spaces based on availability and event size. Bring your guests and let Jayhawk Hospitality handle all the details.

Connect with us
today to learn more.



KU
JAYHAWK
HOSPITALITY
The University of Kansas



Sailors ride wave

Sailing club again catches wind with newly passionate students

WHEN EMMA RUSSIN arrived at KU in 2019, she didn't know port from starboard. But she knew a good breeze when she felt one—and she felt something promising blowing across Perry Lake.

"I didn't grow up sailing," says Russin, e'23, g'25, a Minnesota native and recent master's graduate in environmental and water resources engineering. "But once I got involved, I realized it was something really special. There's nothing else quite like being out on the water. It's kind of a timeless moment."

KU Sailing Club has existed in one form or another since the 1970s. By the time Russin signed on, it was less of a team and more of a floating friend group—just a few students with access to boats and a willingness to get wet. Russin, along with a few like-minded students, set to work transforming it back into a true student organization, complete with regular practices and a competition schedule, social media presence and dues structure.

Today, KU Sailing is a thriving, competitive club sport with nearly two dozen members, a healthy waitlist and more wind in its sails than ever. And if you're picturing an elite yacht club with blazers and champagne flutes, think again.

"Most of us had never touched a sailboat before college," says senior Abe Pankratz, e'25, the club's outgoing president. A chemical engineering major from Wichita, Pankratz joined the team during his sophomore year. "I played baseball and basketball growing up, and soccer in high school, but sailing clicked in a totally different way. It's strategic, physical and just plain cool."

College sailing, it turns out, is designed to be accessible. Teams don't haul their own boats across state lines—hosts provide them. KU sails in the Collegiate Sailing Association conference, which includes schools from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The boats—typically two-person 420s—are stripped down for simplicity. No spinnakers allowed, just mainsails and jibs, life jackets and quick wits.

"Sailing is physically intensive and there's a lot of thinking that goes into it," Pankratz says. "There's no YouTube tutorial that substitutes for the wind smacking you in the face."

Practices take place on Saturdays at

Perry Lake, northwest of Lawrence.

Thanks to partnerships with the Perry Yacht Club and area alumni, KU sailors have access to up to 14 boats, though the club owns and maintains six of its own.

And yes, those boats break.

"Often," says Russin with a laugh. "That's what a lot of our dues go toward—maintenance, plus travel costs like rental vans and hotel stays."

The club also benefits from a dedicated support system. Local sailing advocate and alumnus Ted Lischer, b'89, along with his family, has been instrumental in connecting students with sailing opportunities beyond KU. "He's like our honorary coach," says Russin. "He helps with everything from logistics to life lessons."

Russin herself served as club president before handing the helm to Pankratz. Under their leadership, KU Sailing has again evolved into a serious pastime for students craving breaks from computer screens, although trophies were never the endgame.

"Our goal is to create lifelong sailors," says Russin. "One of our members rented a boat in Europe and sailed the Mediterranean because of what he learned here. That's the dream."

For both Russin and Pankratz, the experience paid off beyond the water. Prospective employers, it turns out, are curious about students who can manage boat fleets, lead teams and balance spreadsheets with sail sheets. "I got more questions in interviews about sailing than anything else on my résumé," says Russin, who's heading to Minneapolis to work for the sustainable engineering firm Stantec.

Pankratz, too, is Minneapolis-bound, hoping to launch a career in environmental engineering. And yes, he plans to keep sailing. "But," he adds, "I don't really want to do dinghy sailing anymore. It's fun, but I'm a tall guy, so I'm looking to graduate to a bigger boat."

As they pass the tiller to a new generation of Jayhawk sailors, both leave the club with gratitude—and confidence.

"The next exec board gets it," Pankratz says. "They want to build something lasting. That's what matters."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



KU sailors rely on enthusiastic support of club alumni such as (l-r) Jack Lischer, b'23, and Harland Zamora, e'23.



Alexa Magstadt is KU's 2025 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar and the 80th Jayhawk to join the Goldwater ranks. Magstadt, a junior from Shawnee, is majoring in molecular, cellular & developmental biology, with a minor in Spanish. She aspires to obtain a dual MD and PhD in cancer biology and practice as a physician-scientist and medical oncologist.

Book brief

MOVE-IN DAY, the August ritual of toting boxes, choosing beds and making awkward introductions among roommates and floormates, can be momentous, as countless Jayhawks have discovered. So the fact that Elyce Cox, from a farm in Sedgwick, and Katy Brosnahan, from Kansas City, Missouri, met on move-in day 1981 at Gertrude Sellards Pearson Hall and became lifelong friends is not extraordinary.

Like many other women of their generation, they first bonded over a shared love of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and its heroine, journalist Mary Richards. But Elyce Cox Arons, '86, and Katy Brosnahan Spade, '86, ultimately became partners in a business venture that achieved international success: kate spade new york became a touchstone for women of all ages and propelled Spade to fame.

In a testament to true friendship, Arons dwells not on how Spade left this life (by suicide in 2018), but how she lived it. Now CEO of Frances Valentine, the

duo's second business, Arons chronicles the laughs, loyalty, struggles and successes of their nearly four decades together. She shares the details of a friendship that gained luster through the years—the kind of bond many of us hold dear.



We Might Just Make It After All: My Best Friendship with kate spade

By Elyce Arons
Gallery Books, Simon & Schuster, \$29



Jayhawk Welcome Center *at the*

ADAMS ALUMNI CENTER

Interested in booking a space?



With spectacular views of Mount Oread, the Jayhawk Welcome Center offers state-of-the-art technology and Rock Chalk flair.

Whether your occasion is a banquet dinner, happy-hour reception, small meeting or corporate event, the Center offers top-notch venues and amenities to fit your needs.

Let us help you create your ideal event!



Visit kualumni.org/jayhawk-welcome-center or email jwcevents@kualumni.org



Hey KU Alumni:

You could save hundreds on insurance

That's right – You could save an average of **\$810*** 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 7/1/24 to 7/1/25 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.



“Fitz always talks about how we’re a great team, and we truly believe that.”

—senior outfielder Mike Koszewski, referencing coach Dan Fitzgerald



KANSAS ATHLETICS (2)

BASEBALL

‘Super cool’ season at ‘The Hog’

Powerhouse lineup flashes flair for drama

TIED 3-3 HEADING into the top of the 10th inning Feb. 14 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, senior Tommy Barth mashed a two-run double, part of a five-run KU rally that was enough to survive a pair of runs in the bottom of the 10th by the hometown Islanders. Thanks, also, to a solid six innings by sophomore righty Dominic Voegele, the Big 12’s Preseason Pitcher of the Year and a First Team Freshman All-American, the Jayhawks escaped their season opener with what turned out to be the launch of an eight-game winning streak and a defining characteristic for an unlikely season of unlikely triumphs: drama.

After beating Baylor March 15 to win the season’s first Big 12 Conference series, the Jayhawks improved to a dazzling 17-2—and that followed the most spectacular victory of all: 29-1, in seven innings, at Minnesota, powered by an NCAA record-tying streak of five consecutive home runs.

“I’ve never seen that,” said third-year coach Dan Fitzgerald. “It was super cool, and I loved how engaged our guys were.”

As the season to remember edged toward its May conclusion with a three-game set at West Virginia, senior Mike Koszewski notched an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth, giving the ‘Hawks a 7-6 victory over BYU and, at 39-14 overall and 17-10 in the Big 12, a program record for regular-season wins.

Along the way, the delights of a successful spring baseball season continued to bloom.

During the early season series with Omaha at Hoglund Ballpark, a suddenly energized student fanbase unveiled a homemade banner of baseball’s own: *Pay Heed All Who Enter, Beware of “The Hog.”* “The creativity of college students,” Fitzgerald said, “never ceases to amaze me.”

On March 29, senior Sawyer Smith crushed a walk-off three-run homer against Oklahoma State, which the Jayhawks followed the next day with an 11-2 victory for their first series sweep of the powerhouse Cowboys since 2009.

On April 18, The Hog’s namesake benefactor, former team captain Forrest Hoglund, e’56, threw out the first pitch before KU’s 18-12 victory over

heated rival Wichita State, in celebration of Hoglund receiving the College Baseball Foundation's George H.W. Bush Distinguished Alumnus Award. The 'Hawks swept UCF in Orlando, Utah in Salt Lake City, K-State at Hoglund, and Mizzou in a home-and-away series.

With the May 21-24 Big 12 Baseball Championship awaiting as *Kansas Alumni* went to press, the prospects for a truly memorable season could not have burned brighter.

"It's a special group of guys," Fitzgerald said after the May 10 sweep of BYU. "A group that loves competing and loves being together. They love the tight moments. They've embraced everything that comes with being a super-competitive, gritty, tough team."

Added Koszewski, the hero of the day, "Fitz always talks about how we're a great team, and we truly believe that."



KANSAS ATHLETICS

KU's March sweep of Oklahoma State was a milestone worth celebrating.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Right on course

POWERED BY A breakout sophomore and a rock-solid senior, women's golf headed into the May 16-21 NCAA Championship (as *Kansas Alumni* went to press) riding the momentum of a historic, six-win season.

Lyla Louderbaugh, who spent much of the fall season trying to crack KU's lineup, stunned the NCAA Regional field at Ohio State with a 12-under-par performance that earned her medalist honors by eight strokes—the program's first NCAA Regional individual title. Louderbaugh's conservative style and unwavering focus through three cold and rainy rounds helped KU win its first-ever regional team title, which coach Lindsay Kuhle called the biggest KU win in 15 years.

"She shot 66 at ASU," said Kuhle, describing Louderbaugh's bogey-free final round at the March 28-30 ASU Invitational, where she finished fourth overall with three rounds of par or better, "and she's been in the zone ever since. She does her own thing. She stays in the process and doesn't think about the outcome."

Louderbaugh credits her steady climb to mindset: "I've just kept it mellow. I stick to my game plan—middle of the greens, make some putts, and know when to go for it."

Veteran Lauren Clark, meanwhile, set the tone with three consecutive individual titles earlier in the spring, and her All-Big 12 honor was KU's first in nearly a decade. Though not atop the scorecard at regionals, her leadership has been pivotal.

"She's like an assistant coach," said Kuhle. "Lauren believes in her teammates and pushes them. That confidence is contagious."

Clark agrees: "There's a reason we've gotten this far. Everyone has their secret sauce. My job is to help them stay grounded, have fun and do what makes them great."

CHRIS LAZZARINO



KANSAS ATHLETICS



Lauren Clark (above) in her zone during warmups, and (top left) with the season's happy surprise, Lyla Louderbaugh.

Start Here. *Go Farther.*

With **Truity**, the Official Credit Union of
the KU Alumni Association.





TRUITY +
A Better Way to Bank



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
The University of Kansas



Learn more and join today at TruityCU.org/kualumni




GRACE NOTES

**JAYHAWKS DELIVER MEDICATIONS,
COUNSELING AND COMPASSIONATE
CARE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED**

by **Chris Lazzarino**

Photographs by **Steve Puppe**



JOHN YOST can pinpoint the date and place where he took the first step toward his transformation from successful pharmaceutical executive and scientist to fervent missionary for affordable, effective medications and co-founder of Pharmacy of Grace in Kansas City, Kansas.

The day was Sept. 16, 2001, the Sunday after the terror attacks of Sept. 11 that left many in despair, desperate for hope and community.

“My grandfather was a pastor, so my mom was a preacher’s kid, and I grew up always going to church,” recalls Yost, p’78, PharmD’09. “But then when I went away to college, I didn’t do that. I didn’t attend church. Eventually I went back several times to church, but just couldn’t find the right place to land. And then ... it was the weekend after 9/11, actually ... I got invited to a church I had been looking at, The Church of the Resurrection. So that weekend after 9/11, I attended. I’ve been going ever since.”

For more than a decade, John and his wife, Sara, established themselves as devoted members of their Leawood church, serving on committees and volunteering wherever needed. Yost says he began feeling the pull toward ministry, but, while still a busy pharmaceutical executive, “I didn’t have the space.” After navigating years of corporate transformations and shifting career trajectories, Yost in late 2015 signed the paperwork for his buyout package. He was free to follow his heart.

Two weeks later, the pastor who ran the church’s missions department emailed Yost to ask whether he’d be interested in volunteering. John told him he was, adding that he was available for 15 to 20 hours a week.

“He asked me, ‘How can you do that?’ I said, ‘Well, I just left the pharmaceutical industry.’ I ended up on staff, working in the missions department.”

Yost completed the United Methodist Church’s intense program for second-career

lay members hoping to become licensed pastors, joined his church’s staff and began organizing mission trips so fellow congregants could do good works and meet others of a similar spirit beyond Kansas City. One such trip took Yost and his group to Cincinnati, home of the Church for all People’s nonprofit grocery store and pantry, established in 2010.

While visiting the food pantry, Yost noticed a postcard on a wall: “Charitable Pharmacy, Central Ohio.”

“And I said, ‘What’s that?’” Yost recalls. “The pastor I was with stops and says, ‘That’s something we started as a pharmacy,’ so I kept asking questions. Finally he said, ‘Are you interested in that?’” Yost replied that he’d been a doctor of pharmacy long before joining the ministry, and, yes, he was very much interested in a tour. Yost visited the 1,000-square-foot space in an old church, where couches and chairs spilled into hallways. Because the pharmacy served only the Cincinnati homeless population, anyone with an appointment could show up as soon as it opened to enjoy coffee, doughnuts and a comfortable place to rest while waiting for their name to be called.

“They had staff pharmacists and volunteer pharmacists. They had students from three different pharmacy schools. They had fellows; they had technicians. I mean, the place was buzzing.”

Crucially, Yost observed that pharmacists insisted on meeting with each patient to discuss their medications. The atmosphere reminded Yost of his training at KU, where the School of Pharmacy prepares students to foster personal connections with patients.

Unfortunately, Yost says, “this is not what people graduating get to do, especially if they go to one of the chains, where it’s, ‘Here’s your prescriptions. Have any questions for the pharmacist? Sign here.’”

“So that struck me from a pharmacist level, but then from the person of service and faith level, serving those who are most in need ... I mean, it just hit me. I came home talking about it, and I told my wife about it, so we went back.”

Sara Yost, PharmD’12, had been work-

ing as a computer programmer when she met her future husband, and found herself inspired to go back to school for a degree that would allow her to “focus on others.” After completing her science prerequisites at Johnson County Community College, she “decided to give pharmacy a try” at KU, and discovered it was a good fit.

“Once you’re out in the world a little bit, you see things differently,” she says of her career change. “It’s a progression in life, so to speak. You start getting it. We need to help each other. We can’t do this alone. None of us can do this alone. We need each other. So how do I contribute to that?”

She worked in retail pharmacies, starting with the Walmart in Atchison. She then became a “floater,” working in Walmarts across Olathe and Overland Park. After four years of learning the industry, she decided to combine her technology expertise with her pharmaceutical training and took a job with Overland Park-based ProPharma, which answers product questions for pharmaceutical companies, a job she still enjoys.

Sara admired her husband’s growing spirituality and took pride in his success as a pastor organizing mission trips. “I’m not sure he expected that,” she says of his assignment, “but it was actually a super fit. He did an awesome job, putting together some fabulous mission trips, connecting the right people, getting things set up, and then participating himself, too.”

When she heard about the charitable pharmacy in Ohio, Sara decided to join her husband on his next visit.

“And you know, it just blew my mind. My first thought was, ‘Why are we not doing this in Kansas City?’”

ON an early spring morning in Kansas City, Kansas, an older gentleman enters Pharmacy of Grace. He steps to the reception window in the gleaming lobby that features wood floors, new furniture and community art on every wall. Kelly Villegas, who welcomes all visitors, greets him with a cheery “Hola!”

“Buenos dias,” he answers, to which Villegas replies in kind. More than 60% of the

pharmacy's patrons identify as Hispanic, and at least 45% speak only Spanish.

Tucked in at the end of a hallway opposite a health clinic run by faith-based Mercy and Truth Medical Missions, on the first floor of a sprawling former seminary dormitory, Pharmacy of Grace team members welcome patients suffering financial hardship as warmly as they do those with full insurance and the resources to afford co-payments. Since opening in 2022, it has been patronized mostly by folks in its Kansas City, Kansas, neighborhood, but it also draws patients from across the metro area, including the Missouri side, and some from as far away as rural areas south of Topeka.

ing, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, French, Haitian, Korean, Laotian, Nepali, Somali and, with the greatest frequency behind Spanish, Swahili. The office's technology even allows for labels to be printed in foreign languages.

"We have a gentleman who speaks Arabic, and he tries to get by using the translator service on his phone," says Brandon Powers, PharmD'00, immunization manager and staff pharmacist. "The first time he came in, when we finally figured out he was speaking Arabic, we were able to use our service. And then when we saw that he was trying to use his phone to translate the directions on his bottle, I walked over to

Behind the window, the pharmacy professionals are all KU-trained, including Michael Fink, PharmD'00, vice president of clinical operations and the Yosts' first hire, and student pharmacists who are working through the advanced pharmacy practice experiences required before graduating from the KU School of Pharmacy. They have at their disposal racks of the same medicines found at any high-end pharmacy, and even boast "Gracie," an expensive, top-of-the-line robotic assistant that is far from ubiquitous in the profit-based retail world.

The atmosphere is almost too serene to be believed, certainly when compared with other pharmacies. The pace is steady yet calm. In the lobby, light Christian music greets visitors—Pharmacy of Grace might be church-inspired, but it is not church-affiliated—and the tempo of activity speaks to a resolute professionalism that aims to do better where others have fallen short.

While an especially busy retail outlet might power through hundreds of prescriptions a day, Pharmacy of Grace's "exponential growth"—a term Michael Fink uses with a chuckle—since 2022 has expanded from about 25 a day to more than 100.

"You have a little bit more time to focus on the patients and really slow down and counsel them and go through any questions they have," says student pharmacist Sylvia Rivera, who is completing her final rotation before earning her KU PharmD degree.

Rivera grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, and says her career goal is to return to her hometown and open another accessible pharmacy. Working on her Spanish is part of her preparation, yet she also acknowledges that the industry's current crisis of undervalued insurance payments—a primary factor in single-provider hometown pharmacies being forced to close—likely means she'll defer her dream of providing health care for people in need.

"I really want to be able to reach the population we are reaching here, focusing on low-income and uninsured patients," Rivera says. "But now is not the best climate for that. I think it's not really a good idea to be opening pharmacies."



Kelly Villegas, Pharmacy of Grace's self-taught multilingual hospitality manager, greets a patient and conducts the interaction in fluent Spanish. When necessary, Villegas and her colleagues can also turn to a tablet-based app that connects with a live translator.

Thanks to dazzling technology provided by an Overland Park company called Propio Language Services, a tablet-based app immediately connects the team with a human translator, who conducts the two-way conversation. The pharmacy has served patients speaking 15 languages other than English and Spanish, includ-

the system and typed in, "Translate Arabic" and put the Arabic directions on his bottle. He just looked at me, and looked at the bottle, and had the biggest smile.

"The number of smiles here is a whole lot more than they are in any other retail setting, and that's a great feeling. That's awesome."



Pharmacy operations manager Sandra Zamarripa (left foreground) and KU student pharmacist Sylvia Rivera (left background) work in the pharmacy's state-of-the-art high-tech dispensary, along with pharmacist Brandon Powers (right), who eagerly accepted KU classmate Michael Fink's offer to join the Pharmacy of Grace team.

AFTER completing several trips to Cincinnati, John Yost in 2016 began consulting with area professionals, some of whom became members of Pharmacy of Grace's active, prominent board of directors. He says the question he heard most often was, "Would we be duplicating services, or is this something unique?" Once he, Sara and their collaborators were convinced they were on the right track, Yost in 2018 incorporated the pharmacy and filed for a 501(c)(3) designation as a charitable organization.

Then came the 35-day shutdown of the federal government, which pushed the pharmacy's schedule back another six months; once renovations of their space began, COVID hit. By late 2021, the Yosts were finally in position to begin staffing, with the goal of providing competitive wages to attract the best talent.

"Every business thing I've ever been in, I always want to find people who are better than me and pay them for that," John Yost says, responding to a stray comment that his employees are presumably leaving money on the table by choosing charitable health care over corporate pharmacy. "There are some nonprofits that try to underpay, but there's a lot that actually do pay. We do. We pay to hire pharmacists. They're our most expensive thing that we buy."

In late 2021, they hired Fink, who at the time was in his eighth year as pharmacy manager at Cerner's Healthe Clinic Phar-

macy in KCK, which followed a decade as pharmacy manager at an Overland Park Hy-Vee and seven years at Medical Arts Pharmacy in Lawrence.

Whether intentional or otherwise, the three core founders of Pharmacy of Grace share rural backgrounds along with their deeply felt spirituality. Sara grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa; John set off for Barton County Community College in Great Bend as a criminal justice major after growing up in Alexander, a crossroads south of Hays with 100 residents at the time; and Fink hails from a farm near Herkimer, 12 miles from Marysville, in north-central Kansas.

Among Fink's more pleasant chores was driving Grandma Erna, a German immigrant who had arrived in the U.S. in 1925, to her doctor's appointments in Marysville, always followed by a stop at AR-EX Drug Store. While his grandmother spoke with the pharmacist, the teen chauffeur took advantage of "the all-in-one convenience shop of the time," browsing racks of comic books and finding treats at the soda fountain.

"I just remember that the pharmacist had plenty of time to sit down with Grandma and go over her medication," Fink says. "That's what really drew me to pharmacy. He was able to give his patients the medications that helped them, and talk with them. She respected them, so that probably led to me respecting the pharmacist as well."

After "much prayerful consideration," Fink eagerly accepted the Yosts' offer to launch Pharmacy of Grace. As with all interviewed for this story who have previous chain-store retail experience, Fink had no particular criticisms of previous employers—believing that the high volume of daily prescriptions that made their professional lives difficult had been forced upon chain stores such as Walgreen's, Walmart and Hy-Vee by the modern pharmaceutical climate of byzantine paperwork and insufficient insurance reimbursements. He said yes to the Yosts because he cherished the opportunity to re-create what he first saw back home in Marysville: a space where pharmacists and patients actually talked with one another.

"We're a little different. We aren't there for volume," Fink says. We want to make sure that we counsel the patients and that they understand their medications, particularly with those who have been diagnosed with more complex, chronic conditions such as diabetes. They've met with the doctor, they've heard the news, and then they are given medication. If that happened to me, if I was told I had a chronic condition, I would be in shock. I would need somebody to really talk it through with me. So we don't want to hand over the medication and send them out the door. We want to talk with them about their medication and what to expect."

Janelle Basgall Ruisinger, associate dean for academic affairs and clinical professor



in the School of Pharmacy and a Pharmacy of Grace board member from 2018 through 2024, says the pharmacist-patient interaction created within Pharmacy of Grace finally replicates the atmosphere that students are taught as the ideal in their training.

“That’s part of the vision and mission of the school, to make communities healthier and to give back to Kansas,” says Ruisinger, PharmD’99. “So, yes, I do think it’s ingrained in them as they go through their education, and the fact that it’s KU alumni who had the vision for it, and have seen the vision through and continue to give back to the community, is something to be very, very proud of. Definitely a shining star for the school.”

Pharmacy of Grace’s affordable medications are made possible by corporate

donors, charitable foundations and other funders, including fully insured patients who choose to fill their prescriptions at the pharmacy, indirectly supporting those who are unable to pay.

But providing steep discounts is only half the pharmacy’s battle toward fulfilling its true mission—improving patients’ health—because low-cost medications are of no use if patients take them incorrectly or not at all.

“The most expensive medication,” Fink says, “is one you don’t take correctly.”

According to Fink and the Yosts, current statistics indicate that seven of 10 prescriptions are actually filled, and only about half of those are taken properly, leaving about 30% of prescribed medications that are being taken as directed by a physician, resulting in \$100 to \$300 billion in losses in the U.S. alone.

“We’re trying to get these people medication that they need,” Sara Yost says, “but we’re also trying to get them to take it correctly, so that we can fulfill our mission, our purpose, of breaking the cycle of reliance on hospital emergency rooms. When we can maintain control over the disease state, we can avoid these hospital emergency room situations. It makes a lot of sense.”

A delightful detail that helps explain Pharmacy of Grace is the title given Kelly Villegas, yet another hometown employee and the first to greet patients. As “hospitality manager,” Villegas does far more than hand over bags of medications and process payments.

“It means I make sure everybody’s welcome,” she says. “Make sure that we have everything on the documentation that we need if I have to help them apply for assistance, or if I need to help them get here and home, just basically anything that that kind of patient might need assistance with. Give me one second ...”

Villegas switches to fluent Spanish to assist a patient at her window, then explains that while she did go to Donnelly College for an interpreter certification, she’s otherwise self-taught. She studies with the

Duolingo app, watches foreign films with English subtitles and English-language films with foreign subtitles, and, as her ace in the hole, she previously worked for a few years in fast food.

“So it’s not only the language, but also the cultures, too, that I’m pretty good on,” she says. “Along with English and Spanish, I have some French, but I’m not fluent, and I understand Portuguese. I just pick it up pretty easy, for some reason.”

Brandon Powers, the pharmacy’s immunization manager, says he enjoyed his work at his previous employer, Hy-Vee, and even found time to build relationships with patients, but the daily grind of helping fill as many as 600 prescriptions a day took a toll. When his KU classmate Mike Fink offered him a job at Pharmacy of Grace, “it was a no-brainer. I said yes as soon they offered it to me.” He is 49 years old and says he’ll “stick with this as long as it’s still operating or until I retire.”

At Pharmacy of Grace, Powers says, he finally found a professional home that reflects the job as he learned it at KU.

“None of us would have graduated without the help of others,” he says. “Basically every one of the professors there could have taken another job in their field, but they chose to give back to their community and become educators, so if there’s an opportunity for any of us to give back, that’s what we should be doing, whether you’re a doctor, a teacher, a lawyer, a pharmacist or a farmer working in the fields.

“We get so much from each other, and we should all be giving back in one way or another.”

Giving back to help others heal: the epitome of grace. 

LEARN MORE

For more information on how to support Pharmacy of Grace, visit pharmacyofgrace.org.



Michael Fink, vice president of clinical operations and pharmacist in charge, chose his career to follow the example he witnessed as a teenager, when he often took his grandmother to see the pharmacist in Marysville.

— EXPERIENCE LIFE —

Well-Played —



LAWRENCE COUNTRY CLUB

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US TODAY.

REAGAN BEIMS


Membership, Marketing & Communications Director



rbeims@lawrencecountryclub.com



lawrencecountryclubks.com

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt and a dark blue cardigan, stands on the left. A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue patterned short-sleeved shirt, sits in the center with his hands clasped. They are in a radio studio with various equipment like microphones, mixers, and racks of gear in the background.

Hometown Sounds

KPR's '105 Live'
puts spotlight on
local Kansas music

by Steven Hill



"We needed to try something new that wouldn't detract from the great things we're already doing," says KPR's Feloniz Lovato-Winston (left) of Nick Carswell's pitch for "105 Live," a music show that features Kansas musicians like Virga. The Lawrence-based band fronted by Faith Maddox, c'21, visited the station in April for a live studio session that aired May 24.

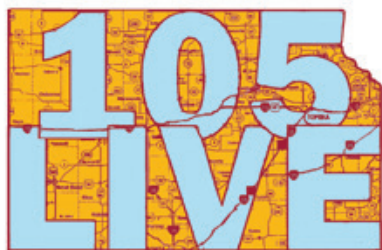
When Feloniz Lovato-Winston became director of Kansas Public Radio and Audio-Reader, in September 2023, she came to the job with a clear goal: to boost KPR's local content and strengthen its connection with the community.

Although it has been headquartered on KU's Lawrence campus since it began broadcasting as KANU 91.5 FM in 1952 (two decades before National Public Radio launched, with the station as a charter member, in 1971), KPR has steadily expanded its broadcast reach—and how it defines "local" and "community."

The expansion kicked off in 2000, when KANU's Lawrence signal was augmented by a transmitter in Atchison, K210CR 89.9 FM. In 2002 the Emporia transmitter, KANH 89.7 FM, came online. That was followed by one in Olsburg-Junction City (KANV 91.3), two in Manhattan (99.5 and 97.9 KPR2) and another in Chanute (KANQ 90.3).

In 2003, the station changed its name to Kansas Public Radio to reflect its broader geographic range. A second Lawrence frequency, 96.1 KPR2, in 2016 began broadcasting news and talk shows, many from NPR. The addition of livestreaming via the website and app, along with on-demand podcasts, has further spread programming to the rest of the state.

So, when Lovato-Winston's strategy to turn up the volume on local, community-focused programs attracted a pitch from Audio-Reader program manager Nick Carswell, she could tell he was on to something, just based on the new show's proposed title: "105 Live."



The idea, Carswell explains, was to produce an hourlong weekly radio program that showcases the best "new, original and noteworthy" music made all across the state of Kansas. The show would rely on musicians to submit their work via an online form, adding an element of serendipity to the selection process: Who knew what might come in over the virtual transom Monday morning and end up on the radio Saturday at 5 p.m.? The program's explicit goal—and the inspiration for its name—would be to feature music made by artists from all 105 Kansas counties.

"It seemed like the perfect show to me," Lovato-Winston says from her office in Broadcasting Hall, the building at 1120 E. 11th St., next door to the Baehr Audio-Reader Center that has been KPR's home since 2003. "I thought it was a great idea, and I couldn't think of any downside to having this show on the air."

Promoting and supporting the local music community and providing high-quality arts entertainment has been part of KPR's mission since the beginning, she explains. The current program lineup, with the folk-focused "Trail Mix" and the newer, jazz-oriented "Live at Green Lady Lounge," devotes airtime to local music. "105 Live" is a different animal.

"We've always had a strong music component, and we've always been very committed to having a strong connection with our community," says Lovato-Winston, c'09. "But I feel like we were due for something just a little bit new and a little bit different. We were at that

point in our history where we needed to try something new that wouldn't detract from the great things we're already doing. And this show was the perfect fit for that, because when I applied for the job, I was really thinking, 'Well, how can we create more local content? And what would that be and how can we introduce more people to public media and how it can improve their lives, broaden their horizons, but also make them feel more connected to their community?' This show accomplishes all of those goals."

And if counting on chance and happenstance to fill out the program roster each week seemed like a perfect way to chase that goal, then Carswell, himself a musician and an advocate for local music in Lawrence and beyond, seemed like the perfect host.

"He kind of has it all," Lovato-Winston explains. "He has the connections in the arts community. He has the experience as a musician, so he can really empathize with the musicians and ask them really good questions during the interviews. And then he also has a wonderful radio presence. I feel like I just got very lucky. I definitely wanted to do more local community content, and talk about serendipitous: The most serendipitous thing is that he proposed the show and felt comfortable doing it, and I think it's been so great for KPR already."

"Everybody here comes from somewhere," as the R.E.M. song goes. Carswell came to Lawrence in 2011 from



STEVE PUPPE

Carswell and Jason Slote, KPR production manager, listen to playback from the live session with Virga guitarist Lane Hornback, '20. One show a month, on average, is built around an extended studio performance and interview with Kansas performers.

Dublin, Ireland, where he and his wife had just completed graduate school. “We finished master’s degrees in May and were here by July, wondering how it was 40 degrees Celsius at 11 o’clock at night,” he says, chuckling. “We never looked back.”

He brought with him a deep affection for music and radio that started early, in the pre-streaming days of his youth.

“I’m of the generation that used cassette tapes to record songs off the radio. If there was a song that you liked and you wanted to hear it again on demand, that’s how you got it,” he recalls. “The idea of making mixtapes and that love of radio goes all the way back to there.”

In Ireland, he also gained experience working full time as a musician and part time as a radio host.

“I had local music shows in Ireland on a couple of community radio stations. It’s a different model than public radio, but community radio is where I found a spot. I trained as a sound engineer, so that piece was in place, and I did some training for radio production. I just always loved radio as a medium. I find it super engaging. So, the idea to create my own radio show always just made a lot of sense.”

After arriving in Lawrence, Carswell went job hunting. One stop was KPR. He didn’t land a position, but he did get his name in front of the staff, including Jason Slote, KPR’s production manager. Their paths crossed again when Carswell was playing jazz outside a local restaurant. “I went up to introduce myself, and since

he had seen my name because I’d been banging on the door at KPR, he said, ‘Oh, you’re the Irish guy looking for radio work.’” The two eventually wound up playing together in a band, Carswell & Hope. When Carswell eventually joined Audio-Reader in 2015, they became colleagues. Now Slote produces and mixes the live session performances that are an integral part of “105 Live.”

The program features a lively mix of lineups and genres. Recent shows have included The Band That Saved the World, an eight-piece funk, soul and dance ensemble from Lawrence; Lauren Lovelle and the Midnight Spliffs, who weld modern roots influences to a traditional country sound; the Wichita “math rock” duo Yae; The Matchsellers, a four-piece bluegrass band from Kansas City; hip-hop artist Anthemous T Rocknrolla; and singer-songwriters such as John Depew of Arlington, in Reno County. There are even occasional forays into classical (the chamber music quartet Opus 76 made a January appearance), but the show’s eclectic offerings generally fall well outside KPR’s usual programming focus, which leans heavily on classical music during the day and evening and jazz overnight.

It’s not hard to imagine a distracted listener tuning in on a Saturday evening expecting to hear Rachmaninoff and instead encountering a blast of metal, techno or the trippy ambient sounds of Overland Park steel guitarist Nate Hofer, f’02, whose six-track EP—recorded in a decom-

missioned Atlas missile silo near Wilson—is among Carswell’s favorite finds.

The unexpected jolt is part of the point. And listeners seem to get it.

“It could be that somebody might hear some heavier music than they are anticipating,” Lovato-Winston says, “but so far the feedback has been that people understand: They like that it’s Kansas music, so even if the genre is a little bit different, that’s OK.”

“It is a bit risky, but we were at a good place to take a risk like that. One of the things that we can offer is programming that brings our community together. Supporting talent from Kansas, I think, is one of the most important things that we can bring to our community. And there’s a generation of folks who maybe are more apt to listen to alternative music or rock music, and this is a way that we can serve those listeners and also maybe introduce them to some of our legacy programming like classical music. So, I feel like it was a risk worth taking, and I don’t think it’s the only time that KPR or KANU has taken a risk like this. If you look at our history way before I was here, there were times when there were big pivots in programming, and typically it’s turned out well.”

Carswell casts a wide net and is willing to bend his own rules by including bands from Kansas City, Missouri, or by playing music that isn’t strictly “new,” like a recent live session that featured Manhattan rockers Ultimate Fakebook performing their seminal, 25-year-old album, “This Will Be Laughing Week,” at The Bottle-neck. His programming mix echoes his involvement with music statewide. He works with the Kansas Arts Commission on music ecosystem development, a concept that looks at the economic benefits local music can bring to communities, which can include revenue generated by live shows and the flourishing of a “nighttime economy” of restaurants, bars and free public concerts that contributes to quality of life.

In Lawrence, where a vibrant local music scene has thrived for decades, Carswell founded and directs the Lawrence Music Alliance, a nonprofit organization that uses the framework of music ecosystem

development to engage the music community, advocate for musicians and other artists, and act as an intermediary between the creative economy and city government. The alliance offers training and workshops that cover topics such as music production, marketing, copyright, booking and touring, and it helped conduct the 2024 Lawrence Music Census to gather data to generate policy solutions to bolster the Lawrence music scene. The survey confirms that live, local music is an economic engine, producing \$13 million in income annually for 826 respondents—likely a mere fraction of the true economic impact of local music on the Lawrence economy. Conducted with the support and help of some 20 community partners, including the KU School of Music and KJHK, KU’s student-run radio station, the census is a good example of Carswell’s inclusive approach to promoting local music. Like a bandleader calling out onstage the contributions of his fellow players, he’s only too happy to share the spotlight. Many hands make light work—and livelier music.

“KPR and ‘105 Live’ don’t have to do all of this alone,” he says of the efforts to support musicians while also making the case that an investment in local music is an investment in the Kansas economy. “If other entities want to ask that same question, ‘How do we support the music that’s happening in these places?’, then that becomes a conversation for the wider ecosystem to address.” And if “105 Live” helps move that conversation along, Carswell adds, “That would be fantastic.”

The notion that local music can be good for the economy is not fringe; in fact, it’s central to the economic development approach favored by Gov. Laura Kelly and Lt. Gov. and Secretary of Commerce David Toland.

“I think it is a commonly held belief that economic development and the arts are somehow at cross-purposes, that you can’t do business development in a traditional sense, bringing a factory to town and so forth, in a way other than by looking at infrastructure and real estate and tax policy and incentives,” Toland says. “The entire approach that Gov. Kelly and I have taken to economic development has been



The “LG Desk Concerts” conceived by Lt. Gov. David Toland provided inspiration and material for “105 Live.” Season one began in October with alumnus Freedy Johnston performing to an enthusiastic, standing-room audience at the Statehouse that included Toland and Carswell (third from right) and concluded in December with Leavenworth native Melissa Etheridge (below).

built around the idea that you have to have quality of life. And if you don’t have places that are attractive for people to live and invest and raise a family, then it won’t work. Companies will choose to go other places where they can more easily recruit and retain workers and their families. So you have to have a place to get a cup of coffee in the morning. You have to have a place to have a nice dinner that evening, a glass of wine with your friends. You have to have things to do as a family, as an individual. And I think live music is a key part of that.”

Toland, c’99, g’01, was the brains behind “LG Desk Concerts,” a series of performances presented in the lieutenant governor’s office on the second floor of the Statehouse. The series, which showcases Kansas musicians, started in 2024 with a performance by Freedy Johnston, ’85, and also included episodes with Leavenworth native Melissa Etheridge; Kelley Hunt, ’79; and Maria the Mexican, the mariachi-inspired band led by sisters Maria Elena Cuevas, c’10, and Tess Cuevas, c’07. Plans are underway for season two.

“I love NPR’s ‘Tiny Desk Concerts,’” Toland says of the wildly popular series that brings major musical acts (looking at you, Taylor Swift) to National Public Radio headquarters for intimate live performances. “I’ve listened to them for years. They’re kind of a staple of my getting ready in the morning and winding down in the evening, and especially when I’m working

in here on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. So, I was listening to an NPR ‘Tiny Desk Concert’ and thinking a little bit about the format and also pondering what a great room this lieutenant governor’s office is and how good the music sounded playing through my phone, even, with these high ceilings and great acoustics. And it just started to mushroom in my mind, the idea of, ‘OK, well the opposite of tiny is large. The abbreviation for large is LG. This is the LG’s office. I wonder if we could do concerts in here?’”

They could. Aides tidied up Toland’s desk, brought in extra chairs and shifted furniture to make room for TV cameras from KTWU, Topeka’s PBS affiliate, which records the shows for broadcast. A standing-room audience crowded in to watch Freedy kick off the series last fall.



"I did not know that Freedy Johnston, who is someone that I'd listened to since he was popular in the 1990s, was from Kinsley, Kansas, until a friend of mine from New Jersey told me that he had seen Freedy play a venue somewhere outside of New York City," Toland says. "My friend told me I should be so proud of this Kansas product, and I actually had no clue that Freedy was from Kinsley or a Kansan at all, and I figured that probably most Kansans don't, and that that's something that we can and we should fix. Because for me, it's a source of pride, as a Kansan. As we look at the diversity of musical talent that has come out of this state, we have an opportunity to help instill that pride among Kansans that are here, but also Kansans that are around the country."

Home state pride is certainly among the spirits energizing "105 Live." "LG Desk Concerts" is among the models for Carswell's show (along with "Tiny Desk Concerts" and "Flew the Coop Sessions," a metro Kansas City live music outlet that

makes free video and audio recordings of local artists), and it also provided material for several of the KPR show's early broadcasts.

"Part of the concept of 'LG Desk Concerts' was that it would be passed throughout any media in Kansas that wanted to air it," Carswell says. "It's a pretty cool way to get Melissa Etheridge on my little baby radio show."

Toland sees the concerts as part of a broader effort to incorporate the arts among the state's economic development goals, which also includes Gov. Kelly's push to establish film and TV production incentives. (He commends KU emeritus professor Kevin Willmott as a key advocate for film tax credits.) More voices touting Kansas artists could change the state's image in ways that will help improve the economy, he says, "and if we improve our economy, ultimately what we're doing is helping people."

Among those receiving a helping hand are the musicians—those whose songs Carswell cues up on Saturday nights and

those who hear them booming out of the speakers in their car radios or computers.

"What we're doing, really, is celebrating where people are from and the music they make," Carswell says. "We want to show that good local music can be as good as any other music."

"And then, of course, there's the idea that there's some kid—it doesn't have to be a kid, but let's imagine it's a teenager or somebody who'd like a music career but doesn't have the resources—maybe it's in a rural area, in one of the counties that we've yet to feature, or that doesn't have a Freedy Johnston to look to."

Hearing other Kansas musicians week after week might just spark the dream that they, too, could hear themselves on the radio someday. "Maybe they're inspired to record a song and send it in to us," Carswell says.

All music, like all politics, is local. Everybody here comes from somewhere. Why not Kansas? —

The power of music

Halfway into a six-month recruitment blitz that brought the massive Panasonic electric vehicle battery plant to De Soto, a unique opportunity to impact negotiations presented itself.

"Panasonic's executives have on the back of their business cards the seven guiding principles of the Panasonic Corporation," says Lt. Gov. and Secretary of Commerce David Toland, whose deputy chief of staff Ryan Wills is a singer-songwriter. "Ryan comes in on a Monday morning while we're in the middle of this heavy-duty recruitment to win the largest economic development project in Kansas history: \$4 billion, 4,000 direct jobs and an additional 4,000 supplier-related jobs. And he says, 'Hey, I don't know if this is a good idea or not, but I wrote a song this weekend based on Panasonic's guiding principles.' And I was like, 'How'd that come about?' He says, 'Well, I was just looking at the back of their business card and thought it was really cool, and one thing led to another.'"

"He proceeds to play me this song entitled 'Seven Things We Do.' It was 90 seconds long, all acoustic—and it was beautiful," Toland says, laughing.

"When the song ended, I was at a loss for words because I was so focused on, 'OK, what do we do with this? This is gold.' I don't quite know how we translate this into something tangible, but I thought there was a way."

Toland's staff found a vintage Panasonic boom box, circa 1985, recorded the song on a cassette tape, and delivered it to Panasonic's

government affairs office in Washington, D.C. The secretary of commerce resisted the urge to walk in with the boom box on his shoulder, he says, but he did play the song for the Panasonic team, who were "just awestruck."

"So, two, three months go by, and we finally get the phone call that Panasonic wants to meet with the governor and me. We set the time for them to come to Cedar Crest, the governor's mansion. They come in, we sit down, we exchange niceties, and they proceed to say something to the effect of, 'Well, Kansas has a great site. So does Oklahoma. Your transportation logistics are excellent. Theirs are also excellent. The Kansas City population is larger, so that's good from a workforce perspective, but the Oklahoma site is significantly closer to their main customer.'"

"On the technical merits, it was pretty much a wash," Toland says the Panasonic team told Kelly and him. "But Kansas wrote us a song."

Done deal.

"So, the more we can have '105 Live' and 'LG Desk Concerts' and all these great venues across the state—from the Stiefel Theatre in Salina to The Bottleneck on New Hampshire Street to the little country market in Allen County where I'm from, where they have live music every weekend—the better off we'll all be as Kansans."

—S.H.

A portrait of Andrew Wymore, a man with short brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark navy blue blazer over a red and white checkered button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is standing in front of a dark background with some blurred lights and a pennant that says "Kansas".

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.

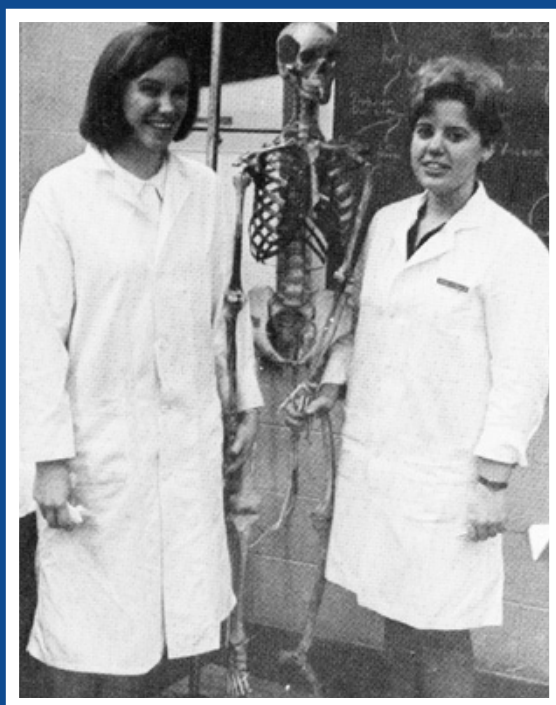
- Licensed in Kansas and Missouri.
- Specializing in the Greater Kansas City metro area.
- Nationwide referral network of trusted Realtors.

Contact me to invest in you and invest in KU.

 **913-515-2386** |  **AWymore@ReeceNichols.com**



Stories from the Girls in White



A new book captures experiences
of School of Medicine alumnae who
'fundamentally changed the profession'

by Anne Walling

In the summer of 1934, a 10-year-old girl watched as a seriously injured boy was carried into her father's rural medical office. It was harvesttime in Kansas, time for the local boys to shoot the terrified rabbits flushed out by the advancing combines. In the dust, excitement, and confusion, one of the boys took shotgun blasts to his abdomen and thighs. The girl's father was delivering a baby at a remote farm and could not be reached. Her mother, a nurse, did what she could to staunch the profuse bleeding and triage his wounds, but the boy had to be put in the back of a truck and driven over unpaved roads to Wichita. I thought right then, if Mother had been a doctor, we could have treated him here and not sent him off. I realized being a nurse would be inadequate. I absolutely decided right then to become a doctor and stuck to it!

This harrowing memory of a summertime emergency in rural Kansas—and a young girl's vow to become a doctor when women in the profession were few—helped spark a project that captures the memories of senior women physicians who are KU alumnae. *Women in Medicine: Stories from the Girls in White*, which will be published in July, contains anecdotes from 37 pioneering women who entered the School of Medicine during the pivotal years from just after World War II to the early 1970s. They represent 17 states, spanning all regions of the nation, and they practiced in 13 specialties, working in varied settings from rural clinics to metropolitan research institutes. The most senior physician graduated in 1948 and was 96 years old when the video interviews occurred during the winter of 2020-'21.

Dr. Anne Walling, professor emerita of medicine and a faculty member since 1981; co-investigators Kari Nilsen, associate professor, and Morgan Weiler Gillam, c'18, m'22; along with other senior faculty, staff and students, began the project in 2019, working with Jordann Parsons Snow, c'08, and the team from the KU Medical Alumni Association to connect with alumnae. (Snow now continues her work with KU Medical Center campuses as assistant vice president for University relations at KU Alumni, following the recent integration of the Medical Center's alumni groups into the larger organization.)

The *Women in Medicine* study expands on a 2018 Medical Society of Sedgwick County project, "The Only Woman in the Room," (OWR), which included memories

from 23 physicians in the Wichita area. OWR revealed substantial variation between the experiences and attitudes of women who forged their way to medical careers in the middle of the 20th century and those who began after 1975, the first year when women represented about 25% of KU's first-year medical students. "Although they were still a minority," Walling writes, "once women represented one quarter of the class, they were no longer so unusual, isolated or invisible."

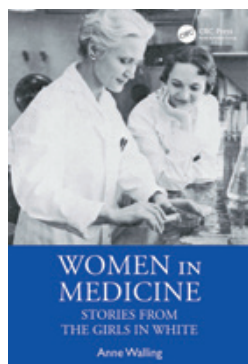
Thankfully, progress has continued. By fall 2023, 43% of first-year KU medical students were women, and in fall 2024, women represented 60% of the first-year class, including the campuses in Kansas City, Wichita and Salina.

Women in Medicine focuses on a larger sample of women who entered medical school in earlier years, and it counters presumptions that pervasive misogyny and mistreatment clouded overall careers. Only one of the participants remained bitter about her training, and nearly all expressed professional and personal fulfillment despite early struggles. They appreciated the opportunity to share their stories with a wider audience; as one doctor put it, "*We need to write our own history before someone writes it for us!*"

If the reference to "Girls in White" seems off-putting for a book that hails the resilience and strength of women, the juxtaposition slyly packs purpose: Walling explains that the phrase is a subtle retort to a widely known 1961 book, *Boys in White*, which chronicled the experiences of men studying at KU's School of Medicine in a bygone era. The modern rendition, Walling writes, "gives voice to the women who were excluded from that study as being irrelevant to the 'man's work' of medicine!"

The following excerpt is adapted from Chapter 10 of *Women in Medicine*, "Medical School: Into the Man's World." Comments from the alumnae appear as they do in the book: in italics, without attribution.

—THE EDITORS



*Women in Medicine:
Stories from the Girls in White*
By Anne Walling
\$55.99 paperback,
\$230 hardcover
CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group

First Impressions

I started in 1970—scary. I was terrified but wanted to do well.

Our interviewees vividly recalled their first days at the Medical Center (KUMC). They described a gamut of emotions. Excitement and eager anticipation alternated with anxiety, fear of failure, and concerns about loneliness and social isolation. Everyone was determined to succeed but worried about the academic and other challenges ahead. They had all heard about the brutal pace and volume of learning in medical school. Although they had done well in college, they worried how they would fare in a class of competitive high achievers. Those who did not have particularly strong backgrounds in science were especially concerned.

Most of the class had been science majors. One friend had a master's in microbiology, another a master's in comparative anatomy from Cornell University. Most of the students were Phi Beta Kappa. I felt slightly behind in science initially but worked hard and did well.

Really struggled and worked hard to get in. In college, you are used to being in the top 10%, but things were different in medical school—everybody had been at the top of their class.

In addition to academic concerns, our interviewees recalled being anxious about personal and social issues. They were curious about their classmates and hoped they would find friends and fit in with other students. Those who were shy quickly realized that medical school required a robust attitude.

I was excited, scared, and nerdy, always had my nose in a book. I was so timid and shy but found out being shy doesn't work in medical school!

Despite years of preparation and anticipation, several remembered feeling *scared and overwhelmed* in their first days at the Medical Center. This was particularly the case for women who had attended small colleges, especially if they also came from small towns or rural areas.

After senior classes of 15-20 in college, the class size was daunting.

I was incredibly naïve. I felt like I came from a little town and a little college and would be right in the middle of the class—and I was.

Incoming medical students who had attended KU in Lawrence knew several classmates and others on the Kansas City campus. Students who were not KU graduates felt at a disadvantage.

Many of my classmates knew one another from KU undergraduate or other colleges. I only knew a few of the men who had gone to Rockhurst High School.

It felt hostile, hot, uncomfortable, not welcoming, especially for non-KU grads. KU grads all knew one another.

The 1970s saw the admission of large numbers of young women who resisted being stereotyped and could pose a threat to long-established practices and assumptions. Against the turbulent background of that time, any student requests for change were likely to be perceived as instigated by radicals and troublemakers

(including disruptive feminists); hence, any calls from women for accommodations or complaints about mistreatment were likely to meet with suspicion and/or resistance from institutions unwilling to show any signs of weakness. All students from minority groups were expected to be deeply grateful for admission and not presume to ask for any further concessions from the institution or colleagues.

Our interviewees were certainly not troublemakers, but they struggled to succeed in an environment designed for and governed by men. As in the majority of U.S. medical schools of that time, masculine beliefs, attitudes, and perspectives determined and maintained the institutional culture of the KU School of Medicine. They permeated all aspects of the lives of students, from politics and policies to practical details of daily operations. Conflicts and intransigence over accommodations for women could arise over any issue, even personal matters, such as clothing.

Practical Issues: What Should I Wear? Where Can I Change? Where Do I Hang My Purse?

Medical students were expected to always dress appropriately and required to wear a uniform in clinical situations. For third- and fourth-year students, the uniform was worn at almost all times, including at night calls. The required short white jacket and trousers were adapted for female students by the substitution of a straight white skirt (not too short) and hose. Uniforms for male students could be purchased in the student bookstore, but women had to find their own.

Skirts were often impractical, as students were kept busy with ward tasks and were physically active. Examining and manipulating patients, performing tests and treatments, resuscitating patients, delivering babies, and multiple other activities required greater freedom of movement than could be easily and modestly achieved in a knee-length straight skirt. The attention to women wearing short skirts at all times was perceived by our interviewees as impractical, inappropriate and *creepy*



Second-year medical students in pathology lab, 1958.



Senior medical students Charles Dreher, Joyce Sumner, and Bob Andrews, 1951.

on the part of lewd-minded male faculty members and others.

Women always had to wear skirts. The rules were especially enforced on OB-GYN rotations. Ridiculous, as you were always clambering over things or bending down, and unless you wore ridiculously long skirts, it was embarrassing.

For surgery, we had to wear surgical dresses. On one occasion, I couldn't find a small surgical dress, so I put on a large one. The professor stopped the surgery, called me out for being "dressed inappropriately," and sent me out to find a smaller dress. This same professor insisted female students wore dresses or skirts.

One redoubtable mother came up with a solution and browbeat the dean into accepting it:

Women were not allowed to wear pants, had to be skirts. My mother went to Dean [David] Waxman. Complained about her daughter having to climb on beds or resuscitate people with other able people being able to look up her skirt! She told him this is how it is going to be—she will wear culottes, and so will the other women. He said, "Okay, but they still can't wear pants." She made culottes for all seven women in the class.

Clothing issues for female medical students were most problematic in the departments of surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. These departments were the strictest about enforcing the uniform code for routine clinical work and had stringent rules about attire in the operating rooms.

Male students had access to a plentiful supply of surgical scrubs and use of the physicians' changing facilities and lounges. Female students were required to wear surgical scrub dresses—never pants—and nursing supervisors could be obstructive in providing dresses and allowing use of the nurses' changing areas.

Women in the first groups of students to transfer to Wichita encountered great hostility from the senior surgical nurse supervisor at one of the hospitals. One student was told to buy her own surgical scrubs. She complained to the hospital administrator, citing illegal discrimination and hinting about legal action. The supervisor then issued her with two surgical dresses so tight they fit all my curves, but I wore them anyway. Never looked so sexy. Early female students at another Wichita hospital described changing in a public restroom after being barred from both the physicians' and nurses' changing areas. The intervention of a senior surgeon was necessary to allow female students to use the nurses' changing facilities. Even then, students were not welcomed and encountered difficulties in securing surgical dresses, hair coverage and other necessary equipment.

Where Can I Sleep?

During the third and fourth years, students were regularly required to remain in the hospitals overnight for admissions or to respond to inpatient needs. The students and interns needed places to sleep between calls. The most typical arrangement was a small room (often a converted patient room) adjacent to the patient care areas,



Freshmen medical students pose for a comical photo, 1969.

operating rooms, or delivery suites. Accommodation was basic, consisting of two or four bunk beds, a desk and chair, and a telephone. Most rooms had an adjacent small bathroom with a shower.

In the 1940s and 1950s, our earliest interviewees reported being required to sleep in the nurses' dorm and recalled being locked out when trying to return from the wards in the early hours of the morning.

The housemother was NOT pleased to be woken up, especially if this happened several times during an obstetric case, when I had to check frequently on a woman in labor all night.

Individuals came up with their own arrangements. Over time, the regulation was increasingly ignored, and the women shared accommodation with their male classmates and interns.

When on call, female students were supposed to sleep in nurses' dorm—a long way from the wards—but they mostly slept in bunks in the call room, where the male students slept. Awkward, but never any problems.

All participants from the 1960s onward recounted sharing overnight accommodation with male colleagues. Some commented that they mostly slept in surgical scrubs to save time and avoid issues over changing in mixed company. They recalled few problems, apart from some embarrassment or teasing, and saw the sharing as part of the expectations of proving they had the right attitude to be medical students. Some perceived that *the guys were more embarrassed than we were*. Apparently, some of the male students' wives were not pleased with the arrangements.

It Was Just the Way It Was

Sexism and casual misogyny were pervasive in U.S. society during the decades covered by our interviews. As traditionally male enclaves, medical schools may have been more overtly sexist than other environments, but they were by no means unique. Interviewees who had careers prior



Left to right: Wayne Figgs, James Ellis, Patsy Farrell, Bob Fitzgerald, and Gerald Figgs—Jayhawker MD, 1965

to medical school reported that the atmosphere was better for women in medicine than in other professions or in business.

I was a secretary after college. The only way you were going to work your way up was on your back.

I think things were better for women than in other fields, like business.

Attitudes and behaviors that are now considered unacceptable or even repulsive were then accepted as normal and often tacitly encouraged by faculty and others. Even the female students did not regard the sexism as abnormal for that time.

There was a lot of sexually inappropriate behavior that I really only recognize retrospectively.

The class yearbooks convey an immature “frat house” image with frequent sexist or lewd comments and illustrations, especially of nurses in provocative poses. The 1969 Yearbook even had a Playboy theme with a highly sexualized cartoon of a scantily clad female student on the cover.

Comparisons and Reflections

Our participants vividly recalled their first impressions of medical school and their attempts to adjust to the unique environment they had worked so hard to enter. Although they knew classes would be large and male-dominated, the reality came as

a shock, especially for those who had enjoyed small, student-centered classes with good representation of women during their final years at college. The institutional size, masculine culture, and unpromising regimentation were daunting. The incoming female students knew they would be members of a minority that was not necessarily welcomed, could be resented, and was vulnerable to unfair treatment. They recognized that their colleagues, faculty, staff, and administrators held mixed and probably negative views on women in medicine.

Nevertheless, our interviewees conveyed a theme of being prepared for challenges and difficulties with comments like, *I knew what I was getting into*, or, *I was determined to show I could succeed*. They epitomized the priority characteristic for female students described in a 1976 review:

“Until recently, toughness of character has been the first prerequisite.”

Our interviewees indicated several reasons for the lack of organized action by the female medical students. Most commented that they did not have the time or energy to organize like-minded classmates, analyze issues, strategize about solutions, and attempt to negotiate with an unsympathetic but powerful administration—and they doubted such negotiations would be tolerated, let alone be successful. They stressed that a woman had to be resourceful, independent, and self-sufficient to prove herself in medicine, and solving her own problems was one way to demonstrate these qualities—and prove she would not be a drag on her colleagues by expecting special treatment or having too many needs. This resonates



Second-year medical students Lisa Jenkins, Mary Ann Lauver, and Eva Roeder preparing for pathology class, 1972

with a 1967 survey of female medical students who were unsympathetic to special accommodations for women, citing “the stringent process of natural selection is necessary to ensure that those girls who reach medical school are prepared to give what the training demands.”

Similarly, the KU women were very aware that any request for special accommodations bolstered suspicions about their commitment to medicine and willingness to make sacrifices for the profession.

The whole atmosphere was “married to medicine.” You’re not a good doctor if medicine doesn’t always come first.

In the 1960s and the 1970s, medical schools were intolerant of student activism of any type, and there was little sympathy for student “rights.” For students and others without power, the risks of speaking out or having the reputation of a troublemaker were high. An outspoken woman was likely to be stigmatized as a “radical feminist,” with real negative consequences, such as being dismissed or prejudicing letters of recommendation for internship or residency positions. In addition, individuals could not be certain of support from fellow students, as all were calculating the potential damage to their academic survival and professional prospects from any negativity in their records. Both the KU women and national surveys in the 1960s and the 1970s show that female medical students distrusted their female colleagues to support moves to address sexism and improve the environment.

All medical students, especially women, were very aware of the risks associated with causing trouble or being perceived as *too pushy*. In this environment, it is understandable that women generally tried to solve issues on their own or *kept my blinders on and ignored things, kept marching forward*.

They needed all their ingenuity, adaptability, resilience, intelligence, and humor to navigate the large cast of characters and multiple experiences of medical school.

From *Women in Medicine: Stories from the Girls in White* (First Edition) by Anne Walling, © 2025 by CRC Press. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Group.

All that's missing is **you.**



love
KS

The Midwest is known for having some of the nicest people in the nation, and Kansans embrace that sense of community in every corner of the state. Whether you're looking to move back home to be near your parents and grandparents, or if you're simply looking for a new place to land, Kansas communities will welcome you with open arms.

You should love where you **live.**

You're going to love **Kansas.**



Discover more at LoveKansas.com



COMMENCEMENT

Wondrous walk*Class of 2025 continues
101-year tradition*

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND is always chaotic, with nearly 60 school and department ceremonies in Lawrence and Kansas City, culminating in the traditional walk through the Memorial Campanile and down the Hill Sunday morning. But the schedule for William and Lisa Lowe, g'98, and their family was especially frenetic. Their three children all graduated during the University's 153rd Commencement weekend May 17-18.



Whitney (l), Nicholas and Caroline Lowe

No, the Lowe siblings are not triplets. First-born Nicholas earned his degree from the School of Medicine. Caroline, next in line, completed her juris doctorate from the School of Law. And Whitney, the youngest, graduated with highest distinction from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with her political science degree. She will follow Caroline to KU law school.

The Lowes' itinerary for Saturday, May 17, included Whitney's ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in Lawrence, followed by Caroline's law school hooding at 1 p.m. The family then raced to the KU Medical Center campus for Nick's 4 p.m. graduation, followed by

dinner with the extended family. The siblings rose early Sunday morning for breakfast at Whitney's apartment near the stadium before heading to Memorial Drive for their walk down the Hill.

The three credit their Commencement convergence to the luck of quirky timing. Nick, c'20, m'25, took a gap year between completing his bachelor's degree in cellular biology and starting at the School of Medicine. This summer, Nick begins his OB-GYN residency at the University of Nebraska.

"I took one for the team, took a year off so that they could catch up," he says, "but they did their job of catching up pretty quickly, graduating in three years."

As a high school senior at Olathe East, Caroline, c'23, l'25, applied and was accepted to KU's Legal Education Accelerated Degree (LEAD) program, which enables students to earn their bachelor's and School of Law degrees in six years instead of the traditional seven. She completed her political science degree in three years and headed straight to law school. She'll take the bar exam this summer while working for a Kansas City firm specializing in personal injury and workers' compensation law.

Whitney, c'25, followed Caroline into the LEAD program. She will begin KU law school in the fall. "Caroline and Nick set me up for the perfect route," she says. "They really advised me to take college credit hours in high school."

In addition to beaming over a rare triple graduation, the Lowes' parents also celebrate the fact that their children will carry on their professions. Lisa, whose KU experience influenced her children to become Jayhawks, is a nurse practitioner, and William is an attorney.

The Lowes were among thousands of proud families who arrived early May 18 to stake out their viewing territory, lining the sidewalks on the Hill under sunshine and pristine blue skies. As temperatures rose, a welcome Kansas gale cooled the growing crowd.

The bells of the carillon chimed twice at 10:30 a.m., followed by the KU Herald 'Trumpets' fanfare and the roaring, rowdy cheers of graduates, who began their long-awaited walk serenaded by the Elizabeth Egbert Berghout, g'97, DMA'01, University carillonneur.

As it has since 1924, the procession concluded at the stadium, where the massive renovation of the west side and north end—the first phase of the 11th and Mississippi Gateway District—is nearly complete. As graduates filed into their seats on the turf and spectators filled the east-side bleachers,

"Help those in need. Stand up to those who are harming others. Speak up for what's right. Do things that make life better for others."

—Chancellor Doug Girod



they marveled at the gargantuan new video board, which displayed a livestream of the proceedings on its 5,280-foot screen.

The ceremony began with a heart-stirring welcome video produced by KU Marketing (rockcha.lk/commencement-video). Featuring reflections by new graduates and their mentors, the video affirmed the incomparable commitment and connections among Jayhawks.

After deans of the 14 academic schools presented their graduates, Chancellor Doug Girod delivered his final message to the Class of 2025 as he prepared to confer their degrees.

"I know that your parents would agree with me in saying that nothing makes us happier than to see your success, and nothing matters more than your well-being," he said. "And our greatest wish as educators and parents is that your generation will do better than us—in fact, be better than us. I think as we look across the stadium today, certainly I have every confidence that that will be the case."

The chancellor asked the newly minted alumni to remain connected to their alma mater, citing KU Alumni and the Jayhawk Career Network as the ideal avenues. Finally, he urged them to build meaningful careers and meaningful lives. "Be good citizens; be good humans," he said. "Help those in need. Stand up to those who are harming others. Speak up for what's right. Do things that make life better for others."

"And of course, if you see a problem, get involved and fix it, because at the end of the day, that's what Jayhawks do."

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER



Despite a weather forecast that portended clouds and rain, graduates made the traditional walk down the Hill into Memorial Stadium under blue skies, celebrating with friends, family, and everybody's favorite Jayhawk, Baby Jay.



While the massive new jumbotron inside the stadium beamed video highlights, grads found plenty of opportunities across campus to capture the moment with friends, including (clockwise from top left) at the Jayhawk Welcome Center and Adams Alumni Center, Potter Lake and Strong Hall.



Since the Jayhawk Career Network launched in 2018, more than

15,000+

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+

- KU Mentoring+ is an online platform that connects students with alumni, as well as alumni with one another, to exchange career advice and support professional growth. The platform is user-friendly, making it easy to connect with others. To get started, sign up at mentoring.ku.edu.



Powered by
TRUITY
CREDIT UNION

CAREER NETWORKING

- Online and in-person events for students and alumni include our signature **Mocktails & Mingle** events in the Jayhawk Welcome Center.
- Employment opportunities for students through University partnerships at hirejayhawks.ku.edu and for alumni through the KU Mentoring+ platform.

THE WATER COOLER

- The Water Cooler is a monthly newsletter for alumni, students and friends. It includes upcoming events, featured mentors, stories about alumni and students, jobs and more.

kualumni.org/jayhawk-career-network



“We were thrilled that hundreds of passionate alumni and friends joined us for an unforgettable night of KU pride.”

—Heather Hawkins

TRADITION

Light up the night

Rock Chalk Forever unites revelers to support students

JAYHAWK SPIRIT glowed April 26 in downtown Kansas City, as the third edition of Rock Chalk Forever drew a sold-out crowd to The Lex in Municipal Auditorium for a night of fun and fundraising to celebrate KU.

More than 850 KU faithful turned out in their best Jayhawk Flair (both stylish and silly) to reminisce, make new memories and support current and future KU students. Proceeds from distinctive auction items will benefit programs that include the Jayhawk Career Network (JCN) and need-based scholarships.

Following the reception and silent auction, emcees Brandon McAnderson, c’08, and Jill Dorsey-Hall, j’05, danced their way onstage to welcome the revelers. Both were standout student-athletes on the Hill, McAnderson in football and Dorsey-Hall in volleyball.

Presented by Truity Credit Union, Rock Chalk Forever also featured support from more than



30 businesses and KU families and 19 University partners. Student volunteers networked with alumni and signed up new participants in JCN’s KU Mentoring+ platform, which currently includes more than 15,000 alumni and students.

“We were thrilled that hundreds of passionate alumni and friends joined us for an unforgettable night of KU pride,” says Heather Plante Hawkins, j’06, assistant vice president of donor relations and the Kansas City Network, who led the KU Alumni team that coordinated Rock Chalk Forever. “Together we raised crucial funds to fuel need-based scholarships and empower the next generation of Jayhawks.”

For more information on the event and plans for the 2026 edition, visit rockchalkforever.org.



Emcees (above left) Jill Dorsey-Hall and Brandon McAnderson guided guests through the evening, and Baby Jay snuggled with Chris (l) and Julie Garney Andrews; Julie is a member of the national alumni board. Artist Ken Delas painted his vision of the Campanile, and KU Alumni President Heath Peterson welcomed the faithful. Kansas City band Lost Wax provided the dance party, and the live auction included a bronze replica of the popular Baby Jay statue that greets visitors to the Jayhawk Welcome Center in Lawrence.





The auctioneer's team showed off top bidders in confetti; Rock Chalk Forever proceeds will support programs that include the Jayhawk Career Network and need-based scholarships. Former national alumni chair Keturah Harding Pohl; her husband, Brad; and Sarah Heldstab Bettis celebrated Bettis' winning bid. A giant video screen and shades of neon added drama to the evening.

Publisher's note

FOR FOUR decades, Jennifer Jackson Saner, j'81, has been the guiding voice behind *Kansas Alumni* magazine, shaping its narrative with grace, insight and unwavering dedication. As editor and senior vice president of public affairs for KU Alumni, Jennifer's contributions, and those of her talented teams, have left an indelible mark on the University of Kansas community.

Jennifer was hired as staff writer in August 1984, and she became editor the following year. She has since chronicled KU's evolution with a storyteller's heart and a journalist's precision. The articles she planned, edited and wrote have informed and connected generations of Jayhawks, fostering unity and pride. In her

reflective piece on the magazine's 120th anniversary (Hail to Old KU, issue No. 4, 2022), she honored the legacy of her predecessors while embracing the future of alumni storytelling.

Her leadership ensured that *Kansas Alumni* remained a cherished resource for alumni worldwide and that the organization's strong storytelling tradition will continue, and even grow, in our new communications era, including a more vibrant online presence and a successor print publication to be launched in the fall. Jennifer's ability to capture the essence of the Jayhawk experience celebrated our past and inspired our future.

Beyond the pages of the magazine, she has been a steadfast advocate for KU, engaging in legislative efforts and public affairs initiatives that advanced the Univer-

sity's mission, and her institutional knowledge and commitment to excellence have long been cornerstones of KU Alumni.

As she embarks on her well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest gratitude for her 41 years of exemplary service. Her legacy will continue to resonate through the stories she told and the connections she nurtured. We will follow in Jennifer's footsteps to honor her legacy while embracing the future of storytelling, with continued commitment to strengthen KU and inspire all Jayhawks and friends.

Rock Chalk, Jennifer! Thank you for everything.

—HEATH PETERSON
Peterson, d'04, g'09, is

KU Alumni president and publisher of Kansas Alumni magazine.

HOMECOMING

SAVE *the* DATE

OCT. 27 - NOV. 2, 2025

The school's 113th Homecoming game presented by Central Bank will take place the weekend of

Nov. 1 vs. Oklahoma State



ALUMNI
The University of Kansas



Central Bank

Presenting Sponsors:



THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

Supporting Sponsors:



Travel the World

FLYING JAYHAWKS



ALUMNI
The University of Kansas

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

2026 **FLYING** **JAYHAWKS** *Trip Lineup*

- **Antarctica in Depth**
January 4-16
- **Journey through Vietnam**
January 20 – February 3
- **Enclaves of Indochina**
February 21 – March 11
- **Journey to Southern Africa**
February 22 – March 9
- **Tanzania Safari**
March 1-12
- **Tahiti and French Polynesia**
March 3-13
- **The Galapagos Islands**
March 10-17
- **A Collector's Treasure:
Australia and New Zealand**
March 15-30
- **Finland**
March 22-30
- **The Masters**
April 8-11
- **Dutch Waterways**
April 11-19
- **Legendary Turkey**
April 17 – May 1
- **Normandy - Honfleur**
April 18-26
- **Etruscan Waterways:
Spain to Italy**
April 21-28
- **Rivieras of France and Italy**
April 21-30
- **Casablanca to
Porto and Andalusia**
May 4-13
- **Romance of the Douro**
May 8-19
- **Danube Delights**
May 15-22
- **Flavors of Piedmont**
May 16-24
- **Great European Journey**
May 16-27
- **European Coastal Cruise**
May 23 – June 1
- **Cruise Sicily, Malta and
Amalfi Coast**
May 25 – June 2
- **Bordeaux and
Basque Country**
June 4-14
- **Treasures of Peru**
June 5-15
- **Dalmatian Coast and Italy**
June 11-20
- **Croatia and
the Dalmatian Coast**
June 16-27
- **Charm of the Amalfi Coast**
June 17-25
- **Scandinavia and
the Baltic Sea**
June 29 – July 10
- **Kenya Safari**
July 1-11
- **Discover Southeast Alaska**
July 3-10
- **Europe's Historic Rivers:
Main, Rhine and Mosel**
July 23 – August 2
- **Majestic Vistas and Wildlife**
July 28 – August 7
- **Visions of the Solar Eclipse**
July 30 – August 13
- **San Juan Islands**
August 3-8
- **Toronto to Vancouver by Rail**
August 13-19
- **Scotland**
August 26 - September 3
- **Easy Company:
England to the Eagle's Nest**
August 31 – September 12
- **Exploring Australia
and New Zealand**
September 9-30
- **Around the World
by Private Jet**
September 13 – October 3
- **Cambodia, Vietnam
and Mekong River**
September 14-28
- **Swiss Alps and
Italian Lakes**
September 16-25
- **Village Life Cotswolds**
September 20-28
- **Bordeaux to Lisbon**
October 1-12
- **Kingdom of Bhutan**
October 2-13
- **Balloon Fiesta**
October 2-5
- **Bohemian Wonders**
October 7-16
- **Southern European Gems**
October 23 – November 2
- **Legends of the Nile**
October 26 – November 6
- **Spain:
Andalusia in a Parador**
October 29 – November 6
- **Iceland and
the Northern Lights**
November 7-15
- **Holiday Markets**
November 28 – December 6
- **Christmas Season in
Victoria and Vancouver**
December 3-9



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.

Jayhawk Profiles



STACEY LAMB

'Winds of Grief' brings the lift of hope for children facing tragedy

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

Stacey Leslie Lamb always knew she wanted to be an artist. She just didn't know her art would end up in the hands of children navigating some of life's darkest moments.

A Lawrence resident and longtime Hallmark Cards illustrator, Lamb, f'82, spent more than 30 years filling greeting cards with warmth, whimsy and wit. But it wasn't until she lost that dream job—caught in a wave of layoffs in 2013—that her second career, and her true calling, began to take shape.

"I went from working in this vibrant creative community to suddenly being home, by myself, trying to figure out what was next," Lamb says. "I was grieving. That's really what it was."

In the quiet that followed, she began drawing again—starting with 100 small cards for a friend facing a bone marrow transplant. The drawings were hopeful, humorous, spiritual, and the idea was simple: one card per day, to help her friend endure 100 days of germ-free isolation. Lamb's

cards, hung with clothespins and a clothesline, became a countdown of healing.

Word spread. A doctor at the University of Kansas Cancer Center saw them and ordered 40 sets. Encouraged, Lamb launched her own company, HAPPYtown, in 2015. Its mission: to create illustrated tools—books, cards, activities—for children and families navigating medical treatment, trauma and grief.

What started as a deeply personal project evolved into a line of products used in children's hospitals, therapy centers and homes. Lamb recently released her most ambitious and emotionally resonant project yet: *Hope and the Winds of Grief*, a picture book designed to help children process the loss of a loved one to suicide.

The project began in a play therapy conference, where Lamb met several professionals with similar requests: Could she create something to help children surviving suicide loss?

"There are books out there that address grief," Lamb says, "but hardly any that use the word 'suicide.' And that's what these children are dealing with. They know what happened. They need something that meets them where they are."

The result is a 32-page storybook featuring a yellow koala named Hope, who travels by heart-shaped hot air balloon and helps children understand their emotions

Illustrator Stacey Lamb says that while HAPPYtown's products—books, inspirational countdown cards, games and activities—are geared toward children, she also hears from adults who find them comforting: "One man going through a bone marrow transplant emailed us and said, 'It made me feel like a kid again.'"

in the wake of profound loss. Hope guides young Orrie as he grieves the suicide of his brother, Kip—gently facing gusts of sadness, anger, guilt and confusion, each represented by a different "wind."

To write the book, Lamb turned to an old Hallmark colleague, Roeland Park freelance writer Scott Emmons.

"Writing about suicide for children was difficult, as you can imagine, but there's just no way to get around that. The only way to do it was to be direct, empathetic and simple," says Emmons, who spent 16 years at Hallmark and later wrote for the digital entertainment studio JibJab and its children's media franchise, StoryBots. "I would say my guiding principle was to keep it as empathetic as possible, to make the story almost minimalist, so I could create a very real, very simple, very straightforward telling of the story, using the winds as the metaphor for grief and all the different forms it can take."

Emmons and Lamb worked closely with therapists throughout the process. "We didn't want to make assumptions," Emmons says. "We had to get this right—for the kids who would read it and for the adults helping them through it."

The story, and Lamb's illustrations, have struck a chord. The book has been praised by mental health professionals and is now under consideration for a Kansas Notable Book Award. Its companion workbook—over 100 pages of guided activities for families, caregivers and counselors—has been dubbed "the grief bible" at conferences.

Creating the book was not only a professional challenge for Lamb—it also became unexpectedly personal.

"I was moving along, doing the illustrations, and then one just hit me," she says. "I



STEVE PUPPE

Hope the inspirational koala, with some of her HAPPYtown merchandise.

had to walk away for two or three weeks. I realized I hadn't dealt with the suicide of a friend years earlier. The project brought that back. It was intense—but healing, too."

Lamb designed the character Hope more than two decades ago but wasn't sure what role the cheerful koala would eventually play. "I knew she had a mission," Lamb says. "I just didn't know what it was yet."

Hope is now the face of HAPPYtown's grief products. She first appeared in "Hello Hope," a card set Lamb created for Med-Star Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., after shadowing their child life specialists. The cards became part of bereavement bags for grieving families.

"Hope has kind of become our spokesperson," Lamb says. "She's there to say, 'It's OK to cry. It's OK to feel angry. And it's OK to smile again, too.'"

Lamb, who grew up near St. Louis in southern Illinois, traces much of her success—and resilience—to KU, where she studied illustration and graphic design after seeing Mount Oread during a high school visit in 1978.

"I walked down Jayhawk Boulevard and just knew," she says. "I looked out over the Wakarusa Valley from the back of Wescoe Hall and said, 'This is it. This is where I belong.'"

She met her husband, Brent, c'84—who is retired from KU Endowment—and commuted for years to Hallmark in Kansas City. "People thought I was crazy for doing that drive, but I loved it. It gave me time to think."

Today, she's still thinking, still drawing and still inspired by the KU students who remind her of where she started.

"I tell young artists, 'Love what you do. Stick with it. Be ready for rejection, and don't take it personally. And if you get knocked down? Well, maybe that's where the best work begins.'"

She dreams of a course at KU to prepare design students for real-world careers—how to interview, work with clients and handle the financial side of freelancing. "So many young artists have talent," she says. "They just need the tools to get that first opportunity."

For both Emmons and Lamb, *Hope and the Winds of Grief* represents the best kind of collaboration: personal, purposeful and lasting.

"Life can break your heart," Lamb says. "But then it gives you the chance to use that experience to help someone else. That's what Hope is about. And that's what I hope people see in the work."

LOLETA ROBINSON

Alumna melds medicine, business to forge career

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

At her Instagram page, Loleta Robinson describes herself as "unbossed, unbothered, unapologetic," a fitting motto for a woman who has made her mark as an entrepreneur and adventurer. "Unbossed," Robinson explains, honors Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to serve in the U.S. Congress and run for president. Chisholm titled her 1970 memoir *Unbought and Unbossed*.

Robinson, c'93, m'99, who lives in Wilmington, North Carolina, is president and CEO of Fortis Industries LLC, a company she founded in 2014 to provide consulting services to biomedical companies on technology transfer and commercialization. Fortis in 2018 entered a new era, Robinson says, in which her "side gig has become her main gig," selling emergency-preparedness,

disaster and first-aid supplies to city, county, state and federal agencies.

Robinson traces her entrepreneurial spirit to her teenage years. She jokes that she was "the first Uber driver," earning money by carting kids in her Wichita neighborhood to after-school activities. But science also captivated her, and she longed to be "the female Marcus Welby," she says, alluding to the popular TV series of the early 1970s.

After Robinson earned her KU microbiology and medical degrees, she still could not shake her enterprising instincts. When she learned that the University of Colorado Denver was launching an MBA program geared toward health care administrators, she immediately enrolled. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me because it opened my eyes to the business side of health care versus strictly patient care," she says.

Robinson then took what she calls her first leap of faith, becoming the medical director of Thermo BioStar, a Louisville, Colorado, company that manufactured diagnostic tests for infectious diseases. She



COURTESY LOLETA ROBINSON

Robinson's zest for learning has motivated her to travel, collect art and take up fly fishing.

THE ALUMNI FAMILY JUST GOT BIGGER

HAPPY GRADUATION JAYHAWKS!



**Shop all your new Alumni
needs at the KU Bookstore!**



Shop in-store and online at **KUBookstore.com**

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



COURTESY LOLETA ROBINSON



In October 2023, Tamara Huff Johnson (l), then-president of the KU Black Alumni Network, and the network honored Robinson, who was among 11 alumni named Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators. Johnson, c'12, continues to serve on the KU Alumni national Board of Directors.

oversaw clinical studies and worked with regulatory agencies.

When the company was sold, Robinson looked for new roles and the chance to satisfy her urge to live in the Washington, D.C., area. She became director of medical sciences for Medimmune (now AstraZeneca) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, but before making her move, she reached out to the president of Women in Bio, an organization that became her enduring network.

"Those years were so instrumental for me to actually develop in my career and see for the first time what was out there and available to me," Robinson says. "There were so many women in the biosciences—whether they were attorneys in intellectual property, pharmaceutical executives or clinical trial researchers. They were all very supportive. To this day, I'm still in contact with people I met there, and I haven't lived in Maryland in 10 years."

One of those lasting connections is Christine Johnson, who now lives in Miami but checks in daily with her mentor and dear friend. Johnson says their careers have mirrored each other, and she marvels at Robinson's ability to take on new challenges. "I don't say this lightly, and she would not like for me to say this, but she is brilliant in the way she acquires knowledge and applies it" Johnson says. "She's great at the business pivot, because she's a learner."

Among Robinson's more memorable learning opportunities were her travels in several African nations through a grant that combined business development and health care. "I had great conversations with people on the ground about what was needed in health care," she recalls. "We learned what their needs were and how they handle health care with limited resources. We were not there to tell them, 'Hey, this is what you need to do,' but to ask, 'How do we make this work together?'"

Robinson went on to serve as an entrepreneur-in-residence for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, the National Institutes of Health and, most recently, BioHealth Innovation Inc. In these roles, she advised young companies on taking their new products to market, and she evaluated potential investments in new ventures.

Robinson's off-hours interests are as varied as her career. When she moved to Omaha for her role with Blue Cross Blue Shield, she took up fly fishing—and thought it would be a fun way to reach her goal of visiting all 50 states before she turned 50. She contacted a national organization, United Women on the Fly. "I only had nine more states to do, so I said, 'I'm going to find me a female guide in each state, set up a day and a half to fish and have them teach me.'"

Like Women in Bio, United Women on the Fly remains an important community for Robinson. "Because I've moved around so much, I always try to find who I can link up with when I first get there," she says. "I get involved very quickly. Wherever I move to, I'm going to find my tribe."

In Wilmington, she found her people at the Cameron Arts Museum (CAM). A collector of abstracts and other works from her travels, Robinson touts CAM's diverse exhibitions and says her new role with the museum is one of the joys in a life that has twisted and turned but landed her exactly where she wants to be: unbossed, unbothered and unapologetic. "It was rough at first, but I just kept trying to figure it out," she says. "I'm seeing it now. This is starting to make some sense."

DENNIS KUHNEL

With forest service career, alumnus protects and enjoys the outdoors he loves

by MICHAEL PEARCE

Dennis Kuhnel didn't want to go to a big city and work for a major law firm or corporation after law school.

Kuhnel, l'08, prefers snow-covered mountain peaks to skyscrapers. His favored mode of business travel is riding a raft down a remote wilderness river.

He smiles in traffic jams, because the delay is usually caused by something like a herd of elk blocking his commute along Colorado's legendary Silver Thread Scenic Byway.

Kuhnel is the forest supervisor for the 1.9 million-acre Rio Grande National Forest, which covers a chunk of southern Colorado larger than Delaware or Rhode Island. He began the job in February 2024, following stints as a district ranger in the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho, and the Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest in northern Colorado.

Broadly, he's responsible for managing everything within the huge Rio Grande forest. In addition to maintaining healthy natural resources, he oversees such forest uses as timber management, mining, and a wide variety of recreational interests that range from hunters on expensive guided trips to day hikers. He also must ensure that forest management fits within the



COURTESY DENNIS KUHNEL

ROCK CHALK

forever



Thank You!

With heartfelt gratitude

Rock Chalk Forever 2025 was a night to remember thanks to our generous donors and contributors, talented performers, KU leaders and honored guests.

More than 850 Jayhawks joined us in person, along with thousands who joined us virtually, to celebrate KU pride and traditions.

Your support helps fuel the KU experience and creates meaningful opportunities for students across campus and beyond graduation!



ALUMNI
The University of Kansas

Presented by


TRUITY
CREDIT UNION

guidelines of tribal treaties and regulations of governmental groups like the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kuhnel's staff averages around 100 full-time employees, though he recently lost 17 positions to federal layoffs. His annual working budget is "in the millions," he says, citing complexities of Forest Service budgeting.

It's far from a boring job.

"It can be a challenge, making decisions that not only make the resources good for now, but also sustainable for generations to come," Kuhnel says. "There are so many different variables to be considered, so many unknowns. For instance, how will the public be wanting to use the forest 10 or more years from now? What will the demand be for natural resources, like timber and mining? We use the best available science in making decisions, but that science is always changing. It can be tough, but the tough decisions are the most rewarding."

He credits his education at the KU School of Law for helping prepare him for his current position in the Forest Service.

"One thing I really enjoyed about law school was the wide variety of classes," Kuhnel says. "Some of the courses on natural resources really got me thinking how I could use my law degree for a career in land management. It really helped me in many ways."

The communication skills he learned prepared him to relate to the Rio Grande's broad constituency, which includes back-country hunters and loggers, high-level lawyers for federal agencies, and private mining and timber companies.

Some of his law classes have proved especially advantageous.

"I had classes in things like federal Indian laws and environmental and natural resource laws," Kuhnel says. "Those things really help when we get into some hyper-specialized cases."

Stacey Kyndesen Blakeman, l'09, assistant dean of career services for KU Law, says learning about nontraditional jobs is part of the school's curriculum.

"We do our best to educate students on an entire career spectrum," Blakeman says. "That includes what we call 'JD-Advantage

jobs.' They're jobs where a Juris Doctor education can be especially valuable, but they don't necessarily need a license to practice law to succeed at those jobs."

Environmental and natural resources management opportunities, like Kuhnel's current job, are prime examples, Blakeman says, as are careers in politics, business policy, investment management and compliance. Of the law school's 90 graduates in 2023, at least 7% are working "JD-Advantage jobs."

Kuhnel's law school training and lifelong interest in the outdoors enable him to work in some of America's most pristine wilderness areas. Knowing he's making decisions that will protect these lands for future generations while keeping them open for public use brings him deep satisfaction. He appreciates the chance to face the widely varied challenges of dealing with the outdoors and public policy.

No two tasks with the Forest Service, he says, are alike. Some of his best days have been far from his actual office.

"I've had to make multiple-day administrative river floats on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho," Kuhnel says. "I've had to go horseback for meetings with hunting outfitters deep in the Scapegoat Wilderness in Montana."

When needed, he is shipped to other parts of the country to help with things like fighting forest fires. Last summer he worked as an agency administrator in fire camps in remote central Oregon.

That his job has put Kuhnel and his family in the wild places they deeply enjoy has made his career even better.

Living in Creede, Colorado, elevation 8,800 feet, population 260, with his wife, Katy, and their four young children, is ideal for Kuhnel, who graduated from tiny Pretty Prairie High School, an hour west of Wichita, and earned his bachelor's degree at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, a town of 16,000.

"It's a definite bonus," Kuhnel says of his postings. "It's enabled my family to live in many beautiful locations, with great public land access."

—Pearce, '81, is a Lawrence freelance writer and frequent contributor to Kansas Alumni.

AUDREY DANSER

Alumna's business revives beloved garments

by MEGAN HIRT

In repairing the ripped jeans and holey sweaters that arrive on her sewing table, Audrey Danser finds the perfect fusion of her interests in fashion, crafting and sustainability. The former architectural engineer also finds a common thread between her past and present professions.

"With mending, once you know the basics, it's really about problem-solving more than skill," says Danser, e'16, who owns Salvage Studio SF, a clothing repair business she launched in 2021. "This is where I go back to engineering: I have an existing parameter I am working in—a garment—and there is a problem. How do I think about fixing the problem, and how can I structure my repair so that it's the most lasting, the most durable, the most invisible?"

From her studio in downtown San Francisco, Danser sews new life into damaged clothing for local clients and many throughout the U.S. who mail her their cherished items. Her garment glow-ups have included all types of denim, vintage designer pieces, elaborate beading, intricate lace and long-loved outdoor gear. In the modern era of fast fashion, Danser hopes to inspire a return to making clothes last.

"It was so common in the past to take your shoes to the cobbler or go to the local dry cleaner and get a rip fixed," Danser says. "I'm trying to revive that repair culture—even just getting people to know that repair is an option. I think a lot of people just don't consider it. I'm trying to fill that void."

And the demand has proved strong. Danser repaired 574 garments in 2024, and through her hands-on workshops across the Bay Area, she has empowered hundreds of eager learners to tackle their own mending.

"It's so rewarding to teach someone how to sew on a button—to sit next to them, and together we'll fix the shirt that's



been sitting in the back of their closet because they couldn't wear it," Danser says. "It's a reward to see the surprise in people: 'Oh my gosh, I can do that myself! And it only took two minutes. Why haven't I learned this sooner?'"

An Oklahoma native, Danser traces her propensity for extending items' usability to growing up in a home where "everything was thrifted, and we did things like reuse Ziploc bags," she says. "So I think I am innately a little more into reuse and repair."

Browsing thrift store clothing racks nurtured her love of personal fashion as a creative outlet, as did learning how to operate her family's sewing machine, which she'd use to repurpose her old dance costumes into skirts and scarves, teaching herself how to sew through trial, error and repetition.

In choosing a college, Danser looked for a particular academic program. "My original dream was to go into historic preservation, which makes sense, because it's reusing buildings and renovating old things," she says. "And the way to get there

was through architectural engineering—learning about the structure of buildings and all the parts and pieces that go into it. I was looking specifically for architectural engineering programs, and that's how I found KU."

Through the Engineering Career Center in the School of Engineering, she landed a job as an electrical design engineer in San Francisco upon graduation in 2016. Two years later, she took a project manager position at a construction firm. In 2020, the global standstill set in motion Danser's career leap.

"When the pandemic hit, construction halted. I was still employed, but had a little extra time

on my hands, so I started an Instagram account called A Thrifted Wardrobe," Danser says. "It was really just an opportunity to get dressed up for work again and showcase outfits and be creative. I challenged myself to wear every piece in my wardrobe, and in that process figured out there were things I needed to fix."

Danser posted her repair work on Instagram and found an enthusiastic audience for both her services and skill sharing. She began Salvage Studio SF as a side project but has since made clothing repair her full-time job. "During the pandemic, I realized the things I loved most about my construction job were the social interactions," she says. "With all of that removed, I was craving in-person connection and community."

She hasn't completely left the corporate world: Several Bay Area giants—Google, LinkedIn, SC Johnson—enlist Danser to offer workshops and even on-site mending as an employee benefit. She hopes to grow this side of Salvage Studio SF, "bringing mending to the people," as part

of her mission to do the most good for the environment.

According to the latest data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 9 million tons of clothing and footwear in the U.S. was sent to landfills in 2018. For Danser, the ripple effect of teaching more people how to repair their own clothes is her most effective means of reducing the amount of discarded clothing and, in turn, the associated environmental impacts. "Not everyone can adopt every sustainable action, but this is one that I think is really accessible," she says of clothing repair.

And while the environmental angle is a focus for Danser, she has found that people can be motivated to repair rather than replace for a variety of reasons.

"I think the important part is, you have already purchased it and made an investment in that piece of clothing. Make it last as long as you can," Danser says. "If you keep buying a cheaper version and replacing it over and over, you're actually spending quite a bit of money."

"Sometimes the repair does cost more than buying something new, so you have to think about other motivators: Is this a more sustainable action? Is this a sentimental piece? I think for a lot of my clients, what motivates them is that they can't find a replacement—it's something like a pair of jeans that isn't made in that style or quality anymore. So there are other motivators outside of the financial aspect that can help tip the scale toward repair."

Among her most memorable restorations: a tattered Olympics warm-up jacket from the 1950s that the athlete's grandson wanted repaired so it could be framed and displayed.

"Hearing those stories about people's pieces and why they want to fix them and keep them in rotation—that's powerful for me," Danser says. "It's what keeps me going in my business."

Connect with Salvage Studio SF at salvagestudiosf.com.

Partnership has its **perks.**



Help with cooking, cleaning and everything in between may be more affordable than you think. Jayhawks and their families are eligible for exclusive senior living discounts and benefits. Unlock opportunities for 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 “Rock Chalk” 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 restriction 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.



by MEGAN HIRT

1969 Jacquelyn Andrews Ashcraft, d'69, is a Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame 2025 inductee. She taught English and Spanish in the Nicker-son-South Hutchinson school district and at Hutchinson Community College for many years. Jacquelyn lives in Hutchinson and is a substitute teacher for three school districts. Her late husband, **Stephen**, p'69; son, **Stephen**, c'95; and granddaughters **Chandler**, c'21, g'24, and **Lexee**, b'24, are Jayhawks.

1974 Christine Ehlig-Economides, g'74, g'77, professor of petroleum engineering at the University of Houston, received the 2025 Pinnacle Award from Hart Energy, a media company that covers the global energy industry. The award recognizes achievement in the energy sector and academia. Christine worked 20 years for the energy technology company Schlumberger and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

John Gurche, c'74, g'79, a paleoartist, created the reconstruction of the Denisovan hominin, an ancient human ancestor, featured on the cover of the February issue of National Geographic. Renowned for his sculptures, paintings and sketches of prehistoric

life, John was a consultant on the design of the dinosaurs for the 1993 film "Jurassic Park," and his work has appeared in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Tom Knauff, c'74, CEO of the Chicago-based propane company EDP, in April was inducted into the LP Gas Hall of Fame.

1976 Charles Lee, c'76, is a partner at Lee Schwalb and is based in the law firm's Kansas City office.

1977 Cheryl Stelmach Beaver, a'77, in January retired as vice president and principal architect at NSPJ Architects in Kansas City. She joined the firm in 1977 and was its first woman designer.

1978 Anne Burke, c'78, l'81, recently retired after 44 years as an attorney in private practice. She served on the School of Law's board of governors, the Kansas Bar Association board of governors, and as chair of the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission. She also served on KU Alumni's Board of Directors. Anne splits her time between Indian Wells, California, and Leawood.

Paul Neis, c'78, m'82, an ear, nose and throat doctor, in January retired from Baxter Health in Mountain Home, Arkansas, where he practiced for 34 years.

1980 Grant Overstake, j'80, in March won a 2025 Audie Award for best young adult audiobook for the adaptation of his 2018 novel, *The Real Education of TJ Crowley: Coming of Age on the Redline*. Grant, founder of Wichita-based Grain Valley Publishing Co., was the audiobook's co-author and executive producer.

1982 Paul Dorrell, '82, an art consultant and founder of Leopold Gallery in Kansas City, in March was honored by Gov. Laura Kelly and the Kansas Arts Commission with the 2025 Governor's Arts Patron of the Year Award.

Judy McNeal, b'82, in March retired as chief fiscal officer for KPERS, the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, for which she worked for 32 years.

Melissa Byrne Vossmer, g'82, in March was named Marshall, Texas, city manager.

1983 Anthony Thompson, a'83, e'83, last fall was honored by the St. Louis Construction Consortium with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is president and CEO of St. Louis-based Kwame Building Group, which he founded in 1991.

1984 Mark Rohloff, g'84, in January joined McMahon, a Wisconsin-based engineering and architecture firm, as manager of its public safety and municipal management division.

1985 Laurie Novascone Labarca, h'85, in February was named president of Ascension Via Christi St. Francis hospital in Wichita.

Jeff Sheppard, c'85, is a PGA golf professional at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills.

Diane Yetter, b'85, in April was honored with the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Business. She is founder and president of Yetter Tax, a Chicago-based sales tax consulting and tax technology firm she established in 1996. She also founded the Sales Tax Institute, which offers training for accounting and finance professionals and business owners.

1986 Elyce Cox Arons, '86, wrote *We Might Just Make It After All*, a memoir of her friendship with the late fashion designer **Kate Bros-**

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 of KU Alumni



nahan Spade, '86, which will be published in June. Elyce and Kate met as students at KU and, with Kate's husband, Andy, co-founded the Kate Spade brand in 1993. Elyce is co-founder and CEO of the clothing brand Frances Valentine.

Scott Chadwick, g'86, PhD'95, is dean of the school of business and chief of corporate partnerships at Maryville University of St. Louis.

Kevin Dillmore, c'86, j'88, is a senior writer at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City.

Leslie Hogan, f'86, a composer and pianist, teaches composition at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is president of the Santa Barbara Music Club.

Doug, c'86, and **Kathy Spalding McWard**, c'88, live

in St. Louis and have three adult children. Their youngest daughter, **Katie**, d'24, teaches middle school in Topeka.

Kristy Lantz Newport, j'86, owns Dakota Cowgirl, an online boutique that sells vintage and retro Western clothing and accessories. She and her husband, Ted, live on a small ranch in the southern Black Hills in South Dakota.

1987 Edith Guffey, g'87, is chair of the national board of directors of PFLAG, an LGBTQ+ support and advocacy organization. She is retired from a 30-year career with the United Church of Christ, where she most recently served as conference minister for the Kansas-Oklahoma conference.

Michael McKown, a'87, is

an executive master planner at Walt Disney Imagineering, which designs and builds Disney theme parks and attractions around the world. He is based at Imagineering's headquarters in Glendale, California.

Emily Swett Voth, j'87, is founder of House of Cade Black, a plant-based perfume, soap and aromatherapy company operating from Kansas City, New York City and Big Sur, California. Emily founded Indigo Wild, maker of the popular Zum line of body and home products, in 1996 and sold the company in 2018.

1988 Miles Nease, j'88, is executive director of Mission Chateau Senior Living Community in Prairie Village.

Darren Richards, j'88, is CEO of Tucker/Hall, a

Tampa, Florida-based public relations firm. He and his wife, Deborah, live in Tampa and have four adult children.

Pat Smith, e'88, is Colorado regional director at Petra, a commercial general contractor.

Karlton Uhm, b'88, is a mortgage adviser at Society Mortgage in Bloomingdale, Illinois.

1989 Laura Clark Fey, j'89, l'92, is principal at Fey LLC, a data privacy and information governance law firm. She is also an adjunct professor in the School of Law.

Jenny Gunter Meegan, b'89, is senior vice president and operations chief of staff at Black & Veatch in Overland Park.

Suzanne Parsonage Miller, j'89, is president of



SUMNER ONE

Welcome to the one place where everything works.

Your team is built to work. Your technology should be too.

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.

What we offer:

- Production Print Solutions
- Large Format Solutions
- Managed Print Services
- Managed Voice Services
- Enterprise Content Management
- Multifunction Printers & Scanners
- Workgroup Printers & Scanners
- Mailing Solutions

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

Proudly Partnered With:



DocuWare

Duplo



KONICA MINOLTA



KYOCERA

FUJIFILM



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



2025 FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

SUPPORT YOUR JAYHAWKS TODAY!
JOIN NOW TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES TO SUCCEED IN
COMPETITION, IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

SCAN
HERE



SPM Communications, a Dallas-based marketing and public relations firm she founded in 1999. In March she was named to Inc.'s "Female Founders 500" list, which recognizes top entrepreneurs.

1990 Amy Martin

Barickman, f'90, recently partnered with Colonial Patterns to create Treasured Threadz, a line of vintage-inspired fabric panels for sewing and quilting projects. Through her website, Amy offers patterns, books and courses for a variety of sewing and textile projects. She lives in Prairie Village.

Donna Stokes, j'90, is a marketing director at TDIndustries in North Texas.

Dayana Yochim, j'90, a longtime financial journalist, in January joined Bankrate.com as an investing writer.

1991 Diane Hoose

Goddard, g'91, in February was elected to the board of directors of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, the nonprofit partner of Rocky Mountain National Park. Diane worked at KU for over 36 years, retiring in 2020 as chief financial officer and vice provost for finance. She and her husband, Stephen, live in Estes Park, Colorado.

Lisa Tracy Hanlon, c'91, in February retired as an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She lives in Poinciana, Florida. Her son, **Caleb**, l'23, is a prosecutor for Cook County, Illinois.

Evette Ott, d'91, a former KU women's basketball player, in March was inducted into the Greater Flint African American Sports Hall of Fame. A native of Flint, Michigan,

Evette won two state championships with the Flint Northern High School women's basketball team. After college, she played professionally for the Kansas Crusaders in the Women's Basketball Association league.

Todd Porch, s'91, in January was promoted to CEO of Strategus, a connected TV advertising agency, where he has worked since 2021. He is also an adjunct professor in the executive MBA program at the University of Denver. Todd and his wife, Rebecca, live in Castle Pines Village, Colorado, and have three adult children, Mollie, Anderson and Emma Jane.

Dan Stoke, c'91, in March joined the IT services company CTG as vice president of its U.S. health care business.

1992 Mike Hess, e'92, g'94, retired last year as west division operations officer at HNTB Corp. He worked at the infrastructure design firm for nearly 30 years, holding various roles in Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and California. Mike and his wife, **Kathleen Gilman Hess**, n'84, live in Lawrence. Their daughter, **Gretchen**, c'15, lives in Chicago.

Kristi Henrikson Mohn, d'92, is a real estate agent and co-owner of Coldwell Banker Emporia Real Estate. She and her husband, Tim, are among the owners of Merchant Cycles in Emporia and helped found Unbound Gravel, an off-road cycling event.

Amy Forker Mounts, j'92, is chief of client experience at BankOnIT, a technology company that serves the banking industry. She lives in Wichita.



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

1993 Michael Johnson, g'93, PhD'98, is professor of English at the University of Maine at Farmington. His latest book, *Speculative Wests: Popular Representations of a Region and Genre*, received the Western Literature Association's 2024 Thomas J. Lyon Award, given to the best book in American Western literary and cultural studies.

Jeff Klemp, c'93, serves in the Kansas Senate, representing District 5. He lives in Lansing and owns a small business.

Brian Otte, j'93, is a division president at Champions Group Holdings. He and his wife, Stephanie, live in Overland Park and have two sons, Jackson and Dawson.

Hale Sheppard, j'93, l'98, g'99, a tax and litigation attorney, in March joined Eversheds Sutherland as a partner in the law firm's Atlanta office.

1994 AJ Cleland, c'94, is national director of sales at Techtron Environmental Solutions. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with his wife, Kathleen Brenk.

Sarah Frazier, j'94, g'23, is senior vice president and market manager at Audacy. She oversees operations of six Houston radio stations. Her daughter, Reagan, is a junior at KU.

Molly Gratton, c'94, g'98, is a licensed clinical social worker and registered play therapist supervisor. She owns Molly and Me Counseling and Train-

ing Center in Boise, Idaho.

J. Darin Hayes, l'94, is a medical negligence and personal injury trial attorney at Hutton & Hutton Law Firm in Wichita.

John Keller, m'94, is a plastic surgeon at The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Topeka.

Mark Slyter, d'94, g'96, in March was named president and CEO of Stormont Vail Health, which serves patients in 15 Kansas counties. Mark and his wife, Lisa, have three children.

1995 Geoff Baker, g'95, is president and chief operating officer at McFarland Truck Lines in Austin, Minnesota.

Jason Greenwood, j'95, in February joined the software development company Omada Identity as chief revenue officer. He and his wife, Tracey, live near Philadelphia and have three children.

Brad Jungles, f'95, is chief marketing officer and creative director for Rufus Teague, a brand that specializes in barbecue sauces and other barbecue products. He and his wife, **Marcie Strege Jungles**, j'95, live in Leawood and have a daughter, **Marley**, j'23.

1996 Eric Madden, c'96, l'99, partner in the Dallas office of the law firm Reid Collins & Tsai, in March was named the 2025 U.S. Bankruptcy Litigator of the Year by Benchmark Litigation.

Ken Martin, c'96, in February was elected chair of the Democratic National Committee. He previously served as chair of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party for over 14 years. Ken and his wife, Jennifer O'Rourke, live in Eagan, Minnesota, and have two sons.

1997 Leonika Charging-Davison, c'97, is an attorney and founding partner at Cedar Tree Native Law, a national firm that represents federally recognized Indian tribes. She lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

Redmond Jones, g'97, in March was appointed East Point, Georgia, city manager.

Mark LaShell, m'97, is an allergist and immunologist with Jefferson City Medical Group in Missouri.

Stacy Johnson Robnett, c'97, is vice president of internal talent at Lightspeed Venture Partners. She and her husband, David, live in San Francisco.

1998 Sara Necessary Bess, s'98, and her husband, Sean, own Mosquito Joe of Northwest Florida, a pest control business.

Jason Coker, c'98, is a senior game producer at Meta Reality Labs. He lives in San Diego.

Aric Pozez, c'98, is a sales manager at Acadia Pharmaceuticals.

Heather Richardson, c'98, is a project coordinator at Franklin Energy. She and her

husband, **Chris**, j'96, live near Wichita.

Miles Rost, b'98, is a realtor and investor and owns The Rost Group with Keller Williams, a residential real estate agency that serves the Kansas City area.

Nichole Jeter Wheeler, b'98, is chief financial officer at Cisco-Eagle, a Dallas-based supplier of material handling systems.

1999 Danielle Christiano, c'99, m'05, is staff physician at Good Shepherd Hospice in Auburndale, Florida.

Dallas Hughes, a'99, is a principal and senior client leader at CannonDesign in the firm's Dallas office. He specializes in health care architecture.

Andy Mathias, b'99, is a registered dietitian at Sea Mar Community Health Centers in Seattle.

Strauder Patton, e'99, g'05, is director of program management at Brown and Caldwell, an engineering and construction firm. He lives in Dallas.

John Ratzenberger, c'99, is senior director of operations at Gateway to Learning, a Chicago nonprofit that serves adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. He and his wife, Christine, have a 2-year-old daughter, Grace, and welcomed twin boys, John and William, in February.

2000 Tom Ference, PhD'00, is a clinical psychologist at ForPsych, a forensic

psychology practice. He lives in Cleveland with his wife and children.

Ron Michael, g'00, a multidisciplinary artist, was honored by the Lindsborg Arts Council as its 2025 Artist of the Year. He is director of the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg.

Blaine Riney, j'00, and his sister, **Kelli Riney Starr**, b'02, co-own Terry Riney Agency in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Blaine is the insurance agency's president and lives in Pinehurst with his wife, Lindsay. They have three children. Kelli is chief financial officer and lives in Aberdeen, North Carolina, with her husband, Drew.

Scott Shumard, g'00, is Sterling, Illinois, city manager.

2001 Brenda Brosa, g'01, is associate principal at Lombard/Conrad Architects in Boise, Idaho.

Steve Elliott, f'01, is president of Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. He is also an artist and specializes in large-scale sculptures and mixed media. Steve and his wife, **Molly Mangimelli Elliott**, f'01, have three children.

Ryan Kenny, j'01, is founder and owner of Rocky Mountain Credit Card, a transaction and payment processing consultancy. He lives in Denver with his wife, Dee, and son, Declan.

Michael Kolton, d'01, is a school counselor at Amboy High School in Amboy, Illinois.

Sarah Mai, h'01, g'03, is executive director of Down Syndrome Innovations, a Kansas City nonprofit that

serves people who have Down syndrome and their families.

Deirdre Pilch, EdD'01, superintendent of Greeley-Evans School District 6 in Colorado, last fall was named the 2025 Colorado Superintendent of the Year.

Andrea Lambert South, c'01, is professor of communication and director of the school of media and communication at Northern Kentucky University.

Lindsay Moore Woolf, a'01, principal at Woolf Architecture & Interiors in New Orleans, in 2024 was named to Forbes' list of "America's Top 200 Residential Architects."

2002 Tammy Cohen, g'02, is senior vice president and chief pharmacy officer at Baylor Scott & White Health, a Dallas-based health care system. In 2023 she was honored by the School of Pharmacy with the Harold N. Godwin Leadership Legacy Award, which recognizes contributions to the profession by alumni of KU's pharmacy residency programs.

Donald Peghee, m'02, is an OB-GYN at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia, Missouri.

Leah Masonbrink Vomhof, d'02, g'12, is principal at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park. She and her husband, Arlan, live in Fairway. Leah serves on KU Alumni's Board of Directors.

Jason Weller, e'02, is a project director at Sargent & Lundy, an engineering and design firm that specializes in the power industry. He and his wife, Amy, live in Sierra Madre, California, and have

three children, Andrew, Matthew and Ava.

2003 Jason Crowther, c'03, c'04, is an anesthesiologist and assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

Sylvia Surjaatmadja Havery, g'03, g'03, is chair of the board of directors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. She has served in various roles with the organization for eight years.

Adam Murray, c'03, in January was named chief commercial officer at Samuel EPC, an engineering, fabrication and construction company.

Jonathon Salava, c'03, m'08, is an orthopedic surgeon with Stormont Vail Health in Topeka.

Justin Unger, c'03, g'05, in March was named senior vice president of strategy at Explor-US, a hospitality company that works with local, state and national parks.

Amy Wong-Thai, c'03, is a cytotechnologist in the San Francisco Bay Area.

2004 Tim Allshouse, EdD'04, is director of bands at Blue Springs High School in Blue Springs, Missouri. The school's Golden Regiment marching band performed at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin.

Katie Bush, c'04, is director of oncology strategic partnerships at Pfizer. She lives in Seattle.

Shaina Drummond, m'04, is president of the Dallas County Medical Society. She is a clinical associate professor in the anesthesiology and pain management department at

UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Jason Hardgrave, PhD'04, in January was named assistant provost for academic affairs at the University of Southern Indiana, where he has been on the faculty for over 20 years.

Brittanny Bublitz Kreutzer, j'04, is co-founder and partner at The Speaker Exchange Agency, which connects clients with keynote speakers for their events. She lives in Lenexa.

Cassie Pfannenstiel, l'04, is a bankruptcy and estate planning attorney and owns Bloom Legal Advisors in Lenexa.

Aimee Shrimplin Ralph, d'04, g'05, in January was honored by the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators as one of two 2025 Kansas Special Education Professionals of the Year. She teaches at Oskaloosa Elementary School.

Courtney Wachal, l'04, is a Kansas City, Missouri, municipal judge for the city's domestic violence court and wellness court.

John Waller, g'04, a principal at Gensler, in February was appointed managing director of the architecture and design firm's Kansas City office. He and his wife, Sara, have two daughters, Addison and Ryann.

2005 Allison Mezger Aripoli, c'05, m'12, is a radiologist with The University of Kansas Health System and associate professor of radiology at KU Medical Center.

Kelly Battese, PharmD'05, in April was honored by the School of Pharmacy with its



JOIN THE TRADITION



The Official University of Kansas Ring symbolizes the incomparable KU experience: life-changing years on Mount Oread, where talented professors brought out our best and set us on the path to success, where lifelong friendships took shape and treasured stories began. Our Official Ring connects Jayhawks past, present and future — and reminds us of our cherished home on the Hill.

If you recognize the Jayhawk or have heard the Rock Chalk Chant, you know that KU tradition is anything but traditional. Our customs are often unquestionably quirky — and quintessentially KU. When you wear the Official Ring, you commemorate every life-changing memory, milestone and moment that you made on campus and celebrate what it means to be a lifelong Jayhawk. Join in on the tradition and order your Official University of Kansas Ring today.

SAVE \$50

ON YOUR OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS RING

Offer valid now through 12/21/2025*



SCAN TO SHOP NOW OR ORDER AT:
JOSTENS.COM/COLLEGERINGS OR CALL 1(800)854-7464

*Save \$50 when you design and purchase your college class ring or jewelry item on jostens.com by December 31, 2025 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 Jostens.com and shipped to U.S. addresses. Expires 12/31/2025 at 11:59pm CT. Offer may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice. ©2025 Jostens, Inc. 242399





DRIVE YOUR PRIDE

When you put the official KU license plate on your car, you help support the Jayhawk Career Network—powered by Truist Credit Union—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 for application forms.



ALUMNI
The University of Kansas

kualumni.org/license

2025 Distinguished Service Award. He is a rear admiral and chief pharmacist officer for the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and also serves as director of the Indian Health Service's division of commissioned personnel support. Kelly and his wife, Rachel, live in Lenexa and have three children.

Louise Stauffer Krug, j'05, g'09, PhD'14, wrote *How to Explain*, a memoir, published in October. She is associate professor of English at Washburn University in Topeka. She and her husband, **Nick**, j'01, have two children, Olive and Bruce.

Alisa Lewis, e'05, is a senior controls project manager at McCarthy Building Companies.

James Lewis, c'05, in March was promoted to director of business development at Greenscape, a Raleigh, North Carolina-based landscaping company.

Mark Lyda, c'05, f'05, is founder of Lyda Law Firm, which serves small businesses and estate planning clients in 14 states. He lives in Colorado with his wife and three children.

Katie Moore, c'05, is an investigative reporter at The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization that covers the U.S. criminal justice system.

Brenna Wriston, g'05, is senior vice president of government relations at JBJ Management, a public affairs firm in Dallas.

2006 Blake Davis, c'06, is vice president of development and external affairs at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He and his wife,

Lindsey Brooks Davis, d'07, live in Dallas.

Alison Pontious Delich, n'06, is a family nurse practitioner at AdventHealth Medical Group Primary Care in Overland Park.

Schnavia Smith Hatcher, PhD'06, is professor and dean of the school of social work at the University of Alabama.

James Moore, e'06, is a structural engineer at Arora and Associates.

Dena Seibel Perkins, b'06, and her husband, John, own Threat Angler, a Lawrence-based cybersecurity company.

Derek Ralston, b'06, is director of technical program management at the health technology company Medable. He and his wife, Joanna, live in San Francisco with their cats, Dashi and Mackie.

Sarah Steen Ruane, l'06, is a partner at the Kansas City law firm Wagstaff & Cartmell.

Gustavo Sudre, e'06, is professor of genomic neuroimaging and artificial intelligence at King's College London.

2007 Erin Cook Aldridge, e'07, is a senior project manager at JE Dunn Construction in Kansas City.

Jess White Dyroff, f'07, is co-founder of Brightside Creative, a branding agency based in Kansas City.

Andrew French, c'07, f'10, is chair of the Kansas Corporation Commission, a regulatory agency that oversees public utilities and other industries in the state. He lives in Lenexa with his wife and son.

Shannon Layman, c'07, f'07, is assistant professor of psychology at George Mason University in Virginia. She

lives outside Washington, D.C., with her husband, son and daughter.

Gary Woodland, c'07, a former KU golfer and winner of the 2019 U.S. Open, in February was honored by the PGA Tour with its Courage Award. He had surgery to remove a brain tumor in September 2023 and returned to competing last year. Gary chose Champion Charities, which supports brain cancer research and patient care, to receive the Courage Award's \$25,000 charitable contribution, and he and his wife, Gabby, matched the donation.

2008 Christopher Harris, c'08, is senior director of programs at the Patterson Family Foundation, which serves rural communities in Kansas and Missouri.

Matthew Lunde, g'08, is chief financial officer at Rally House.

Derek Nye, d'08, is chief operating officer at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children in Denver.

Dallas Walz, c'08, m'12, is chief medical officer at AmberMed, a health center in rural northwest Kansas.

Katie Hennier Wasserstrom, b'08, owns Elevate Your Living, which provides home and business organizing services. She and her husband, **Max**, b'08, live in Leawood and have two daughters.

2009 John Curatola, PhD'09, is a senior historian at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. His latest book, *Armies Afloat: How the Development of Amphibious Operations in Europe Helped*

Win World War II, was published in April by University Press of Kansas.

Paul Hefferon, b'09, is a senior financial planner at Keen Wealth Advisors in Overland Park.

Reggie Mitchell, c'09, is an accountant at KU.

Megan Jones Northup, c'09, m'13, is an OB-GYN with Stormont Vail Health and practices in Topeka and Emporia.

Paul, e'09, and **Kristen Bailey Pansing**, u'11, live in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Paul is an operations director at Burns & McDonnell, and Kristen is a vice president of talent acquisition and contingent labor at Premier Inc., a health care solutions company. They have two children, Darby and Harvey.

Audra Walter, g'09, is a family nurse practitioner at Clay County Medical Center.

2010 Andy Anderegg, g'10, wrote *Plum*, her debut novel, published in April. She lives in Los Angeles.

Brad Curtis, PharmD'10, is a medical science liaison at Johnson & Johnson.

Kira Wyrick Harkins, s'10, g'11, is a therapist and owns Harkins Counseling in Kansas City.

Kelly Loeb, g'10, is community engagement coordinator at the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Kaitlyn Farrell Mitchell, c'10, g'17, is a program manager and environmental scientist at Tetra Tech.

2011 Emily Burgen, c'11, is research director at KNG Health Consulting.



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



5P4

Chris Chaffee, b'11, is director of legislative affairs for the Meat Institute.

Evan North, l'11, is founding attorney at North Law in Philadelphia, which focuses on complex litigation and nationwide class actions.

Jessica Nelson Palm, j'11, a marketing and public relations executive, recently launched the marketing agency Stora Strategies. She lives in Overland Park with her husband, Eric, and their son, Lincoln, and daughter, Sutton. Jessica serves on KU Alumni's Board of Directors.

Kristine Schenk, g'11, is the registrar at the Georgia Museum of Natural History and the registrar and a collections manager at the University of Georgia Laboratory of Archaeology in Athens.

2012 Justin Bell, a'12, is associate creative director at Eversana Intouch, a marketing agency based in Overland Park.

Kellie Mitchell Bubeck, l'12, in January opened Bubeck Law in Overland Park. She focuses her practice on telemarketing and data privacy law.

Logan Chamberlin, e'12, in January was promoted to associate principal at Apex Engineers. He works in the firm's Kansas City office.

Shawn Goetz, g'12, is a vice president and industry operations lead at Hanson Professional Services. He has worked at the engineering and planning firm for 30 years and is based in its Twin Cities office.

Tyrel Somers, m'12, chief of medical staff at Russell Regional Hospital, in April

was honored by KU Medical Center's Office of Rural Medical Education as its inaugural Preceptor of the Year. He has provided real-world learning opportunities and mentorship to medical students for nine years.

Zach Sperry, e'12, is a principal and client service leader at CDM Smith in the engineering firm's Austin, Texas, office. He lives in Round Rock, where he serves on the city's chamber of commerce board.

Julia Ubbenga, g'12, wrote the book *Declutter Your Heart and Your Home: How a Minimalist Life Yields Maximum Joy*, published in April. She is a minimalist living coach and offers decluttering resources on her website, Rich in What Matters. Julia and her husband live in Kansas City and have

five children.

Mitchell Wisniewski III, g'12, a brigadier general, in December took command of the U.S. Army Reserve's 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, based in San Antonio.

2013 Michael Siscos, d'13, m'18, practices general and surgical dermatology in Kansas City and Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Sara Sneath, c'13, j'13, is journalist-in-residence at the University of Miami's Climate Accountability Lab.

Nicholas Trombold, p'13, PharmD'15, is an associate director of health economics and outcomes research at Alexion Pharmaceuticals. He lives in Denver.

PROUD PARTNER OF KANSAS ATHLETICS



Amanda Kravitz Valentino, c'13, is an account director at Healthcasts Media. She and her husband, **Michael**, c'13, an attorney at the law firm Agrapidis & Maroules, live in Hillsdale, New Jersey, and have a son, Jack, and daughter, Charlie.

Susanne Eberle Watson, c'13, is a finance manager at Global Prairie, a Kansas City-based marketing agency. She and her husband, **Samuel**, p'14, PharmD'14, live in Westwood with their son, William.

2014 Sarah Brennan, c'14, is a content sales manager at AMC Networks for the Asia-Pacific region. She lives in Los Angeles.

Alec Britt, c'14, m'18, is a hematologist and oncologist at

Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center in Topeka.

Brock Chart, u'14, g'18, a composer and piano teacher, composed the score for the feature film "\$POSITIONS," which premiered in March at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas. He and his wife, Dominique, live in Lawrence.

Jessica Haberstock, c'14, in January was promoted to associate and buildings sustainability lead at the engineering firm TYLin. She lives in Chicago.

Samantha Hamby, b'14, is director of data and analytics at Summit Marketing, which assists nonprofits with fundraising.

William Price, PhD'14, is associate professor of geography at Ball State University in Indiana.

Lauren Spain-Eddington,

c'14, is assistant director of KU's undergraduate biology program.

Trent Strunk, c'14, is a lead IndyCar performance engineer at General Motors.

Amilia Winter, j'14, is a program manager at The Rabbit hOle, an immersive museum in Kansas City that brings to life works of children's literature.

Tom Witherspoon, l'14, in January was named partner at Stinson in Kansas City. He practices in the law firm's banking and financial services division.

2015 Evan Dunbar, j'15, is an account executive at MacroFab, an electronics manufacturer in Houston. He and his wife, Nicole, have a daughter,

Genevieve.

Emily Fekete, PhD'15, manages volunteer engagement and chapter relations for the American Statistical Association.

Anna Korbel, g'15, is a pediatric mental health therapist at Kaiser Permanente in Denver.

Austin Morgan, p'15, PharmD'17, is director of pharmacy services at Tria Health in Kansas City. He and his wife, **MacKenzie Kaiser Morgan**, d'15, live in Lawrence.

Bailey Proctor, b'15, g'16, is controller at Domain H. William Harlan, a winery group in St. Helena, California.

Nick Puckett, l'15, is general counsel at Cardinal Group Companies, a Denver-based




Choose From 12,700+ Gyms for \$28/mo.¹

-  **Plus 9,400+ additional premium exercise studios at 20% - 70% off retail!**
-  **Bundle and save. Get \$5 off each additional gym you join.³**
-  **No long-term contracts. Easily sign up, switch gyms, or cancel online with no fees or penalties.**

Standard
Fitness Network








+
More



\$0 Enrollment Fee
with code: **FITNESSGOALS²**



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

¹Plus 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.

²\$28 enrollment fees waived for standard and premium gyms 3/1/25 12:01 a.m. - 5/31/25 11:59 pm. PT.

³Members may purchase multiple standard and premium gym memberships with a \$5 discount off the monthly fee for each membership purchased after their first. M966-940C-KJAA 03/25 © 2025 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 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. ASH reserves the right to modify any aspect of the Program (including, without limitation, the Enrollment Fees, the Monthly Fees, 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.

real estate development, management and investment company.

Tony Reames, PhD'15, is an associate professor in the school for environment and sustainability at the University of Michigan, where he founded the Urban Energy Justice Lab and the Energy Equity Project.

Ryan Richmond, c'15, is a quality control supervisor at Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Julia Huxman Ronnebaum, l'15, a trial attorney, in January was promoted to partner at VSCP Law in Philadelphia.

Shah Sadikov, u'15, a conductor and violist, is co-founder, CEO and music director at NAVO, a nonprofit performing arts organization based in Overland Park.

Shayne Thoman, c'15, lives in Washington, D.C., where he is a partner at Acuity Politics, a political campaign compliance firm.

2016 Daniel Avelina, b'16, is a brand manager at Standard Beverage Corp. and works in the distributor's Lenexa office. He lives in Shawnee.

Kate Blankenship, c'16, is a grant manager at Rose Brooks Center, a domestic violence agency in Kansas City.

Ariel Peisen Burow, g'16, in December was promoted to studio director and client leader at Incite Design Studio's Kansas City location. She has worked at the architecture firm since 2020.

Elizabeth Swartz Cooper, n'16, is a pediatric nurse practitioner in the Phoenix Children's health system.

Brendan Nachbar, b'16, in



KANSAS
K P R
PUBLIC RADIO
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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



January was promoted to head of client success at Illuminate, a software development company.

Trent Rogers, l'16, in January was promoted to director of housing development at Travois, which partners with Native American communities on housing and economic development.

2017 Nashia Baker, j'17, lives in New York City, where she is senior commerce editor at Architectural Digest.

Tom Cedoz, l'17, is a partner at the law firm Hush Blackwell. He is based in metro Detroit.

Christopher Gage, DMA'17, PhD'19, an organist, is an adjunct assistant professor of music theory at the University of Delaware and music director at Overbrook Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Rachel Hagan, e'17, is a software engineer at WellSky, a health care technology company.

Bryanna Krekeler, e'17, is sustainability program manager for the Madison Metropolitan School District in Wisconsin.

Ally Northrup, c'17, j'17, is a communications manager at the pest control company Rentokil Terminix.

Andrew Poehling, b'17, g'19, is a finance manager at the biopharmaceutical company AbbVie. He and his wife, Leah, live in Chicago.

Rebekah Taussig, PhD'17, wrote the children's book *We Are the Scrappy Ones*, published in April. Her 2020 memoir, *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*, was among the books selected by the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2025

"Big Read," which aims to bring communities together through a shared reading experience. Rebekah lives in Kansas City with her husband and son.

Alexander Thierry, g'17, is a ceramic artist and associate professor in the department of visual and performing arts at South Carolina State University.

Tyler Williams, g'17, is a cost analyst at STP Nuclear Operating Co. in Texas.

2018 Madison Allen, j'18, is director of client services at Cogwheel Marketing & Analytics.

Manuel Brockman, m'18, is an internal medicine physician. He practices in Wichita and specializes in hospice, palliative and in-home care.

Alyson Buck, g'18, PhD'24, is executive officer of centers

Cherish the Memories Frame the Moment



15% OFF KU orders \$184+
Code: KUAA15OFF

Shop Now: diplomaframe.com/KUAA

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

Church Hill Classics
diplomaframe.com™

for Boston Behavior Learning Centers, which has locations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The organization serves clients who have autism spectrum disorders.

Nhi Bui, p'18, PharmD'20, is a hematology/oncology medical science liaison at ADC Therapeutics in Kansas City.

Lindsy Herd, d'18, is lead athletic trainer at UF Health Jacksonville in Florida.

Patrick Mohr, e'18, is a materials project manager at Terracon in the engineering firm's Tucson, Arizona, office.

Tim Mulligan II, g'18, is assistant director of residence life at Central Michigan University.

Joshua Umscheid, m'18, is a pediatrician at the Excelsior Springs Hospital outpatient clinic in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Rachel Wolfe, s'18, g'19, is a clinical training director at The Guidance Center, a community mental health organization that serves Atchison, Jefferson and Leavenworth counties.

2019 Keegan Gormally, g'19, lives in Salem, Oregon, where he is retention intervention coordinator at Chemeketa Community College.

Haley Koskovich, j'19, is a social media and brand content manager at the marketing agency SageAge.

Sarah Larson, u'19, is an administrative assistant at Opus 3 Artists, a New York City-based talent management company.

Jackson Mayfield, a'19, is a senior industrial designer at Leapfrog Brands, a drinkware

company based in Chicago.

Joe Staely, b'19, c'19, is a private investments senior associate at Asset Consulting Group in St. Louis.

Chong Tan, c'19, e'19, is a senior software engineer at Kodiak Sciences, a biopharmaceutical company in Palo Alto, California.

Scott Watson, g'19, is an elementary music instructor in Colorado's 27J school district.

2020 Ellie Augustine, c'20, is an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Kansas City.

Cloey Denham, b'20, is chapter services coordinator at CREW Network, an international organization for women who work in commercial real estate. She and her wife,

Autumn, c'19, live in Lawrence.

Brittany Foster, c'20, is a meteorologist at KMBC 9 News in Kansas City.

Matthew Glann, d'20, is an athletic trainer at Children's Mercy Kansas City.

Regan Hollingshead, a'20, is an architectural designer at Siren Betty Design, an interior design firm based in Chicago.

Jason Loraine, g'20, is a process architect at Jacobs and specializes in life sciences and pharmaceutical manufacturing buildings. He lives in St. Louis with his wife, Alyssa, and their children, Gatlin, Oaklen and Crosby.

Bobby Tech, c'20, is Victor, Colorado, city administrator.

Ryan Zeferjahn, b'20, a former KU baseball pitcher, pitches for the Los Angeles Angels.

2021 Dannie Dilsaver, c'21, g'23, a former Jayhawk swimmer, is assistant swimming coach at

Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Giacomo Fernandez, c'21, leads the biochemistry method development and validation group at Eurofins BioPharma Product Testing in Columbia, Missouri.

Daryl Halsey, b'21, lives in Kodiak, Alaska, where he is a chief yeoman in the U.S. Coast Guard. He and his wife, Bethanie, have four children, Aven, Elliot, Cordelia and Ferris.

Noah Lombardo, b'21, is a transportation coordinator at Impel Union, a trucking sales company.

Tiffany McIntosh, c'21, manages outreach at the Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence.

Connor Nybo, l'21, is an associate attorney at Baker Law Group in Denver.

Benjamin Ramberg, l'21, is an associate attorney at Dentons in the law firm's Kansas City office.

Darius Releford, c'21, is a financial adviser at Edward Jones. He lives in Denver.

Brendan Roan, c'21, g'23, g'23, is a data scientist at Honeywell in the company's federal manufacturing and technologies division.

Payton Thielmann, b'21, is a wealth adviser at Prime Capital Financial. He and his wife,

Caroline Kinney Thielmann, d'20, live in Overland Park.

Keara Thompson, b'21, is a business intelligence analyst for the Seattle Kraken, a professional ice hockey team in the National Hockey League.

Juliana VandenBorn, c'21, is an air quality planner for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. She lives in Dallas.

2022 Malek Ellouz, e'22, is an electrical engineer at Kiewit in Lenexa.

Hunter Feyerherm, c'22, is website and database manager for Kansas Tourism, a division of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Kate Steward Herrenbruck, d'22, teaches fourth grade at Trailwood Elementary School in Overland Park.

Latrese Kabuya, g'22, is a child and family therapist at Amethyst Place, a supportive housing program in Kansas City.

Logan Miner, p'22, PharmD'24, is director of pharmacy at Camber Mental Health in Kansas City.

Jada Mitchell, d'22, teaches sixth grade at John Diemer Elementary School in Overland Park.

Madison Osberger-Low, j'22, lives in Aspen, Colorado, where she is digital engagement editor at the Aspen Times and the Glenwood Springs Post Independent.

Valerie Stander, c'22, is an assistant category manager at Anheuser-Busch. She lives in Chicago.

2023 Julian Albright, c'23, is assistant director of heritage programs and partner relations for Zeta Beta Tau at the fraternity's headquarters in Carmel, Indiana.

Anna Denison, j'23, in January was promoted to lead digital producer at KWTW News 9 in Oklahoma City.

Kyley Harfield, b'23, is a marketing specialist at Landry's, a Houston-based dining, hospitality, entertainment and gaming company.

Jadyn Landreth, a'23, g'23, g'23, is an architect at SPT Architecture in Wichita.

Rene Martin, PhD'23, is a biologist and assistant professor in the school of natural resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She was lead author on research published in February that discovered biofluorescence in birds-of-paradise.

Caroline Muth, c'23, is a studio production assistant at Tico Sports, a Kansas City-based media company that specializes in Spanish-language broadcasts.

2024 Ankita

Bhattashali, PhD'24, is an education specialist at the Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice at Utah State University.

Phoenix Bialek, e'24, is an assistant engineer at Turner Construction Co. in Kansas City.

Gwendolyn Comas, a'24, g'24, in January joined Lawrence Group as a design professional in the multidisciplinary design firm's St. Louis office.

Jack Denebeim, j'24, is sports editor at the Sedalia Democrat in Sedalia, Missouri.

Rosston Eubank, l'24, is an associate attorney at Stinson in its intellectual property and technology division. He works in the law firm's Kansas City office.

Tristan Oestreich, e'24, is an assistant electrical engineer at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

Elle Peterson, j'24, is a brand coordinator at Walz Tetrick Advertising in Mission.

Nathan Swaffar, j'24, is a sports reporter for the Mitchell Republic in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Kipchoge VanHoose, g'24, is a health educator with the Fairfield County Health Department in Ohio.

Maxwell Vinyard, g'24, is a clinical liaison at Youth Villages in Bartlett, Tennessee, a mental and behavioral health treatment center for children.

JAYHAWK BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Are you a Jayhawk who
owns or leads a business?

Join the **Jayhawk Business
Directory** so Jayhawks
everywhere can support
you and your business.



List your company to reach the worldwide network of Jayhawks!

kualumni.org/jayhawk-business-directory



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.



Investing in Future Leaders:

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



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



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



PRESIDENTS
CLUB

KU Alumni

For more information,
contact Angie Storey:
angiestorey@kualumni.org
kualumni.org/presidents-club



1940s Franklin Fearing, c'49, Bay Village, Ohio, 97, Nov. 26. Franklin, a U.S. Army veteran, worked for an electric utility. His wife, Marian Cox Fearing, c'50, preceded him in death.

Philip Ferguson, c'49, Parker, Colorado, 99, May 18, 2024. Philip, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a geologist and worked in the oil and gas industry. He is survived by his wife, Maxine McClanahan Ferguson, '52.

James Henderson, e'49, Midland, Texas, 96, Nov. 13. Jim served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and later co-founded an oil and gas operating company. His first wife, Frances, and second wife, Elizabeth, preceded him in death.

Virginia Urban Merrill, c'47, Mission Hills, 99, Jan. 18. With her late husband, Fred, '47, Virginia established the Merrill Advanced Studies Center, part of KU's Life Span Institute, in 1990.

Robert Noll Jr., c'49, Leawood, 98, Dec. 14. Bob served in the U.S. Navy and later owned a clothing store. His wife, Sue Crabb Noll, c'47, preceded him in death.

1950s Don Adams, e'58, g'59, Fort Worth, Texas, 89, Nov. 28. Don, a U.S. Army veteran, was a geologist and worked in the oil and gas industry. His wife, Kathy, preceded him in death.

Benny Anderson, e'57, West Chester, Ohio, 88, Jan. 28, 2024. Benny, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at GE Aviation for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Myrna Hemphill Anderson, d'57.

Lyle Anderson, b'53, Lake in the Hills, Illinois, 92, Dec. 7. Lyle owned Autotrol Corp., a gear motor manufacturer. He is survived by his wife, Virginia.

Paul Barker, c'55, Aurora, Colorado, 90, June 30, 2024; and **Marilyn Hixon Barker,** '57, Aurora, Colorado, 91, Nov. 25.

W. Dean Barnum, e'56, Clyde, 91, Dec. 8. Dean, an engineer and land surveyor, was Liberal city manager and owned a concrete supplier. His wife, Sara Wyman Barnum, d'58, g'89, preceded him in death.

Charles Beall, b'57, Topeka, 89, Dec. 21. Charles served in the U.S. Army and Kansas National Guard. He worked as a CPA, professor, hospital administrator and stockbroker. His wife, Ida, g'90, survives.

Harold "Bob" Beaver, c'57, e'67, Nashville, Tennessee, 88, May 10, 2024. Bob founded a geotechnical engineering firm, which he led for many years. He is survived by his wife, Pat.

Joan Moherman Beeks, f'55, Kansas City, 91, Dec. 18. Joan was an artist for Hallmark Cards and later an interior designer. Her husband, John, m'65, preceded her in death.

Harold Conner, e'53, g'55, Norman, Oklahoma, 93, July 26, 2024. Harold, a structural engineer, was the first director of the construction science program at the University of Oklahoma. His partner, Carolyn Montgomery, survives.

Russell Cramm, c'53, m'56, Olathe, 93, Jan. 15, 2024.

Dana Hudkins Crawford, c'53, Denver, 93, Jan. 23. Dana led efforts to preserve many historic buildings in Denver, including Denver Union Station, which now features The Crawford Hotel, named in her honor. She received KU's Distinguished Service Citation in 2007. Her husband, John, preceded her in death.

Sue Miller Divich, '56, San Antonio, 90, Dec. 24. Sue was a painter and longtime volunteer

for animal rescue and rehabilitation efforts. She is survived by her husband, Chris, d'56.

Jan Moses Durrett, c'52, g'80, Prairie Village, 93, Feb. 8, 2024. Jan owned a property management company. Her husband, Warren, preceded her in death.

Darrell Fanestil, c'55, m'58, La Jolla, California, 90, Aug. 12, 2024. Darrell helped establish the nephrology department at the University of California, San Diego medical school, where he was on the faculty for many years. His wife, D. Ann Smith Fanestil, d'55, survives.

William Farrar, c'55, Kansas City, 91, Dec. 24. William, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for 35 years. His wife, Velma Gaston Farrar, j'54, preceded him in death.

Bernie Frigon, '51, Phoenix, 103, Jan. 3. Bernie, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was an attorney and founded Frigon Law Firm in Cimarron and Dodge City. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

James Gilliland, b'59, Lawrence, 89, Dec. 23. James worked for United Telecommunications for over 20 years and was later a financial consultant. His wife, Florence, survives.

Mary Ann Deschner Grimes, d'53, Paola, 93, Jan. 13. Mary Ann was an art teacher and later served on the Paola school district board of education. Her husband, Floyd, c'51, preceded her in death.

Edward Hall Jr., c'54, Leawood, 92, Sept. 6. Ed owned E.H. Hall Contractors in Kansas City for nearly 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary Cody Hall, c'54.

Charles Haverty, c'51, Lawrence, 95, Oct. 26. Charles, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at Procter & Gamble and was later

president of Lawrence National Bank. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Wurth Haverty, e'52.

Martha Ivon Olson Hein, d'56, Fort Collins, Colorado, 91, Feb. 11. Martha Ivon taught elementary school for 25 years. Her husband, Harold, b'56, preceded her in death.

Annette "Nettie" Johnson Heinz, d'59, Blue Ash, Ohio, 86, Jan. 17, 2024. Her husband, George, preceded her in death.

Carol Harshbarger Hendrix, d'57, Charlottesville, Virginia, 89, July 29, 2024. Carol was a longtime administrative assistant at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

Charles Hinshaw Jr., c'54, m'58, Wichita, 92, Oct. 12. Charles, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a pathologist and practiced in Hutchinson and Wichita. His wife, Bobbie Jo, preceded him in death.

Frederick Holmes, m'59, g'98, Lenexa, 92, Jan. 30. Fred practiced internal medicine and was a professor at KU Medical Center for many years. His wife, Grace Foege Holmes, m'59, preceded him in death.

Richard Honan, c'57, Kansas City, 89, March 22. Dick served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later founded American Trailer & Storage. His wife, Kathy Strayer Honan, c'67, survives.

Jack Honnold, j'50, Dodge City, 98, Dec. 13. Jack, a U.S. Army veteran, managed advertising at the Dodge City Daily Globe for decades. His first wife, Jeanne, and second wife, Jean, preceded him in death.

Robert Howard, l'59, Wichita, 93, April 23, 2024. Bob, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a partner at Foulston Siefkin, where he practiced law for over 60 years. His wife, Joanne, survives.

Charles Kirkpatrick, c'54, m'58, Denver, 93, Dec. 8. A pioneering immunologist, Charles was a medical researcher and longtime faculty member at the University of Colorado. His wife, Janice Fosha Kirkpatrick, n'56, preceded him in death.

George "Don" Meserve Jr., c'58, Murrieta, California, 87, Aug. 15, 2024. Don served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and was later a private pilot and managed an Air Force Reserve training facility. His wife, Yvonne, preceded him in death.

Robert Metzinger, c'58, g'65, Oklahoma City, 89, Nov. 1. Bob, a U.S. Army veteran, was a city manager in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Marvel Metzinger, d'59.

Joan Payne Moeller, d'57, Peculiar, Missouri, 89, Dec. 6. Joan was a middle school teacher for 26 years.

Theresa Maher Nichols, c'55, c'56, Troy, Michigan, 91, Oct. 20.

Kim Ong, p'57, g'60, Sunnyvale, California, 93, Dec. 13. Kim was a hospital pharmacist for 39 years. His wife, Helen Bogle Ong, g'60, survives.

Donald Owen, g'59, PhD'63, Beaumont, Texas, 87, Dec. 30, 2023. Don was professor emeritus of geoscience at Lamar University, where he was on the faculty for 37 years.

Joan George Paine, j'57, Phoenix, 94, July 4, 2024. Joan was a reporter, editor and publisher. She established a printing company in Caney and later taught high school English and journalism. Her husband, George, '69, preceded her in death.

Raymond Rathert, b'57, Topeka, 94, Dec. 2. Raymond, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a division supervisor at the Kansas

Insurance Department. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Glenna, and is survived by his second wife, Barbara.

Nancy Jones Roe, d'59, Caney, 90, Dec. 9. Nancy was a community leader in Caney, serving as president of the chamber of commerce and on the school board. Her husband, Darrel, preceded her in death.

Nelita "Nicki" Benitz Scheffler, '52, Pickerington, Ohio, 94, Aug. 6, 2024. Nicki was secretary of the Friends of Music of Northwest Ohio organization. Her first husband, Elmer Allen, c'54, and second husband, Paul, preceded her in death.

Robert Shirley, d'56, Grantville, 90, Sept. 13. Bob was a farmer and ran his family's farm in Grantville until his death. His wife, Sally, preceded him in death.

Derrell Sweem, c'57, Montecito, California, 95, Oct. 22. Derrell, a U.S. Army veteran, worked in real estate and was a partner at a construction firm. He is survived by his wife, Pat.

Kenton Thomas, j'57, Overland Park, 92, Nov. 9. Kent served in the U.S. Navy and later worked 36 years in newspapers as an editor, publisher and general manager. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

Robert Umholtz, c'51, g'56, Lawrence, 96, Jan. 4. Bob, a U.S. Army veteran, was associate professor of mechanical engineering at KU, where he taught for 60 years.

Jeannine Masek Varenhorst, c'51, Clemson, South Carolina, 94, Jan. 14. Jeannine was an accountant at Clemson University for 30 years. Her husband, Glenn, c'49, g'52, preceded her in death.

Joe Winters, a'56, Kansas City, 91, July 8, 2024. Joe worked at Hallmark Cards for

35 years and was a longtime volunteer for organizations that serve people who have developmental disabilities. His wife, Mary Lu Valk Winters, d'55, preceded him in death.

James Younts, j'50, Kansas City, 95, Sept. 2. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force and was later a private pilot and president of an insurance business. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Roberta. He is survived by his second wife, Luanne Shrout.

1960s Jon Alexiou, c'65, g'68, Miami, 81, Jan. 21. Jon was a longtime administrator at Miami Dade College, eventually serving as president of its flagship campus. His wife, Shirley, preceded him in death. He is survived by his partner, Nancy Morton.

John Bingham, c'66, l'70, Mankato, 85, Nov. 6. John, a U.S. Army veteran, practiced law in Lawrence and Belleville and later served as Jewell County magistrate judge. He is survived by his wife, Judy.

Kathleen Barb Botts, d'62, Lenexa, 85, March 28. Kathleen taught junior high and high school Spanish and later worked at Atchison Hospital for 21 years. Her husband, Jerry, preceded her in death.

David Brill, b'65, Wichita, 81, Jan. 20. David played basketball at KU and later worked at Farmland Industries for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Donna.

William Brown, c'64, Overland Park, 81, Nov. 27. Bill, a U.S. Army veteran, co-founded Computerwise, an electronics manufacturing company.

Richard Caldwell, c'65, Houston, 82, Jan. 24. Richard was a CPA and owned his own firm. He was a volunteer and advocate for people who are

deaf or hard of hearing. His wife, Barbara Stuckey, survives.

Melvin Chaplin, PhD'67, Brentwood, California, 85, July 7, 2024. Mel worked in pharmaceutical research and development for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Horst Claus, g'68, PhD'70, Bristol, England, 83, Dec. 27, 2023.

Robert Cordill, c'62, Shawnee, 83, April 22, 2024. Bob, a U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran, worked at Southwestern Bell for nearly 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Don Dale, c'65, Coronado, California, 82, Oct. 29. Don, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked in commercial banking and later as a business adviser. He is survived by his wife, Karen Love Dale, c'65.

Jeffrey Dolezal, c'69, d'71, Topeka, 78, Aug. 7, 2024. Jeff taught at Lawrence High School and owned a sports cards and memorabilia store for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

James Elwood Sr., c'61, Glastonbury, Connecticut, 88, July 6, 2024. Jim was an engineer at Pratt & Whitney. His wife, Geraldine Dewey Elwood, '62, preceded him in death.

Herbert Frazier, g'63, Haviland, 95, March 23, 2024. Herb served in the U.S. Army and was later a teacher and school administrator. His wife, Shirley, died minutes after him.

Judy Ricketts Godwin, c'63, h'89, Overland Park, 83, Dec. 5. Judy worked in the hospital lab and as an instructor at KU Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Harold, p'64.

Charles "Jeff" Goodell, c'63, Carrollton, Texas, 85, Dec. 30. Jeff worked in the oil and gas industry. He is survived by his wife, Jane.

Dixie Kaufman, c'63, Alexandria, Virginia, 83, March 3. Dixie owned a quilt shop in Alexandria, Rocky Road to Kansas, which is also the name of a quilting design.

James "Don" Keenan, m'63, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 87, Oct. 30. Don, a U.S. Air Force veteran, practiced orthopedic surgery for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, Margaret.

Gail Wilson King, f'66, Wamego, 81, Nov. 2. Gail worked in special education in the Fort Scott and Wamego areas. She is survived by her husband, Bob, p'65, g'69.

Betty Laird, '66, Lawrence, 98, Nov. 5. Betty was an actor, musician and writer and taught English at KU. Her husband, Roy, preceded her in death.

Lester Langley, PhD'65, San Angelo, Texas, 84, Jan. 22. Lester taught history at Texas A&M, Central Washington University and the University of Georgia. His wife, Wanda Dickson Langley, '63, survives.

Dennis Lauer, c'60, g'64, Valparaiso, Indiana, 86, Jan. 11. Dennis was assistant professor of mathematics at Purdue University North Central, where he taught for 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Lillie.

Thomas Laws, c'60, Montclair, New Jersey, 85, July 26, 2024. Thomas was an Episcopal priest and worked in human resources. He is survived by his wife, Oneida.

John Lucken, g'64, Akron, Iowa, 84, May 23, 2024. John, a U.S. Army veteran, was a geologist and worked in Wyoming and Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

Charles "Chuck" Lynn, c'65, Overland Park, 82, Oct. 24. Chuck taught math and computer at St. Thomas Aquinas

High School in Overland Park. He is survived by his wife, Betty Davis Lynn, d'64, g'88.

David Mackenzie, b'64, Bainbridge Island, Washington, 82, Sept. 5. David, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at Bank of America for 32 years, retiring as executive vice president and chief fiduciary officer. His wife, Wanda, preceded him in death.

Ric Marshall, c'69, Leawood, 78, Nov. 17. Ric founded a life insurance agency that served community banks in the Midwest. He is survived by his wife, Marsha Farewell Marshall, f'68.

Alice McCart, c'69, g'71, g'83, Overland Park, 77, April 26, 2024. Alice was an editor and translator and later practiced law.

Paul Mitchell, e'62, Bonita Springs, Florida, 84, Jan. 1. A plastics engineer, Paul created the material used in the original Nike Air shoes and went on to become a prominent executive at the company. His wife, Nancy, preceded him in death.

Roberta Young Murphy, d'60, Independence, Missouri, 87, Dec. 30. Roberta was a teacher and singer. Her husband, Arthur, c'60, preceded her in death.

Janet Duncan Nelson, c'65, Topeka, 81, Jan. 10. Janet and her husband, Dennis, b'65, owned a travel agency, for which she led many international trips. Dennis survives.

Cornelius "Cornie" Neufeld, n'63, Merriam, 92, Oct. 6. Cornie worked at a mental health center, first as director of nursing and later as a patient advocate. His wife, Connie, preceded him in death.

Frederick Patrick, g'69, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, 82, Dec. 21. Fred served in the Peace Corps and later worked

in municipal finance in Texas and California.

William Patterson III, b'63, g'64, Mission Hills, 83, Nov. 28. Bill, a U.S. Army veteran, was a CPA and partner at an accounting firm. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Kunz Patterson, c'65, g'80.

Marcha Sawyers Pipes, d'65, Overland Park, 97, Nov. 21. Marcha taught for 44 years, many of them in Olathe and Overland Park. Her husband, Donald, g'55, preceded her in death.

Terry Poling, m'62, Wichita, 88, March 4. Terry, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a family physician and founded two medical practices and a medical research firm. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann.

Stephen Ryan, b'64, Salina, 83, Feb. 24. Steve, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a funeral director and led Ryan Mortuary in Salina for 42 years. He is survived by his wife, Lynne Slease Ryan, d'65.

Richard Schaffer, p'66, m'72, Claflin, 82, Dec. 13. Dick practiced medicine in Kansas City, Great Bend and Hoisington. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann, and is survived by his partner, Paula Davis.

Ronald Showalter, g'64, Garden City, Michigan, 91, Jan. 7. Ronald, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked in hospital and city administration and served as mayor of Garden City. His wife, Barbara, preceded him in death.

Carl Smith, b'65, e'65, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 83, Nov. 23. Carl owned a construction company that built many public and commercial buildings in the Pikes Peak region. He is survived by his wife, Laine Lafferty Smith, d'65.

Duane Smith, e'64, San An-

tonio, 88, July 25, 2024. Duane served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years and was later an engineer in the nuclear power industry. He is survived by his wife, Lois Fox Smith, '54.

John Strahan, c'66, l'69, g'87, Topeka, 80, Dec. 1. John served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard and was an attorney at the Kansas Department of Transportation. He is survived by his wife, Pamela.

Janet Mangan Stutz, d'60, Fairway, 86, Oct. 30. Janet was a Spanish teacher and later worked in real estate. Her husband, Robert, c'53, g'57, PhD'61, preceded her in death.

Perry Toll, c'67, l'70, Leawood, 79, March 21. Perry practiced law at Shughart Thomson & Kilroy for over 38 years and was the law firm's president for 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary Anne Shottenkirk Toll, p'68.

John Weber, e'67, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 79, Sept. 1, 2023. John was a chemical engineer and worked in the oil industry. He is survived by his wife, Jeanie Rogers Weber, j'68.

Melvin Weber, e'69, Alba, Texas, 77, Jan. 11. Mel, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a chemical engineer. He is survived by his wife, Milrea.

Douglas Whitley, m'60, Leawood, 90, Dec. 8. Douglas served as a physician in the U.S. Air Force and later owned a dermatology practice. His wife, Faith, preceded him in death.

1970s Claude Aldridge, c'72, Olathe, 74, Dec. 4. Claude worked in life insurance and financial services. He is survived by his wife, Jean Villaume Aldridge, '71.

Leslie Austin, a'70, g'70, Pensacola, Florida, 83, Dec. 8.

Les founded a homebuilding company that built throughout the Southeast. He is survived by his wife, Lynda Hammons Austin, c'70.

Marlin Berry, d'78, EdD'88, Wichita, 68, May 2, 2024. Marlin was a school superintendent in Kansas and Arkansas and in 2013 was honored as Kansas Superintendent of the Year. He is survived by his wife, Judy Brausa Berry, d'78.

Beth Bohnet, d'70, c'76, g'78, PhD'85, Lawrence, 84, May 4, 2024. Beth taught elementary school and was later a clinical psychologist in private practice.

Sharon Burton Brown, '73, Lawrence, 80, Nov. 11. Sharon was secretary at Deerfield Elementary School in Lawrence for 20 years. Her husband, Bob, preceded her in death.

Marjorie Grafke-Doby, g'73, Leavenworth, 84, Jan. 9. Marge was a longtime education counselor in Kansas City schools. Her husband, Bob, preceded her in death.

Gregory Gutting, c'70, Midland, Texas, 76, July 27, 2024. Greg was a high school teacher and coach. He is survived by his wife, Debby.

J. Drew Hamilton, e'70, Wichita, 77, Dec. 7. Drew served in the U.S. Air Force and later worked in industrial distribution. He is survived by his wife, Janice.

Robert Hughes, b'78, Valley Center, 68, June 14, 2024. Bob was a longtime attorney and partner at Bever Dye, a business, estate and tax law firm in Wichita. His wife, Janeen, survives.

Frederic Joseph, '73, Lawrence, 75, Oct. 31. Fred worked on his family's farm and ranch.

John Mauk Jr., c'70, m'74, Olathe, 76, Nov. 1. John was a

family physician and active in mission and volunteer work. He is survived by his wife, Karol Brecheisen, d'71, g'72.

Samwiri Musisi-Nkambwe, PhD'75, Uganda, 79, Feb. 9. Samwiri was a professor in the department of environmental science at the University of Botswana. He is survived by his wife, Marcia.

Deborah Robertson Nelson, d'70, Overland Park, 76, Dec. 30. Debbie was an elementary school paraprofessional and later worked at a dental practice. Her husband, Roger, b'70, preceded her in death.

Ronald Roberson, c'72, New York City, 74, Jan. 19. Ronald was a Catholic priest and worked at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for 28 years.

Margaret Frueh Sells, n'71, g'85, Tampa, Florida, 79, Nov. 9. Margi was a nurse and later practiced family law. Her husband, Ken, c'60, m'64, preceded her in death.

Ramona Willits, '71, Lawrence, 75, Feb. 13. Ramona wrote educational materials for the Kansas Historical Society. She is survived by her husband, David Smith.

1980s Katherine Greene, c'89, Lawrence, 70, Jan. 18. Kat was a longtime librarian at KU's Wheat Law Library. She is survived by her husband, Daniel Bentley, d'70.

Helen Martin, '80, Lawrence, 85, May 4, 2024. Helen was a ceramic artist and longtime volunteer for KU's Audio-Reader Network. Her husband, Edwin, preceded her in death.

Kevin O'Neill, '82, Kansas City, 66, May 31, 2024. Kevin was a partner at C&O Electric

Sales, where he worked for over 35 years. His wife, Elizabeth Burke O'Neill, '85, survives.

1990s Nancy Burich, PhD'94, Olathe, 80, May 27, 2024. Nancy was a longtime librarian at KU's Edwards Campus. She is survived by her husband, Raymond, '80.

Andrew Obermueller, '98, Salina, 48, July 22, 2024. Andy was a journalist, columnist and speech writer.

2010s Lan Ly, m'14, Wichita, 38, April 19. Lan was a primary care physician. She is survived by her husband, Thanh Duy Bui.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Corinne Anderson, Lawrence, 81, April 22. Corinne taught French at KU for over 40 years and was a longtime undergraduate academic adviser.

Florence Boldridge, assoc., Iowa City, Iowa, 80, April 26. Florence directed diversity and women's programs in the School of Engineering for 30 years.

Robert Davis, Lawrence, 80, March 20. Bob, a sports broadcaster, was the "Voice of the Jayhawks" for over 30 years. He was at the mic for eight KU trips to the Final Four, including the 1988 and 2008 men's basketball national championship victories, and six KU football bowl games. Bob also served in the Kansas National Guard. His wife, Linda, preceded him in death.

Robert Hanzlik, assoc., Lawrence, 81, March 28. Bob was professor emeritus of medicinal chemistry at KU, where he worked for 49 years. He is survived by his wife, Lois.

Peter Thompson, assoc., Lawrence, 85, Jan. 22. Peter was professor emeritus of art at KU, where he taught for 40 years and was dean of the School of Fine Arts for over a decade. An accomplished artist, he designed the stained-glass windows in Bales Organ Recital Hall on campus. His wife, Judith Johnson Thompson, g'75, g'79, PhD'82, preceded him in death.

Rud Turnbull, assoc., Pittsboro, North Carolina, 87, March 17. Rud, a national leader in disability policy and law, was distinguished professor emeritus of special education and law at KU, where he worked for over 30 years. He and his wife, Ann, in 1988 founded the Beach Center on Disability, part of KU's Life Span Institute. Ann survives.

ASSOCIATES

Barbara Bishop, assoc., Lawrence, 88, June 4, 2024. Her husband, Ken, survives.

Thomas Carmody, assoc., Lawrence, 91, Aug. 2, 2024. Tom, a U.S. Army veteran, was president and CEO of American Business Products. He is survived by his wife, Grace Wagner Carmody, f'76, g'80.

Asher Langworthy Jr., assoc., Prairie Village, 90, July 29, 2024. Asher, a U.S. Army veteran, was president of a homebuilding company. He is survived by his wife, Audrey Hansen Langworthy, d'60, g'62.

Roy Menninger, assoc., Topeka, 97, Oct. 24. Roy, a U.S. Army veteran, was a psychiatrist. He led the Menninger Foundation, a renowned center for psychiatric medicine, for over 25 years. Roy received KU's Distinguished Service Citation in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Beverly.





SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GRADS on May 18 kept their hallowed tradition alive and well, celebrating the official awarding of degrees by spraying Champagne. Commencement's customary stadium setting now sports dazzling new features; the first phase of construction is nearly complete.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE



ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLIE PODREBARAC

123 YEARS after it launched as *The Graduate Magazine*, *Kansas Alumni* ends its run as the voice of KU alumni, making room for a new, twice-yearly print publication and a digital-first communication strategy that will emphasize more timely and frequent online content. For information about the new magazine, set to debut this fall, and other organizational changes, see *KU Voice*, page 4.

CONGRATS

to the

CLASS of 2025

KU Libraries are honored to empower each Jayhawk's journey toward the walk down the Hill.

Whether it's our distinctive collections in Spencer Research Library, welcoming study spaces in Anschutz or expert librarians in Watson, we love being the place where curious minds meet, and breakthroughs happen.

We can't wait to see what your next chapter brings, and we look forward to your continued friendship!



**Your gift to KU Libraries
supports every Jayhawk:**
lib.ku.edu/friend

KU
LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas



ALUMNI

The University of Kansas
1266 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045-3100

“Providing care to people is a privilege.

I never forget that.”

- **Becky N. Lowry, MD**
Physician
Internal Medicine

For me, there's nothing more rewarding than the meaningful connections I make with my patients. Maybe it's growing up in a small town where those personal values remain strong. Or maybe it's the belief, shared with all of my co-workers, that people come first. Whatever it is, the opportunity to provide care is a privilege I never forget.

To schedule an appointment, call **913-588-1227** or visit **[KansasHealthSystem.com/Appointments](https://www.kansashealthsystem.com/Appointments)**.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

