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Talk and squawk in the news



“Smaug said 🤨🤨🤨”

—KU’s biology department in a June Instagram post that showed Smaug, a bearded dragon and the department’s mascot, stoically taking in sights around Haworth Hall. Despite visiting the butterfly garden, discovering safety goggles and surveying a horse skull, Smaug remained (seemingly) unmoved. Follow @KUbiology to see more Smaug.



MARIA LOSITO



NASA

*“I never met an airplane I didn’t like.”*

—U.S. Air Force major general and NASA astronaut Joe Engle, e’55, in a 2004 interview for the Johnson Space Center Oral History Project. Engle (pictured in 1981), a trailblazing pilot and the first of four Jayhawks in space, died July 10 at his home in Houston. He was 91.

DAVID BURNHAM



“It takes a village to build a *T. rex*.”

—David Burnham, PhD’07, preparator of vertebrate paleontology at KU’s Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, in a July interview with KSNT 27 News in Topeka. Burnham and fellow KU researchers this summer continued excavating a juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex* in Montana, a project they began in 2016. The rare find is one of only a handful of juvenile *T. rex* specimens ever unearthed.

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*“It was just something that was unique and something that I would have to overcome.”*

—KU engineering student and Team USA Paralympics swimmer Yaseen El-Demerdash, who has Poland syndrome, in a June interview with KMBC 9 News in Kansas City. El-Demerdash won gold in the men’s 50-meter free-style at the Paralympic Team Trials in June, qualifying him for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris Aug. 28-Sept. 8.



MARK REIS, USOPC



COVER STORY

One of One

Sometimes a car is just a car, and sometimes it's much more—a vehicle for family healing and mental health advocacy.

by Steven Hill

Cover photograph by Christopher Lee



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'That Steady Beat'

New leadership and rejuvenated numbers ensure the 2024 Marching Jayhawks will make history as well as music.

by Chris Lazzarino



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Landmark Jayhawk

On the centennial of the library that bears her name, Carrie Watson is remembered as both a witness and a catalyst of KU's formative early years.

by Wendy Conover



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### Publisher

Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09

### Editor

Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81

### Associate Editors

Chris Lazzarino, j'86

Steven Hill

### Associate Digital

#### Editor

Megan Hirt, c'08, j'08

### Graphic Designer

Chris Millsbaugh, f'97

### Photographers

Steve Puppe, j'98

Dan Storey

### Marketing

Mary Padilla, j'88

Ryan Camenzind, j'17

Noelle Husmann

Kate Neuner

Janella Williams

### Advertising Sales

Austin Harris

Brett Leonard, d'09

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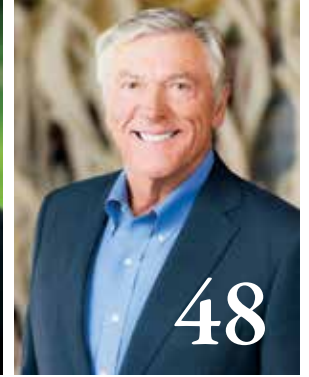
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A social welfare alumna helps city dwellers grow orchards in their neighborhoods.

*by Noelle Husmann*



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Alumni Association's highest honor recognizes two valiant volunteers.

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A King in his castle

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

*Kansas Alumni* welcomes letters to the editor.

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King

WORKING AT BAILEY HALL over the past 17 years, I have heard countless people walk through the halls or past the building asking about Dr. Edgar H. Bailey. In response, I usually hear the same stories about helium and the origins of the Rock Chalk Chant, but for me the space is represented by a person no one seems to know or remember: George R. King.

King worked in Bailey—originally named the Chemistry Building—and the chemistry department longer than Bailey, and he may have had more impact on KU chemistry students and the community of Lawrence than the famed professor.

My office, and the department of African and African-American studies, are on the ground floor of Bailey Hall. Across the corridor from my room is the former chemistry storeroom. As the storekeeper of the department, King occupied that room and walked this hall for decades.

He started working in the chemistry department in 1891, when he was 18 years old and the supply room was in the old Chemistry Hall, known as the “Shack,” just southwest of Fraser Hall. In 1900, when the new Chemistry Building was completed, King moved with the rest of the

department, and for more than 40 years he continued to distribute supplies, take the occasional class and, ultimately, become a KU tradition, as Lorene Miller declared in *The Graduate Magazine* in 1937.

Off Mount Oread, King was an equally formidable force.

Among other things, George was an active participant in the Lawrence Forum, an African American literary society; a member of the local Prince Hall Masonic Lodge; and a devoted attendee of St. James and St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal churches, where he sang in the choir and played his clarinet. At the Forum, King not only participated in the general business of the group, but he also gave lectures to members and the community, including one in 1905 on the uses of liquid air and another in 1914 on the usefulness of bacteria.

In 1914, King was appointed to a committee by the Forum to explore the possibility of organizing a Lawrence branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It would take an additional seven years, but in 1921 those active in the effort, including King, received word from the national office that their branch was approved. The local NAACP existed for more than 20 years before internal conflicts forced the group to disband briefly in the 1940s.

In the wake of the NAACP, King and other activists—including Henry Stone, c1921, the secretary on the initial charter of the Lawrence branch—came together in 1945 to create a new grassroots organization, the Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy, to fight against discriminatory practices that continued to exist in the city.

King also took his activism in the direction of self-help and self-determination. Alongside his work at the University, King owned and operated a school supply store, King’s School Specialties, which sold lab aprons, white coats, beakers and a rub for rheumatism, among other things.

In an act of self-preservation, he and other African American business owners organized the Community Welfare Club, which promoted Black businesses in Lawrence and spoke out against the racism

that African American customers experienced at white-owned establishments. The group, which named King president, encouraged the community not to buy from businesses that practiced discrimination and to support Black-owned stores and professionals. They also published a pamphlet, “Directory of the Negro Business Establishments in Lawrence, Kansas,” to promote Black businesses and a better future for the community.


As King explained in one pamphlet, “Labor organizations and prejudicial discrimination are making it more difficult for our youth to obtain employment ... We must make some provision for ourselves. The Negro businessmen of Lawrence are trying to find a solution ... Better patronage, better business for them means more chances for employment for those seeking it. It means a better economic position for all of us.”

King was what historians have come to call a “Race Man.” He was an active member of Lawrence’s African American community who struggled against the racism and discrimination that existed within the city for his entire life—from Reconstruction to the Brown v. Board decision. He is one of the many people whose history and memory have been lost over the years, not only in Lawrence but throughout the country.

King is an example of why history matters and a testament to who gets lost in the retelling of history when certain stories, individuals and events are left out of the history books and public memory.

The next time you stop at the corner of Mississippi Street and Jayhawk Boulevard or walk by Bailey Hall, think not only of Dr. Edgar Bailey or the Rock Chalk Chant, but also remember George R. King—a man who worked in the building for nearly 50 years and struggled to make the city of Lawrence a better place for all its citizens.

—SHAWN ALEXANDER  
*Alexander is professor and chair of the African and African-American studies department, and he writes about race, history and politics for The Lawrence Times, where this essay first appeared.*



INCOMING FRESHMEN from the Class of 2028 gathered for Traditions Night near the Campanile on Friday, Aug. 23, beginning their Jayhawk journey in the same Mount Oread locale where it will culminate with a triumphant walk down the Hill.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MEG KUMIN/KU MARKETING





**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

For more information, visit the websites below.

*Homecoming***Oct. 14-20**

[kualumni.org/homecoming](http://kualumni.org/homecoming)

*Natural History**Museum*

**Sept. 18** Science on Tap at Free State Brewing Co.

**Oct. 12** Discovery Day: National Fossil Day

**Oct. 20** "Six-Legged Science"

**Oct. 23** Science on Tap at Free State Brewing Co.

**Oct. 24** "Macabre at the Museum"

**Nov. 17** "Weather Science"

**Nov. 20** Science on Tap at Free State Brewing Co.

[biodiversity.ku.edu](http://biodiversity.ku.edu)

*Spencer Museum of Art*

"Inked Bodies" **through Dec. 15**

"Eternal Spring: Ceramics from the Weare-West Family Trust" **through Dec. 28**

"Eternal Spring: Cranes" **through Dec. 29**  
[spencerart.ku.edu](http://spencerart.ku.edu)

*KU Libraries*

**Oct. 23** Library on the Lawn

**Nov. 6** Art on the Lawn

**Nov. 12** Watch it in Watson: "The Great Gatsby"

[lib.ku.edu](http://lib.ku.edu)



FRANK MORRIS/NPR-KCUR

The missile silo guitarist Hofer recorded in had "spooky" vibes and out-of-this-world reverb. "You play a note and it just rings and rings," he says, "like a Gregorian chant in a cathedral."

## ARTS

**From chills to chill**

*Cold War sites that once caused anxiety are now source of inspiration, hope for photographer-musician*

AS A KID COMING OF AGE at the tail end of the Cold War, Nate Hofer was aware of the rhetoric and sword-rattling between global superpowers that had played out on the world stage in the early 1980s. That much was evident with a glance at the backs of his grade-school assignment sheets, which he filled with sketches of battle scenes reminiscent of World War II combat with tanks, airplanes and infantry troops.

When he showed his drawings to his stepfather, seeking praise, he instead got straight talk about the realities of war.

"He was like, 'Oh, I see what you're doing,'" says Hofer, f'02, who majored in design/visual communication and painting. "'This isn't what war is. War is gross and messy and there's a lot of killing. It's not glamorous.'" The next war, his stepfather told him, would be fought with nuclear weapons, not guns and tanks. "He didn't give me a lot of hope for what World War III would look like," Hofer recalls,

chuckling. "I appreciated that, but he also kind of put my first existential fear into my head, and I think I was probably a little too young to have that."

That specter of nuclear war receded as the breakup of the Soviet Union unfolded, leading to arms-reduction treaties between U.S. and Soviet forces and spurring talk of a peace dividend. But by 2019, when Hofer earned a monthlong sabbatical from his job at the global creative digital agency VML, those threats had returned.

"The 'fire and fury' rhetoric was really heating up, and that brought back some of the old anxieties," Hofer says. With more nations having nuclear weapons and with many of the old nonproliferation treaties now abandoned, "I hear the term 'New Cold War' with a chill," he says now. "All the old feelings are back, but now the stakes are higher because I'm a husband, a father, with my eyes wide open."

Hofer decided to focus his creative energies during the sabbatical on a project he'd been

“sneaking up on” for a while: documenting some of the 150 decommissioned Minuteman Missile sites across Missouri. Using a camera attached to a drone, he took a series of aerial photographs that highlight the different ways these formerly identical sites evolved after the missiles were removed and the underground silos that housed them were filled in.

That project, “One and a Half Acres: Images from America’s Decommissioned Minuteman Missile Silos,” won a Global Peace Photo Award in 2021. Hofer traveled from his Overland Park home to Vienna, Austria, to collect the Alfred Fried Peace Medal.

“They look peaceful, these rectangular pieces of landscape in the American Midwest. Farming land, parking for scrapped cars, areas of wild growth, church square, forest, harvesting yard,” the prize citation reads. “But beneath them used to be hidden what could once have brought the death of millions: 450 launching platforms for intercontinental ballistic missiles, aimed at the Soviet Union.” Decommissioned after the signing of the START treaty in 1991, these plots “don’t just look peaceful ... now they really are.”

But for Hofer, a longtime pedal steel guitarist who has performed, recorded and toured with Rex Hobart & the Misery Boys and other country and indie bands, interest in the topic didn’t stop there. “The photography came first, but being a musician I always envisioned there would be some kind of soundtrack for this,” he says. “I was thinking it would be pedal steel, but I wasn’t quite sure how that was going to work.”

Then he discovered an Airbnb listing for a former Atlas Missile site near Wilson, Kansas. The owner let him record in the empty launch chamber, which, unlike the destroyed Minuteman silos, was still intact.

Thus was born “Decommissioned,” a 22-minute, six-track EP of solo guitar music that Hofer described in an Aug. 2 TEDxKC presentation as “ambient pedal steel chill.” Recorded in 2021 and released this May, the evocative, ethereal music makes the most of the 150-foot-deep underground chamber’s unique echo, which creates a trippy sustained reverb that enhances the music’s ethereal feel. A device called an Ebow and an effects pedal that creates a repeating loop contribute further to the otherworldly vibe.

Like the photographs, the music—which Hofer describes as “the magnificent sound of what’s missing”—explores and celebrates what’s not there. Namely, nukes.

“The missile is obviously gone, thus there is this beautiful reverb chamber to make experimental sounds in,” he says.

The result is a collection of tunes in the tradition of ambient musician Brian Eno that makes the most of the steel guitar’s singular sonic capabilities and the unique recording environment. Fluid glissandos shimmer and cascade, and single notes ring clear and impossibly long, creating a haunting, eerie mood that is more soothing than alarming—a surprise, Hofer allows, to those expecting a gloomier tone from music made in a missile silo. “It’s experimental. It’s got lots of soft edges. It’s not really jarring,” he says. “It’s intentionally very chill or maybe even ignorable, but it puts you in a particular frame of mind.”

With two kids of his own who are near the same age he was when he learned of the world-ending power of nuclear weapons, Hofer these days tries to strike a more hopeful note. He sees abandoned missile sites not as grim totems of militarization, but as reminders of what’s possible when foes step back from the brink.

“I’m really trying to be as optimistic as possible. I want this ideally to communicate a mindset ultimately for arms negotiation, of being agreeable to diplomacy. I think that starts with being open-minded and in a good mood and optimistic.”

In other words, chill—not chilled.

—STEVEN HILL



COURTESY HAMMERPRESS

“Decommissioned,” by Nate Hofer, available through Apple Music and other streaming services or as a clear vinyl LP from Hammerpress, [bit.ly/Decommissioned](https://bit.ly/Decommissioned).

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

### Lied Center

**Sept. 16-17** Brandon Sanders Trio

**Sept. 21** The Queen’s Cartoonists

**Sept. 22** Jonathan Biss

**Sept. 25** KU Symphony Orchestra with Vincent Gardner and Michael Davidson

**Oct. 1** “Dear Evan Hansen”

**Oct. 2** KU Jazz Ensembles I, II and III

**Oct. 8** KU Wind Ensemble and KU Symphonic Band

**Oct. 13** The President’s Own United States Marine Band

**Oct. 30** The Temptations

**Nov. 2** Lewis Black

**Nov. 7** KU Symphony Orchestra with Blue Valley North High School Orchestra

**Nov. 12** KU Wind Ensemble

**Nov. 13** Straight No Chaser

**Nov. 14** KU Jazz Ensemble I

**Nov. 17** Mummenschanz

**Nov. 20** University Band and KU Symphonic Band

**Nov. 25** KU Vocal Jazz Concert

**Dec. 4** Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland

[lied.ku.edu](https://lied.ku.edu)

Continued on p. 16

LANDMARKS

**Yearlong renovations underway to renew beloved campus sites**

THREE ICONIC MOUNT OREAD landmarks—Potter Lake, the Campanile and the Chi Omega Fountain, plus Spencer Research Library’s north plaza—are all undergoing restoration projects that are likely to last through 2025 Commencement or, in some cases, beyond.

Memorial Drive was closed the entire summer for separate crews to work on both the research library’s underappreciated scenic overlook, which required a rebuild, and the 72-year-old Memorial Campanile & Carillon, where workers excavated timeworn landscaping and pavement around the base.



Spencer Research Library overlook

Once restored, the Campanile’s apron—which has long shown the effects of its heavy traffic and years of service—will sparkle anew, especially with modern lighting systems that are also part of the restoration project. Work will then proceed 120 feet skyward, as workers tend to eroding masonry and desperately needed electrical upgrades.

Potter Lake was dredged in late spring and early summer; work has resumed on the shore edge, clearing the spillway under the small stone bridge and capping the disused pipe that once fed water from the stone pump house still perched under the north berm. That stone structure will remain, because removing it could weaken the dam. Rejuvenated landscaping is scheduled for installation next spring, and officials hope that the budget—already pushing \$1 million—might allow for a boat launch.

University Architect Mark Reiske, a’86, says his

**“Everything is going to be a lot more durable. I mean, we really want this to last a long, long, long time.”**

—Lorie Doolittle-Bowman



The Campanile and the base environs before renewal

intention is to have all work along Memorial Drive fully completed in time for the fall 2025 grand opening of the new football stadium—a massive construction site whose progress Reiske and his campus construction colleagues monitor daily.

On a tighter timeline is the rebuild of the Chi Omega Fountain, which faces a hard deadline of May 2025—although Reiske would prefer that it be completed in April, since it’s a favored locale for cap-and-gown portraits. The privately funded project, although painful in the short term, has been needed for at least a decade.

The roundabout site will essentially be razed and rebuilt from the ground up, starting with the main concrete pool, which must be jackhammered out for access to piping that dates to the fountain’s April 1955 dedication. The next layer above the lower pool, fashioned of concrete and stone, will be replaced with 3-foot-long, 18-inch sections of dolomite limestone, an upgrade from the Indiana limestone that long ago began sloughing off in chunks.

Above that middle pool is the site’s signature octagonal metal basket, which featured bas-relief designs significant to the Chi Omega sorority. The original was removed in August by Kansas City metal artisans, who will cast each panel to create replacement replicas—this time in bronze rather than lead, which leaked badly as it began failing along soldered joints between the panels. Above that basket, the original pineapple topper—which was snatched so early in the fountain’s history that photographic evidence of its existence is difficult to find—will be replaced, along with four new bronze spouts.

“Everything is going to be a lot more durable,” says project designer Lorie Doolittle-Bowman, a’80, of BBN Architects. “I mean, we really want this to last a long, long, long time.”

The new fountain will be fitted with an automatic fill valve, relieving facilities workers from the burden of constantly adding water on hot and windy days. Spray heads and plumbing lines will be

MEG KUMIN/KU MARKETING

TIM SELEY/KU MARKETING

replaced, the control vault will be widened for easier maintenance access, and the four planting beds will be reconfigured into a symmetrical layout. Planners hope that funds will allow for widening of both the outer and upper walkways, which have become perilously narrow now that many visitors are preoccupied with snapping cellphone photos.

Doolittle-Bowman has designed so many of Kansas City's iconic fountains that she was recently appointed to the City of Fountains Foundation, yet this project holds particular significance: She was a member of Chi Omega, and fondly remembers listening to the fountain—and its nocturnal visitors—from the sorority's old sleeping dorms.

"It was just great to hear that fountain all night," she recalls, adding with a laugh, "and we could hear *every* conversation that went on. I don't know that anybody realized that, but we could." Although named for the sorority that assisted in its original funding, the Chi Omega Fountain, Doo-

little-Bowman acknowledges, is a treasure shared by all Jayhawks.

"All students enjoy it so much," she says, "and we want that to continue. It's being designed to carry on that tradition."

While elements will be added to the middle pool and upper basket to strongly discourage climbing—*please, no climbing!*—officials acknowledge that splashing about in the lower pool will surely continue, by people and pooches alike.

"I don't know that there would be a KU graduate since its dedication for whom that fountain wouldn't be a meaningful memory," Reiske says. "We have iconic buildings, but where is there a more iconic site element? I don't think we have one."

When they presented ideas for the latest campus master plan, consultants begged KU to redesign current outdoor sites— notably Wescoe Beach—to encourage all Jayhawks to regularly gather and celebrate the joys of our unique hilltop home.

In fact, such a site already exists.

"That's exactly right," Reiske says. "It's

a nice place. It's sunny there when the sun's out, and the water is cool because it's constantly circulating. We're never going to keep people out of that fountain, and probably shouldn't. It's just a shame we can't replicate that energy in larger areas."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

*For more on the Chi Omega Fountain, see Hail to Old KU, p. 84.*



Chi Omega Fountain

STEVE PUPPE

## Body of art

Among aficionados, tattoos are commonly referred to as art, yet rarely are they discussed as such in any serious way by outsiders wary of patronizing tattoo parlors. "Inked Bodies," a concise yet visually powerful exhibition in the Spencer Museum of Art's Marshall Family Balcony gallery, gives the art form its due.

Curated by graduate interns Dominique Stringer, '24, and Ariel Kim, the exhibition, which runs through Dec. 15, "explores tattooing histories, processes and motifs, and highlights storytelling that tattoo artists and clients create together."

Curators acknowledge that tattoos have been stigmatized for their association with marginalized groups, including Indigenous, queer and incarcerated people, as well as their connections to intimidating messages once favored among groups such as seafarers and gangs.

The modern world of tattoo artistry pursues entirely different and welcoming aims, creating imagery that builds upon diverse global traditions well represented in the Spencer exhibition's energetic tour of creative ways humans have found for using their own skin as the canvas to tell their life stories.

"Inked Bodies"

*Through Dec. 15*

*Spencer Museum of Art*



COURTESY SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART (2)



Diane Arbus, *Jack Dracula, the Marked Man*, 1961, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Museum purchase, 1985.0064

Mishima Go, untitled, 1972, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Museum purchase: Barbara Benton Wescoe Fund, 2019.0127.24

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## Family philanthropy

*Son's online class experience during COVID inspires parents to start \$1 million history professorship*

MEMBERS OF THE BLACK-CHESLIK family of Kansas City are avid KU basketball fans and equally passionate about the power of a liberal arts education.

Julie Cheslik and her husband, Paul M. Black, recently provided a \$1 million gift through KU Endowment to establish the John P. Black Professorship in History. It was named for their son John Black, of Fairway, who graduated in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in history. The professorship honors the faculty who inspired John and provides the opportunity for more students to be taught by top scholars in the field.

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, John moved home with his parents, which provided a unique window for them to witness his growing enthusiasm for his KU classes. He was particularly engaged with those taught by Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor David Farber and others in the KU department of history, which is known for its award-winning faculty.

"I was just floored by the great education he was getting, particularly in his history classes," Cheslik says. She even joined her son in watching films during his HIST 356 class, *At the Movies: US History on the Silver Screen*, and delved into assigned readings for another course, HIST 374: *The History of Modern American Conservatism*. Both ignited lively family discussions.

"For us, as parent and adult child—having that experience with him was really valuable to me," Cheslik says.

The family has previously made gifts to support Kansas Athletics and KU Medical Center, as well as numerous programs with other organizations.

Laura Mielke, KU professor and interim chair of the department of history, says the gift is transformational.

"Julie Cheslik and Paul M. Black have recognized our department as a home to scholar-teachers who, like Professor David

Farber, bring their research and wisdom into the classroom to create spaces of transformative exchange," Mielke says. "This gift will allow us to add and retain world-class scholar-teachers to our faculty. We also see the John P. Black Professorship as a unique opportunity to celebrate the students like John who bring a passion for learning to KU."

The couple's eldest son, Paul J. Black, is a doctor who also began his path in liberal arts, earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame before attending the KU School of Medicine, where he graduated in 2023. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he is completing his residency in urology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His wife, Katie Evans Black, n'16, is a graduate of the KU School of Nursing.

"I was always pushing the kids to be liberal arts majors, and I think it served them both well," Cheslik says. "We're happy to be able to provide this professorship so other kids from Kansas or who come to Kansas to get this great education can learn from the best."

Cheslik is a professor of law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and serves on the law foundation board of trustees. She received her bachelor's degree with highest distinction and her juris doctor with high distinction from the University of Iowa.



KU alumni Maddie Dolan, d'21; John P. Black, c'22; and Paul J. Black, m'23; and Julie Cheslik and Paul M. Black.

Paul M. Black is a health care consultant who was previously chief operating officer of Cerner and CEO of Allscripts. He earned his bachelor's degree at Iowa State University and holds a master's in business administration from the University of Iowa. He serves on the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library board of directors and The University of Kansas Health System Advancement Board.

"I think it's really important for everyone to have somewhat of a liberal arts background to know a little bit about authors, historians and events that have taken place that have shaped where we are today," says John Black, who works in sales at Community CareLink, a health software company that serves nonprofits, community health organizations and government agencies. He discovered his minor and some of his favorite professors through a simple internet search.

"I looked up 'best teachers at the University of Kansas,' because I was trying to find some electives to take," John says. "Dr. Farber's name was one that came up, and that's really what started all of this."

Farber has written and edited numerous books on modern issues, from World War II to the war on drugs, and is regularly tapped by news organizations to provide expert commentary.

"I think the humanities provide a massively important background and understanding for our democratic citizenry," Farber says. "It's wonderful to see the Black family offer support for what we in the humanities do and what we in the history department, in particular, do. I'm grateful, and I think it demonstrates the importance of the kinds of things historians teach."

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

## MUSEUMS

**Tribal perspectives***KU partners with Native tribes to ensure regulatory compliance*

**“We can partner with tribes and better serve an important constituency in the state of Kansas.”**

—Tom Torma

AMONG THE ITEMS on display in the Spencer Museum of Art’s “Empowerment” gallery were natural-fiber baskets—from British Columbia, Northern California and two from southern Arizona—that celebrated the care and dedication Native North American artisans put into crafting simple household objects.

As visitors discovered early in the spring semester, however, the baskets’ plexiglass display cases now hang empty. “These artworks have been removed from display,” explains a wall card, “as we continue our work to comply with new regulations for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) that went into effect January 12, 2024.”

University and museum officials say the updated federal guidelines are complex in their details, yet boil down to a simple concept: Where once it had been up to Native tribes and communities to prove that an object was inappropriate for museum display, the burden of proof now falls to museums to confirm with tribes that objects in their collections comply with NAGPRA’s regulations and intent.

With uncertain provenance for the original acquisition (before coming into the Spencer collection) of two of the baskets, the museum chose to remove all four from display, pending further investigation.

“There’s a new section, called ‘duty of care,’ which provides additional guidelines for museums to follow to get consent on anything that could be NAGPRA-related,” explains Collection Manager Angela Watts, who came to KU in 2007 from Kansas City’s Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. “We don’t have any evidence that those baskets were sacred, or objects of cultural patrimony, but we do want to go through a higher level of due diligence when we’re considering which works we put out on view.

“We want to make sure that everything was collected in an ethical manner and that the works were coming from artists who were willing participants in an art market.”

Tom Torma, who in 2023 left a similar position at the University of California, Berkeley, to sign on as KU’s repatriation program manager, joins Watts in emphasizing that while new regulations “have changed the NAGPRA landscape,” they have not significantly “changed much for what we want to do.

I came on here knowing what the regulations would look like, so we’ve managed to structure the program in such a way that we’re a little bit ahead of the curve.”

Under NAGPRA’s updated regulations, Torma says, museums must “give priority to traditional tribal knowledge and tribal oral tradition.” Under the duty of care provisions, he explains, “there’s not much we can do with the collection if we don’t have permission from the tribes, so now tribes get to really kind of call the shots on what’s researched, where things are loaned, and how and where things are displayed. It’s a requirement to consult with them and ultimately get permission from them.”

Constant communication and consultation with tribes and Native artists is not only the right thing to do—“We have a moral imperative to do this,” Torma says, “and the direction I’ve been given is to follow that moral imperative”—but it also opens vast scholarship and research opportunities.

“We can partner with tribes and better serve an important constituency in the state of Kansas,” Torma says. “And, we improve the quality of our research so that it really does reflect the perspectives of the tribes.”

Adds Lori Hasselman, g’19, KU’s director of Native American & Indigenous Initiatives and a citizen of the Shawnee and Delaware Tribes of Oklahoma, “I really appreciate how we have come together to prioritize tribal sovereignty as we reflect on how we will build our relationships with tribal leaders coming to campus under these circumstances. As part of this process, we also continue to focus on caring for our Native community in more sustainable ways as we plan and implement Native wellness initiatives in the coming weeks.”

Watts notes that a unique privilege of her role as curator is that while handling objects as commonplace as a berry basket or clay cooking pot, “you can feel the love and the labor that have gone into doing something like this. That connection between an object that still exists now and the person who originally created it is definitely a strong feeling when you are in their presence. There are traces of the original maker there.

“It’s easy to see how those objects can still be so meaningful, and it’s definitely something we don’t take lightly.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO





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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

### *Dole Institute of Politics*

**Oct. 3** Dole Forum: "The Candidates and America's Role in the World"

**Oct. 10** Dole Forum: "China in the Heartland: Building a Balanced Approach"

**Oct. 17** Dole Forum: "The Growing Divide: Political Realignment in the Modern Era"

**Oct. 24** Dole Leadership Prize presentation

**Nov. 10** Tribute to Veterans Gala

**Nov. 20** Post-Election Conference: Kansas panel

**Dec. 11** Post-Election Conference: National panel

### *Hall Center for the Humanities*

**Sept. 30** Bonnie Garmus, author of *Lessons in Chemistry*

[hallcenter.ku.edu](http://hallcenter.ku.edu)

### *Academic calendar*

**Oct. 12-15** Fall break

**Nov. 27-Dec. 1** Thanksgiving break

**Dec. 12** Last day of classes

**Dec. 16-20** Finals

## Politics primer teaches parents how to offer lessons in democracy

EACH SEMESTER, LINDSEY Lathrop Cormack, c'07, associate professor of political science and director of the Diplomacy Lab at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, welcomes a new group of undergraduates, ranging in age from 18 to 22, for her Introduction to U.S. Politics course.

"Regardless of age, up until this point, most of my students haven't had intentional discussions with any adults, including their parents, about what it means to be a citizen," Cormack writes in her astoundingly refreshing book *How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It)*. "Many of our college-aged students don't know how to vote, haven't read the Constitution, aren't aware of the local political offices responsible for quality-of-life decisions, lack understanding of the division of responsibilities, have never pondered the concept of federalism, and have formed their view of the court system based on television dramas. It's not anyone's fault in particular, but collectively, we all bear some responsibility."

Rather than raging about young adults' lack of political interest and participation—a cultural transgression of which we have all, across generations, probably been guilty at one time or another—Professor Cormack instead circles back to parents and other adults who have led these ill-informed youth into unprepared adulthood. In the most welcome stance of all, she doesn't blame parents and educators, but instead makes clear the reasons why political discussions and education have become so rare and ineffective.

Let's stop blaming kids, schools, the media or even other parents and ourselves, Cormack insists, and instead find accessible solutions that can literally change the future of our country.

"I firmly believe that educating our children about the government that governs them is necessary for creating a fair and just society," she writes. "Everyone deserves to know the rules of the game that they are playing."

Cormack offers a few factors that compelled her to write *How to Raise a Citizen*. Seeing a lack of political awareness among college students "who do not know the difference between the House and Senate" planted a notion that took root when she was asked

to prepare civics lessons for local elementary school students and realized a full book on the nuts and bolts of American civics might be worthwhile labor. And the convincer: raising her own child.

While consulting how-to books on teaching children to read, sleep routines, potty training, temper tantrums and adolescence, Cormack became aware of the "significant gap" between parental how-to books and the larger needs of society.

"We do not have collective habits," she writes, "in how to prepare children to be engaged, active participants in our democracy." *How to Raise a Citizen*, written in accessible language and footnoted with helpful citations for further reading, offers frameworks for discussing government and politics in ways that "feel fun and connective. We are all raising citizens, but often not intentionally. ... As I often tell my students, *politics is going to happen to us whether we like it or not, so we might as well understand how the system works.*"

She cautions parents that, while discussing hot-button topics such as political parties is crucial, turning lessons into recruiting sessions is not productive and tends to backfire; focus instead on "raising engaged and informed citizens," and the rest follows.

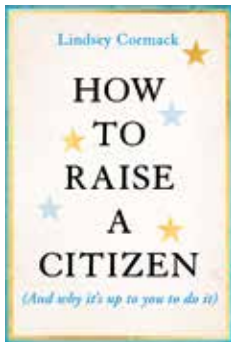
The heart of her book—"a journey of exploration and growth for both you and your kids"—delves into a spectrum of political topics: the lack of political knowledge among all Americans, especially when it comes to local and state governments; how and why political complexities foster our aversion to talk politics at home; fundamentals such as republicanism, democracy and majority rule; demystifying voting; components of the U.S. Constitution; and federalism and the division of powers among federal, state and local governments.

While *How to Raise a Citizen* teaches parents how to reach their children, it also could inform and educate *all* Americans, regardless of age or family status, and even dilute the toxic storm of political "debate" that overwhelms and discourages even the most well-informed citizens.

"It's truly an amazing power to be alive in a democracy today," Cormack writes, "but it's one that many of us decide to opt out of because it *feels*

bad. But that doesn't have to be the case. If you work to reorient your perspective on politics and government, as something to learn and pass on to your kids, it can actually feel pretty great."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



*How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It)*

by Lindsey Cormack  
Jossey-Bass, \$28

BOOKS

## Stone temples' pilot

HUMBLE, MODEST, KIND and accomplished are simple words that perhaps begin to offer insight into the Lawrence arts and culture institution named Karl Ramberg—as would knowing he'll be plenty riled about being described as an institution, cultured or otherwise.

A far better trail leading to the soft-spoken man is his soft-spoken book, *Stone Diary: Confessions of a Hard Hewer*. Ramberg's self-published memoir defies expectations that typically surround self-published memoirs. It is gentle, instructive, and thoroughly pleasant company; while the book is the story of his life, Ramberg, '82, manages to make it about everything but Karl.

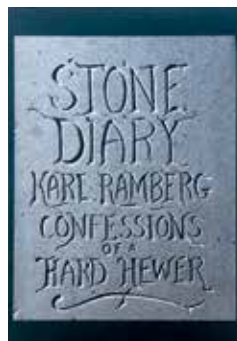
He is interested in others: notably the late Elden Tefft, f'49, g'50, and his sublimely talented sister, Laura Ramberg, f'81. Places: "... be sure to look out over the prairie. There is something out there." Things and ideas: art, stone, mentorship, companionship, community, family, friends.

Ramberg started writing bits of *Stone Diary* many years and three computers ago, and says typing his Kinko's manuscript back into his newest digital box proved a worthy exercise. Granted, Ramberg finds most labor and all artistic endeavor to be worthy exercises, but, in this case, it was the numbing chore of typing out a book that had already been typed that somehow caused his mind to wander into the idea of carving his own cover. Which is pretty cool. It's also pretty Karl.

One disappointment lingers: Our friend chose to publish his book in spring and see it embraced in summer, when it feels more like a winter thing, a work to be consumed slowly, leisurely, beside a fire. Or next to an alert old dog in a trusted old pickup truck out on the frosty old prairie, or among friends in a toasty warm cafe. Can't explain why, exactly, which is OK. Notions don't always need solutions.

"To see Buddha sitting on his altar overlooking what is becoming a prairie gives me such delight," Ramberg writes of the sculpture he carved for the Kansas Zen Center, his first large-scale public project after completing work with his sister on Dyche Hall's grotesques. "I find myself stopping over there and walking the path and stopping and sitting on one of the sitting stones. Just sitting and breathing it all in. That ain't meditation, is it? No, that's just a guy sitting and breathing, right?"

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



*Stone Diary: Confessions of a Hard Hewer*

by Karl Ramberg  
Self-published,  
available at the Raven  
Book Store and  
Cottin's Hardware

## MASS STREET & MORE

### Life in the fasten lane

AMID THE PREVALENCE of vaping and smoking accessory outlets in downtown Lawrence—often supplanting charming shops and family restaurants that helped fuel Mass Street's unique vibe—the arrival this summer of Secure Attachments, "your neighborhood stapler store," could not possibly be more welcome.

Artist Randy Regier, in collaboration with owners of the utterly wonderful Wonder Fair, this summer opened his cubbyhole shop at 15 W. Ninth St. to feature a variety of functional yet playful staplers, some of which will even be available for rent, along with a slew of other fascinating fasteners that defy dreary digitization.

"There's a certain plausibility to it," Regier told *The Lawrence Times*, "because staplers are still relevant—we either use them or we just won't throw them away."

Will his business plan work? Who knows.

What's already clear, however, is that cheeky artistry merged with run-of-the-mill retail—*Honey, I'm running out for paper clips; need any paper-fastening products?*—conjures the exact sort of haven we all wish we had more of: something unique to our town, a grotto of gifts and goodies where daily stresses slip away while we ponder products we never needed but suddenly can't do without.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

COURTESY SECURE ATTACHMENTS (2)



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## Big data, big reach

*A sprawling, multidisciplinary grant enlists faculty and students across KU in women's health research*

A NEW \$11.3 MILLION GRANT from the National Institutes of Health will establish a multidisciplinary biomedical center at KU to research big data's potential to improve women's health.

The award is a component of the NIH Institutional Development Award Program and will be KU's fifth Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) since the program's inception in the 1990s.

"This is part of NIH's EPSCoR effort to enhance research in states like Kansas that historically have received a smaller portion of the pie," says principal investigator Heather Desaire, Dean's Professor and Keith D. Wilner Chair in Chemistry, who will serve as the new center's director. "We're going to leverage big data to improve women's health. All of the research projects within the center will have a component of using large datasets or machine learning, and an application area related to women's health in some way—

especially looking at health disparities that women incur. We're talking about diseases like ovarian cancer, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease, which are more prevalent in women."

By funding research projects, supporting faculty, improving lab facilities and boosting collaboration across scholarly fields, the center will harness complex datasets to tackle biomedical issues vital to women. The leading collaborators at KU come from a range of laboratory sciences as well as behavioral and social sciences.

Five KU faculty will lead biomedical research projects, each of which could serve as a springboard to further funding opportunities. The research project leaders are Rebecca Whelan, associate professor of chemistry; Meredith Hartley, assistant professor of chemistry; Amber Watts, associate professor of psychology; Jarron Saint Onge, professor of sociology and population health; and Misty Heggeness, associate professor of public affairs & administration and associate research scientist at KU's Institute for Policy & Social Research.

Additionally, the new grant will support three new tenure-track faculty hires at KU in the departments of chemistry, psychology and sociology, whose research will focus on the intersection of big data and biomedical research benefiting wom-

en. A Research-Engaged Faculty Fellows Program also will be established under the grant.

The new center will expand education and training of KU students in handling complex datasets as well.

"Psychology is leading the charge in developing a data science curriculum at KU," Desaire says. "They're very tied into this grant, and that will be an area where there will be synergy in teaching and training students."

Moreover, the Kansas Board of Regents has awarded the new center matching funds earmarked toward training students in data science, boosting the state's workforce in the burgeoning field.

The researchers, students and faculty involved will be backed by a new Biomedical Datasets and Services Core Lab at KU supported under the NIH award that will serve other research efforts at KU and even private industry, too.

"This core lab is run by Donna Ginther (Roy A. Roberts and Regents Distinguished Professor of Economics at KU) and will focus on biomedical datasets, which is a new expansion of the scope of her center's past work," Desaire says.

The Datasets and Services core will be run under the umbrella of the Institute for Policy & Social Research, a center Ginther heads at KU.

"The five project leaders will be served by the datasets core, as will anybody in the entire KU community who needs statistics support, dataset analysis or help finding a dataset relevant to a project they are pursuing," Desaire added.

The multimillion-dollar economic boost to Kansas through direct spending and new research positions is just one way the center will benefit the region. Planned research also will draw data from regional communities that often find themselves overlooked in biomedical studies. For instance, according to Desaire, most clinical trials operate out of city hospitals, leaving women living in rural communities under-researched.

"If you live out in western Kansas, the chances of you participating in those types of things are smaller," she says. "Sometimes



Desaire

it's a matter of having somebody specifically ask the question, 'How do you know these health factors impact somebody's overall health in rural settings versus urban settings—where we have most of the data from?'"

Heggeness, one of the project leaders, will focus on telemedicine, another growing means to provide health care to people in less populated areas of the state.

"The telemedicine project is specifically addressing rural health issues that are relevant to Kansas," Desaire says.

The final objective of the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence program is to train and retain highly qualified faculty so that even beyond the COBRE funding, new ideas can be launched and developed in states like Kansas.

"My very first grant funding was a research project on Bob Hanzlik's COBRE grant here at KU in 2002," Desaire says. "The program was invaluable in my development as a grant-funded scientist. Now, over 20 years later, it's exciting to get to pay it forward and help other faculty accelerate their research."

—BRENDAN LYNCH

*Lynch, g'21, g'22, g'22, is a public affairs officer for KU News Service.*

ENGINEERING

## Skyrocket

### *Aerospace engineering launches first KU CubeSat into orbit*

A TEAM OF STUDENTS from the School of Engineering successfully launched a small satellite, called a CubeSat, aboard a NASA-sponsored Firefly Aerospace rocket this summer.

The University's first satellite, known as "KUBEsat-1," reached orbit late in the evening of July 3, when it was launched through NASA's ELaNa 43 (Educational Launch of Nanosatellites 43) mission. According to NASA, the mission includes eight CubeSats flying on Firefly Aerospace's Alpha rocket for its "Noise



FIREFLY AEROSPACE/TREVOR MAHLMANN

"KUBEsat-1" takes flight aboard a Firefly Aerospace rocket launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

of Summer" launch from Space Launch Complex-2 at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

This marks the first time an institution from Kansas has launched a small satellite under this program.

"This launch brings a dream to reality for the 70 students directly involved, the alumni who have generously supported the mission and all peer classmates," says Rick Hale, professor and chair of the department of aerospace engineering. "A successful orbital mission will open the door to sustained design-build-test-operate activities in orbital remote sensing that mimic our sustained success in suborbital remote sensing."

CubeSats are tiny "nanosatellites" about the size of a loaf of bread, with each unit measuring about 10 centimeters per side and weighing around 3 pounds. KUBEsat-1 is a three-unit satellite launched under the NASA CubeSat Launch Initiative program that offers educational institutions and nonprofit organizations a chance to share space on its rockets.

KU's CubeSat will use a new method to measure the energy and type of primary cosmic rays hitting the Earth, which is traditionally done on Earth. The second payload, the High-Altitude Calibration Instrument Version X, will measure very high frequency signals generated by cosmic interactions within the atmosphere.

The anticipated lifetime in orbit is one to two years, with realistic expectations closer to one year. Data from the mission will be used for academic research and development for more advanced payloads in the future.

The initial proposal to build the program from the ground up was submitted in 2018 and approved in 2019.

"The primary goal of KUBEsat-1 has been to allow students at KU to work on an engineering project that has the same stakes as projects in the aerospace industry," says Brody Gatzka, e'23, graduate research assistant and project manager. "The project has encompassed all facets of engineering and has given our team experience working with NASA, leading aerospace companies and regulating agencies."

This isn't KU's first try at getting a satellite in orbit. Students made a CubeSat attempt in 2006, but the launch vehicle failed. Initial scheduled launches for this satellite began in 2022.

NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative is an ongoing partnership between the agency, educational institutions and nonprofits, providing a path to space for educational small satellite missions.

—CODY HOWARD

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



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“It’s unusual to have one running back who is as good as either of them are, so to have two at the same time is a blessing. And a challenge.”

—Offensive coordinator  
Jeff Grimes



KANSAS ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

## Running mates have each other's backs

*Neal and Hishaw give KU offense a 'one-two punch'*

WHEN RUNNING BACK Devin Neal announced in January his intention to return for his senior season, speculation suddenly swirled that his backfield running mate, Daniel Hishaw Jr., might take advantage of college athletics' new open-door transfer policies and search for a program where he'd be a certain starter.

Whoever stoked those rumors clearly didn't have an inside line with the players involved.

"He knows he has a role as much as I have a role," Neal says of Hishaw, "and he knows we're a one-two punch as much as I know we're a one-two punch. There's no jealousy in our room."

Hishaw's announcement that he'd be back for his junior season, along with the apparent good health of junior quarterback Jalon Daniels, silenced the doubters and made their teammates and coaches giddy about the yards and touchdowns to come.

"It's unusual to have one running back who is as good as either of them are," says Jeff Grimes, entering his first full season as KU's offensive coordinator, "so to have *two* at the same time is a blessing. And a challenge. The challenge is for me to make sure that we get those guys enough touches. And then the nice thing is, you can keep rolling those

guys in and out of a game and not feel like either of them is going to get worn down."

Neal, a face of the program ever since he announced his commitment to KU as a Lawrence High junior, enters his final season with 3,077 career rushing yards and 33 touchdowns, and needs 765 yards and nine TDs to top June Henley, '98, KU's career leader in both categories. His 12 100-yard games trails Tony Sands, c'94, by five. With 1,092 yards as a sophomore and 1,280 last year, Neal became one of five KU running backs with two 1,000-yard seasons; none has had three.

"With Devin, you really don't know what's coming next," Hishaw says. "There's been a lot of dudes who've been in front of him who didn't tackle him. When you go back and look at the film, you're like, 'Wow, I don't know how he did that.' He's just a real electric dude."

Injuries limited Hishaw, of Moore, Oklahoma, to 12 games in his first two seasons, during which he rushed for 491 yards and seven touchdowns. Healthy last year, he gained 626 yards with eight TDs, helping the Jayhawks to a No. 9 national ranking in rushing offense.

"He's probably the most freakish athlete on our



team, and you see it: super explosive, super powerful,” Neal says. “We’re a great tandem duo because we have different parts of our game that make it hard for defenses to cover.”

Daniels is the most immediate benefactor of the one-two punch, notably because both Neal and Hishaw are capable and eager pass blockers. The defensive front seven must account for Neal and Hishaw whenever they’re on the field, opening up Daniels’ play-action passing and allowing at least one of KU’s fleet receivers to enjoy single coverage.

“We have three people in the backfield who can run,” Daniels says, “so (the defense) is not accounting for the other three receivers, who will run straight downfield if you fill the box. Daniel Hishaw and Devin Neal create space for my receivers to run one-on-one routes. That’s a blessing.”

As the players assembled in their indoor practice facility to greet local press at media day Aug. 20, the view to the east was filled with a scene of steel, dirt and machines. Their new football stadium is made possible by their success—the 22nd-ranked Jayhawks must now be considered a contender for their first Big 12 championship—and no current KU player deserves more credit for the program’s full-throttle rise than Devin Neal.

“I don’t know if I could ever hit on all the great things that he’s done, from the day he committed to this program,” says fourth-year coach Lance Leipold. “One of the coolest things about it, for a guy like Devin, is that he’s one of the best guys to be around. Despite all the success, all the things that

could really get to a guy or change a guy or make him feel entitled, he’s pretty much the same dude he was when he walked in. More mature, but still humble and appreciative and giving.”

Leipold continued, “This is a really good group, and we’re going to miss them a year from now. We’re hoping it’s the fastest, slowest, most productive season we can ever have.”



Hishaw Jr.



Neal

## UPDATE

Conference coaches named KU volleyball the Big 12 favorite, a first in program history. The team features three Preseason All-Big 12 players—senior outside hitter **Ayah Elnady**, senior setter **Camryn Turner** and senior opposite hitter **London Davis**—and Big 12 Preseason Freshman of the Year **Zoey Burgess**, a middle blocker. “This reflects what this group has done over the past couple of seasons,” says 27th-year coach **Ray Bechard**,

“and we have a lot of veteran players returning.” ... **Bryce Hoppel**, b’23, set the American record in the men’s 800 meters at the Paris Olympics, and his 1:41.67 would have won gold in the previous



Hoppel

two Olympics, yet this year netted fourth in what many considered the Paris Games’ most competitive event. Center **Joel Embiid**, ’17, averaged 11.2 points to help Team USA to men’s basketball gold. **Sharon Lokedi**, b’20, winner of the 2022 New York City Marathon, ran fourth, missing a marathon bronze by a fraction of a second. Senior sprinter **Michael Joseph**, who qualified for the 400 after setting a school record at the Big 12 Outdoor, was named flag bearer for Saint Lucia. And after failing to win a

single individual race at the Tokyo Olympics, Team USA’s men’s track and field team, led by KU coach **Stanley Redwine**, won seven golds, six silvers and five bronzes. ... Senior golfer **Lily Hirst** on June 20 won the English Women’s Open Championship, and graduate student **Gunnar Broin** was one of three amateurs to make the cut at the U.S. Open in June.

# One of One

Unique "Passionate Pink" Mustang is a rolling tribute to alumnus' mother—and a vehicle for bringing mental health and crisis intervention to light

by Steven Hill



Eva

Eva had beautiful blue eyes and a high wattage smile. She had a vivacious personality and brilliant sparkle of life about her. She was deeply religious and liked to read. She loved music ranging from pop music to classical. She liked to play the piano especially boogie woogie style. When she was well, she loved deeply and with great tenderness. Her life's work was her children. Her abilities in this task were all one thing truly amazing and that deteriorated with her health. She encouraged them and instilled in them self-confidence. Her children have lived out many of her dreams for them.

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." - Pericles



For 20 years, Sam McGee was driven by a quixotic goal: to bring back into the family fold a 1968 Ford Mustang that had once belonged to his grandmother, Eva Corcoran McGee.

Sam is a car guy—and an aficionado of the sporty Ford coupes—from way back. His first ride was a classic 1966 Mustang, a restoration project that he and his father, Mike McGee, e’73, started together in the garage of their suburban Houston home before Sam was old enough for a driver’s license. He drove it throughout the 1990s in high school and while earning his bachelor’s degree at Texas A&M. The car was part of his identity. “Sam’s 66—it was who he was,” Mike recalls.

Now president of the Texas Hill Country Mustang Club in Boerne, Texas, Sam is still a car guy. But his decades-long quest to track down and buy this particular automobile was fueled by something other than the collector’s impulse to own a singular, strikingly iconic example of American car culture—which Eva’s Mustang, with its “Passionate Pink” paint job and black-and-white houndstooth check vinyl top, undoubtedly is.

Sam never knew his grandmother, who died two years before he was born. At the time of her death, the car was the most valuable thing she owned and her most prized possession. Tracking it down was a way to add a hopeful coda to a life story that ended in a tragedy that has echoed for 50 years through generation after generation of the McGee family.

**A**s a bright, hardworking student at Norton High School in the 1960s, Mike McGee knew exactly where he wanted to attend college. During his childhood, the family moved back and forth between western Kansas and Colorado, and his father, David, who scraped out a living laying tile and linoleum, was an avid KU fan. David also had a volatile temper, which led to terrible fights between him and Eva and created a difficult home life for Mike and his two sisters. “School was a refuge for me, and I remember as a young boy saying, ‘When I grow up, I am going to create my own environment,’” Mike recalls. “I remember reading in the Norton Telegram, ‘chemical engineer, highest-paid four-year degree,’ and thinking, ‘That’s for me. That’s a way to change your environment.’” He came to the Hill to major in chemical engineering and set his sights on a career in the oil industry.

By sophomore year, he was married to his high school sweetheart, Sharon, with a baby on the way. The next summer, 1971, he was working at a grain elevator in Reager, an unincorporated community in Norton County, when he saw his mother’s bright pink Mustang heading west on Highway 36 toward Denver. It was the last time he saw her alive.

COURTESY MCGEE FAMILY (2)



Mike McGee with his wife, Sharon, and daughter Amy, 1973.

Eva had come from Denver to see Mike and Sharon’s baby, her new granddaughter, and now she was going home. “She just adored Amy,” Mike says. Mother and son

had said their goodbyes already, so Eva did not stop at the elevator on her way out of town. “She just looked very determined,” Mike recalls. “Driving into the sunset.”

The following summer, Mike and Sharon stayed in Lawrence and did not see Eva. In February 1973, he received a phone call. His mother had taken an overdose of medication. After years of depression and multiple hospitalizations, Eva had died by suicide. She was 42.

“Sharon and I had plans the next day to spend time with friends, another couple, and I guess I thought I could compartmentalize,” Mike says, his voice heavy and halting as he recalls that dreadful day. “I thought, ‘No, let’s not cancel.’ We spent some time at the lake. I remember we washed our cars. It was when I got back to the apartment that it really hit me.”

Mike and his sisters had to sell Eva’s beloved Mustang to pay for her funeral. Back in Lawrence, in the final semester of his senior year, with a job offer from his preferred employer, Conoco, already in his pocket, he found that he could not get out of bed to attend class.

“I thought it was something physical, like mononucleosis, and went to the KU clinic for tests,” he says. “It was a friend who told me, ‘It’s grief.’”

If there was support on campus back then for students trying to battle through such dark distress, Mike did not benefit from its comforts.

“I didn’t seek it,” he says simply. “We are still in the dark ages now, in many ways, when it comes to mental wellness, but we are a lot further along than we were then. Suicide was not talked about. It was in the shadows. I guess it was a matter of shame.”

Close friends knew, and he may have told one professor about his situation. Otherwise, Mike was left to pick up the pieces on his own. He willed himself to finish the semester, collected his diploma, and headed off to start what would become a 37-year career at Conoco.

As the years rolled by, he rarely talked about what became of his mother.

“When we were restoring my Mustang, we’d be working in the garage, and now



Mike and Sam McGee, 1999

and then he’d bring up that his mother had owned a Mustang,” Sam McGee says. “He didn’t even know what year it was. I asked him what happened to it, and he just said that after she died the car was sold. In high school, I only had a little piece of the puzzle. It wasn’t until later that I learned the whole story.”

It was Mike’s father who provided the clue that set in motion an annual ritual that lasted 20 years. The car was in Selden, Sam learned from his grandfather, a small town not far from Norton. The same woman whose father had purchased the Mustang for her in 1973 still owned it.

Sam looked her up in the phone book and called. He told her about Eva and offered to buy the car.

That was in May 2001. At the time, Sam says now, the grand plan he eventually developed for the car had not yet formed. “I just had this overwhelming feeling that I needed to bring this car back into the family,” he says. But the owner had no interest in selling.

He asked politely if he could call back in a year, and the owner said yes. The next May he called again and asked to buy the car. And the May after that and the May after that, each year without fail, until 20 years passed. Each time the answer was the same: no sale.

In 2007, Sam laid eyes on the car for the first time, during a trip to Kansas to celebrate his grandfather’s 80th birthday. By then, “getting this car back had become a cause for my wife and me,” Sam recalls. He had learned a lot about the Mustang. Ford had launched a Color of the Month promotion in 1968, and the February

color, in celebration of Valentine's Day, was WT 9036—Passionate Pink. The company manufactured a handful of cars with the striking paint scheme; some were hardtops, some convertibles, and some had vinyl roofs with distinctive patterns. Through his research, Sam determined that only one was made with a vinyl roof emblazoned in houndstooth check: Eva's. The car was unique. One of one.

The car was rust-free and had only 53,000 miles on it. Seeing it in person, sitting in the driver's seat and firing up the engine, "kind of ignited my passion," Sam says. In 2021, attending a family wedding in Colorado, Sam, his wife and kids, and his father drove several hundred miles out of their way to stop in Selden. "It was the first time my father had seen the car since he'd watched his mother drive away in it 50 years before," Sam says. "So it was a very emotional moment, but I was told again, 'No, we're not selling it.' But I didn't give up."

Along the way, Sam came to believe that the car and Eva's story could be used to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and suicide prevention programs, and to destigmatize suicide and provide support to families who have lost loved ones to it.

He would call the program "You Are One of One."

**E**va Corcoran was beautiful and spirited. And troubled.

Orphaned at 20 months after her mother died and her father remarried and moved away, Eva (along with her sister, Gladys) was raised in western Kansas by an aunt and uncle during the depths of the Dust Bowl. The family, who owned a grocery store in Oberlin, seemed to escape the severest Depression-era hardships, and the sisters enjoyed a relatively comfortable childhood: Studio portraits show two smiling, stylishly dressed girls. The sisters took piano lessons and regularly attended Catholic mass. Eva, deeply religious but also quite rebellious, was said to be a

COURTESY MCGEE FAMILY



Eva Corcoran, 1948

handful. A colorized portrait from her senior year of high school, in 1948, shows a confident, glamorous-looking teen with deep blue eyes and dark brown hair. Friends often compared her to Hollywood icon Elizabeth Taylor.

"She was a beautiful, vivacious woman who suffered from chronic depression most of her adult life and late in life had periods of much more serious mental illness," Mike McGee recalls. "But when she was herself, when she was on her game, she had a tremendous spark of life. High-voltage smile. Very social. Deeply religious. My mother had a tremendous capacity for love, which she poured into her children. She told me that I could be anything I wanted to be."

Eva and David McGee eloped the summer after they graduated from Decatur Community High School, taking a train to Denver, where David looked for work. A short time later they returned to Oberlin, establishing a pattern that would continue throughout their troubled marriage. She preferred life in the big city, while he felt more comfortable back home in Oberlin. David's harsh temper and Eva's unwillingness to submit to his controlling personality caused frequent conflict. Several years into the marriage, she suffered a nervous breakdown, in the terminology of the times, and sought treatment at a Denver psychiatric hospital, where she was con-

fined for several weeks. It was the first of at least three hospitalizations for recurring depression, which she also treated with medication. The family's poverty made it difficult to access effective mental health care, and also lessened the opportunities for socializing that the outgoing young mother craved. Shortly after the family moved back to Kansas in 1963, as the marriage continued to deteriorate, Eva left her husband and returned to Denver. Mike, now 13, and his sisters, Kathy and Pat, remained with their father.

Later, after Eva remarried, she asked Mike to join her and her new husband in Denver.

"I took the bus out to visit, and they had all these cool things lined up for us to do," Mike recalls. "But I'd be leaving my friends; my grandparents were back there (in Kansas). I needed to create my own environment." Later, as Eva's health worsened, the demands of completing college while raising a child deepened Mike's determination to forge a life very different from the one he experienced as a child. The separation from his mother would exacerbate the devastating sense of loss and guilt he felt after she died.

"My shame was, could I have done more to emotionally support her?" Mike says. "Could I have written her more often? Could I have not tried to just save myself, to create my own environment, but instead done more for her?"

**T**hat sense of shame and guilt felt by people who lose a family member to suicide is well known to those who work in the mental health field.

"It's trauma," says Staci Almager, a Kansas native who lives now in Boerne, Texas, where she is CEO of Hill Country Family Services (HCFS), a nonprofit county crisis organization where Sam McGee serves on the board. "We see it every single day. We are the wealthiest county in the state, a very Norman Rockwell community where it seems like nothing bad ever happens, where everything is perfect. So if you have a child who has mental health

issues—or a spouse, or elderly parents—it is very shameful to this day. And what compounds that is, before we started this community coalition, most of the people suffering did so in silence.”

Before Sam even lived in Boerne, town leaders had determined that the greatest community need was access to mental and behavioral health services. “But the bigger issue was how do you even start the conversation?” Almager says. When Sam moved to town and told his story—Eva’s story—“it also helped us tell the story of the greatest needs in our community,” she says.

The uniqueness of Eva’s car seemed to lend itself to the message that every life has value. “This car is a one of one; my grandmother was a one of one,” Sam told the Boerne Star. “When we drive this car around and show it, the message is, ‘You’re a one of one, too.’”

At Boerne’s renowned Weihnachts Christmas parade, at the town’s many car shows and block parties, and during Mustang Club drives and special events hosted by local schools or HCFS, Sam is there—often joined by his wife and kids, who know Eva’s story so well they can tell it themselves.

Large posters produced by HCFS with Eva’s photograph and story help spread the word on the You Are One of One campaign mission: to normalize straight talk about mental health, raise awareness of suicide prevention programs like the national 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and reduce the stigma of suicide for families who’ve seen loved ones succumb to its ravages.

One purpose unifies those various goals.

“What I think he set out to do is reduce suicide one person at a time,” Almager says. “I really do. But the interesting thing is it has become more than that. The car is a symbol of positive mental health. It is a symbol of the hard conversations you can have because someone understands you. That’s not necessarily what he started out thinking about, but it really is an evolution to what the community needs it to be for them at any one time. It has become more, and he has allowed it to become more, because it needs to be more.”

Almager recalls encountering Sam at a car show, where he was listening to a woman describe her family’s experience of losing someone to suicide. “I’m sure that woman did not set out that day thinking, ‘We’re going to the Boerne car show to talk about my family member who died from suicide,’” she says. “Those are hard conversations because they pull up a lot of emotion. At the same time, it was beautiful walking up on that. When they parted, they hugged like friends. And I remember thinking how unbelievably unexpected and healing for this woman who might’ve felt like no one could understand her experience. But then you go to this random car show and someone really gets you.

“Breaking down those barriers and the isolation and having conversations is very therapeutic for people, and the car helps. Everybody wants to check out the car. The car is cool. It’s old, it’s historic, it’s Pepto Bismol Passionate Pink. We’ve become very comfortable talking about uncomfortable things, thanks to Sam.”

**T**he turning point in Sam’s quest to buy his grandmother’s Mustang came during the 2021 trip when he took his father to see Eva’s Mustang for the first time in a half-century.

On the way back to Texas from the Colorado wedding, the McGees drove several hundred miles out of their way to stop in Selden. By then, Sam had learned all he could about the car’s origins as a special Ford Motor Co. promotion, one of seven Passionate Pink Mustangs made in 1968 and the only one with the distinctive houndstooth top. He’d also started a Facebook group that included the owners of four of the other seven.

Mike remembers the visit as cordial, but one thing was clear to him: “After listening to them talk,” he says, “I was convinced that she’d never sell the car.”

Sam had a different reaction.

“He was pretty composed,” he says of his father’s reaction to seeing the car again, “but it was still a very emotional

moment. At that point, I just knew I had to get it back.”

The owner, however, was still not ready to sell. Over the years, she had said no in just about every way you can say it. “Not now.” “Maybe someday.” But she had never said “Never.” So, neither did Sam.

The next year, May 2022, he told the woman that he was thinking of buying a pink ’68 Mustang he’d found in Houston. But he really wanted the car that had actually belonged to his grandmother, the special one-of-a-kind ride that—as Eva had written in a letter to one of her daughters—made her feel good whenever she drove it.

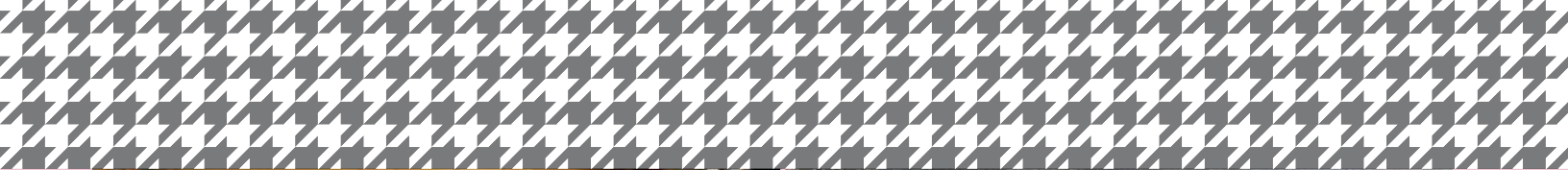
The woman asked for some time to think about it. A few days later, she said yes.

After 20 years of trying, Sam McGee was bringing his grandmother’s Mustang home.

The 800-mile drive from Texas to Kansas to pick up the car turned into “the ultimate father-son road trip,” Sam says. Though Mike had told his family about his mother through the years, he’d mostly focused on the many things he admired about her. Now he was ready to talk about her death. “My father really opened up on the drive, and I think it allowed for some healing,” Sam recalls. “I didn’t know much about the circumstances of my grandmother’s death or how he handled it and what he went through. It’s a long drive from Boerne, Texas, to northwest Kansas, and we talked a lot.

“We went from not talking about it to talking about it, and I realized, ‘Well, that’s sort of the important ingredient for mental health awareness is talking about it.’ You hear about people suffering in silence. So that’s when we decided, you know what? We really need to use this car and Eva’s story for mental health awareness.”

“It was not that we’ve never talked about his grandmother and what she was like or how she died,” Mike says. “I would bring it up sometimes, but we never had really extended conversations about her. He didn’t feel good raising it because he knew it was a very sensitive, painful subject for me. But on that trip back to Kansas, I would tell him everything I could remember



COURTESY MCGEE FAMILY (6)



The 2022 return of Eva's Mustang from Kansas started at its longtime home in Selden (top left), with stops in Oberlin, where downtown includes a shop owned by Eva's family and a banner honoring David's war service; Shamrock, Texas, to refuel at a Conoco station on Route 66; and, finally, Boerne, Texas, where the McGee family celebrated the conclusion of a decades-long quest.



"Eva's Mustang has bumps and scrapes, and it gets more unique, more special as it ages, like we all do," says Sam McGee. "We don't treat it like an idol; we take it out because it grabs attention and helps get the You Are One of One message across."

about her and everything I knew about her death. It was, by an order of magnitude, the most in-depth, honest conversation I'd ever had with Sam about my mom. So, in that way I think it was really useful.

"Sam and I are close, but I think we came back from that trip feeling closer than we ever have. We've done all kinds of things together, but that's the one that I hold most dear."

When they rolled into Boerne with the Mustang in tow, Sam's wife and kids were waiting to celebrate the long-awaited homecoming.

"They had made up posters and there was a banner across the street. They had pink confetti to throw. They made it a big family event," Mike says.

In a short history of Eva's life that he compiled around 2013, Mike wrote that not having his children "know and experience the wonderful woman I knew when I was young is the greatest sorrow of my life."

With the car's return and the story it helps tell, a missing piece of their family history is now part of their lives, he says.

"Through this car, Sam and his family definitely know who my mom was more than through anything else before. I think that's wonderful."

The quest to reclaim Eva's pink Mustang has changed the way Mike approaches a personal tragedy that had long remained hidden. "I didn't used to talk about how my mother died. Ever. Now, if it fits into the conversation and I think it can be helpful, I bring it up. It's no longer in the shadows."

The McGees hope the effects ripple outward, beyond their family and into their community and the wider world, where mental health is often still underfunded and suicide is still too often seen as a character flaw rather than the tragic outcome of the debilitating disease of depression. Whenever Sam McGee rolls Eva's ride out of his garage for an appearance at a car show, a mental health rally, or an event promoting the 988 Lifeline and other suicide prevention measures, he's driving a "rolling tribute" to his grandmother.

He's also rewriting the ending of her life story, Mike McGee believes. To explain

what he means, he goes back to his days on Mount Oread, where he arrived in fall 1969, when a single released by The Beatles the previous summer was still very often on the radio: "Hey Jude."

"I always liked that song," Mike says. "There's a line in there: 'Take a sad song and make it better.' That's what Sam is doing. Eva's story is a sad story. And what Sam has done is taken that sad song and turned it into something that can help others."

Rather than a tragic ending obscured by shame and silence, his mother's life and what she meant to him and the rest of his family now has "a positive side," Mike says.

Sometimes a car is just a car. And sometimes it's something more: a haven of safety and solace, an engine for good, a vehicle for escape or connection.

"It's unique. It made my mother feel good. And then a dad, in his goodness, bought it for the daughter he loved. It meant a lot to her to have that car and know it came from her dad, so in her goodness she kept that car for years and years and years. My son, who knows about my mother and how I feel about her, in his goodness wants to get the car back and eventually does. The woman sees that maybe it will do more good in this way, and in her goodness she agrees. And now the folks in Boerne in their goodness are trying to use it and Eva's story to help other people."

Goodness from sadness. Light in darkness. A pink Mustang that's like no other—as are we all. 🌈

**If you or someone you know needs help, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. For more information on You Are One of One, visit [youare1of1.org](http://youare1of1.org).**



# Turning ambitions into future achievements.



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(L-R) Jenny Archibald, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | Alison Gabriele, Professor, Department of Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (photo credit: Leilani Thornton Tuttle) | Tim Jackson, Professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | Allison Kirkpatrick, Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | Nilou Vakil, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Design

# 'THAT STEADY BEAT'

**With a new director at the helm,  
the Marching Jayhawks will make  
history—and beautiful music**

**by Chris Lazzarino**





**S**haron Toulouse and Melissa Sawyer are both new in their jobs, but they are Marching Jayhawks veterans—so Toulouse, the band’s director, and Sawyer, her top assistant, knew what awaited them during summer preparations: perhaps the most distinct challenge in the vast global variety of live musical performances.



Toulouse and Sawyer

Who else but college marching band directors must prepare musical sets to entertain live audiences tens of thousands strong, every note to be played outdoors, in scorching sun and wind and rain and snow, across Labor Day-to-New Year’s temperature fluctuations of 100 degrees? To top it off, the players, mostly teenagers and non-music majors, must march with military precision through synchronized routes, customized to each individual performer, creating a tableau that, when seen from a distance, appears flawless.

“I’m doing that as we speak, writing drills for the first halftime,” Sawyer, DMA’23, assistant director of bands, says on a sizzling August afternoon. “Getting prepared is a full-time job in summer.”

Perhaps the only analogy to college marching bands is the old-timey tradition of marching and music festivals called “tattoos,” but the comparisons are not precise. The military musicians are highly trained adult professionals who drill year-round, and their thrilling tattoos are rare events that audiences come specifically to watch, rather than weekly pregame and halftime shows created in service to yet another entertainment spectacle: college football.

“It is ... complicated,” says Toulouse, f’97, g’05. “I mean, if you think about it, there’s so much multitasking. Not only are you worrying about tone quality, intonation, rhythm and all the other stuff that’s involved just with the music, but now you’re making sure your feet are moving at the same time, and that you’re in line and you’re getting to your spot in the exact right place at the exact right time.

“If you overthink it, it’s *very* complicated. But, as musicians, we have that internal pulse. We have that steady beat.”

That steady beat is a point of pride for the Marching Jayhawks, a Mount Oread institution entering its 126th season that thrives on many goose-bumpy traditions—and this year halted one decidedly old-fashioned custom.

The charismatic Sharon Toulouse, for 12 years the Marching Jayhawks’ assistant director and energetic director of the men’s basketball pep band and the Midwestern Music Camp, 2016 honoree as a KU Woman of Distinction, U.S. Army veteran, in April became the first woman to hold the baton and lead one of the country’s most prestigious marching bands.

“She’s always upbeat, positive. She has a great sense of humor. She’s very friendly, and she’s a terrific ambassador for the School of Music and for the University of Kansas,” says Paul Popiel, the school’s dean. “Her colleagues in the School of Music respect her and respect what she’s done with the athletic bands, but she also forges great

relationships with the Alumni Association, with Athletics, with University administration, and she makes such a positive impression with everyone she encounters.

“But that’s who she is. She’s a positive, happy, energetic, enthusiastic person who loves the work she’s doing, and that comes through very clearly every time you see her.”

What also comes through clearly is that Toulouse never would have sought such public praise. She is both happy and humble, and seemingly still grapples with how best to acknowledge her place in the history of gender equality at KU. No, that wasn’t the sound of the percussion line’s crash cymbals—it was the glorious song of another glass ceiling being shattered.

“I am completely honored and humbled that I was given this opportunity,” she says. “I do recognize the example that this sets for women and future educators, and, I have to say, I have been extremely blessed and fortunate that, here at KU, there’s never been that barrier. There’s never been that, ‘Oh, you’re just a woman.’ It’s solely based on your talent and your ability and your work ethic.

“So, I recognize what the example says, and I love sharing that with students, that there shouldn’t be a limit, that if you’re capable and skilled, then you’re going to get what you deserve. But the most important thing to me is that I want to do a good job. I want to make sure that this program continues and is successful.”

**S**haron Ramsey Toulouse was a preschooler when her mother, Marcia, an elementary school music teacher for more than 30 years, first handed her a trumpet, during their Montessori school’s introduction to instruments.

“We all got to try all the instruments, and I was able to make a great sound on the trumpet. That was the spark,” Toulouse recalls. “I can remember standing there in this little music classroom and making that sound and going, ‘Ooooh, that’s good!’ From that moment on, I was like, I’m going to play the trumpet!”

Toulouse never lost touch with the thrill of making that trumpet sing. Growing up

**“If you overthink it, it’s very complicated. But, as musicians, we have that internal pulse. We have that steady beat.”**

—Sharon Toulouse



in a musical household, she became enamored of trumpet licks in famous works of music—Maurice Ravel’s virtuoso arrangement of the Russian piano suite “Pictures at an Exhibition” is an example she cites. After a series of moves for her parents’ work, Toulouse spent her teen years in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she attended Mary Carroll High School. Her goal of one day joining an orchestra wavered when Toulouse, who also ran track and played basketball, realized she wasn’t practicing enough to be the star in the most competitive ensembles. She stuck with marching band, however, and was first named to the Texas All-State Band as a junior.

Toulouse’s father, Dale, worked as a music engraver, drawing scores of original compositions for music publishers, and one of his clients at the time was Professor Emeritus Robert E. Foster, then in the midst of his 31-year run as KU’s director of bands. When the proud father mentioned his talented daughter, Foster, ever



Surely the Marching Jayhawks will still work “Hog Calling” (top) into their pregame tradition with this season’s home games in Kansas City, but first comes their grueling “band camp” in the August heat—a task made more bearable with their new practice home, Riedel Family Field on West Campus. “The very first evening, everybody introduces themselves and I have the opportunity to say, ‘Hey, I sat in those seats where you are right now. I was a freshman in this band, so I know what you’re going through. Know that it’s going to be great, and it’s exciting, and you will make some memories that you will cherish for the rest of your life,’” says Toulouse (above). “I love and appreciate all the traditions we have here, but, since I graduated, there are new traditions, and that’s cool. That’s awesome. It’s neat to see the traditions change and grow, but also retained from long ago.”

the charming and relentless recruiter, urged the family to consider KU. When she arrived for Midwestern Music Camp the summer after her high school graduation, Toulouse recognized her destiny.

“I was 16 hours from home, so it was an opportunity for me to reinvent myself and be who I wanted to be,” Toulouse says. “Our band back in Texas maybe had 150, and at KU we were about 250 at that time, which was huge. The stadium was ginormous, the whole game day experience, the activity in the stands, it was just so much fun. Some of my best friends who I still stay in touch with today are from that time, and I couldn’t tell you how many weddings I’ve been to of marching band kids. Building those friendships and connections and family, it’s security for a lot of freshmen coming in.”

After earning her music education degree, Toulouse worked as assistant band director at Free State High School, then in its second year as Lawrence’s second public high school, while also teaching beginners across the district. She savored the opportunity to help launch her young students on their musical adventures, yet Toulouse also discovered that playing her own music mattered more than she realized.

“I was a little bored,” she recalls. “I was missing, like, my heart.”

Heeding advice from school district colleagues who were members of the 312th Army Band at the Lawrence Army Reserve Training Center, Toulouse in 2002 “took the leap” and joined the Army Reserve.

“I was an athlete in high school and I was an active individual, and I was missing that as well,” she says. “I wanted something that’s going to physically challenge me and get me in shape, and I wanted to play my horn, and when I enlisted in the Army Reserves as a trumpet player, I loved it, I really did. It kicked my butt, got me into shape, and I got to play my horn. We had a really great band, we were playing great literature, so it challenged me musically and it challenged me physically, the two things I was really looking for.”

She returned to KU in 2003 to study for her master’s degree in conducting with John Lynch, then director of bands.



Toulouse leads pregame festivities on the Hill last season.

Once her graduate degree was completed, Toulouse in 2005 upped her Army commitment to active duty and was stationed first at Fort Monroe, Virginia, followed by Fort Meade, Maryland, where she was a member of the prestigious United States Army Field Band, while her husband, Ted, f’02, played his trombone in The President’s Own United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C.

After giving birth to their son, Timothy, Toulouse in 2011 left active duty as a captain and joined the Washington, D.C., National Guard. One year later she learned of the retirement of Tom Stidham, KU’s assistant director of bands and longtime leader of the men’s basketball band. Toulouse applied, got the job and transferred to the Army Reserve in Lawrence, retiring last year as chief warrant officer 4.

Toulouse acknowledges that her “equivalent work experience” in the military is what qualified her for a lofty faculty position that typically would have gone to a candidate with a doctorate. Popiel cites her experience as an educator in Lawrence public schools, while emphasizing that the true value Toulouse’s military experience brings to the Marching Jayhawks is in logistics.

“We’re on buses and Ryder trucks everywhere we go, feeding 400 people in an efficient and organized way, providing water and gear and uniforms and instruments. It’s all logistics, all the time, and she had training of the highest order from the U.S. military in all those things,” Popiel says. “And

there’s a sense of service and duty that she instills in the Marching Jayhawks leadership and in our students, building morale and a team. Our students feel part of a group that takes care of one another, that watches out for one another and feels loyalty.

“People ask us how we’ve grown the Marching Jayhawks over the last 10 or 15 years, despite some struggles in football, and the real secret to our success has been our retention numbers, even more than our recruiting numbers. As students buy into the team and the culture and social connection and the service to the University, they don’t want to give that up, so they’re staying for four years and more.”

**T**he Marching Jayhawks last year included 362 student musicians and drum majors, continuing a run of three consecutive record-breaking rosters. The hot streak is expected to continue this season, when the band could approach, or perhaps even exceed, 400—viewed as something of a magic number.

Although registration was strong during the summer, nothing is certain until band members arrive on campus for “band camp.” The first few days under the mid-August sun focus on marching fundamentals—a task made infinitely more pleasant thanks to the gorgeous Riedel Family Field, a multipurpose turf field on West Campus that last year replaced the band’s sloped concrete slab atop the radio tower hill.

In a wrinkle unique to the Marching Jayhawks, student musicians during the course of the week will assemble not only by instrument, but also by major, giving incoming freshmen the rare opportunity to make connections with upperclassmen in their field of study. Music majors account for 40% to 45% of the band roster, with the rest coming from nearly every major and school, including engineering, nursing and law.

Thanks to proven brain-boosting benefits of playing an instrument and time-management skills required to balance three days of practice with 15 hours of coursework, administrators proudly boast that nearly all band members improve their academics—and social skills—by joining the Marching Jayhawks.

“Within the band, you immediately find your network of students who are like-minded and hardworking,” says assistant director Sawyer. “What’s also beautiful is that you’re meeting, you know, 400 people. You are going to meet your lifelong friends, and even before school starts you’re meeting people who will be in your classes.

“These skills we’re learning in marching band—the time management component, social skills, collaborating with others even in extreme weather conditions—you’re absolutely learning life skills that will carry with you into a career, but also in college.”

Popiel and Toulouse both praise Kansas Athletics for a long tradition of unwavering support for athletic bands, and they specifically cite the enthusiasm current athletics director Travis Goff, c’03, j’03, brings to the collaboration—including his offer for Athletics to finance the buses required to get the Marching Jayhawks to Kansas City for six “home” football games during the campus stadium’s reconstruction. Goff shares similar sentiments, and insists that the fan experience across all sports would be muted without student performers enlivening the proceedings.

“The noise they make, the game day impact, the home atmosphere, the value they add are all important,” Goff says, “and there’s a lot of other examples of that. You can talk about the Spirit Squad, with cheer



JON ROBCHAUD

## LOOK GREAT, SOUND GREAT, IN PERPETUITY

Given that a Marching Jayhawks rehearsal opens the stirring video that launched KU Endowment’s Ever Onward capital campaign, and that the band’s sparkling razzle-dazzle energizes the call-to-action closer, it’s fitting that the School of Music’s most prominent troupe be included with a campaign ask of its own: an endowed fund, with a goal of \$3 million, to repair and replace uniforms and instruments annually, rather than forcing school officials to issue desperate funding pleas every 10 years.

“This will be our 126th year,” Paul Popiel, dean of the School of Music, says of the Marching Jayhawks, “and we have not had a solution to replacing uniforms and instruments. With the Ever Onward campaign, we might be on the verge of having a solution for that.”

Marching Jayhawks alumnus Curtis Marsh, j’92, KU Endowment’s development director for the School of Music and Lied Center, notes that the fund’s “ambitious goals,” once reached, will mean that “we are never in a crisis situation with instruments and uniforms.” Marsh also notes that while record-setting student involvement swells pride in the band, there is no commensurate increase in funding for their crimson-and-blue kit.

The School of Music and the band’s performers are still enamored with the current uniform design (“Suit Up the Band,” issue No. 6,

2015), so it’s now feasible to lock the look in place and renew, repair and add uniforms as needed, rather than frantically fund 400 new uniforms, from feathered caps to spats, once every decade. The band also issues instruments to every member—and strongly discourages students from using their own—which means stocking and maintaining everything from dainty piccolos to massive sousaphones.

“Every 10 years or so, we realize, oh, man, we need new uniforms, or we realize these sousaphones are decades old and they are getting to the point where, even to the layperson, they’re noticing that it takes away from the image and the pageantry to have instruments that stand out in the wrong way,” Marsh says. “And, of course, the bigger the instrument, the more visually obvious the issues. Some of those sousaphones have silver bells; some of them have brass. That doesn’t mean one is a better sound than the other, but I’ve certainly heard from folks who say, ‘Hey, that looks a little funny. Why are you buying instruments that aren’t similar to one another?’”

To learn more about the Marching Jayhawks’ campaign fund, visit [kueveronward.org/music](http://kueveronward.org/music), or contact Marsh at [cmarsh@kuendowment.org](mailto:cmarsh@kuendowment.org) or 785-832-7467.

—C.L.

and dance and mascots, and without all those groups, there's no chance KU has the kind of energy and passion and momentum it has right now."

The Marching Jayhawks in 1989 received the Sudler Trophy, an honor recognizing the country's elite college programs that can be won only once in a band's history. Beyond outsider recognition, the insiders insist their real joys are in traditions—the time-tested sequence of lively pregame songs and intricate marching routines is true blue—along with lifelong friendships and full academic experiences.

"You're probably not doing it because you're going to pad your résumé in order to become a professional marching band musician," says trumpeter Curtis Marsh, j'92, KU Endowment's development director for the School of Music and Lied Center. "You're doing it for the love you find within yourself as a very sizable champion for traditions of the University. And I think it's a little bit hard to do that, as an undergrad, in other ways."

Sawyer grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma, within a family of band directors: "My dad, my uncle, my mother, three cousins and now me, we're all band directors. I grew up in the band world, and in my entire life I really didn't see women representation in the directing role. My dad actually prepared me: 'It's going to be tricky, but you can do it.'"

"When I came to KU to get my doctorate, Sharon was one of the only female directors in the nation. I had never seen it before, and seeing her lead the marching band, even as an assistant at that time, I realized how important it was for representation, just to see for myself that I could eventually do what she was doing. It was huge. It made the dream feel like it could actually come true, and she's probably the reason why I'm here today."

Make beautiful music *and* overdue history: a new song worthy of the high-stepping tradition of KU's Marching Jayhawks. —

**"I grew up in the band world, and in my entire life I really didn't see women representation in the directing role. My dad actually prepared me: 'It's going to be tricky, but you can do it.'"**

**—Melissa Sawyer**



STEVE PUPPE

Sawyer (above) describes the Marching Jayhawks as "a big social collaboration. You get that in other ensembles, but this requires a lot of extra time, a lot of community building with what we're doing to fit all these things together."



# 2024 KU VETS DAY 5K

Sunday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m. • KU campus



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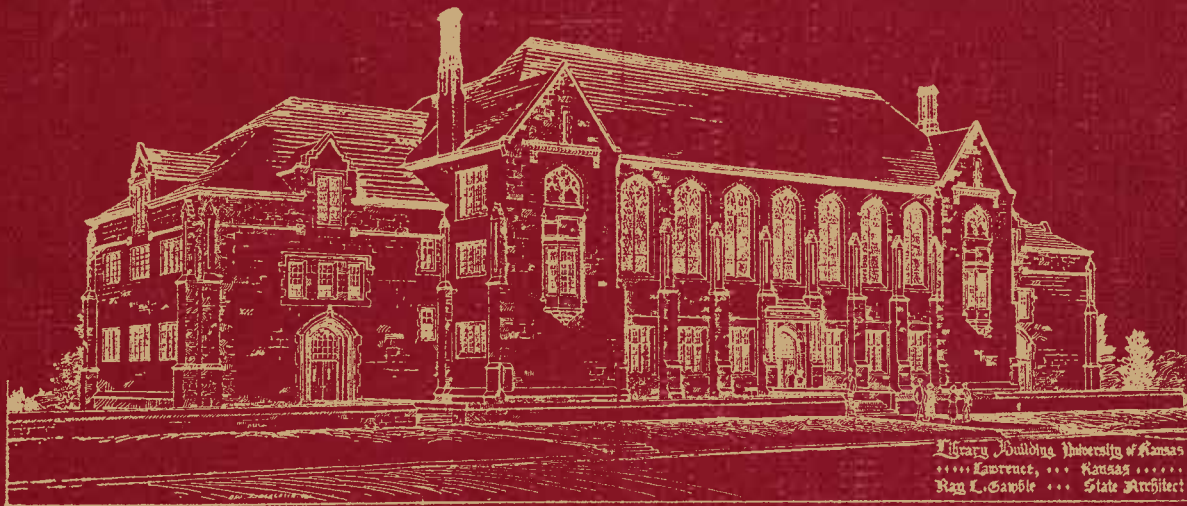
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Register at [kuvetsday5k.com](http://kuvetsday5k.com)



# Landmark Jayhawk



**Carrie Watson not only helped launch the library dedicated in her name 100 years ago, but she also witnessed the groundwork of KU and Kansas**

**by Wendy Conover**



Carrie M. Watson

**In September 1878, 19-year-old Carrie Watson gave a friend a ride to the KU campus, driving her horse and carriage up the Hill to the single four-story building that housed the University at the time. Watson, who had graduated from KU the previous year, accompanied her friend inside—and had a chance conversation with an overworked chancellor that would change her life.**

**On that fortuitous day, Watson took charge of the University's fledgling book collection. Nine years later, she became KU's first full-time librarian, and she remained a notable figure in University life for more than a half-century. Her remarkable tenure inspired the 1924 naming of Watson Library, the first academic building on KU's campus to honor a woman.**

**T**he campus that Watson, c1877, d1880, and her friend visited looked much different than it does today. The University building, called simply “University Hall” at the time (later renamed Fraser Hall, then referred to as Old Fraser Hall after the current Fraser Hall replaced it), had been built on an essentially treeless hill in the approximate area where Fraser Hall sits today. A campus beautification project just the previous spring had planted 300 trees, including the area now known as Marvin Grove.

After studying at KU for seven years (completing her preparatory courses—the equivalent of today’s high school), Watson was one of 10 students in the University’s fifth graduating class. Although Watson benefited from increasing opportunities in higher education for some young women

in the late 1800s, the general expectation would have been that she live with her parents until marriage, then run a household and raise a family.

When Watson arrived on campus with her friend that September day, Chancellor James A. Marvin—the impetus and name-sake of the tree-planting efforts—was sitting at a desk in a corner of the room, in front of the shelves that held the totality of the University’s book collection. Marvin was writing down the names, ages, addresses and qualifications of incoming freshmen—what at the time served as enrollment. Watson recounted the momentous interaction to *The Kansas City Star* in 1931:

“Suddenly I wanted to be back in the University—in some way a part of it. I began wishing I hadn’t been graduated so young. Many of the students were no older than I. ‘I wish I could do that for you,’ I told the chancellor. ‘Perhaps you could,’ he replied and so pointedly that I knew he must have felt the need of someone to help in that corner. ‘If I let you take charge here, do you think you could keep order?’ he asked me. ‘You could do this work and look after the library.’”

Watson began work that day and continued her service to the library for 65 years, first as assistant librarian from 1878 to 1887, then as University librarian from 1887 to 1921. After her retirement, she served as librarian emerita and continued to work part time until her death in 1943.

**Watson** had moved from Amenia, New York, to Lawrence with her family when she was 6 months old, in March 1858, almost three years before Kansas became a state. When Watson was 5, she and her family lived through the raid of Lawrence by William Quantrill’s pro-slavery ruffians, who killed nearly 200 men and boys and burned much of Lawrence, including the Watsons’ home. The family escaped from a back door through an alley as raiders arrived at their front doorstep.

Watson’s remarkable career saw extensive change and tremendous growth in the University and libraries. She began working at a time when leadership roles and occupational opportunities for women were rare and

**She began working at a time when leadership roles and occupational opportunities for women were rare and extremely limited.**



The KU campus from the southwest in 1887. Shown, from left, are the power plant and the old Snow, journalism, Fraser and Blake halls.



Watson

KU LIBRARIES (2)



Towering toward the blue autumn sky, sparkling in the snow, or standing stalwart behind beds of blooms, Watson Library is a Jayhawk Boulevard landmark for all seasons.

extremely limited. Over the years, she led the library's expansion in collections, staff and space. She sought opportunities to advance her library knowledge by connecting with other professionals and visiting libraries across the country, sharing what she learned with fledgling libraries across Kansas and as part of the early Kansas Library Association.

Much of what makes up the modern KU experience and traditions came to life during Watson's time at the University. She witnessed the construction of many buildings along Jayhawk Boulevard and the first residence hall, Corbin Hall. She had been working at the library for eight years when the first Rock Chalk Chant was uttered, and for 20 years when James Naismith came to town. She saw enrollment grow from less than 100 students to thousands, and she witnessed the beginning of the tradition of walking down the Hill for Commencement.

While on duty at the library desk or in the reading rooms, Watson no doubt embodied the stern persona of a disciplinarian with a talent for keeping order and maintaining quiet. But she also expressed joy in working with students and being a regular part of their college experience, and she made lasting connections with



Watson



By the late 1800s, KU's library collection, overseen by a young Watson (at desk on right), had expanded to occupy an entire floor and part of the basement of Old Fraser Hall.

them. In remarks at the 1890 Senior Class Banquet, where she accepted the seniors' gift of a photo album, Watson noted, "I shall be very glad to have the pictures of this class where I can look at them, for to me you have almost come to be a part of the library. It will seem strange indeed not to see your familiar faces in the alcoves and to hear your suppressed giggles."

Watson was well known on campus and took part in various clubs and activities. She was one of the directors of the KU chapter of the College Equal Suffrage League, organized in January 1909, and an early member of the Zodiac Club, a community group with strong University ties that focused on continuing education for women. In 1916, when the first transcontinental phone call on campus simultaneously connected Mount Oread with KU alumni in New York and California, she was invited to participate, a moment she recounted in 1923, when she was also included in the first University radio broadcast:

"To hear the voices and the remarks of well-known alumni at such a distance was so wonderful and exciting that I could not go to sleep that night. Now I am becoming thrilled over this radio meeting—another sleepless night I suppose. It overcomes me when I realize that so many KU friends can hear me speaking or at least I hope they hear."



Watson (right) in the librarian's office in Spooner Hall, KU's first freestanding library building, which was completed in 1894.

**During** Watson's tenure, KU's library evolved dramatically, from a few shelves of books in the corner of a room in Old Fraser Hall to the first dedicated library building in Spooner Hall in 1894. The collection nearly doubled in size from 55,000 in 1907 to more than 100,000 by 1915. By the early 1920s, Spooner library was bursting at the seams with around 150,000 volumes, and more student and staff workspaces were desperately needed.

Watson and KU faculty advocated for the library's needs to Chancellor Ernest H. Lindley, who urged the Kansas Legislature to fund a new library. The Legislature provided \$250,000, a sum that Lindley and advocates feared insufficient. The amount rose slightly to \$310,000, and construction of the new library began in 1923.

Many alumni and prominent Kansans, including William Allen White, 1890, and then-Gov. Jonathan M. Davis, wanted the new library named after Carrie Watson in honor of her dedication and decades

## A century at the heart of campus

Read about Watson Library's construction and expansion through the decades, browse Roaring '20s literature, and view the lineup of events this fall celebrating Watson's centennial at [lib.ku.edu/watson100](http://lib.ku.edu/watson100).

**“I have loved people and I have done my best to serve the students who came to the library.”**

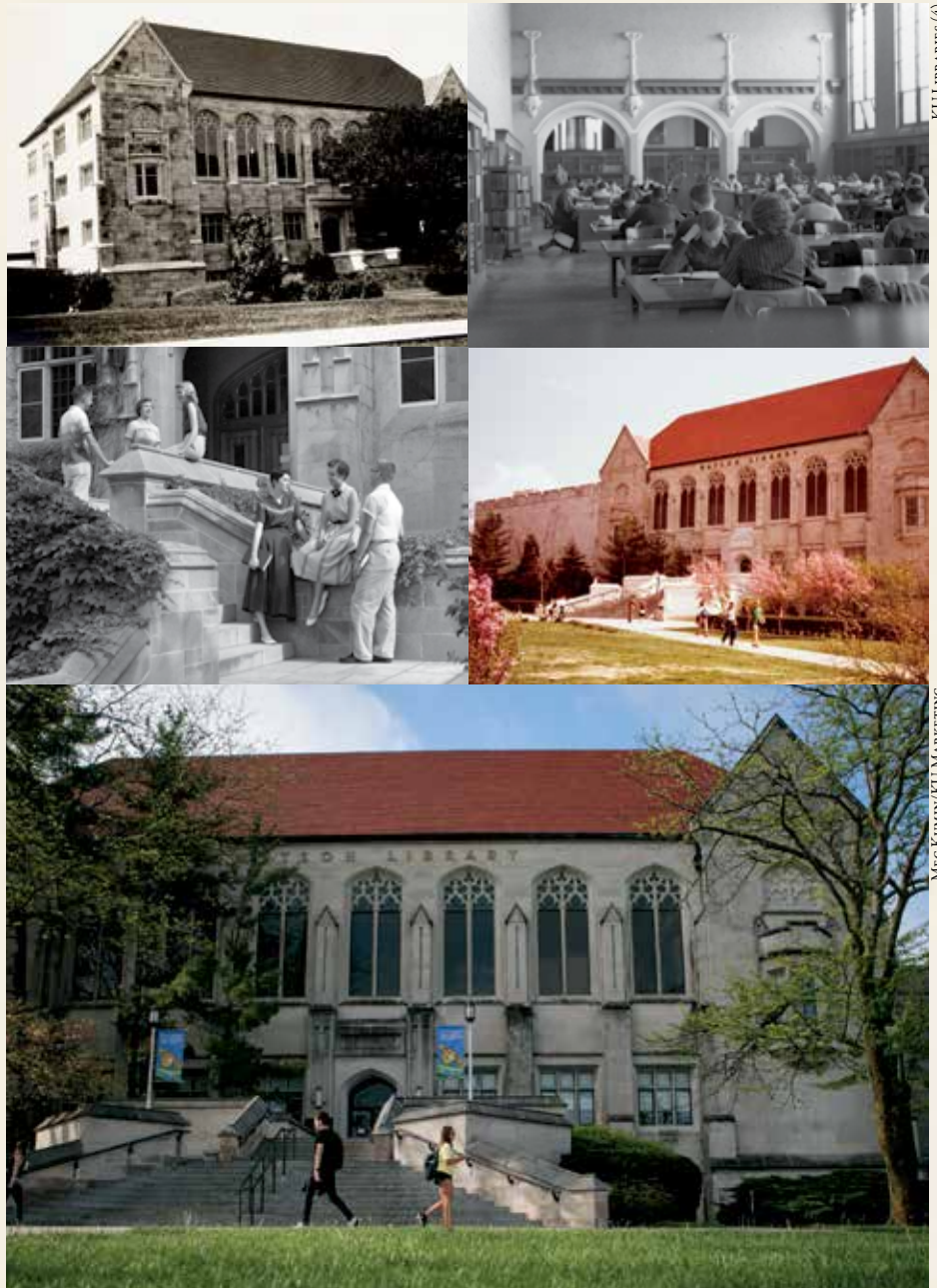
of work. Chancellor Lindley opposed the naming, though it's unclear whether his objection reflected his view of Watson or his long-standing clashes with Davis. Regardless, Watson's supporters mounted a successful campaign to the State Board of Administration, which named the building in her honor.

In September 1924, the week Watson Library opened, *The University Daily Kansan* declared:

“(Watson Library) is the dream of the woman for whom it was named—a woman who has graduated from the University and has spent her life working for the real laboratory of the student body. Since her graduation from school Miss Watson has been building up the library. It was at the very beginning of the growth of the library that Miss Watson began her efforts to make the library one which was worthy of Kansas. She has succeeded. Her efforts have proved worthwhile. She is appreciated—and Watson hall stands.”

Watson herself may have summed up her legacy best as she looked back on her career in 1931: “I have loved people and I have done my best to serve the students who came to the library.”

—Conover, g'02, is communications coordinator for KU Libraries.



A Mount Oread monument through the generations (from top, left to right): Watson Library in 1930, 1939, 1954, 1988 and today.



1920



1923



1929

## Life at KU in the 1920s

In September 1924, as students began turning pages beneath the light of Watson Library’s grand Gothic windows, life on campus buzzed with the electricity of the era. Phog Allen had coached a conference championship basketball team the previous semester; graduates had walked down the Hill as part of Commencement for the first time; and the first student union was under construction along Jayhawk Boulevard.

Notes from the Office of the Registrar list 3,788 students on the Lawrence campus and 105 at the medical school in Kansas City in 1924—compared with about 28,000 across five campuses today.

KU did not charge tuition, but students did incur fees and had to cover supplies and living expenses. The 1924 undergraduate catalog lists average room rent at nearby boarding houses at \$10 a month. These off-campus living options were regulated by a University Senate committee on health and housing that approved rooming houses for men or women. The first residence hall at KU, Corbin Hall, had opened to female students in the fall of 1923 and housed 124 women.

Information provided to incoming students estimated that a student’s overall expenses, including books and supplies as well as room and board, should range from \$40 to \$80 a month, advis-

ing that “less than \$40 is likely to cause injury to health or morale” and “more than \$80 is fairly certain to interfere with the real aims of college life.”

Many students worked on and around campus. The 1924 catalog states that about half supported themselves through jobs that included stenographer, clerk, cook, dishwasher and furnace tender.

In 1924, Cora Downs became the first woman to earn a KU doctorate. Downs, c1915, g1920, PhD1924, went on to serve as a faculty member in microbiology until her retirement in 1963.

KFKU came on the air in December 1924, and the KU Band premiered “I’m a Jayhawk” during the 1920s, by which time the band’s presence at sporting events had become a tradition.

The atmosphere of the 1920s at KU, in Kansas and around the country included excitement and the promise of new possibilities. Along with expanded opportunity in some areas, the period also involved restrictions such as Prohibition and the realities of systemic discrimination and racial oppression. Like the foxtrot and Charleston dances that were emblematic of the time, the 1920s were a blend of slow, quick strides and directional changes that invited KU and the nation to step to a whole new beat.

—W.C.

KU LIBRARIES (4)



Clockwise from top left: Jayhawk Boulevard in 1920; an ice cream wagon visiting campus in 1926; Corbin Hall in 1925; the 1923-'24 KU men’s basketball team.



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COURTESY PHOTOS (2)



Korell



Wiggans

## ALUMNI AWARDS

**Stellar service***Ellsworth medallion goes to valiant Jayhawks*

TWO GRADUATES with outstanding volunteer records are the 2024 recipients of the Association's highest award for KU loyalty and dedication. The national Board of Directors celebrated Brad Korell, l'97, and Tom Wiggans, p'75, as Fred Ellsworth Medallion honorees on Sept. 12 at the Jayhawk Welcome Center. The annual event was a prelude to the board's fall meeting.

A tradition since 1975, the medallion commemorates the standard of service set by Ellsworth, c1922, who led the Association from 1929 to 1963 and earned the nickname "Mr. KU" for his leadership in forging connections with countless alumni and friends.

Korell, who lives in Edwards, Colorado, and Palm Desert, California, first volunteered as an alumni network organizer in Dallas and Austin, Texas, while he also began his law career, founding the firm of Korell & Frohlin LLP, which he continues to lead. As a local ambassador for KU, leading two alumni groups simultaneously and stepping up to represent KU Admissions during local college fairs, Korell earned the Association's Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award in 2011 for

sustained volunteer service. The award honors the legacy of Clodfelter, b'41, whose 47-year KU career included 41 years at the Association and friendships with countless Jayhawks.

Korell represented fellow alumni on the KU Memorial Unions Corp. board from 2005 to 2010. He joined the Association's national board in 2006, serving until 2011, including a stint on the Executive Committee. With his husband, Justin McNulty, assoc., he attended and contributed to numerous Rock Chalk Balls in Kansas City. They are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

For KU Endowment, Korell is a trustee and member of the development committee. With McNulty, he is a donor to the Chancellors Club, and they belong to the Jayhawk Faithful and the Elizabeth Watkins Society.

As a KU law graduate, Korell contributes to the School of Law and has served on the alumni Board of Governors. Korell and McNulty are Kansas Athletics season ticket holders and benefactors.

Linda Ellis Sims, a fellow KU Endowment trustee and a 2011 Ellsworth

medallion recipient, met Korell when she lived for many years in Houston, where she organized local Jayhawks. "The two things I see most in Brad are pride and passion—his pride for being a Jayhawk and his passion for sharing how important his education in the law school was in life and in his practice," says Sims, e'79, who now lives in Independence, Missouri. "Brad has a great way to connect people and identify opportunities. I think one of his real strengths is the ability to talk with honesty and give advice on what might be in the best long-term interest of KU."

Wiggans, who lives in Pebble Beach, California, is chairman and CEO of Pardes Biosciences, the latest leadership role in his long career as a pharmaceutical executive and entrepreneur. He founded Dermira, which he also led as CEO, and he guided several other companies, including Excaliard Pharmaceuticals and Peplin, as CEO and chairman.

He began his KU leadership as a student, serving as president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, a member of the Interfraternity Council and a student government officer.

For the Association, he and his wife, Kathy, assoc., are Life Members and Presidents Club donors who also have supported the Rock Chalk Ball.

They are members of KU Endowment's Chancellors Club, the Jayhawk Faithful and the Elizabeth Watkins Society. He is a longtime KU Endowment trustee and member of the audit and development committees. Through the years he has helped guide major campaigns, serving on the Far Above steering committee from 2012 to 2016 and the Kansas Athletics committee for the KU First campaign from 2001 to 2006.

For Athletics, the Wiggans are Hall of Fame members of the Williams Education Fund and season ticket holders.

Wiggans also has served on the advisory council for the School of Pharmacy, which in 2022 gave him its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Dan Martin, KU Endowment president, cites Wiggans' guidance and financial support of varied KU programs and orga-

nizations in pharmacy, the humanities and athletics. “He has really invested through KU Endowment to touch every avenue and every aspect of the University,” says Martin, g’93, l’93, EdD’98. “He also has shared his time and talent, especially his leadership and the experience he has gained in industry. He has brought that back to KU through his thoughtful insights on challenges and issues at the University.”

CAREERS

## Meet and greet

### *Mocktails & Mingle series prepares students for networking*

WHETHER WE’RE gregarious or shy, most of us know the dread of walking into a gathering of strangers for awkward introductions and small talk—especially if a professional or social event requires us to “work the room.” How do we start conversations? How do we join discussions without barging in? And how do we politely exit and move on before we’re trapped?

Enter Mocktails & Mingle, a series of events to help students gain experience in navigating a room and making small talk with substance. The Association’s Jayhawk Career Network, in partnership with the University Career Center, various academic units and KU groups, hosts these gath-

erings at the Jayhawk Welcome Center to connect students with alumni, community professionals, and faculty and staff.

During the 2023-’24 academic year, five events drew a combined 259 students and 117 professionals, averaging 52 students and 23 volunteers at each occasion.

In postevent surveys, students reported meeting an average of 4.5 networkers at each Mocktails & Mingle, resulting in 1,165 total combined interactions, according to Howard Graham, the Association’s senior director of career and professional development.

The success, including favorable reviews from participants, has spurred the team to increase the number of events for the 2024-’25 academic year; five are on tap for the fall semester—all at the Welcome Center:

- Sept. 4—Fall 2024 Preview (for campus partners and student leaders)
- Sept. 18—Health Professionals
- Oct. 24—Classroom to C-Suite
- Oct. 30—Arts & Design
- Nov. 4—First-Generation Students

Three more events are already planned for the spring, including sessions devoted to science, international careers, and nonprofit organizations and public service. Additional sessions are in the works.

Staff members from the Association and the Career Center make sure that neither the students nor the volunteers walk into

the events cold. Before each session, Graham, g’09, PhD’20, sends information on best practices and students’ expectations to alumni, friends, faculty and staff, and he invites them to arrive 30 minutes early. “We want to make sure that alumni and friends in the community get time to talk to one another before turning their attention to networking with current students,” he says.

The Career Center team offers similar practice runs for students, says Wendy Shoemaker, program director, and the rehearsals pay off in productive connections. “The Mocktails & Mingle sessions are a bright star in our career program offerings,” says Shoemaker, EdD’23. “I am so pleased by how we have built them up to be warm, welcoming and instructional experiences for both students and working professionals and alumni. Networking is such an important skill, and there is no better way to learn than a practice session with friendly KU alumni and community members. I’ve had alumni tell me how much they have enjoyed their conversations with students at these events—a few told me that they learned a thing or two from students.”

For spring dates or to register for Mocktails & Mingle, alumni can visit [kualumni.org/ku-connection](http://kualumni.org/ku-connection). Students can register at [career.ku.edu](http://career.ku.edu).



Last year’s Mocktails & Mingle events included a session for first-generation students and other receptions devoted to varied academic and professional fields.

DAN STOREY (2)

## ASSOCIATION

## Board welcomes volunteer leaders

*Officers, new directors began their terms July 1*

THE ASSOCIATION ushered in the 2024-'25 fiscal year with the election of officers and seven new directors to the national board.

Each year the board accepts alumni nominations for new directors from Jan. 1 to March 1, and the Nominating Committee meets in April to recommend a slate of candidates for the full board's consideration at its spring meeting, which this year occurred April 26-27 on KU Medical Center's Kansas City campus.

F. Taylor Burch leads the organization as the 2024-'25 national chair after serving one year as chair-elect. Burch, p'88, g'90, PharmD'09, of Lantana, Texas, is currently a global operations consultant for Eli Lilly and Co., where he has worked for more than 20 years. He crafts strategy and supports the company's medical affairs teams worldwide. As a three-time School of Pharmacy graduate, he continues to serve the school as a volunteer and donor. He returns to Lawrence frequently as a guest lecturer for first-year students, and he created an endowed scholarship named for his father. He also assists KU Admissions in recruiting new Jayhawks. He and his wife, Lisa Howell Burch, c'92, served on KU Endowment's Far Above campaign committee for the pharmacy school. They are Alumni Association Life Members and Presidents Club donors. Their daughter, Allie, c'23, is a Jayhawk.

Burch succeeds Michael Happe, j'94, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, who remains on the board for an additional year as immediate past chair. Happe is president and CEO of Winnebago Industries and last November was named the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young Global. Before moving to Winnebago in 2016, Happe spent two decades in senior leadership roles with The Toro Co. He majored in broad-



Burch



Courtright



Happe

COURTESY PHOTOS (3)

cast news at KU and earned his master's in business administration from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Shannon Fitzsimmons-Happe, j'94, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

The new chair-elect is Joe Courtright, p'89, of Little Rock, Arkansas. He is principal of the investment firm Dale Capital Partners Inc. following his career as a national leader of retail pharmacies and an entrepreneur, including seven years as president and CEO of USA Drug, which sold to Walgreens in 2012. Courtright also co-founded Natural State Medicinals in 2017 and served as its chair until early 2022. He served on the School of Pharmacy Advisory Council and helped lead fundraising for pharmacy programs during KU Endowment's KU First and Far Above campaigns. He received the school's Distinguished Service Award in 2017. He has hosted many events in his home for the Association and KU Admissions, and he is a Life Member and Presidents Club donor.

Board members also elected seven new directors, who began their five-year terms July 1:

- **Joseen Bryant**, g'19, Crown Point, Indiana
- **Glen Cox**, c'77, m'80, g'05, g'05, Leawood
- **Chip Hilleary**, d'94, Columbus, Ohio, and Bonita Springs, Florida
- **Gautham Reddy**, b'93, m'97, Wichita
- **Jim Small**, j'87, New York City
- **Francie Firner Stoner**, c'72, c'73, Weston, Missouri
- **Leah Masonbrink Vomhof**, d'02, g'12, Overland Park

Bryant is a primary care sports medicine physician with Endeavor Health, formerly NorthShore University Health System, in the Chicago area. She earned her master's in business administration from KU, her medical degree from the University of Tennessee, and her undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University. With other physicians, she leads a State of Illinois pilot program that aims to decrease health care inequity by embedding specialty care in underserved communities. She completed advanced leadership training through the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Executive Education program. Bryant and her partner, Jessica Genovese, assoc., are Life Members.

Cox joined the School of Medicine's radiology faculty in 1984. In addition to his bachelor's and medical degrees, he earned KU graduate degrees in business administration and health services administration. He is the immediate past president of the KU Medical Alumni Association board and a Life Member. He was recently elected to the board of trustees of the medical school's Distinguished Medical Teaching Fund. He served as the school's vice dean from 2001 to '08 and as its senior associate dean for medical education from 2012 to '15, helping to create a new health education curriculum. He chaired the department of health policy and management from 2008 to '14. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the school in 2014 and received the Leadership Luminary Award from the Radiology Leadership Institute of the American College of Radiology in 2016. He is now professor emeritus in the departments of radiology



Bryant



Cox



Hilleary



Reddy



Small



Stoner



Vomhof

and population health. He and his wife, Karen Templeton Cox, b'82, established a professorship in radiology and a scholarship fund in the department of chemistry on the Lawrence campus.

Hilleary recently retired after a 25-year career as an entrepreneur and business leader in the printing and marketing industry. As the former owner of both Central Ohio Graphics and WestCamp, he played a pivotal role in establishing both companies as trusted providers on a national scale. After selling his company to his employees last year, he participates in a number of philanthropic efforts aimed at enhancing education and community welfare in his hometown of Westerville, Ohio. As a student, he was a four-year player on the Kansas football team, earning honors as a first team All-Big Eight quarterback and Academic All-Big Eight. He earned his bachelor's degree in sports management in 1994. In retirement, he continues his entrepreneurial ventures through Chilleary LLC. He and his wife, Tiffany, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Reddy is a physician and founding partner of Neurology Consultants of Kansas in Wichita, the largest private neurology group in the state. He is a volunteer instructor for the KU family medicine residency program, teaching residents who rotate through his clinic for a monthlong elective in neurology. He grew up in Hill City and was a Kansas Honor Scholar before coming to KU, where he was a leader in Pearson Scholarship Hall. He is a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education, and he and his wife, Rebecca Harrington Reddy, c'94, m'98, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors. Their children are current KU students Jenavi and Vijay and alumna Mia, c'24.

Small is senior vice president, international for Major League Baseball and president of the World Baseball Classic (see Jayhawk Profiles, issue No. 2). He is a veteran of more than 40 years in the sports industry, almost all of it in professional

baseball, including stints with teams and the league office. He oversaw MLB's Asia business for 16 years based in Tokyo. As a student, he was a sports reporter for The University Daily Kansan, and he has continued to support the School of Journalism. He also returned to campus earlier this semester to speak to current students as a volunteer for the Jayhawk Career Network. He and his wife, Michal, assoc., are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Stoner retired from the former Cerner Corp. as vice president after 29 years. She is the founder and president of LAUGHH Foundation (Live Abundantly Using Guided Helping Hands), a nonprofit organization that helps people adopt healthier lifestyles through knowledge and activities in gardening, nutrition, cooking and exercise. She travels to Santander, Colombia, to work with schools and communities and leads an annual health and wellness experience that educates and cares for about 1,000 patients each year. For KU Endowment, she was a founding member of Women Philanthropists for KU, and she and her husband, Bill, are Chancellors Club members. For the School of Health Professions, she is president of the Board of Advocates and a member of the Alumni Association board as well as a Life Member. In the school's clinical laboratory sciences program, she is a volunteer clinical assistant professor and advisory board member. The Stoners are Alumni Association Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Vomhof is principal of Blue Valley Northwest High School and a longtime volunteer for the Association's Kansas City Network, which she currently leads as board president. She has volunteered for the Rock Chalk Ball and the Kansas City Network golf tournament, and she first joined the network board in 2019. Most recently, she served as a mentor through the Jayhawk Career Network. As a student, she was a new student orientation assistant and a member of KU Crew. She and her husband, Arlan, assoc., are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.



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## Jayhawk Profiles



DAVE KENDALL

### 'Heart connection' draws documentarian to Flint Hills

by STEVEN HILL

For 27 years, Dave Kendall produced and hosted the popular “Sunflower Journeys” television show broadcast on KTWU, the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliate in Topeka. In 13 annual episodes, he introduced viewers to interesting people and places across Kansas. Many of those stories focused on one of the state’s most singular regions—the rolling tallgrass prairies of the Flint Hills.

When Kendall, c’76, g’83, decided to strike out on his own in 2015, founding Prairie Hollow Productions, the documentary films he made continued to draw inspiration from the history and culture of the area. The independent production company’s subjects have included the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, influential women of the Flint Hills, the historic Santa Fe Trail and, most recently, a comprehensive look at how climate change is affecting

the region and the greater Midwest: “Hot Times in the Heartland,” which debuted earlier this year on KTWU and KCPT, Kansas City’s PBS affiliate.

That broad body of work helped earn Kendall the 2024 Friend of the Flint Hills Award in April. Bestowed by the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, the honor recognizes people who help advance the organization’s mission of preserving and celebrating the Flint Hills, site of America’s largest remaining expanse of native tallgrass prairie.

“Dave Kendall has provided the microphone and camera lens for years so people can enjoy an audiovisual record of the natural beauty and attraction of the Flint Hills, its people and industries,” Jack Lindquist, Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation president, said in announcing the award. “His gift of storytelling has and will continue to assist the Flint Hills Discovery Center and Foundation to meet its mission of cultivating a greater passion to value, preserve and protect our native tallgrass prairie and hills for the benefit of all.”

Kendall’s own “greater passion” for the region bloomed after he left Kansas for California in the 1970s.

“It’s a lot easier to create evocative images when you have something like the Flint Hills to work with,” says Dave Kendall of the enduring attraction the unique prairie ecosystem holds for him as a storyteller. “Plus it’s just a nice place to be out working in.”

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After studying for three years at Kansas State University, Kendall had transferred to KU. He eventually completed his degree in cultural geography with correspondence courses while living in the Bay Area.

Home on a visit with his family in Herington, where he grew up on a farm his great-great-grandfather homesteaded in the 1850s, Kendall was driving across the Flint Hills on K-4 when he stopped at a scenic overlook to savor the view.

“The contrast between the congestion of the Bay Area and the wide-open rolling hills of the Flint Hills was really notable,” Kendall says. “For me, it was like, ‘Oh, man, I feel more relaxed here.’ It seemed like there was something more grounded about being here.”

He came back to KU to earn a master’s degree in media anthropology. Working with Don Stull and other anthropology faculty, he made his first documentary film, about the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, which aired on KTWU. Kendall landed a job with the station and was asked to launch a local show in a magazine format. He and two other producers conceived “Sunflower Journeys” from scratch.

“It was up to the three of us to determine how we would put a series together,” he says. “We needed a host, and neither of the other two guys wanted to do it, so I said, ‘OK, I’ll be the host.’ We didn’t have a staff photographer, so I’d go out and shoot my own standups. I’d set the camera up, walk around in front and do my thing, then rewind and look at it. Kind of clunky, but it got the ball rolling.”

It was a big step for a self-described “shy farm boy,” but Kendall found he enjoyed telling stories about Kansas, and the Flint Hills in particular.

“About that time people were starting to take another look at the Flint Hills and what it has to offer,” he says. The book *PrairyErth*, by William Least Heat-Moon; a National Geographic photo essay by Jim Richardson; and the launch of the Discovery Center and the annual Symphony in the Flint Hills—which Kendall hosted as master of ceremonies for 11 years—contributed to a growing appreciation for the unique ecosystem, he says.

“I think all these things started putting more of a spotlight on the Flint Hills. More people started recognizing the value of getting out in these open spaces and started developing a sense of reverence about the hills, almost a spiritual connection, a heart connection, with the place.”

The acknowledgment this spring that his own work—at “Sunflower Journeys” and Prairie Hollow Productions—contributed to that growing appreciation feels good.

“I like that idea. It gives me a warm feeling that I am recognized that way,” he says of the Friend of the Flint Hills Award.

But he also hopes that films like “Hot Times in the Heartland,” which looks at the threat climate change poses for the Midwest, can bring people together to preserve the region’s special character.

“I’m using whatever social capital I have, in the sense that I came into people’s living rooms for 27 years,” Kendall says of taking on the divisive issue. “Hopefully they trust I’m not trying to propagandize, but trying to help people understand what’s going on.”

“It’s a massive problem, a challenge well beyond the Flint Hills, and it’s like, ‘What can any of us do about this?’ I make documentaries, so I can address it in a documentary that focuses on the local impact of climate change and how people are responding. It just felt like something I could do.”

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Dan Chmill’s extensive “We Bathe the World” project highlights the impact of African Americans in developing the famed bathhouses of Hot Springs National Park.

**DAN CHMILL**

## Dissertation leads historian to unexpected career path

by MICHAEL PEARCE

**T**hrough 11 years of higher education, history student Dan Chmill never saw a career working in a national park.

That changed during his time at KU, when he visited Hot Springs National Park and began investigating the history of the African Americans who worked there for decades.

Chmill, a ranger and historian at the central Arkansas park, is teaching others how African Americans helped build and maintain several spas that attracted visitors from all over the world who hoped to find healing in the legendary waters. While working, they helped themselves, their co-workers and their race, too.

“Their story isn’t just that so many African Americans worked at Hot Springs,” says Chmill, PhD’22. “It’s also how so many took advantage of their situation at Hot Springs. They got important jobs, got organized, formed pseudo-unions and really benefited themselves financially. They held a lot of sway in the community and won elected positions.”



COURTESY DAN CHMILL

Barred for more than eight decades from bathing in the waters where they worked, the African American staff helped end segregation in the park and contributed to the Civil Rights Movement, Chmill says.

The Pennsylvania native first visited Hot Springs National Park in 2018, while working on a doctorate in history at KU. His dissertation, “Taking the Waters: A Hydrological History of Health and Leisure in Hot Springs National Park,” contained a chapter on the role African Americans played in developing and maintaining the region’s famed “bathhouse row.” That chapter turned into the focus of his current career.

A major part of Chmill’s job is a project called “We Bathe the World,” which investigates those roles of African Americans at Hot Springs. His findings are displayed at the park visitor center. He also does speaking engagements and works with the media.

He has collected information from over 1,000 sources, including those who worked at Hot Springs or their descendants, over 250 magazine or newspaper articles, and census reports as far back as 1870.

Chmill’s research and presentations are especially appreciated by local African Americans.

“We have an African proverb that says, ‘When an old man dies, a library burns,’” says Marsalis Weatherspoon, president of the Hot Springs branch of the NAACP.

“A lot of us grew up hearing the stories, but having Dr. Chmill go to such lengths researching it and making it so available to the public is so very important. It’s taken time to get this kind of important information out there. Whenever it comes, we’re so very grateful.”

Chmill credits KU for helping develop his passion for the subject.

“Time with Shawn Alexander (professor and chair of KU’s African and African-American studies department) really encouraged me to start digging deep into the history of race and the environment,” Chmill says. “There are so many stories here to be told.”

For centuries Native Americans came to the valley with 47 individual hot springs, which have an average surface temperature



of 140 degrees. In 1832 the U.S. government designated the region a national reservation to help protect the springs, which were thought to have medicinal powers.

After the Civil War, the region saw tremendous growth as railroads came to the area. People from all over the nation visited for stays of three weeks or more, hoping to heal assorted ailments at “bathhouse row,” which included eight different bathhouses in what would officially become a national park in 1921.

The bathhouse industry boomed in the 1880s and attracted African Americans searching for jobs. Workers included both those who’d once been enslaved and those from the North whose families had been free for generations.

Jobs at the bathhouses often required specialized training to follow doctors’ orders for bathing guests, wrapping them in wet towels and giving specific massages, Chmill says. By 1900 many workers had incomes that placed them in a growing African American middle class. The pay allowed many to travel and secure good medical care, rarities in many African American communities.

Barred from park waters by segregation, African Americans built their own bathhouses a quarter-mile away. Some of the nation’s most prominent African Americans came to those bathhouses, which became a popular meeting place as the Civil Rights Movement unfolded in America.

A 1963 “bathe-in” by prominent African American leaders at a whites-only bathhouse drew national attention and led to successful talks to end segregation at the park. By then, Chmill says, attendance was declining.

“It really started to go down after World War II. People could get an over-the-counter anti-inflammatory pill. They no longer needed to dedicate three weeks at a bathhouse to feel better.”

Today two bathhouses at Hot Springs National Park cater to tourists, who may spend just a day or two at the springs. It’s hoped they also spend time in the visitor center, learning from Chmill’s research.

“These people served their park, they served their community, and they served

each other well. What they did was important in so many ways,” he says. “People need to know about them.”

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

## TAYLOR BUSSINGER

### From so-so student to lauded teacher to dinner at the White House

by DAVID GARFIELD

It was a “surreal” and humbling moment that Taylor Bussinger says he’ll never forget: Bussinger, d’14, g’19, in September 2023 was named the 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year—chosen from seven other finalists and more than 120 nominees—at a Wichita ceremony.

“I was shocked,” says Bussinger, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Olathe’s Prairie Trail Middle School for 10 years. “I don’t even consider myself the best teacher within a three-class radius of my building.”

The Lawrence native and resident hugged his wife, Jill Nowak Bussinger, d’12, g’16, and thought about his parents, who worked as Dillons grocery managers for a combined 88 years. “I’m a first-gener-

ation college grad,” Bussinger says. “How much they sacrificed for me.”

A beloved “high-energy” teacher, Bussinger was welcomed back to his school with a parade. He says teaching is about inspiring curiosity, uplifting student voices and “striving to make students feel understood and valued.” That lofty goal, he says, is achieved with “authenticity and showing genuine care for another human being.”

“Having those real-world conversations, asking about their family and friends, is gold for me because I hear about who they are,” Bussinger says. “Some of the biggest things that make me feel good about teaching is when kids tell me, ‘Your classroom feels like family, a community.’”

Former student Ellie Willson still feels the love. In her nomination letter, Willson said Bussinger was a “life-changing” teacher with a “classroom environment that fosters collaboration and community at an unparalleled level.”

Bussinger, known as Mr. Buss to his students, describes himself as a “lifelong learner in my classroom” and says he approaches education holistically: “It’s not about the end goal—the grades—but it’s learning who we are, what our passions are.” He prepares students for their own lifelong learning adventures by developing critical thinking, empathy and personal skills.

“Teaching is the best job there is,” Bussinger says. “I don’t know who I am outside of teaching. We have the power



Taylor and Jill Bussinger with first lady Jill Biden at a White House ceremony honoring national Teacher of the Year winners. President Biden briefly joined the group after arriving on the South Lawn in Marine One as dinner was underway.

COURTESY TAYLOR BUSSINGER

to change the trajectory of someone’s entire life, add value to people who have to change the world. It makes me a better person as I reflect on how I’m showing up in the world for young people. The one constant that remains is that people need other people; I need my students just as much as they need me.”

Bussinger’s teaching journey sparked as a struggling “B, C, D” student at Lawrence High when he became involved in peer education through prevention specialist Diane Ash, assoc., who spoke at elementary and middle schools about bullying, drugs and alcohol. “I saw my passion,” he says, “for talking about real-life stuff with other kids.”

Bussinger, who “liked the idea of transforming what education could be, because growing up I was never concerned about the bottom line of my grade,” attended Emporia State University and Johnson County Community College before transferring to KU, where everything finally clicked while learning social studies curric-

ulum with Joe O’Brien, associate professor emeritus. Bussinger earned his education degree and became a social studies teacher at Prairie Trail, where then-girlfriend Jill Nowak was already teaching math. They teach down the hall from each other and both coach cross-country. “It feels like home,” Bussinger says.

He’s traveled the state for a year with the other seven finalists, advocating for teachers and students at colleges, and solo for the Kansas Future Teachers Academy and other organizations. He describes his statewide outreach as “the best professional development of my life,” and his official travels even took him to Washington, D.C., where he and Teacher of the Year winners from across the country met with legislators on Capitol Hill and members of President Biden’s cabinet, toured Smithsonian museums, and were hosted at a White House dinner by first lady Jill Biden.

“I’ll be processing that,” he says, “probably for a lifetime.”

Bussinger smiles while sharing a story about encountering a Marine guard stationed at the summit of a White House staircase who said to him, “I have a message for you.”

“Oh gosh, what did I do?” Bussinger recalls with a laugh. “And he says, ‘Rock Chalk!’ He’s a KU grad, related to Phog Allen. We kind of nerded out and talked about KU stuff.”

A “music junkie,” Bussinger has an arm tattoo, inspired by a Dave Matthews Band lyric, that epitomizes his life and profession: When you give, you begin to live.

“I’m constantly thinking what it means to be a human being. What are we here for? It’s connecting to people. If I’m giving as much energy to what I’m involved in, that’s when I’m truly living. When I’m giving 110% to teaching, I feel really alive, loving my job. It’s a calling.”

—Garfield, c’88, is a Lawrence freelance writer and longtime contributor to Kansas Alumni.



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ASHLEY WILLIAMSON

## Jayhawk guides urban agriculture group

by NOELLE HUSMANN

Tucked in cities throughout the U.S. are small orchards that yield big returns, providing free, fresh produce and contributing to communities' health and vitality. A School of Social Welfare alumna is at the helm of the thriving initiative.

Ashley Williamson, g'17, is co-executive director of The Giving Grove, a Kansas City-based nonprofit founded in 2013 that supports communities across the country in engaging local volunteers to plant and care for these neighborhood food sources. Today, there are more than 600 Giving Grove orchards in 15 U.S. cities, from Seattle to Dallas to Pittsburgh. The organization focuses on areas that face high rates of food insecurity, and it estimates the community-managed spaces can collectively produce more than 91 million servings of food over their lifetime.

A lifelong love of gardening drew Williamson to the cause. "I've had a drive to grow food since I was a child," she says. "As I became an adult, I used creative ways to grow food, whether it was secretly in my apartment gardens or on my porches and balconies. It felt revolutionary to me—to start things from seed, to grow and store food." She also valued the many ways The Giving Grove's work ripples out to positively impact communities. "Beyond being a perennial food source, the orchards are an educational resource for schools, and you see Giving Groves used by many therapists and rehabilitation centers for mental health and well-being," Williamson says. She adds that the orchards also furnish valuable green space in urban settings and serve as "third spaces" that allow community members to gather and connect.

A Kansas City native, Williamson studied journalism and international studies at Loyola University Chicago, and after earning her bachelor's degree, she joined the Peace Corps and spent time in Mauritania and Rwanda. Upon returning to Kansas

City, she began researching graduate programs and learned of KU's master's in social welfare with macro specialization, which prepares students for leadership positions in organizations and communities. "After reading through the coursework, I knew the focus on policy, advocacy and administration was the right fit," Williamson says. She attended on KU's Edwards campus, and for her practicum worked at the Women's Employment Network, where she stayed on staff for four years after completing her master's.

Williamson had come across Giving Grove orchards in Kansas City—there are more than 200—several times before she learned they were part of a coordinated effort. "It was at my nephew's preschool when I saw a group of people outside planting trees in their outdoor classroom," she recalls. The volunteer group told her about the organization, and Williamson was amazed at all the different fruit trees that could flourish in her hometown. "There were plants I never knew could grow in Kansas City," she says. "I was introduced to native species like pecans, pawpaw, persimmon and aronia berries."

The Giving Grove's mission is to provide healthy calories, strengthen communities and improve urban environments by supplying the trees, tools and training to grow a fruitful orchard. These little orchards can include fruit trees—apple, Asian pear and cherry are common—along with nut trees and berry brambles. The Giving Grove offers comprehensive resources to guide volunteers through establishing and maintaining the orchards, from managing pests and diseases to timing the harvests, and each plant variety is well researched to ensure it suits the location. Fast-bearing, easy-to-harvest blackberries are a favorite to grow at schools, Williamson says: "(The children) get really excited about showing their parents and caretakers. The joy of picking something off a tree or bush and just eating it is a small pleasure that not everyone gets to experience."

Williamson started at The Giving Grove in 2021 as a chief replication officer and has been instrumental in bringing the organization's model to communities



COURTESY ASHLEY WILLIAMSON

Williamson

across the country. Now, as co-executive director alongside Erica Kratofil, she is focused on the operations side, which involves developing strategy, building partnerships and working closely with The Giving Grove's national network of affiliates and volunteers.

Williamson finds that her leadership position presents an opportunity to validate and uplift others. "Initially, I struggled to see myself in this position, because I hadn't encountered many executive directors who looked or carried themselves like me," she says. Mindful of that, Williamson says she does her best to bring her authentic self to all situations.

One way of showing her authentic self? Wearing her best pair of overalls to a recent speaking engagement.

"I thought about my outfit before I presented," she says, "and considered representations of all different kinds of leaders, whether that is me, as a queer woman of color in overalls, or others who have inspired me. You never know who is watching and who is thinking the same things that I used to think—that no other leaders look like me. In whatever you do, your voice, style and experiences are important. Let them shine."

Learn more about The Giving Grove and how you can get involved at [givinggrove.org](http://givinggrove.org).

ASSOCIATION

## New to the team

JANELLA WILLIAMS, marketing graphic designer, joined the Association June 3. A graduate of Fort Hays State University in fine arts and graphic design, she moved to Lawrence in 1998. She has worked for a newspaper and owned a freelance design business. For the Association, she designs publications, marketing materials, logos and infographics to promote various programs and events.



Williams

## Wichita Kickoff

DAN STOREY (2)



Joey, b'09, and Kathryn Krsnich and their children, Charlie and Libby, were among more than 300 alumni and friends who celebrated with Kansas football coach Lance Leipold Aug. 6 at the Wichita Kickoff. The event also featured Chancellor Doug Girod, Athletics Director Travis Goff, c'03, j'03, and Alumni Association President Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09. The Association and Kansas Athletics also hosted kickoffs Aug. 16 in Kansas City and Aug. 24 in Lawrence.

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**Chip Hilleary**, d'94, Columbus, Ohio, and Bonita Springs, Florida

**Gautham P. Reddy**, b'93, m'97, Wichita

**James D. Small**, j'87, New York, New York

**Francie Firner Stoner**, c'72, c'73, Weston, Missouri

**Leah Masonbrink Vomhof**, d'02, g'12, Overland Park



## New Life Members

*The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships May 1 through July 31. For information, visit [kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org) or call 800-584-2957.*

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Steven J. Bredehoeft  
Craig E. & Megan Shoup Brown  
Robert T. Brown  
Blake Bruno  
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Michael S. Collins  
Sydney E. A. Cook  
Stephanie S. Coon-Myers  
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Alexandra H. Corbin & Aaron B. Schifman  
Ryan R. Cunningham  
Cale G. & Ann Heidebrecht Dark  
James E. Davis  
Joshua L. & Amanda Woodward Davis  
Aubrey S. Dechant  
James C. Denbigh  
Emma R. DiNunzio  
William Doerries  
Stephanie G. & Zachary Dubinsky

Terry & Patricia Coe Dwyer  
Roger & Alisha Noll Elliott  
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Susan A. Fowler  
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Shannon P. Greene  
Shylee Grossman  
Kevin T. Hannon  
Sean R. & Jennifer Uthe Harris  
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Michael F. Henry  
Steven D. Hickman  
Judith Holden Hidalgo & Jorge Hidalgo-Gonzalez  
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Andrew C. Hoffsomme  
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Carsten Holtorf  
Zachary A. & Rebekah L. Horneck  
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Walker F. Janicke  
Linda J. Jassmann-Lane  
Wyatt W. Jensen  
Judith A. Johnson  
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Molly M. Kaemmer  
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Angela Karolina Killough  
Jacob & Stacy Blagg Kornelson  
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Tiffany A. Lammon

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Savannah Carter Legler  
Wendy Leon-Ryan  
Karen S. Lickteig  
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Jillian Roy  
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J. Curtis Sloan  
John L. & Whitney Sondall Smaha  
Julian W. Smith  
Suzanne Kujawa Smith & Joshua P. Smith  
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Marc A. Spencer  
Kevin L. & Karen D. Spradlin  
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Conner M. Teahan  
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Nelson C.E. & Melanie J.P. Townsend  
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Dylan Vander Veen  
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by MEGAN HIRT

**1958 Richard "Larry" Meuli**, c'58, m'62, in June was presented the 2024 Chamber Heart Award from the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his service to and passion for the city, where he has lived for 44 years. Larry is retired from a career in medicine and served 10 years in the Wyoming Legislature.

**1962 Fred Perry**, c'62, is a former businessman, Oklahoma state legislator and Tulsa County commissioner. Since his retirement in 2013, he has been an active volunteer and received numerous local and regional awards for his work as a children's welfare advocate. Fred and **Marcia Ediger Perry**, c'64, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in March and have lived in Tulsa for over 40 years.

**1967 Dick Grove**, j'67, g'68, is founder and CEO of INK Inc. Public Relations in Kansas City.

**Merikay Murphy Ringer**, d'67, is professor emerita of psychology at Louisiana State University Shreveport. She retired in 2006 and has lived in Kansas City since 2019.

**1968 David Preston**, j'68, is a former U.S. Air Force pilot and retired corporate chief pilot. He lives in Kansas City.

**1969 William Coates Jr.**, c'69, l'72, of counsel at Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice in Kansas City, is in his 52nd year practicing law and has tried 130 jury cases in federal and state courts in Kansas and Missouri. He is a former adjunct professor of trial advocacy in the School of Law. Bill and his wife, **Kathryn Hillyard Coates**, d'72, live in Prairie Village.

**1973 Steven Peterson**, d'73, is retired from a 45-year career in automotive after-market sales. He and his wife, Darcy, live in Fountain Hills, Arizona, with their dog, Zeus. They have two adult children, Lisa and Bryce, and two granddaughters.

**1975 Kevin Carver**, b'75, retired in December after a 35-year career with the federal government, most recently as a senior attorney with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. He lives in Olathe.

**Michael Loose**, e'75, in February was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He is retired as deputy chief of naval operations in the U.S. Navy.

**Lawton Nuss**, c'75, l'82, was selected to serve on the board of directors of All Rise, a nonprofit that advocates for justice system innovation that address-

es substance use and mental health disorders. He served as chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court from 2010 until his retirement in 2019.

**1976 Rebecca Gartung Lyons**, b'76, recently funded a scholarship for School of Business undergraduate students who have participated in the school's Summer Venture in Business, a program for high school students interested in business who are from under-represented groups. Rebecca is retired as vice president of supply chain operations at Johnson & Johnson, where she worked for over 30 years.

**Shirley Scheier**, f'76, is an artist and recently displayed her paintings and prints in a solo exhibition, "Sifting the Silence," at Jeanette Best Gallery in Port Townsend, Washington, where she lives. She is professor emerita at the University of Washington.

**1977 Donna Crabb Nyght**, n'77, g'93, DNP'10, recently retired as chair of KU's department of nurse anesthesia education, a position she'd held since 2007.

**1978 Patricia Bond**, c'78, wrote the children's book *Eight Days in a Gum Tree*, published in January. She is retired in Wilmington, North Carolina.

**Scott Jarus**, c'78, g'82, is an entrepreneur and business executive who has served as CEO and on the boards of directors of several public, private and nonprofit companies. As recent executive chairman of the board of EV Connect Inc., a supplier of electric vehicle charging and management systems, he facilitated the sale of the company to Schneider Electric. He lives in Southern California.

**1979 Karen Arnold-Burger**, c'79, l'82, chief judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals, in July was elected to the American Law Institute, an independent organization that produces scholarly works summarizing and clarifying the law.

**Gene Camarena**, b'79, and his wife, Yolanda, in June were inducted into the Kansas Business Hall of Fame. Gene is president and CEO of La Raza Pizza.

**Tim McNamara**, c'79, in April was appointed to a two-year term as dean of the college of arts and science at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. He began his career at Vanderbilt in 1983 as assistant professor of psychology.

**Nancy Schmidt-Brunson**, f'79, in July was named managing director of the St. Joseph Symphony in St. Joseph, Missouri.

#### 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

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

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**1980 Bryce Abbott**, c'80, retired in May after serving 23 years as a municipal court judge in Wichita. He and his wife, **Jana Deines-Abbott**, b'81, have two sons, **Logan**, p'16, PharmD'16, and **Reid**, e'19.

**Jack Stapleton**, m'80, was honored by the School of Medicine as its 2024 Distinguished Medical Alumnus. He is professor of internal medicine-infectious diseases, microbiology and immunology at the University of Iowa, where he also directs the Helen C. Levitt Center for Viral Pathogenesis. He and his wife, **Anne McKee Stapleton**, n'79, live in Iowa City.

**1982 Kevin Harlan**, j'82, a longtime sports announcer, was honored by the Minne-

sota Timberwolves as part of the team's 35th anniversary celebration on May 12, during a break in the Timberwolves' playoff game against the Denver Nuggets, which Kevin called for TNT. He was the voice of the Timberwolves for the team's first nine seasons and continues to call NBA, NFL and college basketball games for major TV networks.

**Stacey Leslie Lamb**, f'82, co-authored and illustrated *Hope and the Winds of Grief*, a book for children who have lost a loved one to suicide, published in May. She has illustrated numerous children's books and founded HAPPYtown, which provides activities and tools to help those navigating difficult circumstances. Stacey and her

husband, **Brent**, c'84, live in Lawrence.

**1983 Rebecca Winterscheidt**, l'83, is a partner at Snell & Wilmer in Phoenix and leads the law firm's immigration practice.

**1984 Patrick Hearn**, c'84, l'87, recently retired as a federal prosecutor after 36 years prosecuting at the local, state and federal levels. He was honored by the U.S. Department of Justice with its Assistant Attorney General's Award in 2006 and 2015. He and his wife, **Cari Hassig Hearn**, j'88, live near Washington, D.C.

**Kari Shanard-Koenders**, p'84, received the 2024 Lester E. Hosto Distinguished Service Award from the National Asso-

ciation of Boards of Pharmacy. She has been executive director of the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy since 2015.

**Kathy Thomas**, g'84, in June was appointed to the Healthcare Workforce Task Force, part of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, by Gov. Greg Abbott. She is retired as executive director of the Texas Board of Nursing.

**1985 Jenny Faw**, f'85, is a painter and commercial artist. She and her husband, Peter McDonald, live in Eastham, Massachusetts, where Jenny also leads watercolor workshops and teaches painting at the Eastham Senior Center.

**Mark Preut**, c'85, in May was named principal of Lawrence College & Career Center





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and the school district's adult education services and alternative programs.

**Denitta Ascue Ward**, c'85, lives in Denver, where she is director of constituent and immigration services for U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet.

**1986 Cheryl Roberts Knopf**, n'86, g'94, is an appeals clinician at CorroHealth.

**Brian McClendon**, e'86, was honored by the School of Engineering with its 2024 Distinguished Engineering Service Award. He was one of the primary drivers behind the creation of Google Earth and was vice president of engineering at Google for 10 years. He is a research professor in the department of electrical engineering & computer science and senior vice president of engineering at Niantic. Brian and his wife, Beth

Ellyn, live in Lawrence.

**Carrie Wood**, c'86, is an assistant clinical professor in the school of veterinary medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

**1987 Alan Bruflat**, PhD'87, in May was honored by Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, with its State Nebraska Bank & Trust Teaching Excellence Award. He is professor of language and literature and teaches Spanish at the college, where he has been on the faculty since 1990.

**Brian Caswell**, p'87, received the 2024 Distinguished Service Award from the School of Pharmacy. He has owned and operated Wolkar Drug in Baxter Springs for nearly 30 years.

**Maja Mataric**, c'87, was

honored by the Association for Computing Machinery with its 2024-'25 Athena Lecturer Award, which celebrates women researchers who have made fundamental contributions to computer science. Maja is distinguished professor of computer science at the University of Southern California, where she is founding director of the USC Robotics and Autonomous Systems Center. She is also a principal scientist at Google DeepMind.

**1988 Mark Farmer**, a'88, was promoted to associate principal at Lamar Johnson Collaborative, an architecture and design firm.

**Daniel Green**, c'88, is a territory sales representative for SurgiTel, a medical equipment company.

**Sonya Likins Jury**, a'88,

wrote *Mom Forgot My Birthday: A Daughter's Journey Through Alzheimer's*, a memoir, published earlier this year. She and her husband, Scott, '86, live in Kansas City.

**Kelly Ridgway Magee**, b'88, is CEO and founding partner of Q39 restaurants, which will open a downtown Lawrence location in October.

**1989 Vicki Smith Daniel**, c'89, g'92, in July was named dean of the employment experiences program at Bethel College in North Newton.

**Wynetta Massey**, l'89, in June was elected president of the Colorado Municipal League executive board. She is city attorney for Colorado Springs.

**Scott Nehrbass**, c'89, l'93, is a trial attorney and partner at the law firm Foulston

## Jayhawks: Fill out a Class Note at [kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org) to tell us what you're up to!

Siefkin in Kansas City. He and his wife, **Jennifer Harris Nehrbass**, e'91, met as members of the Marching Jayhawks.

**Michael Wheat**, '89, in April joined JLL, a real estate services firm, as managing director of its North Texas retail group.

**1990 Fatah Kashanchi**, PhD'90, is professor of virology and director of the laboratory of molecular virology at George Mason University in Virginia. He is co-founder of the American Society for Inter-cellular Communication.

**Ryan McCammon**, c'90, is the national coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey's National Atmospheric Deposition Program. He and his wife, **Dana Feldhausen McCammon**, '93, live in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

**Rakesh Mohan**, g'90, retired in June as director of the Idaho Office of Performance Evaluations, a state government watchdog agency, which he led for 21 years.

**Mark Taylor**, c'90, g'94, is a veterinarian and owns Taylor Veterinary Imaging in Overland Park.

**1991 Heather Whitted Brungardt**, g'91, in July became president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida.

**Steven Ellis**, m'91, is a physician at Head & Neck Surgery of Kansas City.

**Vince Vecchiarelli**, c'91, is senior vice president of sales and marketing at Healthy Together, a health technology company.

**Archana Gupta Wagle**, m'91, is medical director at UnityPoint Health's Trinity Pain Management Clinic in

Moline, Illinois. She is also a violinist and performs with the Clinton and Muscatine symphony orchestras.

**Mark Wewers**, c'91, a family law attorney, was named to Thomson Reuters' "Texas Super Lawyers" list for 2023 and 2024. The distinction is given to only 5% of attorneys in the state. Mark and his wife, **Kimberly Zoller Wewers**, j'91, live in Colleyville, Texas.

**1992 Luis Coloma**, g'92, PhD'98, directs the Jambatu Center for Amphibian Research and Conservation in Ecuador.

**Douglas Gleason**, m'92, is an OB-GYN at Stormont Vail Health in Topeka.

**Patrick Kelly**, d'92, g'00, retired in June as chief academic officer for the Lawrence school district, where he worked for 25 years.

**Phil Scaglia**, c'92, is senior loan officer at First State Bank Mortgage in Overland Park.

**Laura McKee Sweet**, j'92, vice president and chief operating officer at Des Moines Performing Arts, was recently honored by the Des Moines Business Record as one of its Women of Influence. She and her husband, Mike, have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

**Amy Timmerman**, c'92, is operations manager at Atler Law Firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Kevin Wake**, c'92, is president of the Uriel E. Owens Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Midwest.

**1993 Kathleen Carr**, g'93, is a psychotherapist at Sutter Health in Fremont, California.

**Kimberly Hays**, l'93, is a di-

voice and family law attorney in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Lori Highberger**, c'93, m'97, is chief medical officer for behavioral health at TriWest Healthcare Alliance, headquartered in Phoenix.

**John McGrath**, '93, is creator and host of "Art House," a Kansas City PBS series about the Kansas City filmmaking community.

**Bob O'Neil**, j'93, was promoted to vice president and general sales manager at FOX6 News Milwaukee. He has worked at the station since 2002.

**Tricia Cooley Paramore**, c'93, g'95, in April was promoted to president of Hutchinson Community College, where she has worked since 1996, beginning as a biology instructor.

**David Turner**, c'93, owns David Turner Photography. He lives in Chicago.

**1994 Katie Brown**, g'94, a registered dietitian nutritionist, was honored by the School of Health Professions as its 2024 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna. She is president of the National Dairy Council and executive vice president of Dairy Management Inc.

**Scott Capstack**, a'94, is a senior principal at Populous and the firm's design director for the Americas.

**Travis Carlisle**, c'94, is a program coordinator at MITRE Corp., a nonprofit that operates federally funded research and development centers. He lives in Virginia.

**Chao Yang**, g'94, in March was named a 2024 fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. He is a senior scientist in the applied mathematics and computa-

tional research division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

**1995 LaRisa Chambers**, c'95, is senior director of principal gifts and strategic initiatives at the University of California, Davis. She lives in Sacramento.

**Juliana Hoffpauir**, c'95, is a film and TV costume designer and led costume design on the 2023 movie "Hit Man."

**Marqueal Jordan**, b'95, is a touring saxophonist and singer, recording artist and composer. He lives in Chicago.

**Ernie Rupp**, p'95, is a pharmacist and co-owns Stark Pharmacy in Overland Park.

**Jeff Woodfill**, c'95, is lead recruiter for global technology at Nike.

**1996 Jana Blackburn Calkins**, j'96, in June was promoted to news director at WDAF-TV FOX4 in Kansas City. She first worked at the station as an intern and joined the staff full time in 1996. Jana and her husband, Troy, have a son, **Evan**, b'23, and daughter, Claire, who is a student in the School of Nursing.

**Zack Holland**, e'96, a petroleum engineer and entrepreneur in the energy industry, received the 2024 Distinguished Engineering Service Award from the School of Engineering. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Denver and have three daughters. Their youngest, Reese, is a freshman at KU.

**Vanessa Vanek**, f'96, lives in Shanghai, where she leads fine arts curriculum for middle and high school students at Concordia International School Shanghai.

**Sheahon Zenger**, PhD'96, in July became president of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

**1997 Kim Dickerson-Oard**, c'97, is lead pastor at Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Derby.

**Scot Pollard**, d'97, received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Education & Human Sciences. A former KU and NBA basketball player, Scot has partnered with the school on several fundraising and student support events, including the Gale Sayers & Scot Pollard Golf Classic.

**1998 Trey Pitts**, c'98, in May was appointed to the National Wireless Safety Alliance board of governors. He is a senior environmental, health and safety program manager at T-Mobile.

**1999 Jonathan Huskey**, c'99, is communications director at the State Revenue Alliance, a nonprofit that supports equitable tax policies. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Tisha Ritter**, d'99, is development director at the Iowa Women's Foundation.

**Shawn Tunink**, e'99, is an aviation programs engineer and manager at Garmin in Olathe.

**2000 Joe Larsen**, c'00, is managing director at EverGlade Consulting, which works with federal contractors in the life sciences sector.

**Shane Wedd**, d'00, d'01, a former KU baseball player, is associate head baseball coach at Sam Houston State University in Texas.

**2001 Andrew Davidson**, c'01, is Reno County deputy district attorney. His daughter, Maggie, is a freshman at KU.

**Jay deVenny**, c'01, in April was named CEO of Medical City Dallas hospital.

**Justin Mills**, c'01, m'06, was honored by the School of Medicine as its 2024 Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumnus. He is a medical officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and a pediatrician at Mary's Center, a community health center serving the Washington, D.C., area.

**Susan Wilper Moss**, l'01, is general counsel at Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. She and her husband, **Aaron**, b'94, live in Leawood and have two children, Vivian and Vincent.

**Andy Vinciguerra**, b'01, g'03, in July joined Anchin, a New York City-based accounting and advisory firm, as a partner in its private client and family office services groups.

**Greg Woolen**, c'01, is assistant vice president of intermodal and automotive service design at BNSF Railway, where he has worked for 23 years. He and his wife, Alicia, live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and have two sons, Burke and Beckett.

**2002 Phil Buttell**, g'02, l'02, is CEO of Los Robles Health System in Thousand Oaks, California.

**Jacquelyn Dice Johnson**, g'02, in June was appointed to the board of directors of Avera Health, a health system based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is a financial

adviser at Dice Financial Services Group in Mitchell, South Dakota.

**Erin Gough McDaniel**, j'02, is director of communications for the city of Newton.

**Genniveve Holder Ramsey**, b'02, in April joined Polsinelli as a shareholder in its real estate practice group. She is based in the law firm's Kansas City office.

**Jason Rucker**, g'02, PhD'14, in March received the Award of Academic Excellence from the Kansas chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. He is a clinical associate professor at KU Medical Center and teaches in the physical therapy doctoral program.

**Jon Suddarth**, b'02, is vice president of self-storage acquisition and development at Buchanan Street Partners, a real estate investment management firm. He lives in Denver.

**Jamel Cruze Wright**, g'02, PhD'04, president of Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, was appointed to the Illinois Board of Higher Education by Gov. JB Pritzker.

**2003 Chad Dick**, d'03, is owner and CEO of Fully Promoted, a branded apparel and promotional products company based in Lawrence.

**Sarah Donahue**, d'03, is vice president of events and fundraising for the Dallas County Medical Society in Texas.

**Jana Frye**, g'03, in July was appointed to the Missouri State Committee for Social Workers by Gov. Mike Parson. She is associate professor of social work at Missouri Western State University.

**Mark Suazo**, PhD'03, in June was named dean of the college of business at California State University, Long Beach.

**Shannon Swimmer**, c'03, l'13, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in May was named director of the Cherokee Center at Western Carolina University in North Carolina. The center provides outreach and services in the Cherokee community.

**2004 Christian Fricke**, f'04, is a creative director at Brighton Agency, a St. Louis-based marketing agency.

**Katie McCurry**, c'04, is vice president and manager of campaign management operations at Citizens Financial Group in Boston.

**Felipe Rosso**, c'04, m'08, is a urologist at Associated Urologists in Manhattan.

**Stephen Ruger**, g'04, in July was appointed Evanston, Illinois, deputy city manager.

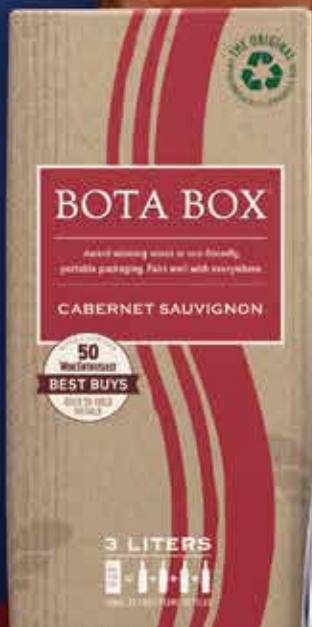
**Ben Unruh**, e'04, is a dentist at Hello! Pediatric Dentistry in Blue Springs, Missouri. He opened the practice in 2017.

**Melissa Valadez-Cummings**, g'04, is Cedar Hill, Texas, city manager.

**Taylor Vaughan**, c'04, is vice president and market officer at Regency Centers, which develops retail properties throughout the U.S. He works in the company's Los Angeles office.

**2005 Jessica Proctor Beeson**, c'05, in April was named executive director of the Willow Domestic Violence Center in Lawrence.

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**Natalie Vick Glusman**, c'05, in July was named to the board of directors of Arc Broward, which provides opportunities for residents of Broward County, Florida, who have disabilities. Natalie served as chair of the organization's recent Miss Arc Broward Pageant. She lives in Fort Lauderdale, where she is a real estate adviser with DeBianchi Real Estate.

**Greg Holmquist**, b'05, c'05, in April joined Stange Law Firm's Overland Park office as an associate attorney.

**Brian Platt**, g'05, PhD'12, is associate professor of geology and geological engineering at the University of Mississippi.

**2006 Jason Beahm**, l'06, is founder and president of

Beahm Law, which has offices throughout California.

**Norby Belz**, g'06, PhD'16, is founder and CEO of Seva Learning, a business and career coaching company. He lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Kristin Edie**, g'06, is vice president of enterprise sustainability at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City.

**Haley Harrison-Lee**, j'06, is senior public relations director at Trozzolo Communications Group in Kansas City.

**Megan Winkelman Knoblauch**, b'06, is managing partner of the Kansas City office of RubinBrown, an accounting and business consulting firm.

**Greg McDaniels**, c'06, in March was promoted to senior director of national accounts at

Royal Canin North America, a pet food company. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Melanie, and their daughter, Maelyn.

**S.J. Moore**, l'06, is a shareholder and attorney at the Kansas City-based law firm Krigel Nugent + Moore.

**2007 Jeff Braun**, f'07, is sports information director and assistant athletic director at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska.

**Kimberly Karfonta Carnley**, j'07, is Stillwater, Oklahoma, city attorney.

**Blake Dell**, b'07, in May was promoted to vice president for corporate development, strategy and U.K. operations at MLC, which manufactures lime- and calcium-based products.

**Anne Burgard Rellihan**, c'07, j'07, wrote *Not the Worst Friend in the World*, a mystery novel for readers ages 8 to 12, published in February. She lives in Leawood with her husband and four children.

**Rachel Wilson Simoes**, b'07, c'07, lives in New York City, where she is a senior brand manager at Colgate-Palmolive.

**2008 Luca Bortoletto**, g'08, is sales director at Maikii, a promotional products company. He lives in northern Italy.

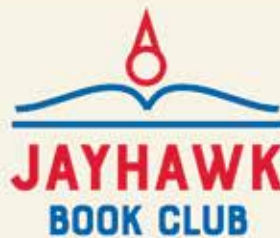
**Sarah Bunnell**, g'08, PhD'11, directs the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Elon University in North Carolina.

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### Questions?

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**Brian Jones**, s'08, g'12, is a clinical social worker and therapist in Topeka.

**Brian Segebrecht**, b'08, g'12, in April was appointed chief revenue officer at Elias Animal Health, which develops cancer therapeutics for pets.

**Nick Weiser**, f'08, a pianist, is associate professor and head of jazz studies at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

*Born to:*

**Adam Jenkins**, c'08, and his wife, Chakshu, son, Niyan, Oct. 23, 2023. The family lives in the U.K.

**2009 Sara Gold Ballew**, c'09, l'12, is an attorney at the law firm Bracker & Marcus. She lives in Overland Park with her husband and three sons.

**Steven Blustein**, b'09, g'11, is co-founder and

president of PickleTile, which makes materials for and constructs pickleball courts. He also co-founded Gembah, a platform and marketplace for consumer product development, and PrideBites, a pet product merchandising company. He lives in Austin, Texas.

**Kimberly Jackson**, g'09, is a senior civil engineer at CEC, an engineering firm. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Andrew Shaw**, l'09, in June joined Bracewell as a partner in the law firm's policy resolution group in Washington, D.C.

**2010 Beth Gulley**, PhD'10, wrote the book *Frog Joy*, a collection of poems, published in April. She is professor of English at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park.

**Joshua Rauch**, g'10, is Riverside, Ohio, city manager.

**Stephanie Wittman**, d'10, teaches health and strength & conditioning at Tonganoxie High School.

**2011 Chris Hall**, c'11, PhD'21, is assistant professor of English at the University of the Ozarks in Arkansas.

**Brian Massey**, c'11, is a procurement officer for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

**Lauren Ptomey**, g'11, PhD'14, assistant dean for medical education and associate professor at KU Medical Center, was honored by the School of Health Professions as its 2024 Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumna.

**Autumn Wassom Street**, d'11, is a senior manager at Oracle Corp. She and her

husband, Garrett, live in Baxter Springs.

**Ben Trombold**, e'11, in April joined Meddux, a medical device company based in Boulder, Colorado, as vice president of sales and marketing.

**2012 Chris Harris Jr.**, c'12, a former KU football player, in April announced his retirement from the NFL. His nine seasons as a cornerback for the Denver Broncos included a Super Bowl championship, and he later played for the Los Angeles Chargers and New Orleans Saints.

**Nic Langford**, c'12, is economic development director for the city of Delaware, Ohio.

**Sarah McCandless**, e'12, is a navigation engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. She was one of four crew members for NASA's simulated trip to Mars Aug. 9-Sept. 23 at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

**Van Winter**, l'12, in June was promoted to vice president of marketing and aftermarket sales at Mid-Continent Instruments and Avionics and the company's True Blue Power division.

**2013 Chihsun Chiu**, PhD'13, is senior educational technologist in the digital learning and innovation office at Boston University.

**Bryant Parker**, SJD'13, in June was appointed Riley County deputy counselor.

**2014 Daniel Allen**, g'14, in April joined Henry Group Real Estate in Denver as a development manager.

**Dar Fornelli**, e'14, owns Peak Tile and Renovation in Salida, Colorado.





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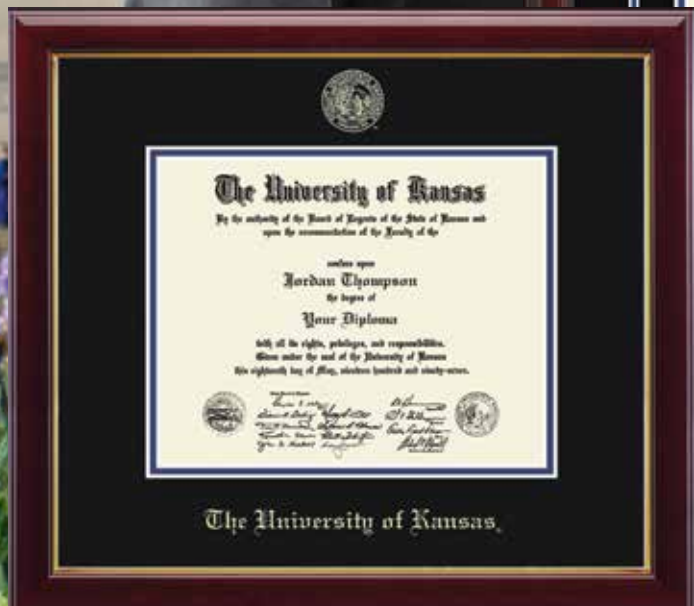


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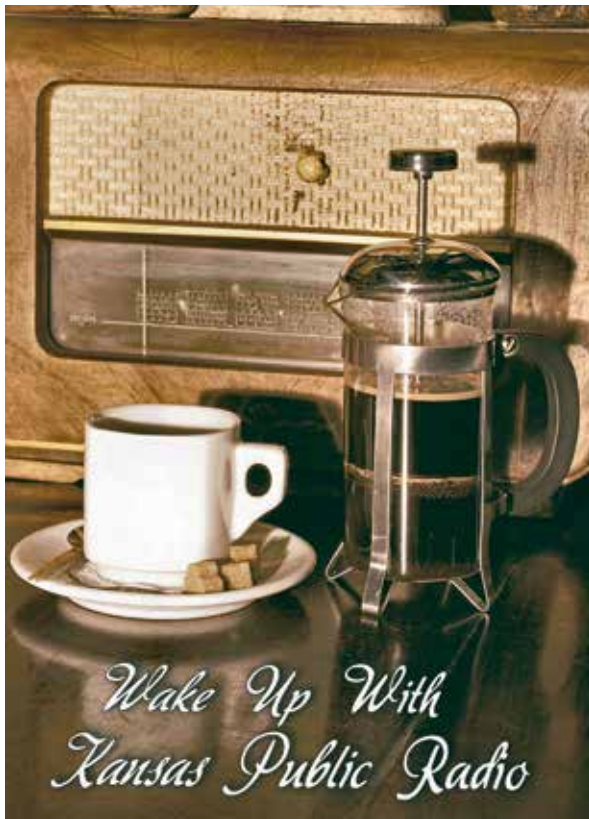
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co-founder and CEO of Asentia, a food-tech startup in the alternative protein sector. She lives in San Francisco.

**Christina Hodel**, PhD'17, was promoted to associate professor in the department of communication studies at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts. A filmmaker, she recently completed the short film "American Foulbrood," which has been selected for U.S. and international film festivals.

**Kwang Hyun**, j'17, is senior manager of marketing technology and automation at Disney Streaming.

**Christine Keith**, g'17, a project engineer at Thornton Tomasetti, was a primary engineer on Kansas City's new CPKC Stadium. Home to the Kansas City Current, it is the first privately financed stadium built exclusively for a women's professional soccer team.

**Shelby Ostrom**, c'17, g'24, is a health equity policy analyst for Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health.

**Savannah Pine**, c'17, is a fellowships adviser at the University of Denver.

**2018 Chandler Boese**, c'18, j'18, is service journalism editor for The Kansas City Star and Wichita Eagle.

**Landon Munsch**, j'18, is digital advertising and retail media manager at Hatchery Group.

**Tysen Pina**, g'18, a U.S. Air Force veteran, in July was appointed head of the aviation department at Kansas State University Salina.

**Brian Grover**, b'14, is lead product manager at Paylt, a software company. He lives in Overland Park with his wife, **Alyssa Hof Grover**, '14, who is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Children's Mercy Hospital. They have a daughter, Graham, and son, Shepherd.

**Bradley Smith**, l'14, is a criminal defense attorney and founding partner of Smith & Weidinger law firm in Denver.

**Whitney Antwine Stavropoulos**, j'14, is associate director of mobile app marketing at Dentsu Media.

**2015 Nicole Bettles**, c'15, is a project coordinator at the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute at KU. She and her husband, **William**, c'13, g'15, have two daughters, Colbie and Teagan.

**Cara Busenhart**, PhD'15, clinical associate professor in the School of Nursing, in June was named a 2024 fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

**Sam Florance**, g'15, in May was ordained a Catholic priest. An architect, he recently completed a new high altar for St. Benedict parish in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Gaston Millar**, d'15, is a court services officer for Kansas' 31st Judicial District.

**Paul Pierce II**, j'15, is associate chief of club operations at Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

**Taylor Pohlman**, g'15, is president of Ridgeline Low Voltage. She lives in Edgerton with her three children.

**2016 Jacob Hessman**, m'16, in July was appointed director of medical education at the School

of Medicine's Salina campus.

**Mercedes Hoffman Ryan**, m'16, is a pediatrician at Clara Barton Medical Center and practices primarily at its Great Bend clinic.

**Francie Trimble**, c'16, in April joined Baker Donelson as an associate in its labor and employment group. She practices in the law firm's New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, offices.

**Zachary Watson**, c'16, in June was ordained a Catholic priest. He serves at St. Clare and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes in Essex, Maryland.

**2017 Eric Becker**, c'17, lives in North Texas, where he is a flora field ecologist for the National Ecological Observatory Network.

**Parendi Birdie**, c'17, is

**2019 Katie Bernard**, c'19, j'19, covers election administration and suburban politics and government for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Jennifer Niemann**, g'19, is a research analyst in the school of marine, atmospheric and Earth science at the University of Miami.

**Lilly Stewart**, j'19, in July was named assistant director for communications and digital strategies for the Summit League, an NCAA Division I conference headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**2020 Stephen Denny**, g'20, lives in Las Vegas, where he is a tax manager at Interblock Gaming.

**Spencer Qualls**, d'20, is a risk analyst at StoneX Group.

**Reagan Walsh**, b'20, g'22, g'22, is a financial planning analyst for the city of Chicago.

**2021 Will Amsberry**, p'21, PharmD'23, is a pharmaceutical development scientist at Catalent Pharma Solutions in Kansas City.

**Mary Bisbee**, c'21, g'23, g'23, is a budget analyst for the city of Lawrence.

**Cami Koons**, c'21, j'21, a rural affairs reporter for Kansas City PBS, placed first in the video category in Report for America's 2024 Local News Awards for her story "Making a New Meat Market."

**Abraham Pfannenstiel**, l'21, founded Pfannenstiel Law in WaKeeney. The firm specializes in estate planning and real estate law. He and his wife, Leigh Ann, married in April.

**2022 Olivia Acree**, c'22, j'22, is a reporter at KSHB 41 News in Kansas City.



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\*\* 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.

**Evan Bail**, j'22, is internal communications coordinator at DLR Group, an integrated design firm. She lives in Fairway with her dog, Cannon.

**Irma Faudoa**, c'22, g'23, in May was appointed executive director of the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission by Gov. Laura Kelly.

**Shayla Gaulding**, j'22, a reporter for the Emporia Gazette, in April was named New Journalist of the Year by the Kansas Press Association.

**Kendal Johnson**, d'22, is an athletic trainer for University of South Dakota Athletics.

**Sophie Palma**, a'22, g'24, in May joined AIS, an office furniture company, as designer and manager of its Chicago showroom.

**Connor Reazin**, c'22, received the 2024 Rubinstein/Mason Award from KU Libraries, which supports current and former students' graduate studies in librarianship and archival studies. He is a former Spencer Research Library employee and will pursue a master's at Indiana University Indianapolis.

**Elizabeth Torres**, OTD'22, is an occupational therapist and instructor in the occupational therapy department at Hawaii Pacific University.

**Katelyn Waldeier**, AuD'22, is an audiologist at Associated Audiologists. She lives in Lawrence.

**Madeline Elliott Warthan**, j'22, is assistant to the arts at Parish Episcopal School in Dallas, where she lives with her husband, **Grant**, b'22, and their dog, Ollie.

**2023 Chloe Gunville**, g'23, g'23, is a legislative specialist for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

**David Holiday**, b'23, is a staff accountant at MyFreight-World, a logistics company based in Overland Park.

**Ashley Hooley**, c'23, works in social media marketing at Strictly Results Marketing Group.

**Muhammad Ittefaq**, PhD'23, is an assistant professor in the school of communication studies at James Madison University in Virginia.

**Christopher Madden**, g'23, a major in the U.S. Army, is support operations officer for the 11th Transportation Battalion in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Andrew Ost**, b'23, c'23, is an associate analyst in the customer strategy and innovation department at United Airlines in Chicago.

**Ethan Sandburg**, a'23, g'23, is an architectural designer at PGAV Destinations.

**Kayla Sandusky**, c'23, is a teaching artist at What If Puppets, a nonprofit arts organization in Kansas City.

**Kelsey Farmer Wallpe**, DPT'23, is a physical therapist at Clara Barton Medical Center, which serves central Kansas.

**2024 Jenna Barackman**, j'24, covers Kansas politics and government for The Kansas City Star.

**Kate Thornburgh Bayer**, DNP'24, is an advanced practice registered nurse at F.W. Huston Medical Center in Winchester.

**Katherine Bryan**, c'24, received the 2024 Rubinstein/Mason Award from KU Libraries, which supports graduate studies in librarianship and archival studies. She worked at Watson Library for two years and will pursue a master's in library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Grace Hoge**, c'24, is press secretary for Gov. Laura Kelly.

**Gabriel Mansfield**, b'24, g'24, is a transaction advisory associate at Intrinsic, a financial services firm in Denver.

**Caroline Whipple**, b'24, is an associate consultant at Michael Page, a staffing and recruitment agency.

## ASSOCIATES

**Carlos García**, assoc., wrote the book *Caravan of Specters*, set in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War and based on true events. Carlos, a native of Puerto Rico, practiced medicine for 28 years in Massachusetts and Kansas. He and his wife, **Lisa Wortman García**, h'87, live in St. Petersburg, Florida, and have three adult children.



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**1940s John Brizendine Jr.**, c'49, g'50, Dana Point, California, 98, July 2. John, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked in the aerospace industry, eventually leading the aircraft division at Lockheed Corp. His wife, Shirley, preceded him in death.

**Mary Roach Higgins**, c'42, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, 102, Oct. 25, 2023. Mary was a professor of clothing and textiles at the University of Wisconsin for over 20 years. Her husband, Thomas, preceded her in death.

**Lucy Lee Thompson McDowell**, b'43, Prairie Village, 102, June 15. Lucy Lee was an auditor and accountant. Her husband, G.W., preceded her in death.

**Barbara Johnson Myers**, c'49, Bel Air, Maryland, 96, April 13. Barbara was a medical technologist at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center. Her husband, William, c'49, g'55, PhD'58, preceded her in death.

**Loretta Diggs Pendergraft**, c'40, Wichita, 105, Dec. 20. Loretta was a journalist. Her husband, Keith, preceded her in death.

**Lawrence Robert Pennington**, c'48, l'50, Lake Bluff, Illinois, 96, Sept. 12, 2023. Bob, a U.S. Navy veteran, practiced law in Chanute for 48 years. He is survived by his wife, Nina.

**Patricia Scherrer Stelmach**, c'45, c'46, Kansas City, 99, Oct. 11, 2023. Pat volunteered with many organizations in Kansas City. Her husband, Jack, m'53, preceded her in death.

**1950s William "Wally" Altman**, c'56, Clearwater, 91, Dec. 30, 2022. Wally served in the U.S. Army and was a longtime

bank executive. His wife, Nella Bailey Altman, '54, preceded him in death.

**Wayne Attwood**, c'51, m'59, Spokane, Washington, 94, Dec. 1. Wayne practiced internal medicine for 31 years. His wife, Joyce Nickell Attwood, '53, preceded him in death.

**Robert Badgley**, b'56, Fort Collins, Colorado, 92, Nov. 5, 2023. Bob, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at Procter & Gamble and later owned a real estate company. His wife, Betty, preceded him in death.

**Laurel Marshall Becker**, d'57, Augusta, 88, Dec. 10. Laurel taught high school Spanish for many years. Her husband, Gary, preceded her in death.

**Harvey Bodker**, b'57, Kansas City, 88, Nov. 27, 2023. Harvey, a U.S. Army veteran, worked in commercial real estate for over 50 years. His wife, Beverly, preceded him in death.

**Nancy Moore Britton**, d'57, Batesville, Arkansas, 88, Feb. 15. Nancy taught history at Lyon College in Batesville and was an editor for the county historical society. Her husband, Sam, PhD'58, preceded her in death.

**Susan Baker Campbell**, f'57, Portland, Oregon, 87, Nov. 13, 2023. Susan was a teacher and community volunteer. Her husband, Jack, c'54, m'58, preceded her in death.

**Ernie Chaney**, m'56, Lawrence, 96, May 16. Ernie served in the U.S. Navy and was a longtime family physician. He was also a professor in the School of Medicine. His wife, Margie, preceded him in death.

**William Cummings**, p'59, Wichita, 87, Nov. 10, 2023. Bill owned Cummings Pharmacy. He is survived by his wife, Carol, g'98.

**John "Jack" Dicus**, b'55,

Topeka, 91, June 19. Jack, a U.S. Navy veteran, was chairman, president and CEO of Capitol Federal Savings Bank. He received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion from the Alumni Association in 1990 in recognition of his service to KU. His wife, Betty Bubb Dicus, b'55, preceded him in death.

**Joe Engle**, e'55, Houston, 91, July 10. Joe was a U.S. Air Force major general and NASA astronaut. A decorated pilot, he was the only astronaut to fly both an X-15 aircraft and space shuttle. Joe was the first Jayhawk in space and was honored with the Distinguished Service Citation from the Alumni Association in 1982. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Lawrence Engle, f'56, and is survived by his second wife, Jeanie.

**Velma Gaston Farrar**, j'54, Kansas City, 90, Nov. 15, 2023. Velma taught elementary school. She is survived by her husband, Bill, c'55.

**Claude Harwood**, c'51, m'55, Glasco, 98, Nov. 17, 2023. Claude, a U.S. Army veteran, practiced family medicine for 34 years. His wife, Marilyn Lindberg Harwood, p'50, preceded him in death.

**Louis Heitlinger**, e'59, g'63, Willoughby, Ohio, 92, Nov. 8, 2023. Lou, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked at General Electric for 26 years. His wife, Shirley, preceded him in death.

**Shirley Rice Howard**, d'51, Salina, 94, Dec. 4. Shirley taught elementary school and was an elder and deacon in the Presbyterian Church. Her husband, Jack, b'51, preceded her in death.

**Bernard Jones**, c'54, Kansas City, 90, Dec. 26. Bernie worked in accounting and

finance, primarily in the insurance industry.

**Jerry Kirkland**, c'58, m'62, Kearney, Missouri, 86, March 8, 2023. Jerry, a U.S. Army veteran, was a physician and co-founded Gashland Clinic in Kansas City. He is survived by his wife, Carla.

**Lewis Leonard Jr.**, b'54, Olathe, 91, June 12. Lewis, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked as an insurance broker for over 50 years. His wife, Sondra Roberts Leonard, '57, survives.

**Patricia Glenn Libby**, c'51, c'53, Boise, Idaho, 94, June 30, 2023. Her husband, Frank, preceded her in death.

**William Lindstrom**, e'54, g'59, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, 92, Nov. 22, 2023. Bill worked at IBM for 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Julie Gempel Lindstrom, c'54, g'56.

**Dorothy Wohlgenuth Lynch**, d'59, Olathe, 85, July 23. Dorothy taught elementary school and was later a director at J. Lynch & Co. For her service to KU, she was honored by the Alumni Association with the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 1997 and Distinguished Service Citation in 2000. Her husband, Bryan, '53, preceded her in death.

**Harold Mackenthun**, b'54, g'58, Vallejo, California, 91, Oct. 26, 2023.

**Charles Malone**, g'53, EdD'60, Tempe, Arizona, 97, Aug. 14. Charles, a U.S. military veteran, was a professor of elementary education at Arizona State University for 25 years and a national champion handball player. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Roberts.

**Robert Masterson**, c'57, Bronxville, New York, 91, April 5.

**Jay Oliver**, p'53, Littleton,



Colorado, 92, Nov. 7, 2023.

**Rita Shipp Olson**, c'54, Pierre, South Dakota, 91, Oct. 19, 2023. Rita was a physical therapist and hospital volunteer. Her husband, John, c'53, m'56, preceded her in death.

**Philip Rankin**, c'59, g'61, Lawrence, 86, Oct. 9, 2023. Phil worked in the human resources department at KU for over 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Shaffer Rankin, d'60.

**Bill Reynolds**, g'59, EdD'66, Bowling Green, Ohio, 94, Oct. 18, 2023. Bill, a U.S. Army veteran, was a school administrator and later a professor at Bowling Green State University. He is survived by his wife, JoAnne.

**William Salome III**, '51, Wichita, 94, Nov. 13, 2023. Bill served in the U.S. Army and later worked in the oil and gas industry. His wife, Ann Galloway Salome, c'52, preceded him in death.

**Phyllis Snyder**, c'55, Hutchinson, 91, Dec. 24. Phyllis was a medical technologist and hospice volunteer.

**E. Carolyn Hogan Stiles**, c'59, Overland Park, 86, Dec. 22. Carolyn was a community leader in Galveston, Texas, and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband, Merrill, c'60, m'64.

**Robert Stutz**, c'53, g'57, PhD'61, Fairway, 92, Dec. 8. Bob, a U.S. Navy Reserve veteran, worked in the chemical and research divisions of several companies and was later president and CEO of Vanguard Systems. He is survived by his wife, Janet Mangan Stutz, d'60.

**Mary Jean "Jeanne" Walterscheid**, d'57, Coffeyville, 87, Nov. 7, 2023. Jeanne was a physical education teacher and later worked at her family's business, Isham True Value

Hardware in Coffeyville, for many years.

**Clyde Williams**, e'52, Gladstone, Missouri, 93, Nov. 19, 2023. Clyde served in the U.S. Navy. His wife, Patricia McPherson Williams, '55, preceded him in death.

**Phyllis JoAn Fink Wilson**, d'53, Overland Park, 92, May 1. JoAn was a Bible studies teacher. Her husband, Dick, b'55, preceded her in death.

**William Wilson**, d'58, g'62, EdD'80, Lawrence, 87, Aug. 11. Bill was a music teacher and later led the Lawrence Public Schools human resources department. He is survived by his wife, Linda Mistler Wilson, d'59.

**Leroy "Zimm" Zimmerman**, j'58, Bend, Oregon, 87, April 10. Zimm, a U.S. Army veteran, was publisher of the Cottage Grove Sentinel newspaper in Oregon for many years. His wife, Pat, preceded him in death.

**1960s David Adams**, c'65, l'68, Wichita, 80, Dec. 29. Dave was an attorney and later president of Emprise Bank in Lawrence. He is survived by his wife, June.

**Suzanne Sentney Brown**, d'60, Hutchinson, 85, Oct. 7, 2023. Suzanne was a past president of the Hutchinson Hospital Auxiliary. Her husband, Charles, '58, preceded her in death.

**Gary Carrico**, b'60, Omaha, Nebraska, 85, April 11. Gary was vice chancellor of business and finance at the University of Nebraska Omaha, where he worked for over 30 years. His wife, Mary Lou, preceded him in death.

**Susan Eno**, c'69, New York City, 78, May 26.

**Gary Garrison**, c'66,

Sarasota, Florida, 79, May 4. Gary served in the Peace Corps and later worked for the U.S. Department of State as a Fulbright Program administrator. He is survived by his wife, Lucy Melbourne.

**William Goodwin**, j'61, Franklin, Tennessee, 86, May 8. Bill, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked in politics and later in the oil business. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

**Phyllis Williams Hawley**, n'63, Coffeyville, 82, Jan. 10. Phyllis was a nurse and floral artist. She is survived by her husband, Raymond, m'65.

**Nancy Egy Jacobs**, c'65, Paradise Valley, Arizona, 81, July 5. Nancy was a longtime volunteer in Kansas City. She is survived by her husband, Tony, c'64, g'66.

**Deanna Gilmore Johnson**, g'66, Sacramento, California, 81, Dec. 28. Deanna worked in child welfare services. Her husband, John, g'68, survives.

**Kay Rathbone Johnson**, d'60, Lawrence, 85, May 20. Kay taught elementary school and later worked in real estate for over 30 years. Her husband, Monte, b'59, g'67, preceded her in death.

**Richard Manka**, b'67, g'68, Leawood, 79, May 31. Rich was vice president and chief investment officer for retirement plans at Kroger Co., where he worked for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Judy Dixon Manka, d'69.

**Melanie McCoy**, '68, Coldwater, 76, May 16, 2023. Melanie was a singer and composer.

**Karol Mosshart McGee**, b'60, d'64, Palm Harbor, Florida, 84, May 21. Karol and her late husband, Phillip, b'62, g'66, taught bridge and were competitive bridge players.

**John Mize Jr.**, '61, Leawood, 84, Oct. 22, 2023. John served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and was president and CEO of Blish-Mize Co., a hardware company. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl.

**Loren Okrina**, e'63, Bryan, Texas, 86, June 7, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Helen Comstock Okrina, b'61.

**Julian Ominski Jr.**, a'64, Leawood, 81, Nov. 13, 2023. Julian was an architect and designed sports venues across the U.S. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

**Joseph Pearson Jr.**, d'61, Marietta, Georgia, 85, June 3, 2023. Joe was a teacher, minister and longtime executive at United Way of Greater Atlanta. His wife, Larinda, preceded him in death.

**Barbara Herrin Rolander**, d'63, Overland Park, 82, Aug. 21, 2023. Barbara was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, Haven.

**Eric Rothgeb**, c'64, m'68, Parker, Colorado, 81, Oct. 7, 2023. Eric served in the U.S. Army and later practiced emergency medicine for many years. His wife, Judi, survives.

**Paul Ruff**, c'65, Springfield, Missouri, 79, Oct. 29, 2023. Paul was a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon in Springfield for 37 years. He is survived by his wife, Jo Archer Ruff, f'64, g'66.

**Martha Deason Scranton**, d'67, Larned, 79, May 13. Martha and her late husband, Ron, '67, owned Larned Greenhouse, Flower Shop and Nursery for nearly 40 years.

**Michael Shannon**, '66, San Clemente, California, 79, Aug. 13, 2023. Michael practiced medicine in Orange County, California, for over 40 years. He

is survived by his wife, Kathleen.

**Judy Hineman Sjoberg**, '65, Overland Park, 80, March 15. Judy was a teacher and later worked in sales. She is survived by her husband, Dave, f'63.

**Robert Stuber**, c'61, m'65, St. Joseph, Missouri, 84, Sept. 9, 2023. Bob was a physician and worked in the St. Joseph medical community for 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary Helen.

**Richard Tudor**, c'66, Wentzville, Missouri, 80, Jan. 20, 2023. Richard was an Episcopal priest and served in the U.S. Army Reserve. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth.

**Thomas Tuggle**, l'67, Concordia, 81, Dec. 29. Tom served as chief judge of Kansas' 12th Judicial District for over 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Suzy Falk Tuggle, d'66.

**Maurice Woodard**, PhD'69, Silver Spring, Maryland, 89, June 22, 2023. Maurice, a U.S. Army veteran, was professor of political science at Howard University. His wife, Gloria Hiner Woodard, '68, survives.

**Janice Holt Wurtz**, d'62, Mound City, 84, Jan. 3. Janice was a teacher and musician. Her husband, Richard, c'61, g'67, preceded her in death.

**1970s Marion Boyle**, g'76, Lawrence, 98, May 7. Marion taught at Lawrence High and Haskell Indian Nations University. She later worked in student services at KU. Her husband, Alex, g'56, preceded her in death.

**Charles Bunch**, c'75, l'77, Anchorage, Alaska, 84, Dec. 22. Charles, a U.S. Army colonel, was a deputy regional director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His wife, Karen, preceded him in death. His

partner, Florence, survives.

**Janet Diehl Corwin**, d'73, Topeka, 73, April 20. Janet was an accompanist and piano teacher and later worked in administration in the School of Music.

**Orvil Emanuel**, EdD'71, Raytown, Missouri, 91, Nov. 12, 2023. Orvil was an elementary school principal. He is survived by his wife, Helen Bingham Emanuel, d'64.

**W. Jack Engelke**, l'71, Naperville, Illinois, 80, Nov. 28, 2022. Jack founded an investment banking firm, where he worked for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Jane.

**Gary Erlich**, j'70, San Diego, 74, Nov. 29, 2022. Gary worked in advertising and was president of Erlich Communications. He is survived by his partner, Jeani Buchanan.

**Lynann Davidson Fraker**, g'72, Shawnee, 77, July 4. Lynn was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, Dan, '69.

**Loretta Marceil Burry Gradwohl**, g'76, Lenexa, 89, July 25. Marceil taught elementary school and was later a day care and preschool director.

**John Hanis Jr.**, b'74, Riverside, Missouri, 71, July 25, 2023. John worked in insurance. He is survived by his wife, Suellen Smith Hanis, '87.

**Pamela Harris Harrell**, p'71, Raleigh, North Carolina, 75, Dec. 23. Pam was a pharmacist. Her husband, Warren, c'70, g'73, preceded her in death.

**Susan Alderson Hoffmann**, c'74, South Pasadena, California, 71, Aug. 29, 2023. Susan was an art historian and writer. She is survived by her husband, Michael.

**Gary Hough**, j'79, Omaha, Nebraska, 65, Jan. 13, 2023. Gary worked in laboratory and

medical sales. He is survived by his wife, Ann.

**Dennis Kelly**, d'76, Topeka, 69, July 4, 2023. Dennis taught elementary and middle school in Topeka for 40 years.

**Jacquelyn Kramer**, p'74, Ottawa, 83, Sept. 1, 2023. Jacques was a pharmacist and, with her late husband, George, p'61, worked at Kramer Drug Store in Ottawa.

**Rex Lane**, j'77, Atchison, 68, Jan. 16, 2023. Rex was an attorney and coached cross-country and track at Benedictine College. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Sheets Lane, s'84.

**Lana Pacey Lee**, d'73, g'74, Durant, Oklahoma, 72, July 3, 2023. Lana was a school speech pathologist in Durant for nearly 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Terry, c'73.

**Holly Hancock Markley**, c'77, Benicia, California, 67, Oct. 21, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Bill, b'74, l'77.

**William Patrick McCourt**, p'77, Onaga, 70, April 21, 2023. Pat was a pharmacist and owned Onaga Pharmacy for many years. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

**Robert Meeder**, b'76, g'79, Overland Park, 69, July 3, 2023. Bob was an investment broker. He is survived by his wife, Sherry.

**Madelyn Moss**, d'77, g'86, Lawrence, 87, July 15, 2023. Madelyn worked for Marion Merrell Dow pharmaceutical company. Her husband, Donald, PhD'74, preceded her in death.

**Alyson Pickens**, d'73, g'95, Lawrence, 71, Sept. 2, 2023.

**John Sanderson**, l'73, Emporia, 85, Oct. 12, 2023. John, a U.S. Army veteran, was Lyon County district court judge for nearly 20 years. He is survived

by his wife, Joann.

**Adrian Stephenson**, c'71, Joondanna, Western Australia, 73, May 10, 2023.

**Roger Tobias**, b'73, m'76, Lyons, 71, Oct. 5, 2022. Roger, a U.S. Air Force veteran, practiced medicine in Rice County for over 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Debbie.

**Martha Bernier Uden**, d'70, Lenexa, 75, Oct. 6, 2023. Martie was a teacher and children's minister. She is survived by her husband, Lanny, e'70.

**David Warbinton**, p'72, Wichita, 74, Sept. 27, 2023. David was a pharmacist.

**Roger Ward**, c'76, Kansas City, 68, Aug. 5, 2023. Roger was an art museum curator.

**1980s Phillip Anderson**, j'80, Reno, Nevada, 64, Nov. 21, 2022. Phil worked in publishing, sales and digital marketing.

**Orval Baldwin II**, l'80, Oro Valley, Arizona, 68, Aug. 15, 2023. Orval worked at PDC Energy and Chevron Corp. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

**Robert Frohoff**, j'82, Prairie Village, 64, July 16. Bob worked in advertising and local and regional tourism. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Wilson Frohoff, j'82.

**Michael Klinock**, b'80, Leawood, 67, July 7. Mike was chief financial officer at Comet Industries. He is survived by his wife, Donna Huebner Klinock, d'81.

**Anne Rea O'Shea**, s'85, Overland Park, 96, July 11, 2023. Anne worked at Heart of America Family Services. Her husband, Jim, preceded her in death.

**Robert Sanner**, b'80, Lawrence, 67, July 21. Bob worked in sales and later led initiatives that brought youth, collegiate

and professional athletic events to Lawrence. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81.

**David Swearer**, c'84, Kansas City, 63, Aug. 5. David was a longtime administrative assistant at Dollar, Burns, Becker & Hershewe law firm.

**1990s Vergie Meckfessel Anderson**, g'90, Lawrence, 79, July 28, 2023. Vergie worked at the Iroquois Center for Human Development in Greensburg for nearly 20 years. She is survived by her husband, Mark, '73.

**Kathleen Apprill**, g'92, Overland Park, 80, July 15, 2023. Kathy was a language arts teacher. She is survived by her husband, Paul.

**Jeanne Berg**, PhD'94, Topeka, 76, March 23, 2023. Jeanne worked in education as a teacher, psychologist and principal. She is survived by her partner, Jeannine Herron.

**Penelope Dirrig Cummings**, g'93, Kent, Ohio, 78, Feb. 20, 2023. Penny was a teacher. Her husband, Ray, preceded her in death.

**Elaine Jones**, PhD'94, Lawrence, 59, Oct. 27, 2022. Elaine was a professor in the business college at the University of Central Missouri for 25 years.

**Jeffrey McMahon**, e'95, Lenexa, 54, July 26, 2023. Jeff, a U.S. Army National Guard veteran, worked in software engineering. He is survived by his wife, Leslie.

**Marilyn Belfrage Rawe**, '92, Mission, 77, Nov. 5, 2023. Marilyn was a teacher and later worked for Nordstrom. She is survived by her husband, Ray.

**Jonathan Tosterud**, j'98, Spring Lake, Michigan, 47, Sept. 20, 2022. Jon was a national account manager at

Amazon Publishing. He is survived by his wife, Marissa Byrne Tosterud, '99.

**2000s Jack "Jake" Chambers Jr.**, e'01, g'03, Olathe, 44, Aug. 23, 2023.

**Christopher Fallen**, g'05, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 46, Feb. 6. Chris, a space physicist and researcher, was chief scientist at Fourth State Communications.

**Maria Peña**, n'01, g'06, Kansas City, 61, April 15. Maria was a nurse and worked as a nurse manager in The University of Kansas Health System for many years. Her husband, Antonio, survives.

**2010s Adam Miller**, d'13, Morrowville, 31, Feb. 20, 2023. Adam was a captain in the U.S. Air Force. He is survived by his wife, Kate.

**Jessica Mitchell Robinson**, c'16, j'16, g'17, Lenexa, 32, April 14. Jessica was a trauma and addiction therapist. She is survived by her husband, Kyle.

## UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**James Carothers**, assoc., Lawrence, 82, July 9. Jim was professor emeritus of English at KU, where he worked for 46 years. He was honored with the Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award in 2015. He is survived by his wife, Beverly.

**Robert Coffeen**, assoc., Lawrence, 92, April 30. Bob, a U.S. Army veteran, was a renowned acoustical engineer and founded what is today Avant Acoustics in Lenexa. He was an adjunct professor in the School of Architecture & Design. His wife, Joanne Banks Coffeen, c'52, preceded him in death.

**Nancy Smith Jaeger**, '82, Lawrence, 79, May 11. Nancy was a KU Libraries administrator for many years. Her husband, Robert, '50, preceded her in death.

**William Kuhlke**, g'59, Alamosa, Colorado, 94, June 17. Bill, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was professor emeritus at KU and taught in the theatre and Slavic studies departments. He acted in numerous University and regional theatre productions. His first wife, Glennys, d'63, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Betty Jean Myers.

**Fritz Reiber**, Lawrence, 92, June 19. Fritz was a longtime professor of commercial art at KU and helped establish the graphic design program. He designed books for University Press of Kansas for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Joan, g'72.

**Stan Roth**, assoc., Lawrence, 89, Aug. 3. Stan taught high school biology in Lawrence for 40 years and was later an adjunct naturalist for the Kansas Biological Survey. His wife, Janet, '77, survives.

**Byron Santangelo**, Bloomington, Indiana, 62, March 10. Byron was a professor of English and environmental studies at KU for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Sara Gregg.

**James Sherman**, Lawrence, 85, July 24. Jim, a U.S. Army veteran, was a professor in the applied behavioral science department at KU for 53 years. He was a founder of GoodLife Innovations, which serves Kansans with disabilities, and the Kansas Early Autism Program. He is survived by his wife, Jan Sheldon, c'71, PhD'74, l'77.

**Richard Spano**, Lawrence, 79, May 19. Rick, a U.S. Army

veteran, was professor emeritus in the School of Social Welfare, where he taught for 43 years. He is survived by his wife, Penny, '91.

**Delbert Unruh**, assoc., Lawrence, 82, May 8. Del, a theatre designer, was professor emeritus of theatre at KU, where he worked for nearly 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Ione, '83.

**Ben Wano**, Kansas City, 63, May 19. Ben was a respiratory therapist and taught in The University of Kansas Health System. His wife, Jill Wagner Wano, h'83, survives.

## ASSOCIATES

**Robert Gordon Barnhardt Jr.**, assoc., Bucklin, 87, Jan 1. Gordon was president of Farmers State Bank of Bucklin. His wife, Martha Collingwood Barnhardt, c'58, preceded him in death.

**Nancy Dykes**, assoc., Prairie Village, 89, Aug. 13. Nancy worked in education and business, and in 1980 was honored with the Fred Ellsworth Medallion from the Alumni Association in recognition of her service to KU. She is survived by her husband, former Chancellor Archie Dykes.

**David Fitzcharles**, assoc., Lawrence, 94, Nov. 22, 2023. David, a U.S. Army veteran, worked in various investment roles throughout his career. His wife, Alice, g'85, survives.

**Cheryl Foons**, assoc., Castle Rock, Colorado, 84, April 20, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Gerald, d'61.

**Shari Layle**, assoc., Overland Park, 87, Dec. 5. Shari was a kindergarten teacher. She is survived by her husband, John, m'61.

**Sidney Roedel**, assoc., Lawrence, 88, Jan. 12.



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S Student Alumni Network hosted more than 500 students for a Silent Disco Block Party on Saturday, Aug. 24, part of the University's Hawk Week festivities welcoming freshmen to KU. Headphones, glow sticks and camera phones lit the night as students turned the Memorial Union's Ascher Plaza into an open-air dance floor. The event was sponsored by Central Bank.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
COREY RANSBERG/KU MARKETING



## Splish splash

*The magic of fountains*

BBN ARCHITECTS, with offices in Kansas City and Manhattan, proudly claims the Kansas City, Missouri, Parks & Recreation Department as one of its oldest clients, so principal architect Lorie Doolittle-Bowman has, over the course of her career, enjoyed numerous opportunities to design iconic features of the City of Fountains.

“My first project with this firm,” says Doolittle-Bowman, a’80, “was the Garment District Fountain in downtown Kansas City. And then I went on to do the Children’s Fountain, and the Rose Garden Fountain at Loose Park, and the Kemper Fountain, at 10th and Main. And I just went on and on from there.”

Designing the privately funded reconstruction of KU’s Chi Omega Fountain (see *Rock Chalk Review*, p. 10) is particularly meaningful because Doolittle-Bowman was a Chi-O who fell asleep in the sorority’s old sleeping dorm to the sounds of water splashing and students cavorting.

What is it about fountains that grants their magic charms, whether in a busy roundabout, a big-city park or even a home garden?

“Gosh, I don’t really know, exactly,” she says. “I guess it would be the sparkle and the sound. And with this fountain, it’s the placement. It’s just such a great gateway piece for the end of Jayhawk Boulevard. I think it’s really wonderful.”

Doolittle-Bowman met with sorority members during summer planning stages, and they took news of the fountain’s temporary absence hard: “They were so upset. They didn’t realize this was coming, and they were just beside themselves.”

Hoping to dampen the loss of the campus landmark for the next school year, project planners installed safety elements to cover rebar exposed by the removal of the fountain’s center structure. That means the fountain’s eight jets will continue



Chi Omega Fountain, shortly before its center structure was removed. Note the water pouring from joints in octagonal metal basket.

spouting sparkly aquatic arcs until contractors arrive to raze the site.

Mourn not, however: Built in 1955, the Chi Omega Fountain is finally getting the TLC it needs and deserves.

Not so fortunate is the Alumni Place Fountain, near the limestone retaining wall behind the chancellor’s residence. It once was a charmer, with a sky-blue pool and benches and just the right touch of serenity to make it a haven for students, faculty, staff and visitors who frequented the east side of campus.

The cast-stone fountain, built in 1953 at the urging of Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy, c’36, was purchased with \$1,300 in private funds from the Erkins Studio in New York City. After three decades of deterioration, an exact replica was ordered from Erkins and installed in 1981; vandals broke its top bowl in 2017, and the

fountain has never been right since. It is now dry and lifeless, with concrete chunks littering a defeated pool.

University Architect Mark Reiske, a’86, says another replacement has proved difficult to source, and the setting within the historic housing area limits options. A new bowl and fountain, with new plumbing and electrical, could be installed “quickly and for not much money,” he says, but a replica is needed, and, while Student Senate and KU Housing “are open to ideas and donations,” the fountain is “not going to get repaired anytime soon.”

So, yes, the Chi Omega Fountain will be missed this school year, and construction work in the middle of a busy roundabout will be a pain, but it’s all good. And one day next spring, it will once again be great.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

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Watson Library Grand Reading Room, 1961. KU University Archives.



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