Colombia’s Reconciliation

Juan Manuel Santos on his country’s Battle for Peace
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“I missed the camaraderie. I miss the interactions with the players, the general give-and-take you have in those situations where you’re helping a kid through something.”

—Danny Manning, ’92, explaining to The Washington Post why—after a year out of coaching—he signed on as an assistant to former teammate Mark Turgeon, ’87, at the University of Maryland.

“You deserve the Royals treatment.”

—Mandy Patinkin, ’74, Tony and Emmy award-winning actor and unlikely social media star, who in February was profiled in The New York Times with his wife of 41 years, actress Kathryn Grody. Their irreverent posts on Twitter, Instagram and TikTok about COVID-19 isolation attracted millions of views.

“In American terms, it’s a bit like as if Duke, North Carolina and Kansas announced they’d have a breakaway from March Madness, in which they’re guaranteed participation every single year. It’s really an enormous decision point, which will transform European soccer, possibly destroy the Premier League. And that’s devastating.”

—Roger Bennett, co-anchor of the “Men In Blazers” podcast, on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” April 19, when premier clubs including Manchester United and Real Madrid flirted with the idea of forming their own European Super League. The idea fizzled.

“Heard by the Bird”

Talk and squawk in the news

“What’s no question. Being with my family holed up for 11 months has been one of the true gifts of my life.”

—Anureet Hans, ’21, graduate student in business, programmed a website that provides links to every Kansas City-area pharmacy offering COVID vaccines. Hans told KSHB news he was inspired by seeing his parents vaccinated.

“The biggest thing I noticed is that people don’t know where to get it from,” Hans said. “I just thought it would be a nice thing to do.”

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COVER STORY

‘ Forgiveness is Infinite’

The former Colombian president and Nobel Peace Prize-winner recounts a pivotal moment in his battle to bring peace to his war-torn country—finding justice for the victims.

by Juan Manuel Santos

Cover image by Mads Nissen/Politiken

Next Chapter

Designed with prospective students and visiting alumni in mind, a welcoming new home for Jayhawks is set to rise on Oread Avenue.

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

All in the Eyes

A Wichita doctor’s spare, straightforward portraits of colleagues create a stark record of the pandemic’s toll on health care professionals.

by Chris Lazzarino

Profile: Jonathon Westbrook

Father’s example of public service leads police officer to White House.

by Heather Biele

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ONLINE EXTRAS

SPRING 2021

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Digital Feature
The Jayhawk Welcome Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is Kansas Alumni magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Please limit your comments to 350 words. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free KU gift, a $5 value.

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ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2021 5
Editors’ note: Due to a reporter’s misunderstanding, a profile of Brig. Gen. Kevin Admiral, “Army commandant relishes dynamic career in tanks, not Tomcats,” issue No. 3, 2020 incorrectly described Admiral’s father as a student at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. His father worked at the fort’s Directorate of Information Management. We regret the error.

And I quote

A LETTER YOU PUBLISHED [Lift the Chorus, issue No. 1] “instantiates” for me this quotation from Henry Fowler. “Display of [supposedly] superior knowledge is as great a vulgarity as display of superior wealth—greater, indeed, inasmuch as knowledge should tend more definitely than wealth towards discretion and good manners.” —William Bradley, ’77, ’80 Overland Park

Day brightener

HOORAY FOR OUR Jayhawk’s bright colors found in the winter issue of Kansas Alumni. The excellent writing, colorful design and photo layouts are terrific examples of a magazine standing among good company from other colleges and universities. An award-winning production, perhaps? —Janis Brown Hutchison, ’72 Lawrence Care correspondent for the KU Retirees’ Endacott Society

Redesign all good

SOMETHING WONDERFUL happened yesterday, thanks to you and yours! I actually read the new alumni magazine. All the way through. For the very first time. What a metamorphosis! Everything makes for good reading. Good content, layout, topics and writing. I even like the non-reflective paper stock! Thank you, thank you. I’m only a Jayhawk by marriage, but am thoroughly devout. —Wilda Sandy, assoc. Prairie Village

DROP US A LINE

We welcome letters to the editor. The Alumni Association and the University remain committed to free speech and the rights of all individuals to express their differing personal views, including those that others might find challenging or inappropriate. Letters appearing in Lift the Chorus represent only the authors’ opinions, and Kansas Alumni reserves the right to edit as needed for clarity and as space requires. Please limit responses to 350 words, and send them to kualumni@kualumni.org or 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100.

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Meeting students as I walk into the Spencer Museum of Art has been one of the treasured daily joys across my years at KU. As we pass one another, I imagine future generations of Jayhawks—seeking, learning, hoping for a place to belong and a way to make a difference in the world. Our well-considered campus restrictions during the time of COVID suddenly ended these person-to-person encounters, which we once took for granted. As the museum has begun reopening, we are again greeting students, and still I wonder how they will discover friends, mentors, a calling, research paths, a desire to embrace adventures abroad, or, like me, find sustained and intense engagement with creative work. Will they go to art museums throughout their lives, attend concerts, look forward to reading slowly and deeply, and develop curiosity and empathy?

Educational alchemy can occur at a large public research university because artists, designers, nurses, engineers, historians, planners, writers, scientists and philosophers encounter one another at work and play. They tangle with unfamiliar ideas and perspectives and learn from different ways of knowing the world. I watch in eager anticipation for the students who will elevate, jostle, challenge and rock the KU we know. They are all around us—students who will bring us new visions of who we can be. I strive to be ready for them and their committed and focused perspectives on climate change, racial justice, disparity, accelerating technology and global connectedness. KU students today are thoughtful and informed. They are digitally fluent and comfortable with classrooms in dispersed locations, welcoming the opportunity to connect and engage with people beyond the borders of their own hometowns. They embrace others in their otherness.

The University is an organic system of opportunities to experience, enact and practice ways of working and learning together in global societies. KU offers the chance to learn and respect difference and to live on a shared planet, at the Spencer Museum we strive to represent a diverse range of lived experiences and encourage exploration and understanding through art. I fervently hope that in the days to come, students receive what I have been so generously given by the University—a chance to be part of a legacy larger than myself.

“Legacy” does not call us to adhere to sameness or protect the world as it used to be; “legacy” calls us to carry core purposes tightly, but, as artist Grayson Perry advises, to “hold your beliefs lightly.” To advance our most fundamental purposes, we must rethink our future by repairing past ignorance and harm. To shape the future in a KU tradition is to live the inquiry, embrace contradictions and devote ourselves to education and research that strive for a sustainable and equitable future. As we join arms and sing the alma mater, it is important to remember that we have work to do—good, worthy work—to make KU a golden valley for all.

As we plan beyond the grim days of pandemic, a first step for the University we love is to remind ourselves to never again take for granted our seemingly small interactions, the daily opportunities to learn and flourish in each moment. KU is a place where we can take our inherited world and grow it in a new direction—glorious to view.

—Saralyn Reece Hardy, ’76, ’94
Reece Hardy is the Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer Museum of Art and a member of the KU Women’s Hall of Fame.
Steady rain canceled three ceremonies for the Class of 2021 May 16, but graduates and their families, including future Jayhawks, celebrated at the Memorial Campanile throughout the day.

For more Commencement coverage, see pp. 14 and 54. For additional photos, visit kansasalumni.org

Photograph by Steve Puppe
By 10:30 on a crisp, overcast Saturday morning in April, four students are hard at work rebuilding a retaining wall in Suzi Cammon’s backyard. Before most college students would even think about getting out of bed, these volunteers have already moved bags of mulch, assembled three birdbaths and relocated a piece of antique garden décor for the Lawrence homeowne.

“They’ve been here since 9:30,” says Cammon, g’70, a retired high school counselor. “They’ve just worked their tails off, and we’re not quite an hour into it.”

The students were participating in The Big Event, KU’s annual day of community service, which brings together thousands of Jayhawks to help local residents with home projects such as raking leaves, painting fences and washing windows. This year marked the 11th anniversary of the event, which was canceled last spring because of COVID-19.

Though the April 17 event was scaled down compared to previous seasons, no less effort went into ensuring its success. Wichita senior Jacob Hammil, executive director of The Big Event, led a team of about 15 student organizers who worked diligently throughout the academic year to prepare for the occasion, coordinating campus and community outreach and fundraising.

“We just want to give back to the community as students, faculty and staff, because the community gives to KU all year long,” Hammil says. “We support a college campus and it’s definitely a big thank you to them.”

The Big Event took shape in 2010 as a partnership between KU’s Center for Community Outreach, Student Union Activities and Student Senate, but as the effort gained traction, it branched off as a separate, student-led organization. In recent years, as many as 3,000 students, faculty and staff have served more than 400 job sites in the community; this year, because of lingering COVID-19 concerns, organizers limited the event to just over 400 volunteers, who worked at nearly 90 locations across town. All work was performed outdoors.

More than 400 students, faculty and staff volunteered April 17 at The Big Event, KU’s dedicated day of service in the Lawrence community. “I am super proud of our team for putting on a safe event during a pandemic,” says Wichita senior Jacob Hammil (above), executive director of The Big Event.

“Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the atmosphere at the Burge Union courtyard was lively the morning of the event, as masked volunteers arrived as early as 9 a.m. to check in, mingle with friends and grab some Big Event swag and a breakfast burrito before gathering supplies and heading to their designated job sites for the four-hour work shift.

Natalia Gonzalez, a sophomore pre-nursing major and member of the coed pre-health fraternity Delta Epsilon Mu, was among the volunteers eager to see the event return. “I was really sad that we weren’t able to do it last year,” she says, “so I wanted to do everything I could to get out there and help the community.”

Gonzalez teamed up with three friends to haul landscaping rocks into flower beds with Michelle

KU’s dedicated day of community service returns after COVID cancellation

“We just want to give back to the community as students, faculty and staff, because the community gives to KU all year long. They support a college campus and it’s definitely a big thank you to them.”

— Jacob Hammil
**Further isolation**  
*Research identifies pandemic stresses endured by LGBTQ youth*

The 2020 spring semester began on an encouraging note for Assistant Professor Megan Paceley, thanks to creation of a leadership group of LGBTQ youth who had pledged to help Paceley and KU’s Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging create community-based programs to address their specific needs.

The young people chose to coalesce under the banner “Pride Alliance,” and gathered for in-person meetings in January and February. As with everything else at the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings moved online in March, and by April, just a month into the pandemic’s forced isolation, Paceley, coordinator of diversity, equity and inclusion for the School of Social Welfare, already could see the unique challenges the 15- to 19-year-olds were facing.

“For youth versus adults, there’s already a difference with isolation and anxiety, those sorts of things,” Paceley says. “But then when you add in having a gender or sexuality that is stigmatizing, that your parents may not be accepting of, and suddenly you can’t leave your house and can only be in a space that might be hostile, that’s pretty difficult, right?”

Working with colleagues and co-authors from KU, the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, the University of Maryland and Ohio State University, Paceley summarized a rapid round of research with the 15- to 19-year-olds who had pledged to help Paceley and KU’s Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging create community-based programs to address their specific needs.

“We have a whole year of potential identity development,” Paceley says, “that has maybe been stalled for a lot of young people.”

Paceley, who soon will be promoted to associate professor, notes that when she began interviewing the Pride Alliance’s young leaders in April 2020, they reported challenges such as parents caved in on their phone calls and video chats. When researchers suggested text-based messaging to protect privacy, some of the youths reported that parents were checking their phones, too.

“When it wouldn’t have occurred to me, but they shared that,” Paceley says. “I knew that reducing isolation is important, but how that happens, for me, would be coming from an adult lens, so talking to them about what they need and want is important.”

Even early in the pandemic, LGBTQ youth reported depression and suicidal thoughts brought on by issues such as not being able to present as authentic while living at home or stress-related weight gain. Young people who might have only recently come out — “Even if just to themselves,” Paceley notes — were forced to endure a full year without face-to-face access to peers, counselors and other support systems.

While their research confirmed the need for supportive and affirming queer resources accessible to the teens, Paceley and her colleagues also learned that the young people also hope sincerely caring adults reach out with an approach that validates their concerns rather than serving up one-size-fits-all platitudes.

“Recognizing the trauma that comes from isolation, that comes from the pandemic, while also living in a society that marginalizes you and your identity is important. They’re not just students here to learn; they’re people, human beings with experiences, and a lot of those experiences, at least for this past year, have been traumatic. [Isolation] is hard for all of us, but even harder for teenagers, and then even harder for teenagers who don’t have others around them who share similar identities.

“I do know they’re super resilient, but that doesn’t mean it’s not going to be hard.”

—*Chris Lazzerino*

**In March**, the Kansas Association of Broadcasters confirmed what Jayhawks have known for years: KU’s student-run radio station, KJHK 90.7 FM, totally rocks. Competing against dozens of college radio and television stations across the state, our student DJs and staff tallied 15 awards, including seven first-place honors and best website—an incredible feat, considering the challenges they faced this year.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our staff at KJHK,” boasted Mike MacFarland, f’97, general manager and adviser at KJHK. “Their hard work, enthusiasm and creativity throughout the pandemic have been a constant inspiration for me. I’m thrilled to see their efforts acknowledged and recognized by industry professionals as well.”

—*Heather Biele*

—*Megan Paceley*
Andrew Wymore
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For the fourth-consecutive year, KU received Military Friendly Schools designation, securing a No. 5 ranking among Tier 1 research institutions across the country, up one spot from last year. KU also was one of 162 schools nationwide to earn Gold Award status, an honor reserved for institutions with outstanding practices, outcomes and programs for military-affiliated students. The University has been a Gold Award recipient since 2017. More than 1,200 schools participated in the Military Friendly Schools 2021-’22 survey, which assesses services and support for military-affiliated students and includes data on core standards, such as retention, graduation and job placement for student veterans.

ROCK CHALK REVIEW

STUDENT LIFE

Commencement
Severe weather cancels May 16 events, but Jayhawks still celebrate

As waves of severe weather moved through Lawrence, the University was forced to forgo all three May 16 Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2021. To minimize crowds and maintain social distancing, KU had scheduled events at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for graduates and a limited number of guests, but persistent storms prevailed. Shortly after the cancellations, Chancellor Doug Girod invited the Class of 2021 to join the Class of 2020 in a combined ceremony at 10:30 a.m., May 23.

Despite the rain and lightning, hundreds of students converged on the Hill for impromptu celebrations with their friends and families, snapping photos, popping bottles of champagne and taking the much-anticipated walk through the Campanile.

In a virtual celebration posted on KU’s website late Sunday evening, Girod said, “Let’s start with the obvious: This is not how any of us wanted to celebrate this Commencement, here online, with a video, something we’re all very tired of doing after this past year.”

The digital tribute continued with the presentation of student awards for both the Lawrence and Kansas City campuses, as well as the hooding of Barney Graham, m’79, deputy director of the National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center, who received an honorary Doctor of Science for notable contributions to the fields of immunology, virology and vaccinology. Graham is the chief architect of the first authorized COVID-19 vaccines, which were developed based on his coronavirus spike protein research.

As Graham described the relief and pride in knowing that his 13-year-old grandson recently received a COVID-19 vaccine that his research made possible, he reminded graduates, “The lesson here is that everything important at some level becomes personal.” —Heather Biele

Buzbee to Post: The Washington Post on May 11 introduced Sally Streff Buzbee as its new executive editor. Buzbee, j’88, joined the Associated Press after her KU graduation and since 2017 led the global news machine as its executive editor; she now becomes the first woman atop the Post’s editorial masthead.

Publisher Fred Ryan praised the Post’s “runaway unanimous choice” as an “inspiring leader” with “credibility and gravitas.”

In a May 16 Commencement video celebration, Robert Simari, m’86, executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center, and Chancellor Doug Girod bestowed on Barney Graham an honorary Doctor of Science. Graham’s research laid the foundation for the COVID vaccines.

For KU Online
Three of a kind
Goldwater Scholar trio vaults KU to nation’s top rank

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR Mikhail Barybin was still in an online consultation with his doctor when his phone began lighting up with incoming text messages. It was 11:01 a.m. on March 26, and, still in an online consultation with his doctor when his phone began lighting up with incoming text messages. It was 11:01 a.m. on March 26, and, knowing that Goldwater Scholarships are announced midday on the last Friday of March, Barybin naturally assumed good news awaited him after his telemedicine appointment.

Happy news, indeed, as KU was once again shining in the Goldwater glow, but three Jayhawks, all Kansans, all juniors, all members of the University Honors Program, all chemistry majors and all members of the KU Chemistry Club’s executive board, honored with the country’s premier undergraduate award encouraging excellence in science, engineering and mathematics?

"This is really amazing," says Barybin, who has chaired KU’s Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship nomination committee since 2014. "The culture of undergraduate research in our department is what sets us apart." Barybin recused himself from the nomination process this year because his son, Anton, was among the KU students being considered for nomination—and later announced as one of the winners. Once the committee finalized its choices, Barybin rejoined the process, working closely, as always, with Anne Wallen, c’03, director of KU’s Office of Fellowships.

Along with Anton Barybin, this year’s honorees, who bring KU’s Goldwater total to 71 since the scholarship program was first awarded in 1989, are Emma Cosner, of Overland Park, and Jonah Stiel, of Topeka.

Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, the summer after his graduation from Lawrence’s Free State High School. His research is in neurodegenerative and neurotransmitter diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

"Of course we need to broaden and deepen our understanding of fundamental mechanisms of disease," he says, "but I think the questions we want to ask as researchers should be driven by the patient, so that all of our research can eventually be actualized and make a difference in people’s lives, which is ultimately what every researcher wants."

Cosner is a chemistry major with a minor in physics, hopes her research in Associate Professor James Blakemore’s lab, on harnessing renewable energy using electrocatalysis, will help her one day realize her dream of becoming an astronaut. Also promoting her cause is research she’s conducting with Christoph Rogan, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, on the strength of sensors that one day will be subjected to extreme conditions in the CERN Large Hadron Collider.

"My key thing is, always set the bar really high, as you can see from my goal of being an astronaut," Cosner says. "Even if you don’t make it, you’ll still be proud of yourself for trying, and you’ll still have made it to a spot that’s good."

Stiel, like Cosner, conducts research in Blakemore’s lab, focused on environmentally beneficial catalysis. Professor Barybin notes that one KU chemistry professor group had as many Goldwater chemistry honorees as did CalTech, and more than Harvard, MIT, Stanford and Berkeley.

"I think this is unheard of nationally," Barybin says. "It tells you the quality of our students is on par, and obviously might be better, than many of those institutions."

Says Chancellor Doug Girod, "I never won a Goldwater, but as a chemistry major myself, I’m certainly proud. These folks are going to go out and change the world."

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

Sweet guys of Sigma Chi
Phil Hammons was that one special sort of college pal we all had, or wish we had. Always laughing, quick to poke fun, more often than not at himself. His family and fraternity brothers alike treasured his happy demeanor, so when Hammons in February faced the darkest days of his life during lung and liver cancer treatments, praying he might fall asleep and never again awaken, their concern was very real.

Hammons, 26, only recently retired from the family real estate firm in Fort Scott, was reenlisted as an Olathe rehab center when one of his Sigma Chi brothers, Chuck Warner, b’67, l’70, reached out to Carey Parks and asked whether her father might be up for a visit. Of sorts: 1960s-era Sigma Chi from across the area who in recent years has reconnected over monthly gab sessions in Kansas City barbecue joints decided it was time to reunite the seniors.

And so, with blessings from both Carey and Phil, and the men of Sigma Chi on March 10 assembled on a tiny strip of lawn and sang three of their favorite tunes from back when Hammons held down harmony, wrapping up with perhaps the most famous fraternity song of ’em all, “The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.”

“ ’That’s when I lost it,” Hammons said with a chuckle from his Fort Scott home, where he was under the care of home health specialists, along with nurses and a surgeon who lived nearby and Racy, his beloved rescue dachshund. “It’s a feel-good story, isn’t it? And I think people need more of those."

On May 2, an impromptu “friendship parade” 100 strong marched outside Hammons’ bedroom window, where he greeted each of his well-wishers by name. Two days later, Phil Hammons passed away.

Recalling in his obituary their patriotic “quick wit, his roaring laughter, and his irrepressible personality”—along with his abiding dedication to family, friends, church, community, KU, Sigma Chi, The Wheel and golf—his family summed up the memory of the man with this:

“He was his own laugh track.”
KU Debate finished a strong season with three students winning national honors. Azia Butler, Lansing sophomore, in March became the first Black woman to win the Ross Smith Top Speaker award at the National Debate Tournament, where she and teammate Ross Fitzpatrick, Leawood senior, reached the Final Four. Nate Martin, Lansing senior, won the second speaker award in April. Butler was named National Debater of the Year, and assistant coach Jyeesa Hampton, ‘15, ‘18, ‘21, was named the Graduate Student Coach of the Year by the Cross Examination Debate Association. Butler is KU’s third Debater of the Year, joining Hampton (2015) and Kenney Delphi, ‘21 (2020). KU Debate has won six national championships and competed in 18 Final Fours.

This realization came early, when, at 16, Jackson worked for the summer on a South Dakota grassland ranch owned by relatives. The introduction to the prairie ecosystem that would become the focus of his life’s work suggested two ways to experience land. “One, which became known later to me as the Jeffersonian agrarian ideal, was where culture dictated that ground be plowed, worked, and planted,” he writes. “The other, rangeland life, was where the plow had no place and was even anathema. I preferred the grassland.”

For more than 40 years, Jackson led the Land Institute’s quest to develop a new agricultural model based on perennial grains that combine the biodiversity of prairie systems with the high yields of annual crops, all delivered by deep-rooted plants that eliminate tillage and contribute to building, rather than eroding, precious soil. He envisions a biodiversity plant community that’s the opposite of the corn-beans monoculture that dominates great swaths of the heartland. It’s an approach that, to borrow Jackson’s typically pithy phrasing, relies more on the cleverness of man than the simplicity of nature. While doing this important work to improve agriculture, the well-known sustainability advocate (whom KU named the Graduate Student Coach of the Year by the Cross Examination Debate Association in 2015) became what Jackson calls “the problem of agriculture.” Agriculture, in other words, isn’t the answer to our many ecological, cultural and social ills; it’s the root of them.

The Land Institute in Salina, isn’t waxing nostalgic for a lost golden age of farming. His frame of reference is far too broad for that, taking in deep geologic time and man’s own brief run of days. But Jackson, g’60, MacArthur Fellowship-winning founder of the Land Institute’s quest to develop a new agricultural model based on perennial grains, has disappeared from rural America. But Jackson’s memorable phrases with a clear analysis of his crucial insights about man-and-the-world. Jackson’s memorable phrases with a clear analysis of his crucial insights about man-and-the-world. Jackson’s memorable phrases with a clear analysis of his crucial insights about man-and-the-world. Jackson’s memorable phrases with a clear analysis of his crucial insights about man-and-the-world.
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—Henry Bial

The theatre industry has been hit hard by COVID-19. In New York City alone, where all 41 Broadway theatres shut down in March 2020, ticket sales from the pandemic-shortened season amounted to only about $300 million, compared with $1.8 billion the season before.

At KU, where University Theatre mounts a half-dozen productions in a typical academic year, faculty had to rethink plans for the 2020–21 season.

“With COVID we can’t have an audience in our space; we can’t really even have actors in each other’s personal space safely, so how do you keep doing what we do?” says Henry Bial, professor and chairman of the department of theatre and dance.

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Airplay

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In the spirit of the 1930s radio plays created by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre company, Jayhawk Theatre on the Air set out to present live, script-in-hand readings of contemporary plays, including works by KU playwrights, for broadcast to remote audiences.

In the process, they discovered that a pandemic pivot could be about more than just making the best of a bad situation; it could also open up new opportunities.

“For me the inspiration was not so much the ‘War of the Worlds’ scary part of it,” Bial says of the Mercury Theatre model. “But the idea that during the Depression they made theatre available via radio to people who otherwise wouldn’t be able to access it.”

For audiences today, the biggest hurdle to access is often the high price of tickets, and that hurdle is even greater with so many people losing jobs in the past year. But there are also access problems on the production side.

“If it costs $50,000 to put on a show, producers are going to be more risk-averse,” Bial explains. “If it’s Broadway and it costs $5 million to put on a show, producers are going more for the broadest common denominator” in deciding which plays to produce. “And that’s not always where the best stories are.”

For safety, performers spread out onstage and used clear plastic face shields during their rehearsal of “Goodnight, Tyler.” The April performance was beamed by video link to viewers.

With the script-in-hand format decided, KU Theatre embraced the chance to rethink its approach.

“We said, ‘Well, instead of focusing on what we can’t do, what does moving to an audio format make possible that we couldn’t do otherwise?’” Bial says.

Because actors read directly from scripts, rehearsal time is greatly reduced, which can draw students—and, on occasion, alumni—who could not commit to five-nights-a-week rehearsals because of class or work schedules. The digital broadcast expands the potential audience for a performance and allows playwrights to participate in talkbacks with actors and audience members. The absence of sets and costumes lowers the financial investment for the theatre department, which “allows us to take a chance on newer, less recognizable work, because we don’t have to think about box office in quite the same way,” Bial says. “Lower risk economically allows us to take a bigger risk creatively.”

The second production in the Jayhawk Theatre on the Air series, “March Madness,” a work-in-progress by Darren Canady, associate professor in the graduate creative writing program, allowed students to collaborate not only with a local playwright, but also with an experienced alumni actor, Jack Wright, g’67, PhD’69, professor emeritus of theatre. “It’s a nice treat for our students to work with people they might not have had a chance to work with if we were putting on a full-blown production,” Bial says.

The scramble to salvage classroom and extra-curricular activities for students is just part of the survival strategy faced by colleges and universities across the country in the past year. The same is true for KU, where in addition to Jayhawk Theatre on the Air, the department of theatre and dance also has hosted virtual dance recitals and hired established playwrights to write new monologues for KU students to perform.

It’s all part of an effort not merely to get through the logistical challenge posed by a global pandemic, but to use that challenge to find new ways of approaching age-old arts.

“We’re constantly trying to put an emphasis on, what does this give us a chance to do that we couldn’t have done before?” Bial says. “It doesn’t make up for the fact that they have to wear a mask in tap class; it doesn’t make up for the 24-hour fundraising whirlwind began in 2018. ‘I grew up in Santa Ana, Kansas,” said Mary Haddican, c’73, f’76, of St. John, who made the $10,000 gift to benefit the KU School of Medicine-Salina. “I know the importance of rural health care.” This year’s drive saw 2,000 more gifts than in 2019 and a boost in donations by more than $2 million. “Donors stepped up at record levels to support KU in these times of great need,” said KU Endowment president Dale Seuferling, ’77. “We could not be more thankful for every meaningful gift that totaled such a tremendous result.”

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“We’re constantly trying to put an emphasis on, what does this give us a chance to do that we couldn’t have done before?” Bial says. “It doesn’t make up for the fact that they have to wear a mask in tap class; it doesn’t make up for the fact that we can’t have a traditional cast party or some of the other accoutrements of college life. But we’re doing what we can.”

—Steven Hill
Book briefs


After a few seasons of mixed success in her first forays in Southern gardening, Roxann Hargrave Ward moved with her family to England, where for two years she “was living every American gardener’s dream.” Ward, j’81, spent her final summer overseas studying garden design at a local agricultural college and returned home to Georgia energized to become a master gardener with the skills and creative artistry worthy of the South’s flowering palettes, as seen in *Color-Rich Gardening for the South*, a delicious new paperback and e-book from The University of North Carolina Press, delivering that expertise and eye for design with a spirited flair both inspirational and technically detailed. Ward notes that while plant materials discussed in her book are geared toward regions of mild winters, her garden designs can be adapted to any area of the country.
Almost a year after the publication of her widely praised memoir, *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*, Rebekah Taussig has another reason to celebrate: ABC Signature is developing her book for television.

Taussig, PhD ’17, a disability advocate who has been paralyzed from the waist down since she was 14 months old, will co-write the TV adaptation and work with executive producers from Mandeville Films, as well as director-producer Randall Einhorn, who’s known for several hit television shows, including “The Office,” “Parks and Recreation” and “Modern Family.”

“Sitting Pretty is Taussig’s first book ("In Her Words," issue No. 1) and was published in August 2020 by HarperOne. The collection of essays is rooted in the mini-memoirs she began sharing five years ago on her Instagram account, which detail her experiences growing up in a wheelchair. The opportunity to expand her book’s reach as a TV show and shine a spotlight on the challenges and complications she faced growing up in a wheelchair, the chair-using woman at the center, “Taussig says, "and it means the world to me that I get to participate in making it."
and pandemic-related supply chain delays that are still ongoing, Weaver’s is poised to continue offering its loyal customers good selections at attractive prices, along with amenities that distinguish it from soulless big-box stores: “Weaver’s assortment of apparel and home goods satisfies the definition [of a department store], especially according to today’s standards—perhaps more accurately even than Nordstrom and Von Maur.”

New art brightens old corner

“Paradoxical Synapse,” the gleaming new sculpture at Eighth and Vermont, is 10 feet of cold-cast aluminum poured and polished over a durable frame of steel, wire mesh and fiberglass, perched seemingly weightlessly atop a 3-foot tall base. Sculptor Jacob Burmood, g’13, created the elegant, playful piece to hold its own on a downtown corner dominated by heavy brick buildings without drowning out historic elements of the structure whose renovation it celebrates, Fire Station No. 1 and Douglas County Senior Services. Lawrence’s latest public art installation is a joy for all passersby, but its shiny skin and abstract forms are special delights for schoolchildren. “The response I get from kids is totally priceless,” Burmood says from his Kansas City studio. “They see things in abstract works that always surprise me.”
New leaders bring renewed hope

Tumultuous year salved with hiring of new athletics director, football coach

The stated purpose of the May 3 press conference inside KU football’s indoor practice facility was to introduce Lance Leipold as the Jayhawks’ new football coach. As the event got underway, however, the realization could hardly have been missed: the coach was doing far more than introducing a coach.

When Leipold, a rising star with successful runs at Wisconsin-Whitewater and Buffalo, took his post as Northwestern University’s deputy director of athletics to take over at KU, where he began his career as a part-time student employee in the Williams Education Fund, his career as director of athletics to take over at KU, where he began his career, and where I fell in love with college athletics.

accepted voluntary pay cuts from its top earners and put out a rare call for its supporters to step up in a time of great financial need. Football failed to win a game and men’s basketball exited the NCAA Tournament’s first weekend.

Bad became worse with seemingly unsolvable problems that cost Les Miles the football job, shortly followed by Chancellor Doug Girod accepting Jeff Long’s resignation as athletics director.

“I know the past week has been challenging for those of us who love Kansas Athletics,” Girod wrote in a campus email announcing Long’s departure. “But I am heartened by the passion of our university community.”

With KU stalwart Kurt Watson, d’75, called upon to assume interim command of the department—and with the assistance of an alumni search committee of Linda Ellis Sims, e’79; Ray Evans, b’82, g’84; John Ballard, b’73; and Wayne Simien, c’05—Girod on April 5 announced that Dodge City native Travis Goff, c’03, j’03, had agreed to leave his post as Northwestern University’s deputy director of athletics to take over at KU, where he began his career as a part-time student employee in the Williams Education Fund.

“Travis stood out,” Girod wrote in his campus newsletter, “due to his experience, his reputation as a man of integrity, and his demonstrated ability to connect with faculty, staff, alumni, and donors.”

Goff’s first task would also be his most crucial: hiring the next football coach. But first Goff allowed himself a few moments to bask in his return, pausing to snap a photo when he saw Allen Field House’s scoreboard announcing his arrival.

“This is my destination job. This is where I fell in love with college athletics,” Goff said of Leipold. “His track record of sustained excellence is exactly what we were looking for in our next leader, and is what the University of Kansas and our fans deserve.”

Two weeks after accepting a six-year contract at KU, Leipold announced that he would retain Emmett Jones as wide receivers coach, after Jones proved to be a popular leader as interim head coach during spring practice. Among the assistants Leipold will import from Buffalo are offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki and defensive coordinator Brian Brondia.

“Every single coach is ready to dig in,” Leipold said, “and get this team ready to compete at the highest level.”

Also of significant note: Retired NFL star and former team captain Darrell Stuckey II, c’09, a member of KU football’s Ring of Honor, returned to Mount Oread as director of football relations.

“If we’re all on the same page,” Stuckey wrote in an open letter to Jayhawks everywhere, “this team is going to grow fast—very, very fast.”

She’s a keeper

Peters takes aim at rare soccer records

Nobody around the KU soccer program breezily throws around comparisons with the program’s best players, so it’s no small matter that goalkeeper Sarah Peters is mentioned alongside All-American Meghan Miller, who from 2001 to 2004 recorded 28 shutouts.

Even with her junior year mangled by COVID’s schedule disruptions, Peters recorded six shutouts to bring her three-season total to 26, along with a career goals-against average of 0.88, compared with Miller’s 0.98.

“I think the girls are confident in me, and that shows on the field, how strong we are defensively,” Peters says. “That’s been a great comfort, knowing a team has your back.”

Peters finds herself in Miller’s rare company for two primary reasons: She’s that good, and she’s been the starter since her first game as a freshman—which happened to be a shutout—and both 22nd-year head coach Mark Francis and associate head coach Kelly Miller, who has coached KU goalkeepers during the entirety of Francis’ long tenure, are loath to start freshmen in goal.

“We’ve only had that happen one other time, and that was Meghan Miller,” Francis says. “Freshmen make mistakes, and as a goalkeeper, when you make a mistake, usually it means the other team scores.”

Peters, of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, won and kept the job as a freshman, helping the defense to nine shutouts and four 200-minute shutout streaks—most of which was attributable, her coaches say, to her natural ability.

Kelly Miller explains that he prefers to spend time coaching incoming goalkeepers on intricacies of the position, including both technique and tactical decision-making. He adds that when Peters won the job,...
as a freshman, he decided that rather than bogging her down with changes to her game that would dampen her instincts and slow her reactions, he opted to step back and allow her to rely on what he describes as "explosive" athletic ability.

At the conclusion of the season, Miller says, he told Peters that she was "probably one of the worst goalkeepers I’ve ever put on the field as a starter," but he quickly adds that was only because she was so inexperienced that asking her to start every game of the season "was not fair to her."

Peters took the frank conversation to heart, honing the position’s demanding skill set along with a dedication to fitness that has impressed even Francis, for whom fitness is a constant talking point.

“She’s really committed to her fitness," Francis says, "which has made a massive difference in terms of her ability to train at a high level, consistently.”

Her maturation as the team’s on-field leader this year reached beyond the pitch, as coaches scrambled to adjust team-building concepts that had to be put aside for COVID restrictions. Freshmen could not be matched with upperclassmen for room assignments on the road, for instance, because players had to keep the same roommates as at home, and even the simple notion of dispersing table assignments at team meals evaporated as players were forced to eat in their rooms.

“All those situations where your team is bonding, we didn’t have those," Francis says. "Having people to guide the group, players like Sarah, was really important.”

Consistently honored as Academic All-Big 12 First Team as an exercise science major—“I always put my head in the books and work hard”—Peters says she is aiming for graduate school to become a physical therapist. That could be put on hold if she decides to test her fortunes at the professional level, but she adds that enduring academic and athletic disruptions over the past year has prepared her for whatever might be next.

“I think it’s really taught us a lot of lessons," Peters says. "We have to be accountable for all the work we have to do outside of soccer. It’s a balancing act. It’s been a good challenge for us to have.”

**UPDATE**

After winning both races in the weather-shortened Sunflower Showdown against K-State May 1 at Wyandotte County Lake, rowing celebrated the careers of seniors London Acree, Heidi Burns Katie Donnellan, Lauren Fee, Hannah Roemer, Laurel Salisbury, Anna Van Driel, Emma Yowell and manager Megan Akers. ... In a Mizzou meet forced indoors by weather, sophomore Zach Bradford set KU’s new indoor pole vault record at 19-0.75 feet. KU moved into postseason competition with the first team in NCAA history boasting four 18-foot vaulters, including senior Hussain Al-Hizam (18-8.25) and senior Christian Champion and junior Kyle Rogers (both 18-1-25). The May 1 Rock Chalk Classic featured school records by junior Alexandra Emilianov in the discus (197.8 feet) and shot put (55-4.25 feet), and senior Gleb Dudarev won the hammer throw with the NCAA second-best mark of the season (242-6 feet). ... Senior Jenny Mosser and freshman Caroline Crawford, both outside hitters, earned First Team All-Big 12 volleyball honors, and Crawford was also named to the All-Rookie Team. ... Senior Manon Manning on Feb. 27 won HUs first Big 12 title in the 200-yard backstroke, and KU placed second in the team standings, at the conference meet at Texas. Sophomore Lauren Heinlein took second April 12-13 at Baylor with a 10-under 206, a 54-hole KU record. Junior Ben Sigel’s ace on No. 17 highlighted his final-round 67 April 18 at Iowa.

Goalkeepers coach Kelly Miller expects Sarah Peters to be challenged in fall camp by three worthy goal patrol-lers. “That’s never really happened during Sarah’s career here,” Miller says. “I’m excited for her because that’s going to push her.”

Photography by Steve Puppe.
A 2011 Kansas Alumni cover story, “The Gamble,” recounted how Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos’ skill at bluffing fraternity brothers during all-night poker games at KU’s Delta Upsilon house carried into a political career propelled by a willingness to take “audacious risks.” In 2016, Santos, b’73, saw his greatest gamble—negotiating peace with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a rebel guerrilla army that had waged war on the country since 1964—pay off when his government signed (and the Colombian people ratified) a peace agreement with the FARC. Santos, KU’s first head of state, was awarded the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Battle for Peace: The Long Road to Ending a War With the World’s Oldest Guerrilla Army, published in April by University Press of Kansas, is Santos’ account of that process, begun in earnest at the start of his two-term presidency but rooted in earlier stints leading Colombia’s ministries of foreign trade, finance and national defense. This excerpt details a key element—and a crucial negotiating hurdle—in the president’s quest for peace: recognizing the rights of the victims.

Santos visited KU in 2012 to accept the Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and in 2017 to accept an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for outstanding contributions to achieving peace in his country and the world. He is currently founder and chairman of the Compaz Center of Resources for Peace.

—The Editors

‘Forgiveness is Infinite’

The years-long bid to forge peace between the Colombian government and FARC rebels reaches its most difficult but most essential stage—delivering justice to the victims of a half-century of civil war

by Juan Manuel Santos

In Havana, we had reached partial agreements on rural development, political participation, and the problem of illegal drugs. But the debates ahead of us were not going to be easy. We still had to discuss the point on the agenda devoted to victims, and that included guarantees with regard to the victims’ right to know the truth, to see justice done, and to be assured of reparation and nonrepetition. Another point to be dealt with was the end of the conflict, which included the thorny question of laying down arms and the reincorporation of ex-combatants into civilian life.

Official Nobel portrait by Mads Nissen/Politiken © Nobel Media
Mao Tse Tung, before beginning his famous Long March in 1934, recalled an adage of Lao Tzu that I always like to bear in mind: “A journey of one thousand miles begins with the first step.” That’s how I understood the difficult path I had embarked on when, back in 1996, I organized that meeting at the Monserrat Abbey to seek creative solutions that might lead to peace in Colombia. Indeed even before that, in 1991, when I was in New York as minister for foreign trade and listened to a businessman telling me that there would be no real investment in Colombia so long as an armed conflict subsisted, I began to dream of peace. And that dream would become a reality only if we could find an adequate solution to the problem of the victims. Over half a century, the armed conflict had produced more than eight million victims, and to recognize them, make reparation to them, and accompany them constituted a moral and historical debt that Colombian society had contracted. Paying it was going to take years, but we had to begin as soon as possible. We had to take the first step. And that first step, even before we had begun peace talks with the FARC, was the Law of Victims and Restitution of Land, to which I have already referred.

I kept constantly clear in my mind and heart that the goal of peace is twofold: on the one hand, to respond to the rights of the victims that the war has been responsible for, and on the other, to make sure there will be no more victims. And this conviction, which I transmitted to the government’s negotiators, became the central axis of the process, an emphasis that made it unique in the world because the Colombian process was the first to place the victims at the center of the solution.

If we were seeking to end the conflict, it was to have no more victims. And if a form

Bearing this in mind, my address on August 7, 2014, at the inauguration of my second presidential term, included the following:

"I will use all the energy I have to comply with this mandate for peace. However, rather than celebrate what we have achieved, I remind you that we are entering the final phase of talks. And like all last efforts, this stage will be the most difficult one, and the most demanding. It is going to demand sacrifices from us all. And above all, it is going to require decisions. More than anything else, decisions about the victims.

“Can there be any family in Colombia that does not have a father or mother, a brother or sister, a cousin or a friend, who has not been a victim of this conflict? With the Law of Victims, we took an important step. But the crucial step is to put an end to the conflict, to guarantee that there will be no more victims and that the victims' rights will be respected in the best possible way.

“We must see a genuine willingness to tell the truth, to clarify what happened and explain why, as well as to participate in the process of reparation and find a formula for justice that the victims and all Colombians will find acceptable.”

Little did we know then that discussions on the victims were going to occupy us for a year and a half. They began on May 7, 2014, with a joint declaration by all delegates at the negotiating table on the principles that would serve as guidelines for debate on this issue. But discussions did not conclude until the end of 2015 and at times had the process teetering on the brink of an abyss, especially because of the difficulty in reaching an agreement on the question of justice.

RIGHT: Santos signs the final peace agreement with the FARC, Teatro Colón de Bogotá, Nov. 24, 2016.

“I met with the victims on countless occasions and in many parts of the country ... and each time I was given proof of their courage, generosity, and solidarity. I was deeply moved by everything they told me.” —Juan Manuel Santos
of justice was to be agreed upon, it would have to be a system of justice that was above all for them, and that would not be inspired by vengeance but by reparation. At the very start of the process, I had a visit in Bogotá from Ronald Heifetz, founder of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard’s Kennedy School, where I had studied. And he gave me some sound advice. “Whenever you feel disheartened, tired, or pessimistic, talk to the victims. They, with their stories, their dramas, their suffering, will give you the will and the strength to go on.”

He lost his brother in the war, in the conflict. I’m a displaced person from Putumayo.”

“Forgiveness is infinite,” she said. “How can I help you?” I asked. “I am displaced from Urabá, and lost my two sons. One died, but I never found out what happened to the others. They were killed in the war.”

“Torchlight procession, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 2016.”

“Among the crowd there were a lot of Colombian flags waving, and when I heard cries of ‘Viva Colombia!’ my soul was filled with joy.”

“If you were able to keep fighting, if they did not lose hope in the possibility of peace, if they were ready to forgive their tormentors, what right did I have to fall by the wayside?”

What I discovered in all my conversations with the victims was something wonderful: while many people who had never been personally scarred by the conflict were insisting that the FARC be subjected to the most implacable justice, that the ex-guerrillas should be locked up in prison for years—something that is simply not viable in a peace process, since no subservient organization is going to sign an agreement to go to prison—the victims were telling me that, for them, more important than punishment for their persecutors was that they be told what had happened to their loved ones, many of whom had disappeared and whose mortal remains they had never been able to recover. Above all else, even more than reparations or justice, the victims wanted to be told the truth.

If you were able to keep fighting, if they did not lose hope in the possibility of peace, if they were ready to forgive their tormentors, what right did I have to fall by the wayside?“

“If lost it in the war, in the conflict. I’m a displaced person from Putumayo.”

“Well, cheer up, Don José!” I said. “You now have a home of your own, where you can be with your children.” José Plutarco looked at me with a sorrowful expression in his eyes and replied very faintly: “I lost them too, Mr. President. Both my sons were killed in the war.”

On another occasion, a woman came up to me and said: “President, I need your help.”

“How can I help you?” I asked. “I am displaced from Urabá, and lost my husband. The guerrillas killed him. And the paramilitaries took three of my sons. One died, but I never found out what happened to the others. They were taken from me by force. Please help me to find them.”

My eyes filled with tears. What can you say to someone who has survived such pain? The murderers might be guerrillas, paramilitaries, or even agents of the state, but the victim’s suffering is the same. We had to put a stop to this torrent of violence. And we had to do so at once. The conflict had become an implacable and efficient factory producing victims.

“I lost it in the war, in the conflict. I’m a displaced person from Putumayo.”

“Torchlight procession, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 2016.”

“Among the crowd there were a lot of Colombian flags waving, and when I heard cries of ‘Viva Colombia!’ my soul was filled with joy.”

“The Nobel Prize arrived at just the right moment, like a gift from heaven, and made us feel as if the whole world was giving us a pat on the back and urging us to go ahead and bring the peace process to a successful conclusion.” Maria Clemencia de Santos celebrates the news with President Santos and their daughter, Maria Antonia.

RIGHT: “Among the crowd there were a lot of Colombian flags waving, and when I heard cries of ‘Viva Colombia!’ my soul was filled with joy.” Torchlight procession, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 2016.

The Battle for Peace
The Long Road to a Civil War and a Road to Peace

Photographs courtesy University Press of Kansas
When I was asked who I would like to attend the ceremony in which I was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in December 2016, the first thing that came to my mind was that representatives of the victims should be invited. It was for them that we had made such an effort, and they had given us the moral support we needed to persevere. This recognition belonged to them more than anyone else.

And so it was that part of the official delegation that accompanied me consisted of victims of different actors in the conflict, among whom were the following: Pastora Mira, a courageous and generous woman whose father and husband had both lost their lives in partisan violence; the journalist Maria Jimena Duzán, held captive for years by that same guerrilla organization; and the renowned defender, was murdered by paramilitaries, a story that brought Pope Francis to tears when he heard it during the Nobel Prize award ceremony.

Some eighty people died, mostly children, and about one hundred were wounded. That day Leyner lost thirty-two members of his family, including his parents and three brothers. But he refused to give himself over to lamentations and a desire for revenge. He became a positive leader of his community and had the courage—because this requires courage—to pardon those who had committed this crime when they, members of the FARC, returned to Bojayá in June 2015 to beg forgiveness from the people whose town they had destroyed. Forgiveness has a twofold liberating effect: it liberates the one who is forgiven, but the one who forgives is also liberated from the weight of rancor and the darkness of hate.

One of the most emotional moments during the Nobel Prize award ceremony was when I paused in my address and asked the victims of the Colombian conflict to stand up and receive the homage they deserved. And they did so, holding hands, and the expression on their faces reflected the sentiments of so many years of repressed anguish. All those present broke into a long and moving applause. There, in the solemn hall of the Norwegian capital—where people like Mikhail Gor-bachev, Nelson Mandela, Yitzhak Rabin, Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama, and Malala Yousafzai had been paid homage—stood the representatives of eight million victims celebrating the end of a conflict that had robbed them of their loved ones or had stolen years from their lives and who, now that the war was over, once again could experience faith and hope.

There in Oslo, I recounted the story of Leyner Palacios, a joyful man and a proud representative of our Afro-Colombian ethnic group, who survived the Bojayá massacre in Chocó; and Pastora Mira, a courageous and generous woman whose father and husband had both lost their lives in partisan violence.

Cristo, whose father was killed by the ELN; the journalist María Jimena Duzán, whose sister was murdered by the paramilitaries, and the former senator Piedad Córdoba, who had been kidnapped by paramilitaries.

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Aabove: “There, in the solemn hall of the Norwegian capital, stood the representatives of eight million victims celebrating the end of a conflict that had robbed them of their loved ones or had stolen years from their lives.”

To learn more about the Colombian peace process, join an online conversation with President Juan Manuel Santos, 7 p.m., June 10, at doleinstitute.org.
By sharing stories of success, traditions and the global alumni network, the Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams Alumni Center aim to make prospective Jayhawks—and all generations—feel right at home.

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

The room buzzed with energy and animated conversations, fueled by anticipation and semester’s-end anxiety, as second-year architecture students met their clients—alumni whose graduation years spanned five decades—on April 28, 2017, in the Adams Alumni Center. This was no time or place for small talk. With detailed drawings and intricate 3D models, the students presented their big ideas for a new structure that could one day connect to the Alumni Center and become the starting place for prospective students and their families to tour KU.

Gabrielle Foster, then a sophomore from Chicago, recalls those fateful conversations with her Jayhawk elders, members of the Alumni Association’s national Board of Directors.

“I remember the excitement in the room, both from the students who were ready to present and from the alumni who had come back,” says Foster, g’20. “We were seeing the future of KU and the encompassing idea of past, present and future all in one building. As we explained our ideas and walked them through our plans, their eyes were glowing.”

Former board member Jerry Skillett, b’81, marveled at the “brilliant” students, who took the assignment to heart. “I actually had tears in my eyes because I couldn’t believe how committed they were to the vision,” he recalls. “This is where you start, and this is where you’re mentored, and this is where you finish—this whole 360-degree view of your life at the University all in one place. They were really trying to create that story.”

After the presentations, when the board members resumed their meeting, Skillett was among the first to speak. “We saw through the students’ eyes what would attract them to KU,” he said.

Renderings by Helix Architecture + Design
The notion of a new welcome center, atop Mount Oread at the entrance to historic Jayhawk Boulevard, had first surfaced two years earlier, in summer 2015, in a casual “what if?” email between KU colleagues. Matt Melvin, vice provost for enrollment management, posed the question. Heath Peterson, then interim president of the Alumni Association, suggested lunch. Weeks later, when they walked back from lunch at The Oread hotel, they stopped in front of the parking garage and gazed across the street at the Adams Alumni Center. “The more we talked, the more compelling this project became in terms of how we could really position the University to win the campus visit through a storytelling experience,” says Peterson, d’04, g’09, who became the Association’s president in November 2015. “We thought how great it would be if we could bring to life this symbolic idea of marrying the past to the future.”

Melvin, who arrived in Lawrence in 2010 to lead a transformation of student recruitment, worked with the KU Admissions team, campus leaders and alumni to revamp scholarships, recruiting strategies, data analysis and other aspects of attracting new Jayhawks, especially in an era of declining populations of high school graduates. Next on his wish list was a better launching point for campus visits, which since 1999 have most often started at the KU Visitor Center, the remodeled first floor of Templin Hall, near 15th Street. “The campus visit will always be the most important strategy and factor in enrollment results affirmed the pivotal power of the campus visit. In 2019 and 2020, prospective students who visited KU enrolled at twice the rate of those who did not visit.”

Peterson says the ongoing student disinvestment, increasing tuition—you see families wanting to see a return on the investment they make.” Peterson says. “How are we helping students make career connections? What kind of resources can we provide to enhance the student experience? The Alumni Association is uniquely positioned to drive that value.”

what Melvin calls “the arc of the Jayhawk experience,” including campus life, stories of Jayhawk career successes, research and innovation, history and traditions, and KU’s global reach. “One of the sustainable competitive advantages of KU is the alumni network,” he says. “We want to be very intentional and purposeful with communicating to students and their families the value add—the power—of that network.”

In the six years since Melvin and Peterson first imagined a new place for future and current Jayhawks, the momentum for what became known as the Jayhawk Welcome Center has grown. Chancellor Doug Girod, who in 2017 succeeded B. L’Heureux and Kapila Silva each spring to take shape, KU architecture and location, according to Dale Seuferling, “This is the right location.”

The location, limited space and outdated technology in the current Visitor Center prevent KU from showcasing interactivity and students currently participate in the Alumni Association. In partnership with KU Endowment, invested in the Student Alumni Network. Since 2017, the organization has grown from 1,200 members to 6,000, becoming the largest student group on campus and the largest of its kind in the Big 12. The Jayhawk Career Network, launched in 2018 with gifts from alumni donors, connects students with successful alumni worldwide for mentorship and career resources; more than 8,000 alumni and students currently participate in mentoring.

Encouraged by donor support for expanding both student and career programs—and mindful of the need to boost student recruitment by creating an unrivaled campus visit—KU Endowment and the Alumni Association began to seek contributions to fund the new Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams Alumni Center.

Donors endorsed the project’s purpose and location, according to Dale Seuferling, KU Alumni Endowment president. “Donors understand that this is a critical time in the life of the University and KU must be competitive in recruiting the next generation of Jayhawks.”

Peterson says, “As alumni reflect on their first impressions of KU, they immediately embrace the concept of a Welcome Center on Jayhawk Boulevard. That’s the right location.”

Thus far donors have committed $21 million for the 30,000-square-foot expansion. The Association and KU Endowment continue to seek gifts to fund $8 million in remaining renovation costs, including $3 million to support new technology and $5 million to modernize the Adams Center and connect the existing structure to the new Welcome Center’s event spaces.

A two-story lobby display will feature personalized greetings, videos, slideshows and social media feeds, and a digital exhibit will highlight KU research and innovation. Solar screens will filter the western sun while showcasing the view of campus.

Interactive displays will highlight the global network of KU alumni mentors, KU-led companies and career resources available through the Jayhawk Career Network. Visitors will scan individual QR codes to see content tailored to their academic, geographic or professional interests.

since the Adams Alumni Center opened in 1983, the alumni population has grown by more than 40% and the Alumni Association has transformed its programs and services for Jayhawks.

“If you really inventory the challenges facing higher ed today—the state’s general disinvestment, increasing tuition—you see families wanting to see a return on the investment they made,” Peterson says. “How are we helping students make career connections? What kind of resources can we provide to enhance the student experience?”

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When they say, ‘Meet me on campus,’ this will be the spot.”

KANSAS ALUMNI

reducing heat gain and therefore reducing and filter the light into the building, explains. “They calm that warm sun down but are also very functional,” Wiedeman found the solution in solar screens, which provide “an attractive, artistic approach ..., Stories of KU’s past and present, including notable traditions and Jayhawk successes, will greet visitors to the Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams Alumni Center in digital experiences and exhibits created by Dimensional Innovations of Kansas City. For KU, the firm has created exhibits in Allen Field House, the Booth Family Hall of Athletics and Capitol Federal Hall, home of the School of Business. Dimensional Innovations is known for designing interactive experiences that visitors can customize based on their own preferences. In the Jayhawk Welcome Center, prospective students’ information and interest are translated into individual QR codes, which students can scan to select relevant stories, explains Tucker Trotter, f’97, the firm’s CEO. “If we do it right, which we will, you want the people to choose the stories that matter most to them. Everybody is different and everybody has a different interest,” he says. “They have to be able to see themselves there ... then drill down if they’re interested.”

On the other side of campus, the company also renovated a treasured symbol of the past, Corbin Hall, KU’s first residence hall, a stone’s throw from the site of Old North College.

For more information on the Jayhawk Welcome Center, including construction progress, building features and donor support, visit jayhawkwelcomecenter.org.
SHOULD THAT DAY ARRIVE WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF HORIZONTAL IN A HOSPITAL, DANIEL DEJONG IS A PHYSICIAN YOU SHOULD WANT AT YOUR BEDSIDE.

The Wichita hospitalist is, by all evidence, low-key, attentive, kind. He cares about his patients, colleagues, co-workers and employer. He promotes productive interaction and positive outcomes, for the illnesses he treats and the professional relationships that envelop his working day.

He is a medical doctor and a photographer, a physician-artist who humbly says that his journey includes “no real dramatic story.”

DeJong, c’10, m’14, m’18, grew up in Overland Park, and, thanks to the blessings of a healthy childhood, his exposure to health care professionals was mostly limited to visits with his pediatrician. For some reason, though, he decided he wanted to become a doctor—“It was always something I felt like I wanted to do,” DeJong explains—so he studied biology as a KU undergrad, taking up the photography hobby while working as a residential adviser on Daisy Hill, and continued on to the School of Medicine, first in Kansas City and then Wichita, and remained in Wichita for his residency.

He and his future wife, Courtney Rooney DeJong, d’10, DPT’13, met in middle school, but did not become close until reconnecting at KU Medical Center, where Courtney, a sport science major, studied physical therapy. She joined him in Wichita during his residency, both presuming they would return to Kansas City when Daniel finally became an attending physician. They discovered instead that Wichita was the place to start their family. They liked the community, their church, their work, and saw no need to look elsewhere.

“It was kind of a long string of events,” DeJong says dryly, happily, of his undramatic arc. Then came the drama.

Photographs by Daniel DeJong

All in the Eyes

Wichita physician documents caregivers combating COVID

by Chris Lazzarino
Last year, as the grind of COVID-19 wore on and on and on, and each 10-plus-hour shift blurred into the next, day after day, week after week, Daniel DeJong thought to bring his camera to work. The hobby he'd first nurtured as an undergrad had long since taken hold, and he'd spent hours studying online instructional videos while carefully exchanging and upgrading expensive camera bodies and lenses. Finally established with a family and career and an active life away from Ascension Via Christi St. Francis—the Wichita hospital where he works as a member of the Sound Physicians hospitalist group—DeJong never lacked for new and exciting opportunities to make images. A young son and daughter saw to that. Until, that is, the pandemic locked him into the cycle now so achingly familiar to caregivers the world over. It finally occurred to DeJong that if he wanted to make some new photographs, his options were limited to boundaries imposed by the pandemic.

“Initially, I didn’t have a grand vision,” he says. “In fitting with the theme of my photography, it was much more of a process of finding my way there, rather than any big plans, like saying, ‘This is a project I want to do.’”

Careful not to interrupt life-saving work or ever photograph any patients, DeJong began making images of his St. Francis colleagues wearing their personal protective equipment, “just to have a portrait, something to remember, to kind of document it.” He shared the photographs with his subjects, and word began to spread on social media and online chat rooms for hospital employees.

His hospitalist group asked DeJong whether he’d be willing to contribute images for a yearbook, of sorts, to document the remarkable time of COVID. For those photographs, DeJong occasionally brought in an inexpensive backdrop, but as he again began roaming hospital corridors, seeking nurses, pulmonologists, infectious disease specialists, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, housekeepers and cafeteria workers, he trimmed the process to its raw basics.

Usually working with no tripod, backdrop or supplemental light, DeJong would come in on his days off to photograph exhausted caregivers during their breaks—nurses leaning against a random wall or a doctor standing defiantly in the middle of a long hallway. Most wore their full complement of PPE, although one young nurse chose to reveal the nose bandages and bruising brought on by endless hours working in an N-95 mask.

“While you can’t recognize many of us behind our PPE,” pulmonary disease physician Maggie Kennedy Hagan, ’88, ’91, ’94, said in January, “his photos allow the community to get a glimpse of what our world has been like the past 10 months.”

DeJong is too modest to claim a grand creative vision, but his decision to shoot in black and white reveals true artistic instinct.

“It simplifies a lot of what’s going on,” he says. “We have these big blue gowns, different colors of hats and gloves, there’s all these flashing lights and machines, it’s all very chaotic, almost cartoonish. Black and white gets down to the emotional piece of it.”

His co-workers came to admire DeJong’s photography and wanted their own portraits to be memorable, so some chose not to shower or shave beforehand, preferring instead to “look how it feels, being worn down and rugged and tired.” With limited visual distraction, and most subjects wearing heavy-duty masks, DeJong’s images tell the story of COVID-19 through one particular portal.

“He was able to really bring out the spark in people’s eyes. This is about a whole team, and how a whole team of hospital providers came together to take care of patients.”

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Daniel DeJong
through the day, go home, rest, and come back and do it again. And again.

And so, for me, it was important to have a way to thank everybody, and acknowledge what everyone was doing. My hope and focus were on giving something to people who were going through this so they could remember.

Rather than prompt particular poses, DeJong told his subjects, “Just do you want.” He required mere seconds to capture the moment in time, preferring documentary-style authenticity over stage-managed portraiture.

“It was genuine,” he says. “The people who are smiling are just smiling on their own, the people who are tired are genuinely tired, and everything in-between. There’s some cool moments that happened spontaneously, whatever people felt at that time.”

As COVID’s chaos stretched into a seemingly endless test of will, DeJong’s colleagues embraced his photography as a reminder of the delicate balance of focusing on patients as people, not statistics, while also caring for their own well-being.

“These photographs certainly feel, to some extent, like a time capsule,” Antonios says. “What I think it will show, years from now, is that what really matters to people are other people, and the sense of community. What mattered was not the news, not the numbers; what surfaces, at least to me, is that people care about people and care about being nice to each other and capturing each other’s essence.

“When we look back at this, what we’ll remember the most is how people cared for each other. The humanity is what we’ll all remember.”

It is the only dramatic story that matters.

Stark, black and white images of utter exhaustion, exhilaration, fear, pride and peril inevitably call to mind a certain style of combat photography that focuses on individual combatants and medics rather than sweeping views of complex battlefields. DeJong hesitates to link his images, or even his work as a physician fighting through COVID, to actual combat experienced by members of the military.

“I have seen plenty of things in the news that make that connection,” he says, “but I cannot imagine. I’ve never been in a combat scenario, so I don’t mean to belittle anything that people have gone through in those situations.”

And yet ...

“When it was at its thickest, there were a lot of days when it was notably emotionally hard. Not just, ‘We have this sick person, what are we going to do for them?’, but the weight of all of it. There’s just too much death or too much suffering, and it definitely has an emotional toll on all those involved.”

As the story of his remarkable images began to spread outside the hospital’s insular walls, from a Via Christi news release to a prominent feature in the Wichita Eagle and beyond, DeJong fretted about attention falling upon himself and his images rather than the daily achievements he chose to document and celebrate.

Yes, the creative outlet was personally beneficial “as a way to help process through grief and loss,” but the photographs themselves were always about, and for, others, honoring their relentless dedication to the grind, he says.

“OK, come in, put on all this gear, put your mask on, put your hat on, put your gown on. You can’t really talk to people very well, or you’re shouting through your mask. Do what you have to do, get through the day, go home, rest, and come back and do it again. And again.

And so, for me, it was important to have a way to thank everybody, and acknowledge what everyone was doing. My hope and focus were on giving something to people who were going through this so they could remember.”

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When Sophie Moore returned to her hometown of Plano, Texas, for spring break on March 6, 2020, she had no idea she would remain there for the rest of the academic year, let alone the following one. But after KU shifted to online instruction because of COVID-19, Moore, like the rest of the Jayhawk community, had to quickly adapt to remote learning. The speech-language-hearing major also had to find a way to continue the valuable, on-the-job training she needed to get into a master’s degree program.

“When the pandemic started, the opportunity to shadow speech-language pathologists in various settings, like a clinic or school, was not available,” she says. “So I started looking for virtual observation experiences, just to get to know the profession and learn what it’s like to be a speech-language pathologist.”

Moore reached out to a handful of professionals through the Alumni Association’s KU Mentoring platform and connected with Melissa Kurrle, a speech-language pathologist at UCHealth in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Using the video-conferencing site Microsoft Teams, Moore observed several of Kurrle’s sessions with patients, logging about eight hours of shadowing experience last October.

“I would watch her go through documentation, evaluations, assessments or treatments with different patients,” says Moore, who received permission from the health center to participate. “I thought she had great questions, given her level of exposure and education.”

When Moore returns to Mount Oread this fall for her final semester, she’s confident she’ll be better prepared to participate in an elective clinical practicum in speech-language pathology, thanks to this virtual opportunity with Kurrle. “I had no shadowing experience in a clinic or a hospital setting, so I learned a lot more about what that looks like,” says Moore, who recommends KU Mentoring to any student interested in learning more about a particular profession. “I really think that if anybody has the opportunity to log on and participate, they should. It really helped me.”
COMMENCEMENT

Class of 2021 graduates took advantage of a brief respite from rain to stage their unofficial walk down the Hill. Throughout the day, grads and proud family members gathered at favorite photo spots on campus.

For more coverage, see pp. 8 and 14. For additional photos, visit kansasalumni magazine.org.
Jayhawk Profiles

JONATHON WESTBROOK

Police officer's service leads to fellowship at White House

by Heather Beile

White House Fellow Jonathan Westbrook thought he had his career path all mapped out. The Kansas City, Kansas, native, who idolized his father growing up, planned to follow in his footsteps by joining the Air Force and dedicating his life to serving in the military. But a chance sighting of police officers, who were simply patrolling his neighborhood, changed all that.

"I'd never thought about law enforcement, but I saw those police officers, and I was like, man, that looks kind of a cool job," says Westbrook, who at 20 had just earned his associate's degree from Donnelly College and was stuck doing unfulfilling work at a local bank. "They're out in the community; no day's ever the same. I just didn't want to sit behind a desk all day!"

Westbrook joined the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department in 2007, when he was just 21 years old, and immediately extended his services to the public, participating in the Black Police Officers Association, which hosted community fundraisers and donated backpacks and other necessities to area children, and volunteering as a mentor at the Leavenworth federal penitentiary through the Life Connections program, he explains. "Through the years, as his career flourished, Westbrook succeeded in his role as a police officer.

At KU, Westbrook met the late Reggie Robinson, '80, '87, who at the time directed the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Decades earlier, Robinson had received a White House Fellowship and he encouraged Westbrook to apply for the prestigious program, which provides ambitious young men and women opportunities to work for top-ranking officials and senior government staff. In 2020, after a few attempts, Westbrook was one of 14 individuals selected from hundreds of applicants to serve a one-year term as a White House Fellow.

"I encourage others to step outside the box, step outside their comfort zones," says Westbrook, a Kansas City, Kansas, police officer currently serving a one-year term as a White House Fellow. "Just take that leap of faith and go for it."

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When his term ends in August, Westbrook will return to the KCKPD, where he recently was promoted to sergeant. He resolves to bring a fresh perspective to his work and apply the critical problem-solving and resource-management skills he acquired during his fellowship, an experience that will undoubtedly open doors for him professionally. And whether he continues his career in law enforcement or explores other opportunities, he's confident that community service will always remain a top priority. "I don't really have a select path right now, but my desire is to be used in the community," he says. "To bring other people up and out and push them forward, as was done for me."

CARRIE McADAM-MARX

Pharmacy holds 'key to the world' for small-town Kansan

by Steven Hill

In high school Carrie McAdam-Marx landed her first job, as a soda jerk at her hometown drugstore. Clark Pharmacy, owned and operated by James Coast, '72, was "the hub" of the southwest Kansas county seat of Cimarron.

"A lot of things centered around the pharmacy," she recalls. "Coffee breaks and meeting friends after school. It was just a critical part of our community!"

Over time McAdam-Marx, '88, learned precisely how critical it was the pharmacy's role. "We had a series of practitioners coming from Dodge City and Garden City to help, but the pharmacist was the one really stable medical aspect for Cimarron. After we lost the doctor, people really depended on the pharmacy. "We got by without a permanent health care provider, but it was much more possible and much better for the community that we had an independent pharmacist who was so committed to the patients he served."

Planning to become a doctor and return home, McAdam-Marx entered KU on the advice of another Clark pharmacist, who urged her to consider pharmacy school for her pre-med training. Before the end of her first semester, she says, "I switched to pre-pharmacy and never looked back."

So began an academic marathon that included a School of Pharmacy degree from KU, a residency and master's degree in hospital pharmacy from the University of Minnesota, a PhD in health policy from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and a master's in clinical investigation from the University of Utah. Along the way she held jobs in managed care pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry that took her to England and Australia. She's now professor and director of the master's program in pharmacy practice and science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

"I fell in love with pharmacy when I discovered that the pharmacy degree can be a key to the world, not just a key to the pharmacy," she says of the nontraditional career path that took her far beyond a goal—still firmly in place when she started her last year at KU—to return to southwest

Human Rights Commission and was invited to join the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, a position he still holds today. He also sought the attention of the KCKPD police chief, who asked Westbrook to serve on the department's Professional Standards Unit.

Through the years, as his career flourished, Westbrook succeeded in his role as a police officer, earning his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and enrolled at KU a year later to pursue a master's degree in public administration, a grueling three-year undertaking he managed while juggling the midnight shift as a police officer and a wife and newborn child at home. But it wasn't just the pursuit of higher education that drove Westbrook to succeed: His father, who passed away in 2010, also had earned a master's degree. "He was my role model," Westbrook, g'18, says. "I didn't join the Air Force, but I wanted to get my master's, just like he did."
“I fell in love with pharmacy when I discovered that a pharmacy degree can be a key to the world, not just a key to the pharmacy.” —Carrie McAdam-Marx

Kansas and buy her own pharmacy. “As so often happens in life,” McAdam-Marx says, “the world changed and my eyes opened to other possibilities.” That’s a message she stresses now to pharmacy students who, for the first time in years, are facing a genuine “shortage” between the supply and demand for pharmacists.

“Our graduates used to be able to pick and choose where they wanted to go,” she says. “Now everybody is cutting back, there aren’t as many positions and students realize there’s competition for jobs. Most start school thinking they’ll either work in a retail or a hospital pharmacy and that those are pretty much the options. What I try to bring in a little bit of everything,” she says. “When they have a pharmacist on their health care team to help their doctor, patients tend to demonstrate better responses to the drug therapy and better control of their disease state.”

Troubled professional journey has been wide-ranging, “with every move I tend to get a little closer to southwest Kansas and to smaller and smaller communities,” she notes. “So I guess there’s still some small-town girl in me.”

The lessons of her first job endured, too. “I’m happy with the way my path has gone, but I wouldn’t have had the journey I’ve had without knowing the value of a pharmacist, and I was lucky enough to experience that in a small-town setting where our pharmacist was practicing in a way we strive to practice today,” McAdam-Marx says. “I would like to see my research go back to supporting the role of a pharmacist as a respected, integrated member of the patient’s care team, and not somebody who’s so busy behind a counter and has so much pressure that they don’t have time to interface with patients like they did in the past.

“That’s my ultimate goal—get the pharmacist back in front of the patient a lot more.”

JENNIFER ANTONETTI
Busy band teacher touts benefits far beyond beautiful music

Jennifer Richard Antonetti, recently honored by Yamaha’s “40 Under 40” music education advocacy program, teaches music at three Topeka schools, and she still has a nod to the varied interests she embraced as a respected, integrated member of the health care team to help their doctor, patients tend to demonstrate better responses to the drug therapy and better control of their disease state.”

Though her professional journey has been wide-ranging, “with every move I always keep things in perspective, even though it wasn’t beautiful, it was beautiful,” she says. “I have a flat rate scale nowhere to go to.”

Her daily schedule is full, as is her spirit, especially the recent morning when her high school seniors came back to school as students together for the first time in 12 years. Her schedule is full, as is her spirit, especially the recent morning when her students gathered for a final time after making the decision to combine their two middle schools.

“I literally that first note, even though it wasn’t beautiful, it was beautiful,” she says. “I have a flat rate scale nowhere to go to.”

Instead Antonetti began her undergradu-}

ate career on Mount Oread as a music major, then switched to music education as a sophomore and went on to earn undergraduate and master’s degrees in the field.

Within band rooms at Meadowl Elementary and Robinson Middle School, and at Topeka High, where she is assistant band director, music education is about more than reading notes on a page and mastering an instrument. Antonetti uses music as a passport to exploring the wider worlds of history, geography, culture and, perhaps, in a nod to the varied interests she embraced when she was her student’s age, mathematics and science, including human physiology, which enables musicians to summon intricate sounds from their instruments.

“We try to bring in a little bit of everything,” she says. “It’s all encompassed in music.”

If a daily workload of teaching hundreds of students wasn’t daunting enough, Antonetti added still more to her playlist when, after following through an inventory in her middle-school band room one hot summer day—with the assistance of her husband, Kris, “11 himself”.

“A KU Band alumnus—the Antonettis were horrified to discover the next day that the school’s computer technicians had come through and wiped all the computers clean. Their work was lost.

The frustration lit their entreprenurial spirit—there must be something wrong with the computers clean. Their work was lost. The frustration lit their entreprenurial spirit—there must be something wrong—“and together they created a cloud-based asset-management app, called BandSync, that helps band directors document repairs and instrument depreciation, valuable data when band directors are asked to justify their budget requests. The Antonettis are currently rewriting the app to include a music library and recording functions.

Despite her hopes for success for the ApresKu Band alumnus—the Antonettis were horrified to discover the next day that the school’s computer technicians had come through and wiped all the computers clean. Their work was lost. The frustration lit their entreprenurial spirit—there must be something wrong—“and together they created a cloud-based asset-management app, called BandSync, that helps band directors document repairs and instrument depreciation, valuable data when band directors are asked to justify their budget requests. The Antonettis are currently rewriting the app to include a music library and recording functions.

Despite her hopes for success for the app, “I was only 5 or 6 years old, but I remember we ran into the forest to escape the rebels,” Freeman says of his youth amid the horrific conflict killed more than 250,000 of Liberia’s 5 million people.

“Child has the capacity to learn.”

Afrer finishing his graduate work this spring, Ben Freeman, PhD’21, left Lawrence for his native Liberia with a doctorate in biological and evolutionary biology and a goal: to study and protect some of the world’s most diverse rainforests and their wildlife.

He remembers when his family ran into those same forests, literally for their lives.

“We still keep coming up with evidence that music is one of the ways that can help. Realism is true, but inherently higher test scores or measuring friends or being coachable or being resilient, all those buzzwords in education right now.

“The most important thing is that any child has the capacity to learn.”

Ben Freeman

Scientist guards forests that sheltered family in African civil war

by Michael Pearce

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Many were children, younger than 10, conscripted into battle. Freeman’s family were among the 1 million Liberian refugees. Eventually his family left the towering woodlands and have since thrived.

Now it’s Liberia’s forests that are in grave danger. As is the case across most of western Africa, Liberia’s once vast forests are being gnawed away by an expanding human population and their need for croplands and grazing pastures for food. Palm oil plantations have claimed massive areas as hedge legal and illegal mining.

As happens when there’s such habitat destruction, some of Liberia’s populations of brilliantly colored birds are in serious decline.

Freeman’s educational process has always included those woodlands and the wildlife within. He earned his undergraduate degree in forestry from the University of Jos, in Nigeria, is from the University of Liberia. His master’s, and ultimately his doctorate, were among the 1 million Liberian refugees. Eventually his family left the towering woodlands and have since thrived.

Freeman’s focus remained 5,000 miles away in Africa, where he twice led Biodiversity Institute research expeditions. He also authored or co-authored a dozen articles pertaining to African wildlife or habitats published in scientific publications. His dissertation used a variety of high-tech methods to chart how populations of birds in Liberia will respond to climate change through 2050.

Now a professional working in Liberia, Freeman is helping the U.S. Forest Service as it assists in building better forestry and biodiversity conservation in his nation. He’s also an adviser for a forestry training institute.

He’ll use what he learned at KU, along with his many professional contacts such as Peterson, to find ways for a burgeoning, and often impoverished, human population to co-exist with wildlife.

Freeman knows educating his fellow Liberians will be important. He’ll need their support to preserve the native woodlands and so many species of threatened wildlife.

“Here, for so long, people thought everything in the wild was meant to be eaten,” he says. “If you saw a bird, you killed it and ate it. We have to work to change attitudes.”

Freeman sees more interest in wildlife and habitat in his country. Educating the nation’s youth, through schools, is in its early stages but shows promise.

“I’m very happy people in Liberia are beginning to take an interest in nature but I know it takes time to teach people,” Freeman says. “We have a long way to go, compared to the U.S., but I think over time things will be changing. It’s a good start, so far.”

—Pearce, ’81, is a Lawrence freelance writer and former outdoor columnist for the Wichita Eagle.
FLYING JAYHAWK 2022 DESTINATIONS

- Australia and New Zealand
  January 1-22
- Antarctica Discovery
  January 4-15
- Antarctica Discovery
  January 13-24 SOLD OUT
- Panama and Costa Rica
  January 30-February 7
- Legends of the Nile
  February 8-19
- Tanzania Safari
  February 28-March 11
- South American Tapestry
  February 28-March 17
- Legends to Lagoons
  March 7-17
- Japan
  March 31-April 11
- Renaissance to Rivieras
  April 9-19
- Dutch Waterways
  April 22-30
- Tuscany
  April 23-May 1
- Kentucky Derby
  May 4-8
- Tapestry
  May 11-20
- Basque Country
  May 14-22
- Springtime in Provence
  May 18-26
- Wake of the Vikings
  and Gaels
  May 28-June 6
- Great Journey
  Through Europe
  June 28-July 8
- Fjords and Seascapes
  June 28-July 9
- Jewels of the Rhine
  July 11-19
- Open Championship Golf
  July 13-18
- Oberammergau
  Passion Play
  July 14-24
- Alaskan Heritage
  and Wildlife
  July 17-24
- Baltics and Scandinavia
  July 20-21
- Africa’s Wildlife
  July 20-August 2
- Majestic Switzerland
  August 17-26
- France-Normandy
  August 27-September 4
- Byzantine Antiquity
  September 3-14
- Flavors of Northern Italy
  September 7-25
- Iberian Treasures
  September 21-October 2
- Coastal Life: Adriatic
  and Aegean Odyssey
  September 22-30
- Cruising the Great Lakes
  September 24-October 1
- Toronto to Vancouver
  by Rail
  September 29-October 5
- Alaskan Heritage
  and Wildlife
  September 30-October 3
- Death Valley, Yosemite
  and the Great Parks of California
  October 2-9
- Trade Routes of Coastal Iberia
  October 16-24
- Machu Picchu to the Galapagos
  October 25-November 9
- Vietnam and Angkor Wat
  October 29-November 12
- Cuba and Its People
  November 2-9
- Egypt and the Ancient Nile River
  November 5-15
- Rivieras and Retreats
  November 11-19
- Holiday Markets Cruise
  December 4-12

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

Trip dates are subject to change.
by Heather Bele

1949 Albert, d’49, and Marjorie Garten Blakeslee, d’49, in August celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The retired teachers make their home in Hutchinson and have a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

1959 Lynn Miller, c’59, g’62, published a memoir, Postcards from Delphi, in 2020. He continues to make his home in Philadelphia, where he’s professor emeritus of political science at Temple University.

Bruce Voran, d’79, lives in Strawberry, Arizona, where he wrote Tumbling Before God, which was published in January.

1960 Jerry Alice Lineback, c’60, g’61, is a retired geologist in Paradise, California. Four years ago, at age 78, she came out as a transgender woman. She remains happily married to her wife of 15 years, Carol Jane Hadlow.

1962 Kay Welty Gilles, d’62, retired as a research scientist at Hewlett Packard Laboratories. She lives in Capitola, California. William Griffiths, d’62, makes his home in Westminster, South Carolina, with his wife, Cheryl. He retired as a quality analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

1963 Lewis Wiens, b’63, is founder and owner of the Tri-North Hotel Group in Overland Park.

1965 Lester Langley, PhD’65, in December received the Albert Nelon Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who’s Who. He lives in San Angelo, Texas, where he retired as professor emeritus of history at the University of Georgia.

1966 Marnie Hall, f’66, is a Medicare insurance broker in New York City.

1967 John Carter, f’67, c’73, in October received the Martin Dewey Memorial Award, the highest honor given by the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists. He retired in 2000 as clinical associate professor and director of post-doctoral orthodontics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and is currently on faculty as clinical associate professor of surgery at KU Medical Center, where for more than 20 years he has served as the orthodontic consultant for the cleft palate and craniofacial anomalies team.

John and his wife, Colleen, assoc., make their home in Leawood.

William Underwood, c’67, is a research scientist at the University of Maryland in College Park. He retired after 30 years in hospital pharmacy and GPO consulting. He received Applied Jeweler Professional designation from the Gemological Institute of America and now works part time at Marks Jewelers in Lawrence.

Bruce Voran, c’67, is an attorney in Topeka. He specializes in administrative law and beverage alcohol licensing.

Alice McMillan Lockridge, d’73, makes her home in Renton, Washington, where she’s an exercise physiologist.

1974 Jane Rieke Lang, a’74, lives in Stilwell, where she retired as a post-anesthesia care unit nurse at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission.

James Maddock, c’74, is retired and lives in Whitesboro, Texas.

1976 Pamela Honnold Bacon, p’76, g’91, recently retired after 43 years in hospital pharmacy and GPO consulting. She received Applied Jeweler Professional designation from the Gemological Institute of America and now works part time at Marks Jewelers in Lawrence.

1977 Douglas Griswold, c’77, g’80, owns G2 Systems Design in Wichita, where he lives with Peggy Hudson Griswold, d’79.

KU Mentoring is expanding to offer additional opportunities to connect with fellow Jayhawks! This updated platform is the home of Jayhawk mentoring, career connections and communities. Stay tuned for more news this summer.

Join, renew, upgrade your membership or donate $25 by July 31, to ignite student and alumni success and career growth. As a thank you, we’ll send you this limited-edition KU beach towel. It’s the perfect gift to kick back and relax this summer!
Dennis Keller, g'77, m'81, PhD'81, is retired and lives in Leawood. Gayle Miller Sims, c'77, lives in Cedar Hill, Texas, with her husband, Alan, c'87, c'88. She retired after a 30-year career in human resources and serves as secretary on the board of trustees for the Cedar Hill Independent School District. Alan is a Cedar Hill city council member. James Utt, p'77, is the medical science director at Helsinn Therapeutics. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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officer at KW Specialty Insurance in Scottsdale, Arizona. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Rae, and has three children, Madison, Liam and Noah.

Amy Forker Mounts, j’92, is senior vice president of technology at High Touch Technologies in Wichita. She and her husband, Milt, assoc., make their home in Andale.

Christine Lynn Norton, c’92, is a professor of social work at Texas State University in San Marcos. She and her husband, Billy, have three children, William, Wendell and Mahalia.

1993 Gregory Belisle, c’93, j’93, lives in Overland Park, where he’s division director of IT at the American Academy of Family Physicians. Charles Branson, b’93, j’96, is an attorney at Fisher, Patterson, Sayler & Smith in Overland Park.

Michelle Mahaffey, b’93, j’96, is executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Community Health Network in Indianapolis, where she makes her home.

Bob Wittling, j’93, wrote The BS Dictionary: Uncovering the Origins and True Meanings of Business Speak, which was published in April 2020. He was a correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” and also was featured in commercials for Nationwide Insurance as “The World’s Greatest Spokesperson in the World.”

1994 Christopher Bader, g’94, in December was honored with the Water Wheel Award by the North Dakota Water Users Association and North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association. He works for the State Water Commission.

Carla Rabb Bukalski, e’94, is director of specification at GE Current. She lives in Oak Park, Illinois.

Geoffrey Farley, c’94, is an architect and project manager for the U.S. Air Force. He and Michelle Volk Farley, c’93, live in Chugiak, Alaska.

Rachel Waltner Goossen, PhD’94, professor of history at Washburn University in Topeka, wrote “Repent of the Sins of Homophobia: The Rise of Queer Mennonite Leaders,” which was published in February in the religious studies journal Nova Religio.

Brian Phillips, c’94, is senior vice president, general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary at Inspire Medical Systems in Osseo, Minnesota.

Jamar Pickreign, g’94, PhD’97, is associate dean of assessment and accreditation in the School of Education, Health and Human Services at the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, where he lives with Kelley, g’00, an academic adviser at the university.

Chad Tenpenny, c’94, l’97, lives in Leawood, where he’s general counsel to U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall.

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Jide Wintoki
Interim Associate Dean of Graduate Studies
KU School of Business

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Kelly Donnelly Davis, c’01, g’03, makes her home in Kansas City, where she’s a speech-language pathologist in the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

Scott Gillaspie, c’01, works in information technology and operations at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He lives in Rutland, Massachusetts.

Laura Gosa, c’01, g’06, is chief financial officer and chief operating officer at ReflectUS in New York City. She and Kevin, f’02, g’04, founder of OCTANT8 and Nonprofit Velocity, live in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Catherine Davis Krammer, d’01, g’02, PhD’07, is associate professor and director of special education at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. She and her husband, Edmund, have two sons, Trey and Quinn.

2002 Ryan Jacobsen, c’02, m’06, associate professor of emergency medicine at KU Medical Center, in January received the President’s Award from the National Association of EMS Physicians.

Jennifer Bacani McKenna, d’01, g’02, PhD’05, is an associate professor and director of the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

Kevin, d’03, c’03, g’03, is a partner with his wife, Laura Gosa, c’01, g’05, in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and have two daughters, Elizabeth and Lyla.

Brockway, j’05, is executive chief operations officer and director of the Library Foundation in Topeka, where she makes her home with Brandon, b’05, who owns Brandon Aldridge State Farm Insurance Agency. They have two children, Keatyn, 12, and Reid, 9.

Justin Bauman, d’04, g’06, is executive chief operations assistant at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. He and his wife, Stacy, live in Overland Park and have a daughter, Tatum, 8.

Benjamin Burgen, c’04, lives in Pensacola, Florida, where he’s an adjunct professor of anthropology at the University of West Florida.

Miguel Catano, g’04, DPT’06, is clinic director at Velocity, live in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Beth Williams Brookway, j’03, is regional vice president of managed business services at Postiviti. She lives in Waukee, Iowa.

Kelly Conner, F’03, ’10, is a jeweler at MerithMade in Kansas City.

Dan Cranshaw, F’05, a shareholder at Polsinelli in Kansas City, was appointed to the Missouri Development Finance Board.

Aaron Hedrick, c’03, is a lieutenant colonel and B-52 instructor pilot in the U.S. Air Force. He’s based in Louisiana.

David Meall, c’04, m’05, makes his home in New York City, where he’s a talent acquisition leader.

Sarah Smarth, c’04, is an associate professor of English at the University of Scranton. She’s a novelist and poet.

Andrew Heinrich, c’04, coordinates special services in the Olatho School District. He and Sara Flynn Heinrich, c’04, g’12, ’19, who teaches early childhood special education, live in Olatho and have two daughters, Bryan, 6, and Reed, 4.

Brian Kennalley, b’04, is a senior attorney and partner at Ballard Spahr in Minneapolis, was named to the Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year list for 2020.

Born to: Ian, c’03, and Elizabeth Kretzmeier Devlin, c’10, ’12, a son, Coyne Everett, Dec. 26 in Conifer, Colorado, where he joins a sister, Edlyn, who’s 2. Ian is a Salesforce consultant at Coastal Cloud and Elizabeth works in sales operations at Dloged.

2003 Beth Williams Brookway, j’03, is regional vice president of managed business services at Postiviti. She lives in Waukee, Iowa.

2004 Erin Rodvelt Aldridge, j’04, is executive director of the Library Foundation in Topeka, where she makes her home with Brandon, b’05, who owns Brandon Aldridge State Farm Insurance Agency. They have two children, Keatyn, 12, and Reid, 9.

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Brian Kennalley, b’04, is a senior data privacy specialist at Amazon. He lives in Seattle.

Owen Newman, j’04, was promoted to partner at Duane Morris in Chicago. He’s a litigation attorney.

Emily Merick O’Neill, j’04, is senior director of retail marketing at Edelman Financial Engine in Overland Park.

Jay Quickel, g’04, lives in Overland Park, where he’s CEO of Apway Farm & Home. Peter Riggs, j’04, is an attorney and partner at Spencer Fane in Kansas City.

2005 Jon Amundson, g’05, is interim city manager of Richland, Washington. He served as the city’s assistant manager for the past 13 years.

Matt Beat, j’05, is the co-host of “Joblectic,” a new iHeartMedia podcast.

Allan Hemmy, c’05, ’07, is a geologist at Kohlhepp Global Energy in Newbury Park, California.

Danny Lewis, d’05, was promoted to director of sports sales at Shield Lockers in Kansas City. He and his wife, Laura, assoc., live in Endresville with their children, Carter, 11, and Hadley, 7.

Kate Schmidt McMahan, c’05, lives in Seattle, where she’s senior HR lead at Microsoft Corp.

2006 Khalil Alleyne, m’06, in February was promoted to chief of family medicine at South Shore Medical Center in Norwell, Massachusetts. He has practiced at the hospital since 2014.

Jason Arribas, c’06, ’07, is a physician at St. Luke’s Health System in Overland Park. He and Stephanie Kroemer Arribas, b’05, live in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and have two daughters, Elizabeth and Lyla.

Raymore-Peculiar School District.

Leota Schultz Walker, j’03, ’03, 106, an attorney and partner at Ballard Spahr in Kansas City, where she’s a speech-language pathologist in the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

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Kate Schmidt McMahan, c’05, lives in Seattle, where she’s senior HR lead at Microsoft Corp.

2006 Khalil Alleyne, m’06, in February was promoted to chief of family medicine at South Shore Medical Center in Norwell, Massachusetts. He has practiced at the hospital since 2014.

Jason Arribas, c’06, ’07, is a physician at St. Luke’s Health System in Overland Park. He and Stephanie Kroemer Arribas, b’05, live in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and have two daughters, Elizabeth and Lyla.
Ankur Dayal, b’06, lives in Richmond, Texas, where he’s a manager at Godfrey.

Samuel Deutch, c’06, g’08, is a neuropsychologist at Associates in Neuropsychology in Overland Park. He and his wife, Charity, live in Leawood.

Derek Emery, c’06, directs strategic business development for the U.S. Department of Energy, in Washington, D.C., where he joins a sister, daughter, Mallyn Elaine, d’06, and her husband, Tate, who’s 2.

2007 Ryan Hogan, c’07, is a software engineering manager at Garmin in Olathe, where he makes his home with Elizabeth Olson Hogan, c’11, and their children, Lucas, 3, and Cara, 1.

Nathan Ladd, b’07, lives in Kansas City, where he’s vice president of sales at Labconco Corp.

Joshua Riddet, b’07, is a farm loan chief for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He makes his home in Norwalk, Iowa, and has two children, Holly and Chase.

Baru to: Lindsay Kinkelaaor Wyatt, d’06, and her husband, Tate, daughter, Mallyn Elaine, Sept. 18 in Overland Park, where she joins a sister, Ellery, who’s 2.

2008 Tyler Buck, c’08, g’11, lives in Thornton, Colorado, where he’s global product manager at Hach Company.

Grant Snider, ’07, lives in Derby, where he’s an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who calls himself “the incidental comic.” He has published several books, including There: A Rainbow; which came out in January.

Married

Jacob Vander Velde, d’07, and Annie Clancy, c’09, Nov. 14 in Rosemary Beach, Florida. They make their home in Prairie Village, where Jake is a sales representative at PepCo and Annie works in sales at the Clancye Company.

Mark Terry, g’08, is chief certification officer at the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians in Columbus, Ohio.

Anita Faulkner White, b’08, directs accounting at Saint Luke’s Health System in Kansas City. She and William, b’04, g’08, f’08, a senior operations manager at Amazon, make their home in Shawnee and have four children, Charles, Calin, Gwendolen and Winfred.

Ane McVey Meitl, g’06, is a neuropsychologist at Associates in Neuropsychology in Overland Park, where she joins a sister, daughter, Mallyn Elaine, d’06, and her husband, Tate, who’s 2.

Cara, 1.

2009 Brad, c’09, m’13, and Maggie Fey Cardenoll, m’13, make their home in Columbia, Missouri, where Brad is anesthesia medical director at University Hospital and Maggie is co-director of pediatric ophthalmology at the hospital. They have three children, Caroline, 5, and twins James and Eloise, who will be 1 this year.

Patrick Housby, c’09, is an account manager at Worldwide Beverage Group in Lenexa. She and her husband, Jeffrey, assoc., live in Prairie Village.

Reid Petty, ’09, is district director for Rep. Tracey Mann in Kansas’ 1st Congressional District. He lives in Garden City with his wife, Hannah, and their son, Nicholas, who’s 1.

Allison Lohrenz Snyder, d’09, is assistant town manager at Wake Forest, North Carolina. She lives in Durham.

Brian Teefey, b’09, g’09, directs transaction advisory services at Weaver, an accounting firm in Dallas.

Mara Anerholz Winiaz, b’09, c’09, is a human resources strategy and operations lead at Google. She and her husband, Chris, live in Chicago and have a son, Enzo Rian, who just turned 1.

Married

Lacey Anderson, g’09, to Timothy Blaufriss, Oct. 3 in Fargo, North Dakota, where they make their home. Lacey is a behavioral health therapist.

2010 Tessa Fall Gutierrez, c’10, is a licensed specialist clinical social worker and addictions counselor and owns New Leaf Counseling in Junction City. In February,
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she spoke to students at Concordia High School as part of the school’s career exploration program.

Inga Schuchard Kingland, ’10, is an attorney at Larkin Hoffman in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has two stepdaughters, Claire and Greta, and a daughter, Evan, who will be in September.

Manjiri Namjoshi, ’10, lives in Laguna Hills, California, where she manages software engineering at Paciolan.

2011 Sudha Vegayaramar Anand, ’11, is a library systems administrator at DePaul University in Greencastle, Indiana, where she lives with Anand Srinivasan, ’12, a senior technical specialist at Cummins.

Erin DeKoster, ’11, F11, is senior manager of accreditation at the American College of Surgeons in Chicago.

Michael Gray, ’11, is a member of the cardiovascular discovery group-interventional cardiology at the University of Sydney in Australia.

Matt Greene, ’11, was promoted to lead master distiller at MGP Ingredients in Atchison. He has been with the company since 2011 and recently was a distillery process improvement professional at Humana.


Nic Langford, ’12, was promoted to director of redevlopment for the city of Clarksville, Indiana. He previously served as the city’s redevelopment associate.

Mike Laviere, ’12, manages public relations at Husch Blackwell in Kansas City. He and his wife, Jayme, live in Overland Park.

Erin Locke, ’12, M13, is the Shawnee County health officer. She makes her home in Topeka.

Timothy Miller, ’12, lives in Austin, Texas, where he’s an attorney at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson. Brandon Monroe, ’12, directs digital marketing at Notley Ventures in Austin, Texas.

Kassie Allergott Murphy, ’12, is a retail broker at Newmark Zimmer in Kansas City. She lives in Overland Park with her husband, Bruce, and their daughter, Teagan, who’s almost 3.

Noah Smutz, ’12, is a book conservator and owns NS Conservation in St. Louis. His work recently was featured in Design STL magazine. He and his wife, Sophie, live in Affton, Missouri.

Samantha Stultz, ’12, directs social media at Ziron Laboratory in Overland Park.

Clay Westerlund, ’12, works in acquisitions at 1Deal Homes in San Diego.

2013 Ashley Dillon, ’13, was promoted to partner at Srinivasan and his wife, Jaymee, live in Cheney with their daughters, Layne, Luke, and Remi, 1.

Angela Hawkins, ’14, manages grants compliance at The Literacy Lab. She lives in Overland Park.

Christopher Hayden, ’14, is an attorney at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown in Milwaukee.

Caleb Hays, ’14, ’20, lives in Alexandria, Virginia, where he’s general counsel for the U.S. House Committee on House Administration.

Ashleigh Lee, ’14, ’21, is a communication specialist at Mississippi State University Foundation.

Davina Litt, ’14, is a technical analyst at T Mobile in Overland Park. She and her husband, Yevgeniy Khariton, live in Kansas City.

Nicole Nunes, ’14, manages marketing for Peacock TV at NBCUniversal Media. She makes her home Jersey City, New Jersey.

Jennifer Ohler, ’14, lives in Parkville, Missouri, where she’s a senior product owner at Cerber.

Philip Ozorkiewicz, ’14, is an associate at Matthews Real Estate Investment Services in Austin, Texas.

2015 Megan Hazelwood, ’15, lives in Lawrence, where
she’s an administrative associate at KU’s department of film & media studies.

Even Rattenborg, j’15, is a senior web content specialist at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. David Thomas, c’15, is a business analyst at Farmers Insurance Group. He makes his home in Gardner.

2016 Kelly Huff, PhD’16, lives in Topeka, where she’s a lecturer in music history and theory at Washburn University. Rebecca Levine, c’16, directs youth and family programming at Congregation Beth Shalom in Overland Park. Joshua Smith, j’17, is an administrative associate at JBLU in Kansas City.

2017 Cora Burgoyne, c’17, g’19, is the clinical enterprise policy coordinator at Centura Health in Denver. She also managed the health center’s COVID-19 emergency response effort in 2020. Nikola Gunda, g’17, g’21, is an assistant research analyst at KU’s Transportation Center. She lives in Lawrence. Francesca Haynes, c’17, lives in Lawrence, where she’s the diversity coordinator at the Lawrence Public Library. Jaden Scott, j’17, j’20, is an associate legal counsel at Hill’s Pet Nutrition in Topeka. Mackenzie Haun, c’18, is a first lieutenant at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

2018 Alyssa Barrett, c’18, g’20, teaches mathematics at Free State High School in Lawrence. Kenneth Beck, c’18, a graduate of KU ROTC, is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He lives in Abilene, Texas, with Priscilla Ruiz Beck, c’20, an architectural associate at Jacob Martin Architects. Nazanin Amiri Meers, g’18, is a first lieutenant at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

2019 Robert Adams, c’19, g’19, lives in Indianapolis, where he’s a communications consultant. Stephen Dunlap, g’19, is an IT infrastructure project manager at Eurofins Clinical Diagnostics in Lee’s Summit. Rebecca Levine, c’19, is an adviser at Warner Bros. in Burbank, California. She lives in Los Angeles, where she’s an assistant programmatic trader at Mediahub Worldwide.

2020 Hannah Bedford, j’20, makes her home in Marshall, Missouri, where she’s assistant prosecuting attorney at the Saline County Prosecutor’s Office. Jack Fowler, b’20, is a graduate associate in supply chain management at XPO Logistics in Ontario, California. He lives in Phoenix.

2021 Alison Bryce, g’21, is a news editor at Banner-Press in Abilene, Texas. Cari Holland, c’21, is a professional soccer player for Liverpool FC Women, was named the FA Women’s Championship Player of the Month for February. She was a three-time Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week at KU and a member of the 2019 Big 12 Championship All-Tournament Team.

ASSOCIATES

Dennis Forbes, assoc., is the new sales manager at Bill Knight Lincoln-Volvo Cars of Tulsa. He lives in Owasso, Oklahoma. Keith Rogers, assoc., lives in Lee’s Summit with his wife, Brenda, assoc. He retired as project manager at Hallmark Cards. Cheryl Wonnell, assoc., retired as president at Creative Advertising. She makes her home in Lawrence.

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KU Connection delivers upcoming events from across the University designed to connect Jayhawks everywhere.
1940s Mary Lou Brewer Alkright, c’49, 92; Dec. 30 in Overland Park. She was a long-time volunteer at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Kansas City. She is survived by three sons, one of whom is Bruce, 80, and seven great-grandchildren.

Barbara Morrison Barnes, b’49, May 11, 2020, in Chicago, where she retired as a supervisor at the U.S. General Services Administration. Survivors include her sister, Catherine Morrison Newton, f’57.

Shirley M. Bartlett, c’46, 97, Dec. 13 in Waco, Texas, where she served on the boards of several service organizations. Survivors include her sister, one of whom is Bob, 76; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Eileen Wagenfeld Field, d’45, 94, 97, Jan. 26 in Nevada, Iowa, where she taught mathematics for 45 years, two of whom is Frances “Tibby” Clemens Fort, b’76; a son, five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Dorothy James Crawford, j’49, Dec. 21 in Topeka, e’52; a son, one of whom is Karen Schenkel, d’52, 90, Nov. 13 in Salina, where she was a teacher and volunteer in her community. She is survived by a daughter, Tina Pickrell Leiker, b’77; a son, Rob, 81; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Richard Peterss, f’54, 92, Dec. 30 in Lawrence. He was president of Peters Kubota and Glenn architecture firm, which designed several notable buildings in Lawrence, including the public library and City Hall. He is survived by his wife, Carol Freeman Owen Peterss, c’61; a daughter, Laura, 83; two sons, one of whom is Cheryl, 81; two stepsons, Dan Owen, c’87, 90; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Ciska, 95; six step-grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORY
Academic degrees are linked with the University of Kansas (KU) Endowment. A memorial fund was established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Diane Bailey, his sons, Daniel and Steven, his daughter, Janet, and his grandchildren.

James Michael, d'67, 80, Nov. 24 in Kansas City, Mo. He had a long career as an accountant and was a member of the KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Martha Miller, and his sons, Michael and David.

James Michael, d'62, 80, Nov. 25 in Kansas City, Mo. He had a long career at KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Betty, and his sons, Robert and James.

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James Michael, d'62, 80, Nov. 25 in Kansas City, Mo. He had a long career at KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Betty, and his sons, Robert and James.
Danny Ostrander, 86, Jan. 17 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Brian; her sons, Chris, ’75, ’82; and four grandchildren.

Scott Kame, assoc., ’58, Jan. 19 in Lawrence, where he was a financial advisor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Laura, g’09; a daughter; and seven sisters, one of whom is 99.

Marion “Chris” Linton, assoc., ’96, Jan. 11 in Lawrence, where she was a homeemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Harold; her sons, ’74, ’81; a daughter; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Joan Rice, assoc., ’93, Oct. 9 in Walnut Creek, Cali-
forinia, where she managed John Burton Machine Corp. Survivors include her husband, Harold Burton; his sons, ’49; and a daughter, Lynn Rice Knutze, ’73.

Roger Sevedge, assoc., ’84, Oct. 4 in Norwalk, Calif. He was president of Arco Cattle Company. Surviving are his wife, Karen; his sons, ’75, ’82, ’86; and two grandchildren.

Amy Sevedge Ogden, assoc., a sister; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Vincent Vermoosan, assoc., ’82, Jan. 3 in Lawrence. He was an attorney and volunteer at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Ginger; two sons, ’90, ’96; and two grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Hans Fischer, assoc., ’87, Aug. 27 in Lawrence. He was an attorney and worked on many more library projects in Kansas. Surviving are his wife, Iris, assoc.; four sons, one of whom is a grandchild.

Gary Greben, assoc., ’80, Feb. 8 in Lawrence. He was an attorney and served on the Board of Education. Survivors include his wife, Glenda, assoc.; and a daughter.

Vicki Swayne, assoc., ’86, Dec. 7 in Leawood, where he was a real estate agent. Surviving are his wife, Marita, assoc., ’89; and a daughter, ’84.

Scott Kame, assoc., ’58, Jan. 19 in Lawrence, where he was a financial advisor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Laura, g’09; a daugh-

erland; and seven sisters, one of whom is 99.

Mary Jo Nowell, ’59, Aug. 4 in Lawrence, where she was an attorney at KU. Survivors include her wife, Virginia, assoc.; four sons, two of whom are Nicholas, ’13, and Loren, ’16; a daughter; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Lynne Hinkel Lipskey, g’02, July 3, Jan. 10 in Lawrence, where she was an artist. Survivors include her wife, Betty, assoc.; and a son, ’94.

Jim Linder, assoc., Nov. 25 in Lawrence. He was a professor of molecular biology. Survivors include his wife, Virginia, assoc., ‘87; and two grandchildren.

Phillip Lutfey, assoc., Oct. 18 in Lawrence, where he was a professor of music. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, assoc., ’88; and four grandchildren.

Goldie “Goofy” Garfield, PhD’80, 95, March 11 in Lawrence, where he was an attorney. Survivors include his wife, Betty, assoc.; and a daughter.

Goodwin “Jack” Bushman, g’66, Oct. 8 in Ottawa. He was a professor emeritus of teaching and leadership. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Virginia, assoc.; and four grandchildren.

Daniel Winter, c’75, l’78, and Adam, ’86; and two sisters, Mary Winter-Stingley, ’77; and Anne “CeCe” ’86.

1990s

Amy Asher; ’f’84, Dec. 3 in Kansas City. She was an artist and landscape designer. Survivors include her husband, Doug, assoc.; and four grandchildren.

David, three sons and a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Terry Hill Snyder, ’77, 65, May 15, 2020 in Plano, Texas where she retired as chief marketing officer and executive vice president of Checkers’ and Rally’s drive-in restaurants. She is survived by her husband, Steve, ’78; a daughter, and a brother.

Karolyn Meeder, c’72; four grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

Anonymous donor; her parents, Bob and Elaine, assoc.; two sons, ’88, ’90; and 10 great-grandchildren.

William Bowne, c’69; a daughter, and her parents, Bob and Elaine, assoc.; two sons, ’88, ’90; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Remund, ’85, Jan. 11 in Lawrence, where he was a custodial supervisor at KU. Survivors include four grandchildren.

Richard Czamanske, c’94, g’20, ’12; and seven sisters, one of whom is 75.

Robert Goodson, assoc., 96, Jan. 11 in Lawrence, where he was a custodial supervisor at KU. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is 75.

Robert Sevedge, assoc., 84, Oct. 4 in Norwalk, Calif. He was president of Arco Cattle Company. Surviving are his wife, Karen; his sons, ’75, ’82, ’86; and two grandchildren.

Robert Hohn, assoc., 86, Nov. 29 in Lawrence, where he was a professor of chemical engineering. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; a daughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Robert E. Maloney, assoc., 85, Jan. 15 in Kansas City, where he was a professor of civil engineering. Survivors include his wife, Laura, assoc.; and four grandchildren.

Robert Gonzalez, assoc., 79, Jan. 13 in Lawrence, where he was a professor of chemistry. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; a son, and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Sevedge, assoc., 84, Oct. 4 in Norwalk, Calif. He was president of Arco Cattle Company. Surviving are his wife, Karen; his sons, ’75, ’82, ’86; and two grandchildren.

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Across from Twente Hall, spade work by campus caretakers—not “The Pioneer”—in one of Mount Oread’s more hidden nooks led to a bounty of blossoms, harbingers of spring and of better days to come.

Photograph by Steve Puppe
June 15 marks the 30th anniversary of Hoch Auditorium’s destruction by lightning strike and raging fire. The “academic and cultural matriarch of the University family,” as then described in these pages by Bill Woodward, ’00, Hoch has been gone nearly half as long as it existed.

Nostalgia for old Hoch comes easily now, thanks to the distance of decades. But at the time of its demise, the 1927 structure, designed to serve too many purposes (all adequately, none elegantly), was remembered—at least in part—for its notable blemishes.

“Hoch Auditorium wasn’t easy to love,” observed Jerri Niebaum Clark, ’88, in the July/August 1991 issue of Kansas Alumni. Ugly water stains from a leaky roof. Uneven— to be kind—auditorium, lighting and sight lines. A dangerous chandelier hovering high above like a sword of Damocles, reminding all of the perilousness of their perches. “Backstage,” Clark wrote, “was as accommodating as an alley. The dressing room was a janitor’s closet, and performers had to cross through the basement to get to the other side of the stage.”

And don’t forget the basketball games. Nearly 30 years of basketball games. Yes, the stage was designed in the 1920s to accommodate a court, but only barely, and it was supposed to be a temporary measure until the state came up with funds for KU to open an indoor sports arena—which, surprise surprise, didn’t happen until 1955.

Hoch’s most notable feature, the Collegiate Gothic façade that lent an air of majesty to Jayhawk Boulevard, was, of course, saved. Thanks to tireless work by Chancellor Gene Budig and other determined Jayhawks, the structure was rebuilt with three high-tech (for the time) auditoria, prep areas for chemistry and biology lectures and much-needed computer labs in the basement.

It’s safe to say that Budig Hall is a busier daily hub than Hoch Auditorium ever was, and it is clean and safe and conducive to learning. Basketball will never again be played there, thankfully, but gone, too, are the performances and public lectures that made for memorable Mount Oread evenings.


Philip Glass. Leontyne Price. Itzhak Perlman. Isaac Stern. Tom Wolfe. Allen Ginsberg. Kurt Vonnegut. The Bill T. Jones and Alvin Ailey dance companies. Bob Marley, Louis Farrakhan, Steve Martin, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatcher. The Beach Boys. And let us not—now nor ever—forget Vespers’ candlelight processions down Hoch’s long aisles. Even Hoch looked good when so illuminated. Yes, Vespers and Rock Chalk Revue have a stunning new home at the Lied Center, but might those of us of a certain classic vintage be allowed to retain our special fondness for Hoch’s hallmark events?

We shall not forget, but neither shall we be maudlin. At the time of its dramatic finale, Hoch Auditorium was a dangerous dinosaur, long past its due date. We mourn its loss, but mostly remain thankful that its rapid demise came on a stormy summer Saturday afternoon, empty and alone, injuring none with its funeral pyre.

—Chris Lazzarino
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2Rewards points can be redeemed as a cash deposit to a checking or savings account within seven business days or as a statement credit to your credit card account within one to three billing cycles.