Deluge

Another Kansas storm erupts over science standards

Photographer Leo Lutz
“Survivor” Danni Boatwright
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Image taken in Lawrence, Kansas, home of the University of Kansas MBA program

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Sunflower Survivor
Jungle heat and hunger were no match for a true-blue Jayhawk’s Kan-do attitude. How Danni Boatwright vanquished “Survivor: Guatemala.”

BY CHRIS LAZZARINO

Straight Shooter
Fine art photographer Leo Lutz preserves panoramic vistas and disappearing rural scenes in big and beautiful black and white.

BY STEVEN HILL

Evolution of a Controversy
Five years after Kansas voters turned out Board of Education officials who opposed evolution, biology’s fundamental theory is again under attack. Now the stakes extend beyond state science standards to a far-ranging culture war that seeks to remake science in the image of intelligent design.

BY JULIE METTENBURG
Cover illustration by Susan Younger
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Since 1975 the Fred Ellsworth Medallion has honored individuals “who have provided unique and significant service to the University.”

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by March 31 at 800-584-5397 or visit www.kualumni.org.
Lift the Chorus

Model or McMansion?

I am appalled at the article “Where Town Meets Gown” in your November issue. What it leaves unsaid speaks volumes about both your and the author’s insensitivity to sound urban planning practices and the importance of historic preservation.

Let’s start at the beginning. In describing the homes on Ohio Street that KU proposed to demolish for new residence halls, your article states they were “most nearly a century old and dilapidated.” So dilapidated, in fact, that a University official stated, “I was shocked that students would be living in them.”

The first question that obviously comes to mind is why were the houses allowed by the City of Lawrence to be occupied if they were in such bad shape? Second, how were they allowed to become dilapidated? Cities are supposed to enforce codes to insure public health and safety, and they are supposed to impose sanctions on property owners who violate these codes, sanctions such as not allowing such properties to be occupied.

But also consider the bias your article shows toward historic structures. What does it matter if most of these homes were “nearly a century old”? The White House was built in 1800. Should we demolish it? Further, the article never explains what the historic value of these homes is, a value of sufficient importance that both the Lawrence and the Kansas historic preservation boards argued that they should be saved.

The article quotes a KU report on the houses as saying “it would not be cost-effective to restore them.” Could this be an example of demolition-by-neglect, where an owner—perhaps the University itself—purposely fails to maintain a property so that it becomes too far gone to be saved? And even if it would have been more expensive to restore these homes than to demolish and replace them, that is often the case for historically important structures. Because they are historic the extra expense is worth it. I am not personally familiar with the homes at issue, so it is possible that your article could have made a perfectly good case for their demolition, but it does not. Further, it betrays no understanding whatsoever of the value that preserving older buildings in a community has for that community’s collective memory. There are countless college campuses across the country where old, gracious homes exist side-by-side with the campus, even providing a context for the campus itself.

Your article certainly celebrates the new residential dorm on Ohio Street, replete with “old-fashioned porch swings,” “multiple roof peaks,” and wrought iron railings and stair spindles salvaged from Old Fraser. “Why preserve older homes of historic value,” your article seems to suggest, “when we can build a brand new one with some historic furbelows tacked on to make it look older than it really is?”

In most older communities in America, this new building would be considered a “McMansion,” a building far too large for the neighborhood context in which it exists, with features that try to make it appear similar to its neighbors but which instead mock the historic character of the street. Many of these communities are adopting more restrictive zoning ordinances to discourage such neighborhood-busting selfishness. But your magazine instead praises how cooperative KU will be with its neighbors in the future, even though its status as a state agency will allow it to flaunt local concerns whenever it pleases.

Michael S. McGill, b’65
Washington, D.C.

Ohio Street memories

“Where Town Meets Gown” brought back memories of my three years living at 1337 Ohio St. Five or six boys shared the three rooms on the second floor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nuffer’s house for $10 a month. Mr. Nuffer was manager of Rowland’s Book Store, and they were wonderful “landlords.”

Jane Crouch, now my wife, lived at Corbin Hall, so many a time I walked along Ohio Street going to class or to see Jane. Frankly, I have a difficult time visualizing the “historic value” of the houses in 2004 or whenever the controversy arose. During the three years I lived with the Nuffers, their house was clearly the best along the street. I cannot imagine 67 years of wear and tear, regardless of normal maintenance, making them “keepsake” quality today. I am pleased the University won the battle.

In my opinion, the pictures in the 2006 calendar are the best ever.

Dwight Geiger, b’42
Mission

Activism didn’t start with ’60s

This letter is inspired by the fine article on the Wilcox Collection [“True Collector,” issue No. 6, 2005]. I am an alumnus of the class of 1936, which is getting to be a long time ago. My years at KU did much to make me what I have been all my long life. KU in the ’30s was
an institution with a highly liberal character. Laird Wilcox certainly was not the first “campus activist.” He enrolled in 1962. I enrolled in 1932, a whole generation earlier, and there were then quantities of campus activists.

In men’s campus politics then, there were two parties: Pachamac and Oread-Kayhawk. Pachamac had most of the fraternities and usually won elections. The annual in those times was published in sections, as a magazine. While Quentin Brown was editor, he published an article I wrote, “Does KU Need a New Political Party?” I think the article contributed to my being elected to Sachem, the senior men’s activities honorary. The OK party turned itself into the Progressive Student Government League, which won the presidency of the men’s Student Council in 1935 with Lyman Field, c’36. Elected a member of the council on the PSGL ticket was Kenneth Born, ’36, a short time later a candidate for Congress on the Communist Party ticket.

In 1935 I won first prize ($100) in the Hattie Lewis Essay Contest in Applied Christianity. Sometimes the first-prize essay was printed, sometimes not. Mine was not. Its thesis was that Christians should be pacifists. I don’t mean merely peacemakers, but conscientious objectors to war. I was chairman of the campus Peace Action Committee. KU was so liberal then that at least once there was a full-fledged convocation (with classes cancelled) to cheer for peace. Every year at the opening convocation we sang the New England Emigrants Hymn.

Lawrence was a free-state town, the target of the infamous Quantrill’s raid (which a neighbor of mine survived as a boy). Professor Melvin, of the history department, addressed freshmen around a bonfire near Corbin Hall about Lawrence’s free-state heritage. In those days, 10 percent of students were black, the numbers swelled by both Missouri and Oklahoma paying out-of-state fees for their black citizens who wanted to attend a state university.

I recall that Dean Paul Lawson, addressing a Sachem meeting, cited me (“poet and pacifist”) as an example of Sachem’s becoming more inclusive than it had been. The radical left could be comfortable, even honored, on the KU campus in my time. I can recall a couplet that The Dove, an occasional radical campus sheet, ran: “The color of this paper is magenta./To the left The Dove has wenta.”

As you can tell, I rejoiced in KU. From there, I went to the University of Illinois at Urbana, where I worked my way through graduate school by teaching. After Lawrence, Urbana seemed a rather soulless place. I had big troubles there, as the times (1936’44) were unfriendly to pacifists. I was IV-F in Selective Service, so taught uninterruptedly. When I was accused of promoting pacifism in class, the chairman called me in to tell me. I told him I did not. He said, “Your word is good enough for me.” My mentor, Professor Walter Graham, told me he would not recommend me for a job in wartime, but through informal channels I was offered a job by a fellow Quaker, at Illinois Tech, and so escaped Urbana. When I hit the up-or-out ceiling over assistant professors, another Quaker recruited me for the book review staff at the Chicago Tribune. There I was truly struck by lightning. I became an editorial writer, a function I happily performed (not writing partisan politics) for 25 years.

I am almost 90 now, and I have led a happy, charmed life, not suffering for my pacifism but getting employment opportunities because of it. And throughout, a liberal so shaped by the KU environment of the ’30s.

Alfred C. Ames c’36
Fort Myers, Fla.

Jayhawks generate praise

Congratulations to Sally Hayden for the very creative writing found in “Jayhawk Generations” in issue No. 5, 2005. For years I have scanned those pages only for familiar names of parents (and now grandparents). This time it was immediately obvious that there was more there than just names. I had to read about the new Jayhawks because it was so cleverly done. Thanks for making this feature so delightful.

Katie Pott, ’57
Wichita

The middle of it all

Congratulations to Chris Lazzarino for reviewing Professor James Shortridge’s new book, Cities of the Plains (“Town topics,” issue No. 4, 2005). I recently read another book by the same author, Middle West: Its Meaning in American Culture, and found it to be highly original, insightful and fascinating.

Professor Shortridge employs unusual data sources, searching popular literature and newspapers over an extended period of time for even the barest mention of the term “Middle West,” and conducting surveys in which respondents from various parts of the region are asked to define its borders.

His findings are startling. The term originally was used to differentiate between North and South, the newly emerging Southwest and the old, familiar Northwest Territory. As it began to be used to differentiate between East and West, its locus shifted from the Kansas-Nebraska area back to the East, and then back again to the West. Its image has varied over time as well, emphasizing the rural, agricultural character of the region, but viewing this as positive or negative as the image of the American farmer shifted back and forth between noble yeoman and narrow-minded bigot.

As a native of the Middle West, I have spent much of my adult life pondering what it means to be from there, and reading whatever books I can find on the subject. Professor Shortridge, in his compact look at the subject, has answered many of my questions. I am very grateful for that.

Michael S. McGill, b’65
Washington, D.C.
On the Boulevard

■ Exhibitions

“Embodiment,” through Feb. 19, Spencer Museum of Art


“Transformations,” opens Feb. 18, Spencer Museum of Art Asian gallery

“Photography Between the Wars,” opens March 4, Spencer Museum of Art

“Explore Evolution,” Natural History Museum

■ University Theatre

JANUARY

30-31, Feb. 1-4, 6-10 “The Short Tree and the Bird Who Could Not Sing,” by Dennis Foon

MARCH

9-12, 14-17 “A Congress of Women,” by Aristophanes

■ Lied Center events

JANUARY

24 Tap Dogs

FEBRUARY

10 Turtle Island Spring Quartet
11 KU Wind Ensemble

■ Special events

JANUARY


MARCH

3-4 29th-annual KU Jazz Festival, Murphy Hall

■ Lectures

JANUARY

30 Ceramic artist Jim Shrosbree, Hallmark Design Symposium Series, Spencer Museum of Art
Academic calendar

**January**
- **20** Spring classes begin

**March**
- **20-26** Spring break

Alumni events

**January**
- **16** Austin, Central Kansas (Newton), Chicago, Dallas, Denver and Washington, D.C.: KU-MU TV watch parties
- **20** Board of Directors, Lawrence
- **21** Atlanta, Boston, Orange County and Washington, D.C.: KU-NU TV watch parties
- **21** Omaha: Family alumni night, UNO vs. Michigan State, Qwest Center
- **25** College Station: KU-Texas A&M pregame rally

**February**
- **3** Kansas City: Rock Chalk Ball
- **5** Austin, Boston, Dallas, Orange County, Tampa and Washington, D.C.: KU-OU TV watch parties
- **8** Lincoln: KU-NU pregame rally
- **8** Washington, D.C.: KU-NU TV watch party
- **11** Washington, D.C.: KU-ISU TV watch party
- **13** Central Kansas and Washington, D.C.: KU-OSU TV watch parties
- **18** Austin, Boston, Dallas, Omaha, Orange County, Tampa and Washington, D.C.: KU-MU TV watch parties
- **21** Washington, D.C.: KU-Baylor TV watch party
- **25** Austin: KU-UT pregame rally
- **25** Boston, Central Kansas, Chicago, Dallas, Orange County, Washington, D.C.: KU-UT TV watch parties

**March**
- **1** Great Bend, Hiawatha
- **7** Washington
- **8** Atchison

For more information, call 800-584-2957 or visit www.kualumni.org.
Rich seizes every opportunity in life.

Last year, seizures nearly claimed his.

Until last year, Rich seemed perfectly healthy. Then the seizures started. After CAT scans revealed a tumor, the skilled neurosurgeons at Olathe Medical Center used advanced 3-D technology to precisely target and remove Rich’s tumor without damaging any healthy tissue. Now he and his daughter live as if they’ve been given a second chance. And that’s what we live for.

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The messages from alumni ran the gamut:

An attorney in London was disturbed by a BBC World News Report description of recent events in Kansas and at his alma mater. He asked for an explanation of the University’s position on the “intelligent design controversy,” saying the BBC story had cast a negative light on the Kansas educational system and KU.

A Jayhawk couple declared they would not allow their children to attend KU if their alma mater did not fire a particular faculty member.

A donor threatened to reconsider his financial support to KU because he disagreed with the Kansas Board of Education’s recent revision of the state’s science education standards.

Another alumnus recommended that the University investigate “religious, political and ethnic bias among the faculty” and perhaps offer “sensitivity courses.”

These inquiries came to the Alumni Association in December, as freelance writer Julie Mettenburg, ’91, and our staff worked on our cover story. As Associate Editor Steve Hill quipped one bleak morning, “You know you’re in trouble when you receive letters and you haven’t even published the story.”

We also know that the story needs to be told. As the messages from concerned, confused and just plain mad folks continue to mount—and the jokes about Kansas continue to hit home—we know that, as the alumni magazine of a research university, we must report recent events for far-flung alumni who have heard only the sound bites and shorthand that distort a complicated, ongoing debate. And we must affirm that the University’s commitment to its mission never wavers. We must assure alumni that the principles guiding their own KU education through the years remain steadfast.

So, once more into the fray. After we reported on the debate over science education in January 2000, our cover story prompted more letters than any other story in the past 20 years. This time, the letters precede publication. Such upset of the natural order seems testament to the increasing breadth (and decreasing depth) of media coverage—and the fact that the tenor of the most recent discussion is downright upsetting.

We’re braced and eager for more letters. We know some readers will find fault; others will find solace. We know the story is still unfolding. In early January, the 2005 science standards themselves—the words approved by the Kansas Board of Education and published in our story—remained under scrutiny not only by educators, political leaders and the press but also by attorneys. National science organizations have objected that the standards borrow from their copyright material. And if political winds shift in the 2006 elections, the standards could change again before they are due to take effect in 2007.

In this era of evolving and occasionally uncivil debate, timeless, unchallenged standards can offer comfort. In the KU family, each generation looks to leaders who symbolize the values of our university and our state, and certain extraordinary Jayhawks set enduring examples.

Mildred Clodfelter, b’41, was such a Jayhawk. She died Jan. 9, as this issue went to press. You’ll find a tribute to Millie in our Association pages.

A KU staff member for 47 years, 42 of which she spent at the Alumni Association, Millie gladly accepted KU service as her calling and fellow Jayhawks as her adopted family. Her passions for conversation and correspondence were legendary. Introduce yourself to Millie, and she would name someone she knew from your hometown, family, KU class, residence hall, sorority—or all of the above.

On my first day of work at the Association, in August 1984, I met Millie. Upon learning I was a Jackson from Topeka, she asked whether I was related to a judge. Turns out the judge was my dad, and Millie had just exchanged letters with him. She had asked my dad for a portrait of his grandfather, a KU graduate who had led the Alumni Association as president in 1908 and 1909. My dad, unbeknownst to me, had supplied the photo. Millie then took me by the hand and led me to a wall of portraits. There was the face of my great-grandfather. I had never known he was a Jayhawk, but Millie made the connection. She made me feel I belonged.

I will always be grateful.
Rakish characters

You gotta have a gimmick, marketers say, and as gimmicks go, the Royal Canadian Mounted Leaf Service has got a good one.

Inspired by little more than a need for pocket money and a passing acquaintance with the cartoon character Dudley Do-Right, Topeka sophomore Sam Schneider dreamed up a business model with moxie: He and friends David Schutter, Great Bend freshman, and Keaton Krell, Lyndon junior, don red shirts, trooper hats and Sam Browne belts to offer their services as Royal Canadian leaf rakers.

After initially drawing “lots of second and third looks,” the make-believe Mounties now earn photo ops with clients, friendly waves from passersby and the occasional request for a date. Business is booming—so much so the trio may add a second unit.

“The idea is to make a service everyone will notice, where we’re advertising the job just by doing it,” Schneider says. “If we weren’t doing this,” he adds, “we’d just be sitting around playing poker.”

Parents of liberal-arts majors take heart: There’s not a biz-schooler in the bunch. Schutter studies philosophy, Krell education and Schneider creative writing.

New club tosses around a refreshing idea

What with classes, homework, research papers and part-time jobs, every successful student is a juggler. Now that campus has a Juggling Club, they can make it official.

Graduate student Justin Gramarye started the club in fall 2004, and quickly recruited fellow graduate students Brad Barger and Emily Tremain and then-junior Daniel Hogan, who is now the club president. Together they trekked down to the Student Recreation Fitness Center to register the group, and were immediately directed to a storage closet.

“I guess there was a juggling club here 10 years ago or so,” Barger says, “and they still had this cardboard box full of stuff, just sitting there.”

Suddenly stocked with clubs (think safe, plastic bowling pins), multicolored sandbags and other juggling ephemera, the group hasn’t dropped the ball. Members meet twice a week, indoors and out, and spend a couple of hours relaxing with pairs club tossing, solo endurance contests and whatever else they can dream up.

As for the New Age fad that uses juggling to teach concentration and multitasking to junior executives on the go, the Jayhawk jug-
glers want none of it. In fact, they say they haven’t even heard of it.

“That’s not really what we’re about,” Hogan says. “I think it’s more about just getting outside, getting in a bit of physical activity while doing something fun with people you enjoy being around. If you make it more complicated than that, I think you’re missing the point.”

Self-help never sounded so good.

Glorious to view

Larry Haskin’s long and distinguished career earned the late scientist a lovely posthumous honor: Colleagues recently dubbed as “Haskin Ridge” a 2-mile-long outcropping that towers 348 feet above his U.S. government research site.

Pretty cool.

Oh yeah—it’s on Mars.

Haskin, PhD ’60, who died March 24 in St. Louis at the age of 70, was a senior researcher with the Mars Exploration Rover mission (mars.jpl.nasa.gov) and a professor at Washington University. His final paper, announcing his conclusion that once there had been water—and therefore, perhaps, life—on the crimson planet was published four months after his death.

Fittingly, Haskin Ridge overlooks the landing site for the enduring rover “Spirit.” Which, in retrospect, might have been named for Haskin, as well.

Hear the Rock Chalk Roar

“Everyone has a Jayhawk room; that’s not why I’m calling. Everyone has a Jayhawk-carved tree; that’s not why I’m calling.”

Mark Ledem, a real-estate development manager from Leawood, insisted he rang us up only because friends insisted that his version of superfandom was unique. And when he roared into town with his KU-themed Harley-Davidson, a 100th-anniversary Fat Boy, we couldn’t have agreed more.

This is one cool bike.

Thanks to the artistry of Rick Combs and Dennis Shephard at Combs Custom Cycle, Mark, ’82, and his wife, Lisa Boerger Ledom, d’86, g’94, now head out on their kids-free date nights every Wednesday aboard a big, bad Harley bedecked with Jayhawks, Fraser Hall, the Campanile, Allen Field House, Memorial Stadium and red and blue feathered fenders.

“Wherever we go, people are out with their cellphone cameras, taking pictures and asking a lot of questions,” Mark says. “They really seem to love it.”

Says Lisa: “It’s his passion. ... I’m along for the ride.”

Now about that Jayhawk-carved tree ...

And if it rains?

For circumstances far too uninteresting to detail, May 21 will be the pompiest day yet in Lawrence’s long tradition as a cap-and-gown town, as both city high schools will hold graduation ceremonies on the same day as KU Commencement (though the high-schoolers will switch to Haskell Indian Nations University).

For those needing a hotel, reserve rooms early, although by now it’s probably too late to book anything closer than, say, White Lakes Mall in Topeka. And if you should happen to be a Lawrence family with children participating in more than one of these irreplaceable rites of passage, our advice is simple: Abandon all pretense of neutrality and pick a favorite. Or pack plenty of sunblock.
A wise professor once wrote a letter saying that Chuck Marsh would never be happy until he was a teacher. The year was 1989, and Marsh could have sworn he already was happy. He enjoyed his public-relations job with J.C. Penney in Dallas, where he and his new bride, Kris, had settled—or so they thought—in a home only blocks away from her twin sister, who had married Marsh’s best friend.

But a fateful offer from his alma mater persuaded Marsh, c’77, g’80, PhD’85, to leave the cozy comfort of his new home and return to Lawrence to teach in the William Allen White School of Journalism. Last August, Marsh, associate professor, who teaches the school’s large freshman class, Journalism 101, along with courses in public relations and ethics, received a Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching. On Nov. 5, he won the Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator, KU’s traditional HOPE award, from the Class of 2006.

It seems his former professor was a bit of a prophet. Or, as Kris told her husband after reading the letter, “He knows you better than you know you.”

Marsh readily credits the professor, G. Douglas Atkins, for the insight. More important, he thanks Atkins, professor of English, a fellow Kemper winner and Marsh’s dissertation adviser, for leading him to teaching in the first place. “I was a chemistry major here in the mid-’70s and took this class by Atkins called ‘Ancients and Moderns.’ I got to the end of the semester and thought, ‘Well, I’m an English major.’ Of all the teachers, he has been the biggest influence.”

Marsh says he hopes every student enjoys a similar classroom revelation. “You take a class and all the lights turn on, and you say, ‘Boy, I didn’t know this was out there.’ It’s like that Gershwin song, ‘How Long Has This Been Going On?’”

Allusions to American musical classics, classical Greek rhetoric and Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan,” all in one brief conversation, illustrate Marsh’s keen and kinetic intellect. He readily owns up to students’ teasing about his “absent-minded professor” habits: “This is my third winter coat. I think I know where the other two are, but I wouldn’t swear to it.” But his sheer devotion to teaching helps him keep order in his classroom life. He also follows the example of longtime chemistry professor and four-time HOPE winner Clark Bricker, whose large classes in Hoch Auditorium prepared Marsh to teach 460 journalism students in the Budig Hall classroom now named for Bricker. “There were 700 people in that class, but he would make us talk,”
Marsh recalls, “and so that’s what we do. You cannot hide. ... And the technology team in Budig is so good. I bet if I brought in an eight-track tape, they could play it.”

Sarah Lathrop, Phoenix senior, remembers the Journalism 101 class well. “Chuck is engaging, funny, but most of all, he draws so much from his professional experience,” she says. “He was always there for students, looking over résumés or portfolios or just answering stupid questions. He truly cares about how his students do. It was a class I never missed, because I found him and the subject so intriguing.”

Marsh, a former magazine editor who loathes deadlines, credits his wife for maintaining order outside the classroom. “When I won these awards, several people who know us wrote letters of congratulations to my wife,” he says. “They knew how this was happening. That meant so much to me. I’m really lucky because all I have to do is this professor stuff and read to the kids.”

His children are Will, 15, and Gillian, 10. Currently Marsh and Gillian are reading a series about Judy Bolton, a girl detective whose stories are far better crafted than those of her competitor, Nancy Drew, Marsh says. His own reading includes what he calls “junk mysteries” and classical rhetoric; his favorite philosopher is Isocrates, but he also favors Plato and Aristotle.

Marsh’s early scholarly writing signaled his interest in discussions that transcended the mere “how to.” With David Guth, KU associate professor of journalism, he wrote a textbook, Public Relations: A Values-Driven Approach, now in its third edition. Since then he has written journal articles that tie classical rhetoric to modern public relations; he hopes to take a sabbatical next fall to write a book about the parallels between the two. In the quest to teach students to be critical thinkers, the Greeks have much to offer, he says. “They asked the same question: How do we know what’s true? Their approaches are really relevant. My poor Journalism 101 class. Ask anyone in there about Aristotelian causal analysis. It’s a horrible term, but those students know it and they use it.”

For Marsh, the teachings of the past hold great value, despite the notions of today’s popular culture. “We’ve set ourselves adrift,” he says. “I’m not saying the Greeks had all the answers, but I was struck not long ago by the phrase, ‘You’re history.’ I thought, ‘Wait a minute. That means you don’t exist anymore. Your relevance no longer applies.’ History is a good thing, and now our society uses it as a pejorative?”

The question harks back to a bright student whose life was changed by a wise professor in a course called “Ancients and Moderns.”

Years later, following the classical tradition of academe, the student himself has become a wise professor.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Right choice

Despite liberal reputation, KU offers ample room for conservative thinkers

Think Mount Oread is a bastion of wild-eyed liberalism? Think again, argues a college guidebook published by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute that gives KU high marks as a destination for politically and socially conservative students.

Choosing the Right College 2006: The Whole Truth about America’s Top Schools focuses on 134 universities identified as the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report, Money and other higher education rankers. Promising “comprehensive, original and independent research on what is actually happening” on college campuses, the guide draws on interviews with

The HOPE award was created by the Class of 1959. Finalists are determined by a vote of the senior class, and a committee conducts interviews to select the winner each fall.
Real money, real rewards

A School of Business investing class that began in 1993 with a $230,000 donation from Kent McCarthy, b’80, g’81, this year saw its stock portfolio pass the $1 million mark.

“Applied Portfolio Management,” which invests real money in the stock market, briefly topped $1 million in August, before market downturns and the annual contribution of a basketball scholarship trimmed profits. But Assistant Professor Catherine Shenoy and her students, aided by a fourth-quarter rally, guided the fund to a 17.5 percent gain for the year, finishing 2005 at $1,052,705.

There is educational value in hearing from opposing viewpoints, Bentley says. “You can’t always really know what you think about an issue until you hear the other side of the argument. Having that discussion can help you decide.”

KU is the only Kansas school featured in the guide, and is one of five Big 12 schools, along with Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M and Colorado.

Top dollar

Endowment funding for students, research, construction surpasses $100 million

KU Endowment Association support for University programs increased to record levels in fiscal 2005, powered largely by a dramatic rise in funding for construction projects.

Overall Endowment funding for students, faculty, facilities and programs on the University’s four campuses rose 22 percent over the previous year, to $103.9 million. Forty percent of the total, or $41.6 million, paid for building projects—a 136 percent increase over fiscal 2004 construction costs.

It was a busy year for builders on the Lawrence campus (where Endowment-supported construction projects included the Hall Center for the Humanities, the Dennis E. Rieger Scholarship Hall and the new Booth Family Hall for...
Well versed

U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser read from his books and talked poetry with a panel of local poets.

**WHEN:** Nov. 3

**WHERE:** The Kansas Union

**SPONSORS:** The department of English, the Hall Center for the Humanities and the chancellor’s office

**BACKGROUND:** Kooser won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for poetry for his collection *Delights and Shadows*. He is an English professor at the University of Nebraska and editor and publisher of *Windflower Press*, which publishes contemporary poetry. Kooser also edits *American Life in Poetry*, a column dedicated to reintroducing poetry to U.S. newspapers.

**ANECDOTE:** Kooser says it’s a mistake to view American poetry as monolithic, noting that many poetry communities—slam poets, cowboy poets, hip-hop poets—write only for themselves. Shortly after the Library of Congress named him poet laureate, he called organizers of a cowboy poetry convention to let them know he’d attend. “Their reaction was, ‘So what?’” Kooser says. “And I think that’s fine. They’re not trying to impress anybody.”

**QUOTE:** “There is a place for more accessible poetry, and I’m the current advocate for that,” Kooser said. “A poem that describes a hard-boiled egg—if it’s done well enough—is better than a poem about the principles of Heidegger. And it will last a lot longer.”

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“...a place for more accessible poetry, and I’m the current advocate for that.” —Ted Kooser
RESEARCH

KU leads effort to rein in high cost of drug development

The cost of bringing new drugs to market has increased by 50 percent in recent years, according to a study by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the FDA wants KU to lead a collaboration among a dozen universities and the pharmaceutical industry to address the problem.

The collaboration, called the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education, was unveiled on Capitol Hill in November. KU leads a consortium that includes Rutgers University and the universities of Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland and Minnesota.

“This institute is another important step in helping to solve a growing crisis—the ever-increasing costs associated with drug development,” says James Roberts, e’66, vice provost for research and president of the KU Center for Research.

The 2004 FDA study found that the cost of bringing a new drug to market soared as high as $1.7 billion.

Robert’s says the School of Pharmacy, the Higuchi Biosciences Center, and the departments of chemical and petroleum engineering and chemistry are among the KU entities that will contribute to the institute’s aim of “significantly advancing the science and efficiency of drug development.”

BIO SCIENCES

Research efforts get boost from Sunflower land deal

A land deal that transferred more than 9,000 acres of the former Sunflower Army Ammunition plant near DeSoto from the U.S. government to a private developer this fall will yield research space for KU bioscience initiatives.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, g’80, who approved the agreement in July, joined Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Dennis Moore, c’67, in a rendition of “This Land Is Your Land” at a dedication ceremony Oct. 13 to kick off the final phase of cleanup for the property. The plant was built to manufacture ammunition during World War II and later made nitric and sulfuric acid. Cleanup of chemicals is expected to take seven years, though the developer, Sunflower Redevelopment LLC, says the process could move more quickly. Because of that uncertainty, KU hasn’t yet made specific plans for the site.

KU will get 300 acres near a planned research park. The agreement also sets aside 6,000 acres for private development, 2,000 acres for parks and trails, 30 acres for DeSoto elementary schools and 12 acres for a DeSoto water treatment plant. Kansas State University received 342 acres for research and horticultural test fields.

KU’s newest acquisition more than doubles its holdings at the site, which is 12 miles east of Lawrence near highway K-10. The University also owns 200 acres in Sunflower’s northwest corner.
Milestones, money and other matters

- **THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION** convened Jan. 9, with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius hailing a strengthening economy and brighter fiscal outlook for Kansas in her State of the State address. Earlier the governor asked the Legislature to commit $5 million annually to help make the KU Medical Center’s Cancer Center one of the nation’s top cancer research sites. Supporting the Cancer Center and tackling a growing deferred maintenance backlog—$168 million in Lawrence and $68 million at the Medical Center—are among KU’s legislative priorities this year. For more information on key legislative issues, visit Jayhawks for Higher Education at www.kualumni.org and www.govrelations.ku.edu.

- **JOSEPH STEINMETZ** becomes KU’s dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences July 1. He chaired Indiana University’s psychology department for 10 years and in 2005 became executive associate dean of IU’s college of arts and sciences. A core member of interdisciplinary programs in cognitive science and neural science, Steinmetz was recognized by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1996 for research contributions to experimental psychology and neuroscience and was awarded IU’s Eleanor Cox Riggs Professorship in psychology in 1999.

- **THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL** treated a record number of patients in fiscal 2005, the third consecutive year of record volume. According to the hospital’s annual report, the numbers include nearly 20,000 in-patient, 244,474 outpatient and 40,390 emergency room visits. The hospital provided nearly $73 million in uncompensated medical care, nearly 85 percent of which went to Kansas residents. Total operating revenue exceeded $460 million.

- **A $10.4 MILLION GRANT** from the National Institutes of Health will allow Gunda Georg, University distinguished professor of medicinal chemistry, to extend by five years a statewide program to mentor promising cancer researchers. Georg won a $10 million grant in 2000 to start the program, which funds projects by junior faculty researchers at KU, the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas State University, Wichita State University and Emporia State University. The grants also help KU’s efforts to establish a prestigious National Cancer Institute Designated Center at KUMC.

- **FORMER SEN. ROBERT J. DOLE, ’45,** was awarded the French Legion of Honor in November for his World War II service in Europe. Instituted by Napoleon in 1802, the Legion of Honor is considered France’s highest civilian honor.

- **A $5.5 MILLION GRANT** from the National Institutes of Health will support research on Polycystic Kidney Disease at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor and dean of medicine, called the grant “a major coup for KUMC.” The medical center helped pioneer PKD research, which began in the School of Medicine in the 1970s with the work of Jared Grantham, m’62. Grantham, a longtime faculty member, was named Harry Statland Professor of Nephrology in December.

EDWARDS CAMPUS

**KU lays groundwork for Confucius Institute**

The Edwards Campus would be home to the nation’s third Confucius Institute, if KU and China’s ministry of education can finalize plans set out in a preliminary agreement signed this fall.

Robert Clark, vice chancellor for the Edwards Campus, and Bill Tsutsui, director of the Kansas Consortium for Teaching About Asia and KU’s Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative programs, hosted a delegation of Chinese officials at the Overland Park campus in November. They toured Regnier Hall, which would house the institute. The visit was arranged after David Shulenburger, provost and executive vice chancellor, signed a preliminary agreement to explore the partnership in October while visiting China on a trade mission with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Confucius institutes at the University of Maryland and the Chicago public school system offer Chinese language courses and promote tourism and better understanding of China. A KU institute would benefit area businesses, students and the public, as well as provide a boost for KU’s Center for East Asian Studies, Tsutsui says.

- **Bao Tongzeng** of the Chinese Consulate-General in Chicago visited with Edwards Campus Vice Chancellor Robert Clark in November to discuss plans for a Confucius Institute at KU.
Facing one of the biggest tip-offs of his life, Brandon Rush was on edge. A coin toss would decide KU’s lineup, and the touted freshman from a pedigreed Kansas City basketball family was sweating the outcome.

Losing the toss and his chance to start—in KU’s season-opening Late Night scrimmage on Oct. 14, that is—Rush pumped his fist and muttered words of relief.

“He was so nervous,” coach Bill Self later said, laughing.

Rush has since brushed opening night jitters aside. As the only freshman to start every preconference game, the 6-6 guard has established himself as the Jayhawks’ biggest offensive threat. His 12.8 points per game led KU and Big 12 freshmen in preconference play, and he early on caught Self’s eye as the player most likely to develop into the Jayhawks’ go-to guy.

“Brandon can’t be nervous about making mistakes,” Self declared after Rush made three treys against Northern Colorado on Dec. 22. “Brandon’s got to be a playmaker for us. ... When you’re shooting 60 percent from three-point range, you shouldn’t be shooting three a game. He should be taking eight a game and shooting 40 percent. That would help the team a lot more.”

In a highly anticipated Jan. 7 matchup against No. 21 Kentucky, Rush resoundingly answered his coach’s call for more aggressive play. Repeatedly attacking the Wildcat defense, Rush posted a career-high 24 points and 12 rebounds in leading Kansas to a 73-46 victory. The Jayhawks became only the third team in 80 games to shoot 50 percent or better against the Wildcats, and they handed college basketball’s winningest program its worst loss of the Tubby Smith era.

“I had something to prove,” Rush said after the game, in which he also tallied four assists and two blocked shots. “That I was a great player. I can do it.”

Self applauded his star’s breakout performance.

Brandon, as everyone knows, is very talented but he had yet to put a game together where he excelled in all areas: shooting the basketball, creating off the bounce, rebounding and being aggressive,” Self says. “Previously he had been great in two of the four but today he was great in all four areas. He was aggressive, got his shot off the bounce, got it off the catch and of course he was the best rebounder in the game. He was totally dominant on both ends.”

After a promising 20-point game in KU’s 65-64 loss to Arkansas in the Maui Invitational, Rush by his own admission has at times shown trouble focusing: So-so halves followed good halves, and vice-versa. While capable of scoring in bursis, he has also been prone to busts. After a
lackluster first-half against Nevada, when he scored only one basket, he responded to a halftime tongue-lashing from Self by scoring 13 to lead a KU rally that fell just short at 72-70.

In a season that lived up to its up-and-down billing early on, Rush’s on-again off-again scoring perhaps fits the pattern of a young team still trying to establish its identity. Self has shifted starting lineups frequently. After trying Jeff Hawkins and freshman Mario Chalmers at the point, he settled on Russell Robinson as the team’s floor leader. Chalmers earned his first start of the year, at shooting guard, in a 87-46 pasting of Yale. C.J. Giles and Christian Moody—whom Self calls “everybody’s security blanket” because of his consistent play and familiarity with the system—round out a starting five that still may be in flux.

“I think I know in my head who I want to play, but the problem is that team’s not ready yet,” Self said in December. After losses to Arizona (61-49), Arkansas, Nevada and St. Joseph’s (70-67), KU’s record stood at 3-4, and Self was talking publicly about needing to build confidence. A strong second half showing against California in Kemper Arena and a four-game stretch in the Field House against teams with a combined record of 11 wins and 32 losses restored confidence—and boosted the team’s record to 8-4.

Regardless of whether they are the team Self has in mind, the Jayhawks looked ready against Kentucky. Holding the Wildcats to 24 percent shooting, KU improved its field goal defense on the year to 34.6 percent, best in the nation. With conference play at hand—and with two of the first three Big 12 matchups being rivalry games against Kansas State and Missouri—transformation couldn’t have come at a more opportune time.

“One thing that made me nervous was that when we’ve been put in [tough] situations early in the season, we didn’t respond very well,” Self says. “I still didn’t know who we were until we played Kentucky.”

He learned his young team can play tough, force other teams to play poorly, and “win on intangibles” when it plays with intensity.

“I had questioned our team all season long whether we could do that,” Self says.

Question answered.—Steven Hill

What a view

Football’s ascent includes undefeated home season and first bowl win in a decade

K U football’s 7-5 season, during which the Jayhawks were undefeated in Memorial Stadium, featured numerous thrills: a Fort Worth Bowl victory, a stirring overtime win against Iowa State, memorable triumphs over Nebraska and Missouri, a record attendance average of 43,675, and senior linebacker Nick Reid named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year.

After the Jayhawks throttled Houston, 42-13, Dec. 23 in Fort Worth, Texas, the 66-14 loss Nov. 12 at Texas seemed like it was from another season.

Fortunately, KU, 5-5 at the time, had two weeks to dim the memories of the Texas loss and prepare for the regular-season finale against Iowa State, with bowl eligibility hanging in the balance.

Clearly the team used that time to hone the fighting spirit that emerged as its defining trademark.

Trailing 14-3 at halftime Nov. 26, and with starting quarterback Jason Swanson on the bench with an injury, the Jayhawks rallied to tie the game, 14-14, with a field goal, a touchdown and a two-point conversion.

The durable Cyclones countered with another touchdown with 8:41 left in the fourth quarter. But, with an intense drive that began with just 1:39 left, the Jayhawks marched to their final touchdown, a 15-yard pass from senior Brian Luke to freshman Dexton Fields.

The Memorial Stadium crowd was as energized as it has ever been (including the 40-15 humbling of Nebraska Nov. 5), and the faithful were rewarded: ISU missed a 41-yard-field goal, KU’s Scott

“I had something to prove. That I was a great player. I can do it.”

—Brandon Rush, after his 24-point, 12-rebound game Jan. 7 against Kentucky
Seniors Kaylee Brown, Erica Hallman and Crystal Kemp combined to score 50 points, and KU defenders held Texas stars Tiffany Jackson and Erika Arriaran to a combined 25.

“Bonnie has done a really great job,” said Texas’ Hall of Fame coach, Jody Conradt. “They are really playing well and their record indicates that. It is a fact that they are so disciplined and playing so well that they are going to be hard to beat. I am thinking that they are going to be a factor in the Big 12.”

—Chris Lazzarino

With coach Bonnie Henrickson (op) pointing the way, senior forward Crystal Kemp (above) twice named Big 12 Player of the Week, led KU’s early charge.

Wins by the dozen
Women’s hoops team scorches early season with long streak

Fans eager for coach Bonnie Henrickson to energize a women’s basketball program that had grown disappointingly stale in recent years didn’t have long to wait. Henrickson’s second season at KU began with 12 consecutive victories, a school record. Most thrilling was the 70-61 triumph over Texas, witnessed Jan. 3 in Allen Field House by a jazzed crowd of 5,634.

With coach Bonnie Henrickson (op) pointing the way, senior forward Crystal Kemp (above) twice named Big 12 Player of the Week, led KU’s early charge.

Mangino said, “I thought that our offense played well, our defense played well, and we made some big plays on special teams.”

And don’t think the fun is done: Expect KU to be among the favorites to win the Big 12 North in 2006.

With coach Bonnie Henrickson (op) pointing the way, senior forward Crystal Kemp (above) twice named Big 12 Player of the Week, led KU’s early charge.

“Webb made his from 34, and the determined Jayhawks won, 24-21.

“The way we won was really important to our kids, and I think it tells you a little bit about where we are going with this program,” coach Mark Mangino said afterward. “Everyone in the conference respects us. That’s great. That’s nice. But we want to go beyond that respect. We want them to say, ‘KU is a winning team.’ We haven’t arrived, but we’re on the way.”

That destiny took another leap forward in Fort Worth, where the Jayhawks put their nationally ranked defense on full display. The Cougars entered the game averaging 29.5 points and 456 yards; KU defenders, led by senior defensive end Charlton Keith, took that production virtually in half.

And KU’s offense, which suffered through dry spells and criticism throughout the season, cranked out 538 yards. Swanson, voted the game’s Most Valuable Player, threw for 307 yards and four touchdowns in his final KU game.

“It was a good win for our kids,” Mangino said. “I thought that our offense played well, our defense played well, and we made some big plays on special teams.”

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Men’s basketball

**JANUARY**
- 21 Nebraska
- 25 at Texas A&M
- 28 at Iowa State
- 30 Texas Tech

**FEBRUARY**
- 5 Oklahoma State
- 8 at Nebraska
- 11 Iowa State
- 13 at Oklahoma State
- 18 Missouri State
- 21 Baylor
- 25 at Texas

**MARCH**
- 1 Colorado
- 4 at Kansas State
- 9-12 at Big 12 Tournament, Dallas

Women’s basketball

**JANUARY**
- 22 Oklahoma State
- 25 at Kansas State
- 28 at Baylor

**FEBRUARY**
- 1 Colorado
- 4 Iowa State
- 8 at Oklahoma State
- 11 at Missouri State
- 15 Nebraska State
- 18 at Iowa State
- 22 at Texas Tech
- 25 Missouri State

**MARCH**
- 2 Kansas State
- 7-9, 11 at Big 12 Tournament, Dallas

Swimming and diving

**JANUARY**
- 27 Drury

**FEBRUARY**
- 3-4 at Iowa State
- 22-25 at Big 12, Columbia, Mo.

Indoor track & field

**JANUARY**
- 20 KU/KSU/MU Triangular
- 28 Jayhawk Invitational

**FEBRUARY**
- 3-4 at Nebraska Invitational
- 10-11 at Arkansas Invitational
- 10-11 at ISU Classic
- 24-25 at Big 12 Indoor, Lincoln

Tennis

**JANUARY**
- 22 vs. Ball State and Indiana, at Bloomington
- 28 Drake

**FEBRUARY**
- 3 at BYU
- 4 at Utah
- 18 at Louisville
- 25 at Arkansas
- 26 at Tulsa

**MARCH**
- 5 Texas Tech
- 11 Iowa State
- 12 Oklahoma State
- 15 at Kansas State

Baseball

**FEBRUARY**
- 1-4 at Hawaii-Hilo
- 10-12 at Stanford
- 17-19 at Public Storage Classic, Los Angeles
- 24-26 at Music City Challenge, Nashville

**MARCH**
- 3-5 Western Illinois
- 8 Baker
- 10-12 at Clemson

Softball

**FEBRUARY**
- 10-12 at Wilson/DiMarini Tournament, Houston
- 17-19 at Louisville Slugger Desert Classic, Las Vegas
- 24-26 at Palm Springs Classic

**MARCH**
- 3-5 at Golden Hurricane Classic, Tulsa
- 8 Missouri State
- 10-12 Jayhawk Classic

Men’s golf

**FEBRUARY**
- 8-10 at Hawaii-Hilo Invitational
- 27-28 at All-American Intercollegiate, Houston

Women’s golf

**FEBRUARY**
- 20-21 at Central District Invitational, Parrish, Fla.

**MARCH**
- 10-12 at The “Mo”morial, College Station, Texas
The conflict between religion and science—in this case, between intelligent design and evolution—is not new. It wasn’t new in 1999, when the national spotlight focused on the Kansas Board of Education’s rejection of evolution as a unifying concept of science. The conflict was not new in 1968, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state laws against the teaching of evolution were unconstitutional because they promoted state-supported religion. Nor was it new at the Scopes trial in 1925, when John Scopes was found guilty of teaching evolution and violating a Tennessee law against teaching theories contrary to the Bible.

It was not even new when Charles Darwin set sail for the Galapagos Islands in 1831 before preparing to enter the ministry. Darwin himself could not square the idea that life may have evolved over millions of years, contrary to the book of Genesis.

By 1859, however, he had come to terms with his discovery to write *The Origin of Species*. The treatise ultimately quieted scientific doubts about the occurrence of evolution—yet ignited a religious debate that still rages nearly 150 years later.

Among the great conflicts between religion and science, scientists regard the posthumous persecution of Darwin as rival to that of Galileo, who died under house arrest, charged with heresy by the Catholic Church for supporting the Copernican theory that Earth was not the center of the universe.

Galileo has been exonerated. So will, in time, Charles Darwin. Says Tim Miller, professor of religious studies, of the popular discomfort with evolution, “I think it will wither away, but I’d give it 200 more years. We accept modern astronomy and astrophysics, and that’s exactly what will happen with evolution.”

Kansas Looks to the Future

Many Kansans and KU alumni are surprised to again be mired in this debate, after the election of 2000 removed the pro-creationism majority from the state Board of Education. The state’s K-12 science standards were quickly restored, and the issue appeared to be settled.

Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway, whose staunch defense of evolution and the teaching of science appeared in 1999 in The Chronicle of Higher Education, has continued to publicly advocate the importance of teaching evolution. In a
Sept. 26, 2005, letter to faculty and staff, he repeated his declaration that “Evolution is the central unifying principle of modern biology, and it must be taught in our high schools, universities and colleges. …

“The University of Kansas is a major public research university, a scientific community. We are committed to fact-based research and teaching. As an academic, scientific community, we must affirm scientific principles.”

Since 2000, the Kansas Legislature, governor and KU have set ambitious goals to make science—biological science, in particular—an essential component of the Kansas economy and the University’s future. Kansas seeks to bolster its economy with the Kansas Bioscience Initiative, Lawrence seeks to build a strong bioscience business sector hand in hand with KU, and KU seeks to develop an internationally recognized cancer treatment center.

Such moves are right in line for a state that’s moving away from its agrarian past and looking toward the future, says Joshua Rosenbloom, director of the Center for Economic and Business Analysis at KU’s Policy Research Institute. “One of the reasons for the bioscience initiative is to become a more knowledge-based economy with more higher-income jobs. Right now, Kansas agriculture employment is something like 4 percent of the labor force. That may be twice the amount of the country as a whole, but it’s still very tiny.”

In Douglas County alone, bioscience growth could account for up to 6,000 new jobs and $230 million in annual income after 10 years. However, Rosenbloom notes, competition will be stiff. With some 40 states creating initiatives to attract these companies, it won’t be easy to transform bioscience into a powerhouse of the Kansas economy.

Nonetheless, he says, “You may have to do it just to keep up. The alternative may be to fold up your tents and go away.”

In contrast to these goals, in 2005 the Kansas Board of Education’s science standards earned an F from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, an Ohio-based education watchdog group. The failing grade came after a conservative majority on the board, elected in 2004, waged a yearlong battle to challenge evolution’s place in the science curriculum. The 6-4 decision to approve science standards critical of evolution returned Kansas to international notoriety. The new standards no longer limit the definition of science to natural explanations of natural phenomena, opening the door for supernatural explanations. The standards also call for the teaching of “criticisms” of evolution theory (see box).

**A Political Movement’s Agenda**

The recent attacks on evolution coincide with the growing influence of a pivotal document, which has barely been covered in the mainstream media but is available on the Internet. Titled “The Wedge Strategy,” the document was written in 1992 at the Center for Science and Culture, a think tank at The Discovery Institute in Seattle. The document details a multi-phase plan of attack against not just evolution, but all of science. The strategy is credited primarily to Phillip E. Johnson, a former Berkeley law professor.

According to the Discovery Institute, intelligent design is the idea that “certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.” Michael Behe, a biochemist at Lehigh University, and William Dembski, a mathematician and philosopher with ties to several institutions, including Baylor University, are the primary intelligent design theorists.

In the generic sense, a wedge strategy is “when you find an issue that will enrage people to activate a base,” says Robert C. Rowland, KU professor and chair of communication studies and author of the textbook Analyzing Rhetoric: A Handbook for the Informed Citizen in a New Millennium.

In the case of the wedge document, the primary goal is to energize a Christian base and defeat evolution, “naturalism,” and the “materialism” of science. According to the document, science is the root of cultural ills.

The document says that the defeat of evolution is “the very beginning of this strategy,” or “the thin edge of the wedge,” which seeks to replace evolution with the idea of intelligent design, “a science consonant with Christian and theistic convictions.”

In 2004, Barbara Forrest and Paul R. Gross described the wedge strategy, its inception and its development throughout America—including Kansas—in their book Creationism’s Trojan Horse: The Wedge of Intelligent Design, published by Oxford University Press. They report that events in Kansas—as well in Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere—bear the unmistakable stamp of the strategy, and in Kansas link it to the Intelligent Design Network, based in Olathe and directed by attorney John Calvert. By 2005, some 20 states, including New York, had con-
sidered alterations to science standards, President Bush had expressed support for teaching intelligent design, and the Santorum amendment to the federal No Child Left Behind Act proposed teaching the scientific debate around the theory of evolution, although no such debate exists in the scientific community.

The wedge strategy is well funded and organized, yet rather than put its considerable resources into scientific research to substantiate intelligent design, its advocates have focused on influencing the public and political figures, from publishing non-peer-reviewed books to staging seminars and academic “challenge conferences,” to holding “briefings” for members of the U.S. Senate and House and their staffs.

The wedge may have been exposed in the final weeks of 2005, with U.S. District Judge John E. Jones’s ruling in the Dover school board case. The ruling, heavily citing testimony by Trojan Horse co-author Forrest, strongly states that intelligent design is not science, but religion, and that teaching it as an alternative to evolutionary theory violates the First Amendment.

It’s basically the same story; it’s been kind of given an updated set of clothes,” says KU’s Miller. “The bottom-line impulse is much the same as it’s been for a century. There’s a fair body of opinion that modern science is wrong about certain scientific issues, [that] the Bible is right about them and therefore should be taught as science.”

Yet the federal-court ruling will not be the end of the story. Recognizing that the public had begun to link intelligent design with creationism, the strategy several years ago shifted to a “teach the controversy” campaign. Instead of advocating intelligent design, proponents focus on teaching evolution as a “theory in crisis,” hoping to undermine evolution and gain acceptance for the design idea.

In a similar vein, Kansas Board of Education President Steve Abrams—who says he does not intimately know or follow the wedge document—also says he has not advocated support for intelligent design or alternative ideas to evolution. “I’ve never stated we have to look at alternative ideas to evolution. I have stated evolution should not be taught in the classroom as dogma,” he says. Likewise, the new Kansas standards state they are not advocating intelligent design, but rather call for students to “learn about areas where scientists are raising scientific criticisms” of evolution.

But evolution is indeed a unifying tenet among scientists. There is no controversy to teach, scholars say. Although scientists do continue to debate the mechanisms by which evolution occurs, such differences do not mean there are “holes” in the theory, as its opponents contend.

“Scientists have accepted evolution as a science principle for 150 years now,” says Joe Heppert, professor and chair of inorganic and organometallic chemistry, and director of KU’s Center for Science Education. “If anything, the theory of evolution has become more well-defined and more mature, and science has grown to accept it more fully.”

He says the public has accepted arguments that are false: “That there is a major controversy about evolution, patently false. That there is an idea that science, because it doesn’t accept intelligent design, is somehow biased, patently false. If proponents of intelligent design had actually generated new models of the universe that worked and were

Kansas state science curriculum standards

On the nature of science

2001: “Science is the human activity of seeking natural explanations for what we observe in the world around us. Science does so through the use of observation, experimentation, and logical argument while maintaining strict empirical standards and healthy skepticism.”

2005: “Science is a systematic method of continuing education that uses observations, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, logical argument and theory building to lead to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena.”

On evolution

2001: By the end of 12th grade, students should understand “that evolution is a broad, unifying theoretical framework in biology,” noting that “understand” does not mandate “belief.”

2005: “... the curriculum standards call for students to learn about the best evidence for modern evolutionary theory, but also about areas where scientists are raising scientific criticisms of the theory. ... Evolution is accepted by many scientists but questioned by some.”

Grades 8-12 indicators include “criticisms” of evolution theory, including: “a lack of empirical evidence for a primordial soup,” “the lack of adequate natural explanations for the genetic code,” “the sudden rather than gradual emergence of organisms.”
meaningful scientific explanations, then it would be taught in classrooms.

“Brilliant Marketers”

A ccording to public opinion polls, many Americans have heard and heeded the consistent refrain that science is at a crossroad and evolution is a theory in doubt.

But science, like math, is not ruled by opinion polls. Science establishes facts through rigorous observation, hypothesis, experimentation, data collection, evaluation, repeatability and peer review. In science, hypotheses that continue to succeed, such as evolution, eventually rise to the stature of “theory,” a word that has been exploited by opponents to imply hesitation. In fact, “theory” is the highest regard science can bestow upon an idea, granting it status as a general law.

Scientists accept evolution and apply it in countless ways. Yet according to a poll of Kansans, more than half believe intelligent design should be taught alongside evolution. One reason Kansans give is that when there is a debate, both sides should be heard. National polls yield similar results.

This false argument, rhetoric expert Rowland says, appeals to Americans’ sense of fairness. Intelligent design proponents “are relying on the public’s lack of knowledge of where things really stand,” he says, “and they are appealing to people of very strong faith, who are supporting intelligent design as a way to get their faith into our schools.”

Says Steve Case, assistant research professor in KU’s Center for Research and Learning and Center for Science Education, and co-chair of the science standards writing committee for the state board, “The intelligent design movement has become brilliant at marketing, and they’ve developed sound bites they don’t define, that they allow the populace to define in their own minds, so the general public then says, ‘Yeah, I agree with that.’”

One example is the use of language, such as “materialism,” which refers to the scientific study of “matter” or what is known to exist, to the exclusion of the nonphysical or spiritual. A non-science oriented citizen may instead interpret “materialism” in the popular context as the obsession with things and a quest for affluence that is spiritually empty, selfish and lacking a moral center. The replacement of “creationism” with “intelligent design” is probably the best example of skillful marketing, says Case. “The majority of the world believes in an intelligent designer—there are a lot of creation stories in a wide range of beliefs—so a lot of people say, ‘Oh, I agree with that.’”

Life Without Science?

W ithout question, the public enjoys the fruits of science’s labor. Says Bruce Lieberman, associate professor of geology, “We wouldn’t have cured certain cancers without scientific knowledge, and in some cases without knowledge of evolutionary biology. Polio is no longer a threat in this society. Maybe in some ways science doesn’t always make our quality of life better—you’ve got big cities and pollution—but it’s made life much easier.”

Science drives the economy, too. KU economist Joshua Rosenbloom says, “I can’t think of any businesses that don’t use electricity, very few that don’t use the telephone and the Internet, that don’t rely on people getting into autos to drive to their places of employment or where they buy the products of those industries. Sometimes the impacts of science are indirect, but they are very much there.”

Life expectancy for white Americans has doubled since 1830, he adds, largely because of advances in medicine and public health, which both rely heavily on evolution theory.

Yet the wedge strategy seeks to replace modern science, citing as its 20-year goal “to see the intelligent design theory as the dominant perspective in science,” according to the document. And although intelligent design proponents say they want discovery, their approach in essence could shut down scientific inquiry, because it posits that some things are too complex to be understood.

Paulyn Cartwright, assistant professor of evolutionary developmental biology, says it is critical to understand that scientists are limited in how they do their jobs—they can address questions only by using natural explanations. “If I went into the lab today and I got an unexpected result from an experiment, my job is to investigate the natural causes of this result,” she says. “If I just said, ‘Oh well, this must have been the will of God,’ then I wouldn’t continue to seek scientific answers. If all scientists did this, then there would be no scientific progress and new discoveries would never be made.”

She points to one of intelligent design’s key critiques of evolutionary theory—that it doesn’t explain the complexity of cells, calling them “irreducibly complex.”

“There’s plenty of evidence of how a cell would evolve, and lots of good explanations, so that’s wrong,” she says. “I’m confident there will be even better ones. What we will accomplish in the future, as long as we continue to implement scientific processes, is limitless.”
Proper Roles and Contexts

Science doesn't ask you to believe; it asks you only to see. That's how science works, and that's why it works. But the wedge movement considers this an absence of morality and thus an indictment, placing expectations on science that are at odds with its purposes and practices.

The physical world is the purview of science; morality a realm for religion. The move by school boards to insert claims against evolution, or to promote intelligent design in science, is “akin to the mayor of New York passing a law that the designated hitter is illegal in baseball,” says KU’s Joe Heppert.

If anything, Chancellor Hemenway says, “We trust in science.” We trust in its methods and procedures and results because these are all we ask from it. “I think most people at the University, and most scientists I know, believe in God and trust in evolution. Evolution is not something you believe in; it’s a scientific theory that explains so much about the way the world works.”

Neither are use of evolution and belief in creation mutually exclusive. Geology professor Lieberman says, “We need both. Science can design a microwave oven, but it can’t tell you why it’s wrong to put your kid brother’s hamster into it.”

A danger of blurring the lines between science and religion is that not only does science lose, but religion loses too, says communications professor Rowland. “When you make the Bible into a science text, you threaten the real underpinnings of faith. The Bible was not meant to be that kind of text. It’s meant to be about faith and values, and science is meant to be about the factual world.”

The education community sees the proper place for teaching intelligent design in religion and social studies. Yet wedge proponents will not accept teaching intelligent design outside of science classes because they are not interested in the teaching of religion in a social context—they are interested in replacing science with Biblical principles, as the wedge clearly states.

Although he denies adherence to the wedge, in September, Kansas Board of Education President Steve Abrams said in a public talk, “At some point in time,
“We wouldn’t have cured certain cancers without scientific knowledge, and in some cases without knowledge of evolutionary biology. Polio is no longer a threat in this society. Maybe in some ways science doesn’t always make our quality of life better—you’ve got big cities and pollution—but it’s made life much easier.”
—Bruce Lieberman

if you compare evolution and the Bible, you have to decide which one you believe. That’s the bottom line.”

**Negative Effects of Controversy**

Proponents of intelligent design, and of the wedge strategy, contend there is little harm in criticizing evolution. But scientists and their campus colleagues say there is plenty of harm in injecting non-science into the teaching of science. “We don’t discuss German in a biology class,” says Heppert. “We don’t teach mathematics when students are playing tennis or basketball. We don’t have social studies classes in our English classrooms. We try to keep the subject appropriate to the material, and that’s in part so we don’t mislead students.”

Says religious studies professor Tim Miller: “We are in a situation where we are degrading science education. The U.S. has been a world science leader, but I think that’s in serious danger right now. We just aren’t turning out the high-quality scientists we used to. To degrade science is a terrible disaster in the long run.”

Steve Case, for 20 years a science teacher in both public and parochial schools, says it also makes a mockery of teaching to let students hear both sides and make their own decisions, as intelligent design proponents frequently promote. “That’s the dumbest curriculum model I’ve heard of. In what other area do we do that? Do we present the evidence on gravity and let the kids make up their own mind? Letting the kids decide is like saying, ‘You need to rediscover all the knowledge of the past 450 years and decide for yourselves what you believe.’”

David Shulenburger, provost and executive vice chancellor, has blamed KU’s drop in the U.S. News & World Report college rankings in part on the evolution debate, and high school guidance counselors say Kansas schoolchildren are finding admissions to universities across the country more difficult or must take remedial science when they arrive.

Allan Cigler, Chancellors Club teaching professor of political science, conducted a study of the effects of the 1999 debate on Kansas. He says reputation is real, that the negative impact lasts. “The international negative press that Kansas garners is pretty bad. When we reversed that decision in 2000, there weren’t articles about that. There were only articles about the country bumpkins out here who do this type of thing. ... My guess would be those things could be more symbolic than real, but they become real.”

Says Lieberman, whose geology department is involved in a job search: “It comes up. When you invite people to come in, there are little jokes. You always get made fun of at scientific conferences for being from Kansas. It makes it harder to attract good professors, because they figure we’re too behind the times.”

KU’s continued spot at the center of the controversy doesn’t help. Most famously, perhaps, is last semester’s debacle involving religious studies professor Paul Mirecki, who, in a private e-mail to a campus group, referred to the design proponents as “fundies” and his proposed class that labeled it mythology as a slap in their “big fat face.” Mirecki’s class and comments brought widespread scorn and threats by some legislators to scrutinize KU funding. KU ultimately withdrew the course, and Mirecki resigned as department chair.

Yet the name-calling has come just as strongly from the other side, and may have degenerated into personal harm. Mirecki was beaten in a roadside incident, allegedly as a result of his comments.

Evolutionary biologist Cartwright says that although Mirecki’s words were inappropriate, she can understand why he lost his cool. “It becomes personal when they continually say we are misleading the public and are godless heathens. We’ve gotten to the melting point. You can only get pushed so far, being called close-minded and immoral.”

**Limiting the Damage**

Chancellor Hemenway continues to defend evolution and the University’s commitment to science. And, he points out, the new science standards passed by the Board of Education don’t take effect until 2007, after this year’s elections. If 2000 repeats itself and conservative board members are replaced, the changes might never be implemented. Many schools across Kansas have said they will continue to teach evolution as they always have.

Meanwhile, world-class science is alive and well at KU, and life scientists are winning important grants. Lieberman in 2003 discovered trilobites that may provide critical clues in the fossil record that could sharpen our understanding of how evolution occurs.
Cartwright and her colleague Daphne Fautin this fall received a five-year, $2.85 million grant for the Tree of Life—an ambitious National Science Foundation project to assemble the family tree, so to speak, of all living organisms current and past, establishing the relationships linking them together. Cartwright and Fautin and their colleagues are to fill in the Cnidarian portion of the tree, including jellyfish, corals, sea anemones and hydrozoans.

In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences alone, molecular biologists brought in more than $7 million in research grants last year. Combined with evolutionary biology, the amount tops $12 million. The grants include funding for research on new antibacterial agents, the effects of aging on the immune system, mechanisms of brain development, cancer, and antibiotic treatment for pneumonia in cystic fibrosis.

All of these studies apply principles of evolution, and in some, evolution can be seen in action, on a daily, and even hourly, basis.

Scientists acknowledge they must work more actively to educate the public about the nature and importance of their work. In 1999, Hemenway responded to the attack on evolution by issuing a call to action for all universities to improve scientific literacy. At KU, the teaching of science to non-science majors is shifting, to a goal of scientific literacy through emphasis on the nature of science and how it works.

KU in 1999 also created the Center for Science Education, directed by Heppert, to serve as a resource for scholarship in science education and to provide outreach education. KU also provides expanded opportunities for adult learning about evolution and science. Key among them is the “Explore Evolution” exhibit that opened this fall at the Natural History Museum. “That’s a really important contribution,” says Heppert. “The museum, with the help of donors, has done a spectacular job in providing a resource for the public.”

What more can concerned citizens and KU alumni do to support science and the teaching of evolution?

Joshua Rosenbloom and others say that education itself must improve. “I think people should lobby their local school board to ensure that they don’t water down science education standards. They should stay involved at the community level.”

Robert Rowland also points a finger at the media and says press coverage should acknowledge the tipped scale in favor of evolution and mainstream science. “One problem with the media is the sense there are two sides of every issue, so if I have one paragraph that’s pro-evolution, I need one that’s pro-intelligent design. But if you have 99.99 percent of scientists on the pro-evolution side, that .01 percent on the other is sure getting overrepresented in the newspaper.”

Edward O. Wiley, professor of systematics and evolution, agrees: “In presenting both sides equally, you are implying there is equal division in the argument. This confuses people.”

Wiley says business must play a key role in Kansas. “Is the mainstream business community going to be concerned about this? It’s beyond the average scientist to resolve. It has moved away from the ivory towers of academia to the practical matters of flow of money in and out of the state.”

Allan Cigler predicts the business faction of the Kansas GOP will, indeed, apply pressure. Already, a slate of opposition candidates has been raised for the 2006 school board elections, and several coalitions have formed to oust the anti-evolution candidates.

And, finally, some say the solution will come from religion. Says Steve Case: “In the late 1800s when the same things were going on, it was the religious community who came in and said the views of these people don’t reflect a solid theology.”

Ultimately, the success of the wedge strategy, like all political movements, depends on votes. Says Wiley: “I really think it’s time for the average thinking, caring citizens of the state of Kansas to step up and voice their opposition to this board’s decisions. That’s what we do when we’re activated and we understand that the controversy is significant. If you look at history, it’s a state of relatively progressive thought, not regressive.”

Will 2006 be a replay of 2000 and of Dover, Pa., with the clear defeat of anti-evolution candidates? The chancellor believes it will. A scholar of language, not science, he sees a downfall in the wedge movement’s very name. “I have a problem with that term, the wedge, because it implies a choice,” he says, “yet there is nothing that says you can’t believe in God and trust in evolution. Evolution serves us well. We’re not going to give up evolution or faith, and we don’t have to.”

Julie Mettenburg, j’91, writes frequently about medical research and business for national publications and has taught journalism at KU. She holds a master’s degree in political science from the City University of New York.
Danni sobbed. Not when she won $1 million as champion of “Survivor: Guatemala.” Not when her competitive drive and interpersonal skills were validated by votes of her fellow contestants. Not when she left Guatemala’s Mayan jungle after 39 grueling days, and not even when her dream of becoming a national media star had been fulfilled on live TV.

It happened back home in Tonganoxie, when Danni Boatwright, ’99, emaciated from her orchestrated-for-television jungle adventure, walked into a supermarket.

“I was starving, literally competing for my food, scrounging the jungle floors. So when I got home, the first time I walked into a grocery store, I was just overwhelmed. I started crying. All I could say was, ‘My gosh ... look at the food!’”

OK, so much for the crying. That’s not really what Danni Boatwright is about. The former Miss Kansas USA (and runner-up for the top job, Miss USA, in 1996) is summery Kansas sunshine personified. Especially in the grips of a snowy December that only the Hill’s sledgers could enjoy, a month made even chillier by yet another
bout of creationism vs. evolution infamy (see cover story), it fell to Danni Boatwright to color our gray spirits.

Finally, something fun.

“One of the guys on the show, Judd, kept saying, ‘You would think Kansas is the greatest place on earth if you listen to her,’” recalls Boatwright’s mother, Vickie Cackler. “Judd would say, ‘Jayhawks, Jayhawks ... please don’t get her started on the KU Jayhawks.'"

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S peaking of Judd: Ashley, Kentucky’s superstar basketball fan, was supposed to have had some head-turner competition at the Jan. 7 game in Allen Field House. Boatwright had agreed to rally the crowd before the 11 a.m. tip-off, certainly her personal highlight in post-‘Survivor’ publicity junkets, but just days before the game she learned that she had been double-booked with an appearance that morning in Wichita.

Boatwright says her agent knew what the game meant to her, but he had incorrectly assumed the nationally televised game would start at 7 p.m. and that she could return in time. She maintains her lovely humor while relating the story, but her disappointment was obvious; even a suggestion that she could perhaps make a similar appearance when the games really count—say, late in the Big 12 season—was immediately discarded.

“It’s Kentucky and Kansas, two of the most historic programs in all of college basketball, playing in Allen Field House,” she says emphatically. “No, that’s the game. That was the game to be at.”

Judging by the attention ESPN showered on Kentucky’s famous fan in defeat, it’s almost staggering to consider the implications had our Danni been in the stands next to their Ashley. We might not have seen any basketball at all.

“Oh, they think that Ashley Judd is such a big fan!” exclaims Boatwright’s mother. “But she doesn’t even stand a chance against Danni!”

Vickie Cackler explains that Danni’s grandfather, the late H.W. Barnett, pastor of Victoria Tabernacle in Kansas City, Kan., for 40 years, moved here from Texas as a young man and immediately became a KU fan, thanks to his passion for distance running. Crimson and Blue pride passed down the generations; when his sister won “Survivor,” Casey Boatwright, ’94, one of Danni’s seven brothers, led the TV-watch-party crowd filling Bichelmeier’s Steakhouse in downtown Tonganoxie in the Rock Chalk Chant.

“When Danni was 4, 5, 6 years old, she would go to her room and cry when KU lost a basketball game,” Cackler says. “You have no idea how much love she has for KU, and for all of Kansas.”

We’re starting to get the drift. And so are the Goo Goo Dolls.

Soon after her “Survivor” victory, Boatwright was invited to Las Vegas to be a presenter on NBC’s “Radio Music Awards.” In a sea of ratty denim, scruffy beards and bad attitudes, Boatwright shined with the glamour she had polished during a modeling career that took her away from KU in 1996 and sent her to Australia, Italy and South Africa. Her charm that night belied the fact that she had just finished tearing into a member of the Goo Goo Dolls for his snide, backstage comments about her home state.

“I don’t know how anybody could be embarrassed being from Kansas,” she says. “I’ve traveled all around the world, and for me, the values we have here are the most special I’ve ever seen. I love it here. I wouldn’t be anywhere else.”

The tribe has spoken.
Leo Lutz walks slowly, hands behind his back, and trains an appraising eye on the sights before him. He looks like a man viewing pictures at an exhibition.

But this is no museum gallery, and the objects of his scrutiny are not works of art. Not yet, anyway.

They are huge chunks of limestone, big, shaggy boulders splintered, flaked, pummeled and polished by wind and water. Scattered below the dam of Lake Kahola like ice cubes spilled from a glass, they don’t seem like much to look at.

Lutz knows better. This spot in the Flint Hills, where the Emporia native
spent summer weekends as a boy, is one of his favorite places to photograph. As he strolls patiently, unhurried by a cold November wind, he settles on one rock with a serpentine fissure cast in deep shadow and a flat, pocked face lit by early morning sun. Framing the scene with his hands, he says, “I think we’ve got something here.”

Since turning to photography full time after retiring from a successful career in banking, Lutz, ’61, has built an impressive portfolio of black-and-white photographs. Working with a 4-by-5 inch view camera and using painstaking fine art printing techniques perfected by master photographers such as Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Lutz pursues an art form that is a bit of a throwback in the digital age, when even amateurs with modest budgets can snap a photo, print it on a desktop inkjet and hang it on the wall with the speed of a one-hour Fotomat. His work is grounded in the techniques and artistic vision forged in the early 20th century by

WITH A CLASSIC VIEW CAMERA AND AN EYE FOR HISTORY, A KANSAS PHOTOGRAPHER FRAMES THE MAJESTIC AND THE COMMONPLACE

1. Corn Sheller Gears, Paxico, 2001
2. Portrait of Leo Lutz by Earl Richardson
Adams and his cohorts, who dubbed themselves Group f/64, and continued more recently by John Sexton and Morley Baer, fine art photographers with whom Lutz studied in California.

In November and December, the Hays Arts Center featured 75 of Lutz’s photographs in a solo exhibition. A similar sampling of his work, titled “The Exploring Eye,” hung in January 2005 at the Lawrence Arts Center. The exhibitions illustrate how far—and near—Lutz ranges. Next to portraits of adobe missions in the desert Southwest; nature studies and sweeping panoramas from the Pacific Coast, Canada and the southeastern United States; and closeups of weathered buildings and farm machinery from the Midwest and Great Plains,

3. *Kahola Falls after Spring Rain*, Morris County, 2004
4. *Ice Patterns*, Lawrence, 1996
5. *Kelleys Lily Pads*, Lawrence, 1997
exhibition-goers also viewed lush shots of a Lawrence neighbor’s lily pond and abstract studies of cracked Kansas River ice and Douglas County snowdrifts.

“You could consider Leo an amateur photographer, in the best sense of the word, because he’s someone who loves photography,” says Rick Mitchell, f’72, who as director of galleries at the Lawrence Arts Center worked with Lutz to select and hang the images for the show there. “And yet he brings to it all the skills and ability he brought to his profession.”

Mitchell says Lutz is, in a sense, a master practitioner of a craft that is slowly disappearing. Using complex darkroom techniques, Lutz creates rich, luminous prints. But these techniques take time to perfect. “What he’s doing is going to become more and more precious,” Mitchell says. “He’s really a master of techniques that are being practiced less and less.”

The respect for old ways also comes out in Lutz’s subject matter: Ghost towns and bypassed main streets, where fading ads are painted on buildings; old-style wooden barns and silos and aging grain elevators.

“These are things that aren’t always going to be around,” Lutz says. “Once they are torn down, the only thing that will be left is the picture.”

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During photography’s infancy, painters and other visual artists were slow to accept the new medium. Eager to belong, photographers altered their work with soft focus or darkroom tricks to make the photographs look more like charcoal drawings, etchings and other “real” visual art forms. In some quarters that attitude persisted well into the 20th century.

Led by Adams, Group f/64 rebelled. In a 1932 manifesto they advocated “pure photography”—maximum depth-of-field, sharp focus, smooth glossy printing paper—and set out to break free of the standards of painting in order to “define photography as an art form by simple and direct presentation through purely photographic methods.” They took their name from the smallest (and thus most sharply focused) aperture on their cameras.

“What they were all about was ‘straight photography,’” Mitchell says. Much of their work and the work of photographers who came after them consists of unadorned portraits of the American West—iconic images of Big Sur, Yosemite National Park, the Rocky Mountains. “The art is in the strong composition and the precise darkroom skills necessary to make a really fine, high-quality exhibition print.”

Lutz was working as a branch bank manager in California when he began studying with Morley Baer, following up on an interest that first grabbed his imagination back at Emporia High School, where he helped turn a janitor’s closet into a darkroom while working on the yearbook staff. Under Baer’s tutelage, Lutz deepened his understanding of
Adams’ Zone System for exposing, developing and printing photographic images. He worked in Yosemite and other parts of the West, producing gorgeous images of snow-covered streams and soaring peaks. But that territory, Lutz eventually decided, seemed overexposed. “The thing about Yosemite is there’s so many clichés out there. It’s been done so many times there’s not much else I can do with it.”

In 1993 he retired, and in 1994 he and his wife moved back to Kansas.

“There is a subtle beauty here in Kansas that a lot of people don’t realize. There are a lot of challenges to depicting that beauty. The gorgeous prairie. The sky. Sometimes you have to make several trips to get the sky just right.”

He and his wife travel extensively in their RV, and he has photographed in 48 states, Canada and Mexico. But clearly he feels a special connection to his native Kansas, and to the Flint Hills in particular.

Throughout a day in the field, Lutz spends much more time looking than photographing. He steers his pickup over sparsely traveled field roads and main streets, exploring new sites and revisiting old ones, gauging possibilities, considering angles. He might stop no more than a half-dozen times to assemble his camera and tripod. He uses a light meter to set exposure times and jots notes to guide his printing before ducking beneath the dark focusing cloth to ponder an image displayed upside down in his viewfinder.

Once, as he was setting up a shot of an old wagon in a farm field near Amana, Iowa, the landowner wandered over to strike up a conversation. When Lutz explained what he was doing, the man offered to show him some more wagons he’d stored in a barn. He wanted to tow them out into the field next to the lone wagon that Lutz was trying to shoot.

To dissuade him, Lutz lifted the focusing cloth so the farmer could look at the shot he’d so carefully framed.

“Well,” the awed farmer said. “I’ve never seen it that way before.”

LET THE NOMINATIONS BEGIN

Members approve change in bylaws, enabling Board to open nomination process for elections

By an overwhelming majority, the ayes have it, 7,095 to 742. In balloting that ended Nov. 16, Association members approved a proposed amendment to the Association’s bylaws that allows the Board of Directors to change the election process for future members of the Board.

Previously, the Board could modify all other sections of the bylaws except the portion that regulated elections; the amendment allowed the Board to revise the entire bylaws document, including the section pertaining to elections.

As part of the new election process, the Association asks alumni to nominate fellow Jayhawks to serve on the Board. Nominations are due by March 1. To nominate a worthy candidate, fill out a nomination form online at www.kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957 to request a form. Nominators also should submit a letter of support, detailing the candidate’s qualifications.

In March and April, a committee of the Board will review the nominations and recommend a slate of four individuals for approval at the Board’s May 20 meeting.

Members of the Board serve five-year terms. Alumni who are part of the slate approved May 20 will begin their terms July 1.

Under the previous election system, a committee chosen by the chair selected six candidates without input from the membership. These six were presented to Association members in an annual spring election, in which members voted for three of the six to serve on the Board. In recent years, however, the percentage of members who actually voted in the election had dwindled to less than 10 percent. Potential candidates also had been reluctant to compete in a national election against fellow Jayhawks in which only three of six would be declared winners. The KU Alumni Association is the only association in the Big 12 that had retained a national election process.

In a letter to Association members last fall, national chair David B. Wescoe, c’76, said Board members were confident that the election changes would “promote a stronger, more diverse Board, and it would make the selection process more transparent,” by inviting all members of the Association and the KU family to nominate alumni to the Board.

Following the Nov. 16 deadline for voting on the bylaws question, Board-appointed volunteers Edwyna Gilbert, g’65; Claudine “Scottie” Lingelbach, b’44; and Wiley Mitchell, b’43, g’47, tallied the ballots in an all-day session Nov. 22 at the Adams Alumni Center.
In memory of Millie

Association, KU mourn loss of legendary staff member

Hours before he was scheduled to leave for Wellington, where he would present the 101st Mildred Clodfelter Award to local volunteer Cathy Mitchell, b’87, Association president Kevin Corbett reflected on the remarkable woman for whom the award is named.

“Millie spent a lot of time with me early on,” Corbett, b’88, says of his hiring here in fall 2004. “She put the names we all know together with the history of the University. It wasn’t that she just knew the history; she lived it. Wherever we might see names or events, she knew the faces.”

Mildred Clodfelter, b’41, died Jan. 9 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. She was 88, but was not known to have been in ill health. Right to the end, Clodfelter had been a weekly presence around the Adams Alumni Center, where she delivered alumni news clippings to the records department and chatted with her many friends and former coworkers.

She had retired in 1986, after 42 years of employment with the Association and 47 at the University. Yet Clodfelter never wavered in her dedication. For those of us lucky enough to hear it so often, her chipper greeting of “Well, hello!” will be sorely missed.

“Her secret was no secret, I guess,” says former Executive Director Dick Wintermote, c’51. “It was to be friends with as many people as possible.”

The Association established an award in her honor to recognize alumni and friends for “sustained volunteer service to the University at the local level.” Like Clodfelter, these are the true-blue Jayhawks who toil on KU’s behalf not for recognition or compensation, but because they simply want to do their part to improve their beloved university. And if they have half as much fun as Clodfelter did in the process, they’ll benefit just as deeply.

Longtime Vice Chancellor David Ambler in 1986 wrote Clodfelter a note of congratulations for her election to the Kansas Women’s Hall of Fame and her pending retirement: “You join a list of great women who throughout the years have contributed so much to this University. You stand, however, as a giant among them.”

In accordance with Clodfelter’s wishes, no services are planned. Her family suggests memorial contributions for the Mildred Clodfelter Award, sent to the KU Endowment Association, PO Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Hollywood ’Hawks

Rock Chalk Ball set for Feb. 3 in Overland Park

The 11th-annual Rock Chalk Ball returns Feb. 3 to the Overland Park Convention Center, where “The Stars Come Out at Night.” The theme offers Kansas City Jayhawks an evening of black-tie revelry in old Hollywood while supporting KU scholarships for outstanding Kansas students.

Alumnus Bill Farmer, j’75, an actor who voices the cartoon characters Goofy, Yosemite Sam and Foghorn Leghorn, will make his debut as Rock Chalk Ball emcee, and he’ll have much to talk about. Live-auction items befitting the glamorous evening include a chance to visit the set of “The West Wing” and a...
deluxe trip by private air for four couples to the Feb. 25 KU-Texas men’s basketball game in Austin.

Other items in the live auction will include a quilt custom-made with fabrics by internationally known textile artist Kaffe Fassett, elegant Cobblestone jewelry, and distinctive KU paintings by artists Mike Savage, f’90, and Ernst Ulmer, two favorites among alumni throughout the region.

To preview auction items and make a wish list for potential bidding, visit the Alumni Association’s Web site, www.kualumni.org.

Though the Rock Chalk Ball is the annual signature event of the Association’s Kansas City Chapter, all interested alumni and friends are encouraged to join in the glittery fun in support of a great cause. The standard member ticket price is $150 per person, or $100 for those 35 and under; non-member rates of $200 and $150 now include a year’s membership in the Association. Benefactor tables for 10 can be purchased for $2,500, $5,000 or $10,000.

To make reservations, please contact the Association at 800-584-2957. Room reservations at the adjoining Sheraton Overland Park should be made directly with the hotel at 866-837-4214.

Roundup Revelry

The Murfin Stables provided an ideal setting for last October’s Jayhawk Roundup in Wichita, where alumni raised $70,000 to benefit KU. Among those leading the annual event were Sue Watson, Lynn Loveland and Janet and Dave Murfin.

RECOGNIZE A KU VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award

The Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award was created in 1987 to thank alumni and friends for “sustained volunteer service to the University at the local level.”

“Millie” Award recipients are honored by the Association at special events in their communities hosted by local alumni chapters.

Winners of the “Millie” award have served as local alumni chapter leaders, Kansas Honors Program coordinators, or student recruitment volunteers. If you know a Jayhawk who helps carry KU’s banner, submit a nomination today!

To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by March 31 at 800-584-5397 or visit www.kualumni.org.
1941
Robert, d’41, c’46, and Dorothy May Pine, c’42, recently returned from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kashmir, marking the completion of their trips to the Traveler’s Century Club list of 315 destinations. They live in Boulder, Colo.

1943
John Conard, c’43, g’47, and his wife, Virginia Powell Conard, c’48, hosted Thanksgiving dinner in their Lawrence home for international students from England, China and Taiwan as part of KU’s Friendship Family Program. He is retired president of the Higher Education Loan Program of Kansas and former speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives.

1948
Charles Harkness, c’48, g’54, EdD’63, recently returned to his home in Woodbury, Minn., after serving two years in the Peace Corps, where he was assistant to the vice rector for international relations at Arabaev University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

1954
Wes Santee, d’54, recently was named to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. Wes set world records in 1956 for the indoor and outdoor 1,500-meter race and was national indoor mile champion in 1955. He lives in Eureka.

1955
Kent Mitchell, b’55, has run marathons in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. He’s portfolio manager for Commerce Trust Co. in Kansas City.

George Schrader, g’55, recently was honored by the International City/County Management Association. He lives in Dallas and is principal at Schrader & Cline in Addison.

1958
Royce Fugate, e’58, is city administrator/engineer in West Plains, Mo.

1960
Wes Jackson, g’60, is president of the Land Institute in Salina. He was featured in the November issue of Smithsonian magazine as one of “35 Who Made a Difference.”

1961
Joseph Bauman, e’61, retired earlier this year as founding chairman and CEO of Cardinal Brands. He lives in Lawrence.

The Right Rev. Robert Shahan, b’61, recently received the Significant Sig Award from Sigma Chi fraternity. He is a retired Episcopal bishop, and he lives in Olathe.

1962
James Sanders, e’62, g’67, is retired in Lenexa from a career with Hallmark Cards.

Minnie Kloehr Wilson, d’62, and her husband, Dan, recently traveled through New England in their recreational vehicle. They live in Scotts Valley, Calif.

Richard Wood, c’62, wrote Here Lies Colorado, which was published recently by FarCountry Press. He lives in Denver.

1964
Michael McDowell, d’64, g’67, is gen-
eral manager and CEO of Heartland Power in Madison, S.D.

Jay Strayer, c’64, l’69, g’71, lives in Glen Ellyn, Ill. He’s a partner in the Naperville firm of Fewkes Wentz & Strayer.

1965

Betsy Langston Gwin, ’65, directs development for the Kansas chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. She lives in Wichita.

John Piper, c’65, serves as co-pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westminster, Colo.

1966

Gary Walker, c’66, is president of Public/Private Ventures. He lives in Cape May, N.J., and recently was appointed chair of the board of trustees of the William T. Grant Foundation.

1967

Lee Derrough, j’67, lives in Kansas City, where he’s president and CEO of Hunt Midwest Enterprises. He recently received the Look North Award from the Clay County Economic Development Council.

Ray Myers, c’67, is technical marketing director for Reed & Graham in Sacramento, Calif. He lives in El Dorado Hills.

John Vratil, d’67, l’71, serves as vice president of the Kansas Senate. He’s a partner in the Overland Park law firm of Lathrop & Gage.

1968

David Harrington, c’68, lives in Modesto, Calif., where he’s vice president of Medic Alert Foundation.

Charles Yockey, c’68, m’72, is a hospitalist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

1969

John Haight, c’69, m’73, practices medicine in Santa Monica, Calif. He lives in Los Angeles.

1970

Jay Cooper, j’70, owns Florida Snow Removal, a marketing firm. He lives in Riverview.

Terrence Doden, c’70, is chief engineer for product development at Terex-Unit Rig in Tulsa, Okla.

1971

Norman Estes, m’71, lives in Peoria, where he’s a professor of surgery at the University of Illinois.

Thomas Handley, c’71, is vice president and principal of Lewis & Ellis in Overland Park.

Lang Perdue, c’71, m’74, recently joined the Cotton O’Neil Clinic as a surgeon. He also practices on the Stormont-Vail TraumaCare team in Topeka.

James Standen, j’71, flew in a Russian Air Force MIG-25 “Foxbat” jet at an altitude of 83,000 feet and a speed of Mach 3 earlier this year. He lives in Lenexa.

Michael Welch, c’71, is president of BRB Contractors in Topeka.

1972

Marlin Jones, a’72, is a senior project manager for RGM & Associates in Sebastopol, Calif. He lives in Petaluma.
Located in a residential neighborhood just moments from Lawrence’s vibrant, cultural and academic atmosphere, Brandon Woods is a community where you design your days. Our full, resident-focused activities calendar includes everything from aqua aerobics and writing classes to presentations, seminars and performances at and by the University of Kansas. The University even offers continuing education programs at Brandon Woods in the Smith Center.

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Don’t wait to start crafting a richer retirement! Call (785) 838-8000 or (800) 419-0254 today to schedule a personal, no-obligation tour.
Bruce Passman, c’72, g’75, PhD’87, lives in Lawrence, where he’s a deputy superintendent of USD 497.

Calvert Simmons, j’72, is managing director of ASAP Ventures. He lives in Alexandria and chairs the board of the Virginia Tourism Authority.

Beth Coble Simon, f’72, works as an innovation facilitator for Decision Analyst in Arlington, Texas.

Tedi Douglas Tumlinson, d’72, retired earlier this year after a 33-year career teaching fifth grade. She lives in Bullhead City, Ariz.

1973

MARRIED

Evan Jorn, s’73, to Mary Dirkx, Feb. 18. They live in Duncanville, Texas.

1974

Mary Skoulant Birch, j’74, coordinates government relations for Lathrop & Gage in Overland Park.

Brent McFall, c’74, g’76, recently received the Edwin O. Stene Award for Managerial Excellence from the International City/County Management Association. He is city manager of Westminster, Colo.

Sheila Ribordy, g’74, PhD’75, directs the Mental Health Center at DePaul University in Chicago. She recently received the Cortelyou Lowery Award for Excellence from the university’s college of liberal arts and sciences.

Carol Brown Waryas, PhD’74, is vice president of communications and allied therapies at Harcourt Assessment in San Antonio.

1975

Wilbert Mathews, c’75, g’78, recently became general manager for Weltec A/S in Luanda, Angola. He lives in Capetown, South Africa.

Cleo Gillispie Murphy, d’75, practices law with Murphy & Freund in Topeka.

1976

Rebecca Chaky, g’76, PhD’81, a principal engineer for Boeing in Houston, also owns an online music store, doubleclickmusic.com.

Kurt Harper, c’76, l’79, is a partner in the Wichita firm of Sherwood and Harper.

Jerry Moran, c’76, l’82, is serving his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He lives in Hays.

William Reeves, e’76, lives in Coffeyville, where he’s senior application engineer for John Deere Power Systems.

Janice Curtis Waldo, d’76, teaches French at Topeka High School.

1977

Larry Bonura, j’77, writes for Multi-Gen-Paradigm Inc. in Plano, Texas. He lives in Richardson.

Michael Bradley, e’77, is president and CEO of DCP Midstream Partners in Denver.

Colette Walmer Majerle, c’77, co-owns M&R Solutions, a consulting firm. She lives in Leawood.

David Stevens, p’77, manages the pharmacy at CVS Pharmacy in Paducah, Ky.

Michael Stevens, b’77, is CEO and chairman of Centera Bank in Sublette. He lives in Copeland and chairs the Kansas Bankers Association.

1978

Deborah Wagner Apple, d’78, g’81, g’98, lives in Olathe with her husband, Tom, j’79, and their sons, Max, 15, and Sam, 12. Debi is a principal at Lowell/Lamb and Morse/Lamb early childhood centers in Kansas City, and Tom is vice president of Stephens & Associates Advertising.

Sharon Barnett Lindenbaum, c’78, is vice president and CFO of the Kansas City Star. She lives in Leawood.

Anne Burke Miller, c’78, l’81, recently joined the Overland Park law firm of Manson & Karbank. She also has an office in Manhattan.

Rodney Olson, b’78, is chief executive officer of Cardinal Brands in Lawrence.

Steven Shattuck, c’78, l’81, practices law with Ekvall & Byrne in Dallas.

Kyle Smith, c’78, l’81, has been promoted to deputy director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in Topeka.

1979

Jeff Eriksen, b’79, works as a new-business development consultant for the Hutchinson News.

Sandra Hannon, c’79, g’90, is principal analyst for institutional research and planning at KU. She commutes to Lawrence from Shawnee.

John Hill, b’79, g’80, lives in Chaska, Minn. He’s president of Lester Building Systems in Lester Prairie.


1980

Leslie Coverdale Jagoda, n’80, recently became a clinical informaticist at the Children’s Hospital of Denver. She lives in Englewood.

Evie Lazzarino, j’80, recently was named assistant vice president for public affairs and communications at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif., where she lives.

Jeffrey Paden, c’80, is regional general manager of Sullivan-Schein Dental in Louisville, Ky. He lives in Simpsonville.

Madi Thornton Vannaman, b’80, l’83, works as assistant director of human resources at KU. She lives in Lawrence.

1981

Mark McBride, c’81, g’85, works as a senior intelligence research specialist for the Department of Homeland Security. He lives in The Netherlands.

Craig Penzler, a’81, is principal of cpenzlersports in Lawrence.

Tony Struthers, b’81, lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. He’s vice president of the John C. Lincoln Health Network in Phoenix.

1982

Smit Vajaranant, a’82, a’83, g’84, works as an architect for Smit Associates

MARRIED

Susan Miller, b’81, n’90, to Dan Budke, Oct. 15. They live in Salina, where she’s a benefits administrator with Blue Beacon.
Company Limited in Bangkok, Thailand.

**BORN TO:**

**Michael Reynolds,** b’82, and Gina, daughter, Rachel Anne, Sept. 14 in Shawnee, where she joins a sister, Amanda, 2.

**1983**

**Jan Fink Call,** c’83, l’87, is of counsel with Dechert LLP in Philadelphia. She lives in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

**Jimmie Felt,** c’83, works as an associate technical fellow at Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita.

**Zack Mansdorf,** PhD’83, recently moved to Clark, N.J., where he’s senior vice president of safety, health and environment for L’Oreal.

**Ray Paine,** j’83, g’86, is second vice president and director of marketing at First National Bank in Overland Park.

**David Robinett,** c’83, owns Silver Star Ranch in Louisburg. He lives in Overland Park.

**Robert Turner,** c’83, works as a real-estate developer for Sunshine Holdings in Plymouth, Mich.

**1984**

**Michael DeBlauw,** c’84, is director of engineering for Cisco Systems. He lives in Napa, Calif.

**April Wilber Hackathorn,** j’84, works as a free-lance copy editor in Prescott, Ariz.

**Brian Levinson,** j’84, g’94, directs organizational communications for Centex in Dallas. He lives in Fort Worth.

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**Profile**

**BY DAWN J. GRUBB**

**Kansas City writer finds her niche in urban fiction**

Despite the parallels, Michelle Buckley insists she’s unlike Lacy Foxx, the heroine of her new urban fiction novel, *Bulletproof Soul.* Both are young, driven, African-American journalists trying to make their way in life. But where Foxx is more confident and “speaks her mind,” Buckley says she “holds back.”

Yet based on her track record, Buckley, j’87, c’88, has done anything but. By the time the Wichita native graduated with her second KU degree, in psychology, she’d built a solid résumé that included internships at TV and radio stations in Topeka, Wichita and Lawrence. After leaving Wichita, she worked in marketing for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and the Kansas City Area Development Council.

She then joined the media relations department at Hallmark Cards, where her creativity flourished while working with such authors as Iyanla Vanzant and Jan Karon, who inspired her to pursue creative writing.

Buckley had always dreamed of being an author, and even attempted two novels in high school and college. “One was a mystery set in London and the other was about a Mafia princess with amnesia. I was trying to write about subjects I didn’t know a thing about, and I failed,” Buckley says.

Her uncle’s 1999 death convinced her that life was indeed short and that she should pursue her dream. She left corporate America the next year and launched her own public relations firm, Perfect Pitch Communications.

The move allowed her flexibility to hone her creative writing while free-lancing for such publications as Black Enterprise magazine. A big break came when her essay about a friend’s battle with breast cancer was chosen for *Souls of My Sisters,* a best-selling collection of African-American women’s writings.

Her confidence soaring, Buckley adopted a new strategy and wrote about the familiar: an African-American woman who must learn to embrace her indestructible spirit—her bulletproof soul—while coping with lost love, death and career woes.

Urban Books offered Buckley a two-title contract—her next book, *Trippin’,* is due out this summer—and *Bulletproof Soul* is gaining good reviews in the urban fiction genre. Black Issues Book Review magazine in 2005 named Buckley a “Face to Watch.”

“Only natural for someone who began her career at age 5, penning stories for her Barbies and Curious George. “My mother would peek in to check on me, and I’d be sitting there writing instead of sleeping. I guess I was just meant to be a writer.”

To order a copy of *Bulletproof Soul,* visit www.michellebuckley.com.

—Grubb, j’92, is a Westwood free-lance writer.
Class Notes

Craig Vaughn, e’84, is senior vice president of operations and a director of Kleinfelder in Colorado Springs. He lives in Longmont.

1985
Frank Hefner, g’85, PhD’88, chairs the economics and finance department at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C.
Charles LaSota, e’85, serves as commanding officer of strategic weapons at Kitsap Naval Base in Silverdale, Wash.

David Reynolds, d’85, heads the music department at South Dakota State University in Brookings. He lives in Aurora.
Scott Roulier, d’85, is regional sales manager for Loreto Bay Co. in San Diego. He lives in Ramona, Calif.

BORN TO:
Paul Loney, c’85, m’89, and Catrina, daughter, Ingrid Willoughby, Oct. 9 in Lawrence, where she joins four sisters, Elise, 13; Adelle, 11; Olivia, 9; and Isabel, 2; and a brother, Eli, 4.

1986
Kristy Lantz Astry, j’86, is senior technical writer for VeriSign in Broomfield, Colo. She lives in Erie.
Kimberly Dunbar Doran, n’86, lives in Kansas City and is a nurse at the KU Medical Center.

Profile

Emmy-winning Jayhawk ends term on West Wing

For political junkies still suffering withdrawal from the 2004 presidential race, NBC’s “The West Wing” this season offers a fictitious yet fascinating contest between Arnold Vinick, a Republican senator from California, and Matthew Santos, a Democratic congressman from Houston. In the highlight of the fall campaign, the two candidates met for a televised debate on a special live episode Nov. 6.

Directing the debate was Emmy-winning Jayhawk Alex Graves, ’87, co-executive producer and a frequent director of the award-winning series, now in its seventh season. The episode portrayed the candidates’ dramatic decision to toss out strict rules and engage in a spontaneous, genuine discussion.

“The arc of the hour was two presidential candidates who are converted to two guys in a bar,” Graves explained to a KU audience Nov. 10 during a “Hollywood and Politics” lecture at the Dole Institute of Politics. He said the actors’ onscreen conversation was something “real candidates could never do.”

Though Graves remained close-mouthed in November about whether Vinick (Alan Alda) or Santos (Jimmy Smits) would succeed “West Wing” President Josiah Bartlet (Martin Sheen), he and the cast will shoot “inauguration” episodes in Washington, D.C., this spring, when Graves will conclude his stint with the show. He has written a potential Fox TV series about the New York City Police Department’s counter-terrorism division.

Graves has yearned to tell stories on film since he saw “Star Wars” 18 times as a teen-ager in El Dorado. Though California beckoned, his parents convinced him to attend KU. The experience surprised him: “One, I fell in love with KU and, two, I took film classes for the first time,” he says. “Chuck Berg was my professor. It was like I’d been French my whole life but had never been to France. Suddenly ... he was talking about films and I was home.”

Graves left KU to study at the University of Southern California. He shot his first film, “The Crude Oasis,” in El Dorado for $25,000 and sold it to Miramax before directing episodes for several TV shows. Seven years ago, Aaron Sorkin, creator of “The West Wing,” asked him to join the new series. Sorkin’s intent for the show, Graves says, was to salute public servants.

“It was meant to focus on people who aren’t in the headlines everyday and aren’t in the sensational side of politics but are doing the work,” he says.

Graves comes by his political interest naturally—his mother worked for several years on the Kansas staff of former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, c’54. He says his fascination with politics will continue after “The West Wing,” but only as a storyteller, not as a participant. His research and writing for the series have taken their toll: “I’d never get into politics myself. I know way too much. It would be like reading about hell and saying, ‘Oh sure, I’d like to go there.’”

Graves says the lightning-quick banter in “The West Wing” pays homage to the Cary Grant-Rosalind Russell repartee in the 1940 movie “His Girl Friday,” which he first saw in a film class at KU.
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jschwartz@kuendowment.org or visit our Gift Planning website at www.kuendowment.org/giftplanning
1987

BORN TO:

Diana Davis Wright, j'87, and Mitch, son, William Davis, June 17 in Jonesboro, Ark., where he joins a brother, Zane, and a sister, Destiny. Diana is senior news anchor and medical reporter for KAIT-TV and recently was voted Best TV Personality in Northeast Arkansas by readers of the Jonesboro Sun.

1988

Jamee Riggio Heelan, h'88, recently received the 2005 Impresa Award from the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. She lives in Mundelein, Ill.

Joseph Hoffmann, p'88, is director of pharmacy for Wuesthoff Health System in Rockledge, Fla.

1989

David Autenrieth, a'89, manages projects for HDR in Pasadena, Calif. He lives in Sierra Madre.

Deborah Stoltz Harding, j'89, is assistant vice president and regional marketing manager for Commerce Bank in Wichita.

Mary Carmody Igou, c'89, works as a paralegal for Polsinelli Shalton Welthaus in St. Louis.

David Peterson, c'89, lives in Independence, where he's a project engineer at Standard Motor Products.

1990

Kristen Berry Doswell, g'90, is president of KL Connections in Hutchinson.

Troy Findley, c'90, recently became chief of staff for Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. He lives in Topeka.

Paul Gloyer, c'90, makes his home in Tullahoma, Tenn., where he's president of Gloyer-Taylor Laboratories.

John Pascarella, c'90, is an associate professor of biology at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga. He recently received a Science Policy Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science to spend a year at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Daniel Rudolph, e'90, manages engineering for Magenta Corp. in Chicago.

1991

Brian Devlin, c'91, is vice president of Commerce Bancshares in Wichita.

Christine Knudsen, c'91, works as a United Nations policy adviser in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jon Mohatt, b'91, g'97, serves as a major in the U.S. Air Force. He lives in Surprise, Ariz.

Vincent Vecchiarelli, c'91, works as an account executive with Perceptive Software in Lenexa.

Mark Wewers, c'91, was named by his peers as a 2005 “Texas Rising Star” in Texas Monthly magazine’s Super Lawyer edition. He lives in Grapevine, Texas, with Kimberly Zoller Wewers, j'91, and their children, Jared, 5, and Chandler, 3.

MARRIED

Connie Stuart, n'91, and Ryan Grimes, c'98, m'02, March 26. They live in Ann Arbor, where he’s a resident at the University of Michigan.

Scott Ward, d'91, g'94, PhD'96, and Robin Harnden, g'03, Aug. 13 in Lawrence. He’s an academic and career counselor for KU’s men’s basketball, women’s volleyball and women’s tennis teams, and she owns The Write Design.

BORN TO:

Michele Blumenfeld Olree, c'91, and Andrew, a'91, son, Jacob Ryan, July 26 in Denver, where he joins two brothers, Jason, 4, and Ethan, 8; and a sister, Rachel, 6. Andrew owns Design Edge.

Stacia Swearngin, b'91, and Jeff Coughenour, son, Zachary William Swearngin, Jan. 17 in Shawnee.

1992

John Cain, b'92, owns Crew Creative Advertising in Los Angeles.

Michael Hess, e'92, g'94, manages the bridge department of HNTB in Overland Park.
Michelle Cereghetti Neal, c’92, works as office manager for Valley Tree Feeders. She lives in Youngtown, Ariz.

Michael Peck Jr., e’92, is a general partner in Open Prairie Equity Partners. He lives in Olathe.

Jason Swan, e’92, works as an associate with Sandy Brown Associates in London.

Darrell Williams, b’92, a major in the U.S. Air Force, works at the Air Force Cost Analysis Agency at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Kaiman Zwick, j’92, is a Web specialist for Keren Hart Ltd. She lives in Herrin, Ill.

BORN TO:

Alisa Nickel Ehrlich, j’92, l’95, and Scott, daughter, Ridgely Ann, April 20 in Wichita, where Alisa practices law with Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs.

1993

John Dewitt, c’93, is a supervisor at UCLA Healthcare Enterprise in Los Angeles.

Kent Eckles, c’93, lives in Olathe and is East Central region director for the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Nancy Epp Hohmann, d’93, teaches and is barn manager at Kennedy Farms Equestrian Center in Chesterfield, Mo.

Patrick Naughton, d’93, teaches and coaches in Lawrence.

Virginia Klemme Treadwell, c’93, l’96, recently was re-elected McCulloch County attorney in Brady, Texas.

Jason Wittmer, c’93, m’97, practices medicine with CIC Associates in Clive, Iowa.

BORN TO:

Matthew Wingate, d’93, and Tracy, daughter, Madelynn Grace, July 3 in Gainesville, Fla. Matthew is a medical salesman for Medtronic.

1994

Stephen Egbert, PhD’94, recently received a Kemper Award for teaching excellence. He’s an associate professor of geography at KU.

Brian Elliott, e’94, is lead software engineer for RIA. He lives in Topeka.

Winghan Kwong Gock, p’94, is assistant professor of pharmacy at the University of Georgia-Athens. She and her husband, Anson, g’90, live in Bogart.

Mendi Stauffer Hanna, j’94, directs sales and marketing for Village Shalom in Overland Park.

Bryan Linquist, c’94, is an auditor for Dresser Inc. in Addison, Texas. He and Chandra Barham Linquist, ’97, live in Corinth. She’s a respiratory therapist for Presbyterian Plano Hospital.

Marlene Dearinger Neill, j’94, owns Neill Communications in Waco, Texas. She’s president-elect of the Central Texas chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Dean Newton, c’94, recently became vice president of sales and marketing for Delta Dental in Overland Park.

Ozel, b’94, g’96, and Kristin Ulrich Soykan, c’98, live in Hampshire.
England. He’s a financial analyst for Motorola, and she works at Frimley Park Hospital.

**BORN TO:**

Tracie Nash Brugge, p’94, and Will, daughter, Courtney Nicole, July 1 in Richardson, Texas, where she joins a sister, Emily, 3. Tracie is a clinical pharmacist at the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation.

Marc, c’94, g’96, and Krista Cordsen Hensel, d’95, daughter, Annika Lynn, and son, Nickolas David, Sept. 16 in Houston, where Marc is vice president of corporate development at Plains Exploration and Production.

Thetchen Brown Price, b’94, j’96, and Scott, son, Braelen Charles, Aug. 30 in Indianapolis, where Thetchen directs marketing for Obsidian Enterprises.

**1995**

Victor Braden, g’95, recently became 69th group command leader for the Kansas Army National Guard. He lives in Lawrence.

Matthew Crane, c’95, and his wife, Kelly, live in Lenexa with their daughter, Elizabeth, 1. Matthew manages Hertz Equipment Rental.

David Hanson, e’95, c’95, is senior engineer with Zimmer Spine. He lives in Urbandale, Iowa.

Matthew Hydeman, j’95, g’97, commutes from Tucson, Ariz., to Marana, where he’s an executive administrative assistant with Evergreen Aircraft Sales and Leasing.

Danielle Raymond, j’95, manages creative copy for Victoria’s Secret Beauty in New York City, where she also studies for a master’s in cosmetics and fragrance marketing and management at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Marc Wilson, c’95, works as an associate with Stinson Morrison Hecker in Kansas City.

**BORN TO:**


Marcia Chace Zeithamel, p’95, p’05, and Brad, son, Adam Robert, July 30 in Iowa City, where Marcia is a staff pharmacist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

**1996**

Sarah Hendrix, c’96, works for Brewster Center Domestic Violence Service in Tucson, Ariz.

Christina Kulp, c’96, is the science librarian at the University of Oklahoma. She lives in Norman.

Daniel Mudd, j’96, directs team Walmart for Pinnacle Foods in Rogers, Ark.

**BORN TO:**

Joni Franklin, l’96, and Aaron Breitenbach, l’01, son, Gabriel Franklin Breitenbach, Jan. 7 in Wichita.

Krista Wendt Murphy, e’96, and Zach,
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daughter, Clare Elizabeth, Aug. 9 in Oakland, Calif., where Krista is a senior associate and electrical engineer at Flack & Kurtz.

1997

John Claxton, b’97, g’99, manages mergers and acquisitions for Brunswick in Chicago.

Matthew Copeland, d’97, g’00, g’01, teaches English at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka. In November he received a $25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Teresa Veazeey Heying, j’97, coordinates publicity and outreach for the Wichita State University Foundation.

Brandon Jones, c’97, l’00, is Douglas County assistant district attorney in Lawrence. He lives in Ottawa.

MARRIED

Stacy Johnson, c’97, to David Robnett, May 27 in Las Vegas. They divide their time between homes in Chicago, where she’s president of Nemar Solutions, and St. Louis, where he’s a partner in Community Lending Services.

Sara Knoff, c’97, to Jeff Lindlief, Oct. 1. They live in Shorewood, Minn., and Sara’s an associate recruiter for Cargill.

BORN TO:

Leticia Bryant Cole, a’97, and Jason, d’98, son, Carson Michael, July 26 in St. Louis. Leticia is a project architect with Pyramid Architects, and Jason is territory manager for Babick CAT.

Jennifer Jeffery Kliewer, c’97, and Justin, c’99, son, Nolan Jeffery, June 2 in Englewood, Colo. Jennifer is a senior commercial real-estate broker for Trammell Crow in Denver.

Cary Cosgrove Miller, c’97, and Tripp, son, Chase Miller, Sept. 28 in Shawnee Mission.

Jennifer Goode Rhodus, ’97, and Bret, b’98, daughter, Anna, Sept. 19 in Shawnee, where she joins a sister,

1998

Ryan Grimes, c’98, m’02, is a resident physician at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Kelly Huffman, c’98, recently became an associate in the corporate department of Coate, Hall & Stewart in Boston.

Catherine Mamah, b’98, is a neurology resident at the University of Florida. She lives in Gainesville.

James McClinton, g’98, lives in Topeka, where he’s vice president of community development for Pioneer Group Inc.


Karen Ward, j’98, manages pharmacy services for the Child Health
Corporation of America in Shawnee Mission.

**MARRIED**

Lauren Elpern, b’98, to Charles Love, in November. They live in Chicago, where they both work for JP Morgan Chase.

Scott Filmore, b’98, l’01, to Emily Boling in September. Scott is an associate in the trust and estates practice group at Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal in St. Louis.

Jeffrey Peters, c’98, and Amanda Goss, s’05, Aug. 5 in Wichita. They live in Newton.

**1999**


Jessica Robertson, c’99, serves in the Peace Corps in Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.

**MARRIED**


**BORN TO:**

Danielle Kobe Weston, c’99, and Frederick, daughter, Abigail Ruth, April 9 in O’Fallon, Ill., where she joins a brother, Jacob, 2. Danielle serves as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

**2000**

Tamra Arnold, c’00, p’03, works as a

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**Children’s needs top list set by influential physician**

When Modena Hoover Wilson entered the School of Medicine in 1973, she already had her master’s degree in biology and had spent two years with the Peace Corps in southeast Africa. When one of her fellow med students asked why they’d admit a 28-year-old, she retorted, “I guess they wanted to see how the aged react to stress!”

Yet a medical career that got off to a relatively late start has more than made up for lost time. After two decades on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University’s prestigious schools of medicine and public health, Wilson, m’76, spent four years at the American Academy of Pediatrics in Chicago before being named senior vice president for professional standards at the American Medical Association last year.

“Dr. Wilson has become one of the most influential women in American medicine,” says physician Catherine DeAngelis, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association and a member of the search committee charged with finding an overseer for U.S. medical education, ethics and public policy programs.

Wilson inherited her love of science from her father, who earned a degree in chemistry before becoming a minister. She grew up in parsonages in western Nebraska and Colorado. Though it was the 1950s and few women practiced medicine, her parents didn’t discourage her, and Modena was almost always the only girl in advanced science and math classes.

During her pediatric residency, Wilson decided to pursue academic medicine. “It combined all my loves: science, service and teaching,” she says.

One of her favorite tasks at Johns Hopkins was directing the Harriet Lane Primary Care Program, which allowed her to supervise a clinic serving poverty-stricken areas of east Baltimore. “It was a privilege to be a doctor for those children,” Wilson says.

After their last child had left for college, she and her husband, Gary Wilson, in 2000 moved to Chicago, where she joined the American Academy of Pediatrics. In August 2004 she moved to the AMA, also based in Chicago.

“The board of trustees directs the agenda,” Wilson says, “but there’s a lot of opportunity in my implementing their direction to influence the course of American medicine, and I think that’s quite a privilege.”

One of the AMA priorities she cares most deeply about is eliminating health-care disparities, and she continues to keep children uppermost in her efforts. DeAngelis agrees that children must top the national agenda: “Unfortunately, they’re not there, but Dr. Wilson can put them there. She’s making sure children are on the list of everything that’s important in American medicine.”

—Mines is a Wichita freelance writer. This is her first article for Kansas Alumni.
critical-care clinical specialist at Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Ryan Carrillo, d’00, is resident coordinator at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

Jeffrey Carter, g’00, was visiting professor at Shanghai Normal University in China last fall. He coordinates undergraduate studies in music at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

John Gisler, c’00, is a firefighter and emergency medical technician for the Shawnee Fire Department. He lives in Olathe.

Becky Hafemeister, b’00, recently received a master’s in finance from the University of Denver.

Gregory Haff, PhD’00, is an assistant professor of medicine at West Virginia University. He lives in Morgantown.

Corrie Pogson, c’00, lives in Tulsa, Okla., where she’s an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Tulsa.

Devon Reese, l’00, is managing attorney at Curiale Dellaverson Hirschiel & Kraemer in Reno, Nev.

Emily Robb, m’00, practices medicine at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Tiffany Strohmeyer, p’00, recently received an Exceptional Volunteer Service Award from the National Kidney Foundation. She’s a pharmacist at Barry’s Drug Center in Manhattan.

Zane, c’00, and Natalie Ralston Wilemon, f’05, celebrated their first

Life experiences help newest justice act wisely

After 12 years as a Shawnee County District Court judge, Eric Rosen needed no time at all to feel at home at the Kansas Supreme Court. Filling the void created by the March 2005 death of Justice Robert Gernon, who was well known for his abiding affection for KU, Rosen discovered after his November swearing-in ceremony that even the smallest keepsake helped him appreciate the legacy of his appointment.

“This office was just full of KU stuff,” Rosen says of the chambers he inherited from Gernon, b’66. “I even found a cup from Allen Field House, which Bob had left up on a cabinet shelf. I use it as my water cup, and I suppose it’s a small reminder. He dedicated his life to the judiciary and public service; to follow in that tradition is a great challenge.”

Rosen, s’75, s’76, graces the state’s highest court with his own legacy of public service. While his résumé is filled with the law-related accomplishments one would expect of a Supreme Court justice, he also brings to the bench five years of experience as a public-school social worker.

It was during his two-year stretch as chair of the Topeka school system’s social work department that Rosen decided to attend law school at Washburn University. In an equation that can add up only for working parents in graduate school, Rosen says he was a half-time father and half-time student while continuing to work full or half time.

“Law is about facts and life and looking at what aspects of the law apply to those particular situations,” Rosen says. “I’ve lived through some of those situations, so I hope I bring to my work a perspective that will never leave me.”

Rosen’s parents moved to Kansas from the East Coast and his wife’s parents came here from the West Coast. Without deep ties to the region, these self-described “first-generation Kansans” briefly considered moving on after he finished law school. But they agreed their experiences had been good here, so they chose to remain and bring up their children as Kansans.

After establishing his reputation as a partner at a Topeka firm, associate general counsel for the state securities commissioner and assistant district attorney, Rosen in 1993 joined the Shawnee County District Court.

“He was always able to absorb the tough cases, the horrible tragedies and victims, and carry out his responsibilities,” says Judge Richard Anderson, one of Rosen’s former colleagues on the Shawnee County District Court bench. “His social work background and orientation gave him a breadth of experience that was very helpful. He understands human strengths and weaknesses, and he understands human behaviors.

“All of that adds up to form the sort of jurist he has become.”

Justice Eric Rosen says he intends to bring to the Kansas Supreme Court the same ethic he nurtured on the district court: “I intend to work hard and see that everybody who comes before me gets fair treatment, irrespective of what type of case it is.”

BY CHRIS LAZZARINO

Profile

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Magnetic Auto Decals and Koozie Can Holders go anywhere to display your KU pride!

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anniversary Sept. 4. They live in Austin, Texas, where Zane attends the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest and Natalie teaches voice. They have spent the past several months studying and working in Kenya.

MARRIED
Matthew Sterr, c'00, and Amy Webb Brewer, c'00, Aug. 6 in Norman, Okla., where they live. He manages the Spirit Shop in Norman, and she teaches at Western Village Academy in Oklahoma City.

BORN TO:
Stacie Frain Borjon, d’00, g’05, and Jesse, son, Garrett, March 18 in Topeka, where they live. Stacie teaches at Shawnee Heights High School in Tecumseh.

2001
Andi Bilson, h’01, works as a nurse at Denton Regional Medical Center. She lives in Dallas.

Aaron Breitenbach, l’01, is assistant district attorney for the 18th Judicial District of Kansas in Wichita, where he and his wife, Joni Franklin, l’96, live with their son, Gabriel, who’s nearly 1.

MARRIED
Amy Blosser, j’01, and Andrew Spikes, b’03, last July. They live in Westminster, Colo.
Emily Cassell, c’01, and Brian Docking, c’02, l’05, Aug. 20 in Wichita. She practices law with Lathrop and Gage, and he’s a financial consultant with AG Edwards. They live in Prairie Village.

Kelli Colyer-Lieurance, c’02, l’05, is an associate with Baird Holm in Omaha, Neb.

2002
Katherine Benson Allen, l’02, directs the Blue Valley United School District’s Educational Foundation. She lives in Kansas City.

Randall Foster, c’02, works as a sales and marketing representative for Naxos Music Library. He lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Doug Herbers, e’02, g’06, lives in San Diego, where he’s an engineer at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center.

Elizabeth Johnson, c’02, is case manager for Cornell Companies in Leavenworth.

David Latta, e’02, works as a damage control assistant for the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Wyoming. His home is in Fernandina Beach, Fla.

Carolyn Oelkers, c’02, recently joined the Topeka law firm of Cavanaugh, Smith & Lemon as an associate.

John Patterson, c’02, l’05, practices civil litigation at Coates & Logan in Overland Park.
Shanmuga Purushothaman, c’02, g’02, works as program leader for conferencing and collaboration at Frost & Sullivan in San Antonio.

MARRIED
Zachary Bassin, c’02, and Lindsey Bell, d’05, Nov. 12. They live in Kansas City, where he studies law at UMKC and she teaches at Maple Park Middle School.
Sarah Fox, f’02, to Christopher Nileksela, Aug. 20 in Houston. They live in Mesa, Ariz.
Shannon O’Toole, f’02, to Christopher Mason, June 25 in Topeka, where she’s assistant band director for Seaman USD 345.
Eric Snider, c’02, and Alison Suher, c’02, July 23 in Greensboro, N.C. They live in Durham.
Brian Stultz, b’02, and Melissa Dayton, g’05, Aug. 27 in Lawrence, where they live. He’s a carpenter for Howard Stultz Construction in Baldwin, and she coordinates marketing for Touch-Net Information Systems in Lenexa.

BORN TO:
Catherine Anderson Bandelier, c’02, d’02, n’05, and Nicholas, ’03, son, Kyle Jay, May 24 in Kansas City.

2003
Eric Aufdengarten, l’03, practices law with Carlson Kort in Kansas City.
Paul Bammel, b’03, directs student ministries at Concord Liberty Presbyterian Church in Glen Mills, Pa.
Angie Behrens, j’03, manages business development at Kiewit Pacific in Concord, Calif. She lives in Pleasant Hill.
Timothy Broaderway, n’03, works as a nurse/program consultant for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Great Bend.
Amanda Denning, j’03, is a public relations specialist for the American Academy of Physicians in Leawood.

Then Again

Lorenzo The Magnificent, a.k.a. Dan Wessel, f’74, in spring 1973 chose the slope from the Campanile to Potter Lake for his attempt at flight. He built a wooden launch ramp and slipped on a pair of wings. Although he did not get off the ground, his antics soared to legendary status.

Alicia Green, d’03, lives in Austin, where she’s student affairs administrator at the University of Texas.
Justin Mennen, b’03, develops software and is a development leader at Dell in Austin, Texas.
Tony Mullis, PhD’03, published Peacekeeping on the Plains last year. He’s an academic instructor for the U.S. Air Force at Maxwell AFB, Ala.
Melissa Nguyen, c’03, is an enrollment assistant at Friends University in Wichita.
Matthew Perry, c’03, works as a researcher for Job Plex in Chicago.
Frederick Richards, c’03, is a marketing associate for St. Paul Travelers and an emergency medical technician in Kansas City.
Emily Southard Romain, j’03, and her husband, Jeff, celebrated their first anniversary in October. They live in
Evansville, Ind., where Emily is a marketing associate at American General Financial Services.

Sarah Schraeder, c’03, g’05, works as a physical therapist for SPORT Physical Therapy Clinic. She lives in Clarkston, Wash.

Jennifer Timmer, c’03, coordinates directed studies for Louisiana State University Athletic-Academic Services.

Sheree Tinder, ’03, is House of Delegates legal counsel for Olbiil Era Kelulau in Koror, Republic of Palau.

Amy Wong, c’03, works as a cytotechnologist for Gyne-Path Laboratory in Los Gatos, Calif. She lives in Burlingame.

MARRIED

Margaret “Liesel” Keel, c’03, d’03, and Eric Buschelman, e’05, June 3. They live on Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where Eric is a U.S. Air Force second lieutenant. He also studies for a master’s in electrical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Sarah Patch, j’03, and Derek Kleinnmann, b’04, June 25 in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

Terri Koleber Tullis, d’03, and James, d’05, son, Collin Richard, July 6 in Tonganoxie. James serves in the U.S. Army.

2004

Jennifer Baldo, c’04, is an account executive for Flower Bank in Chicago.

Nicholas Black, c’04, coordinates grassroots and membership outreach for the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association in Alexandria, Va.

Kristin Burns, f’04, works as a waitress at The Levee in Kansas City.

Lauren Burton, b’04, manages implementation for Sprint. She lives in Overland Park.

Destiny Deitch, n’04, is a nurse at Overland Park Regional Medical Center. She commutes from Lawrence.

Megan Priebe Fulkerson, c’04, and Nathan, ’06, celebrated their first anniversary in October. They live in Goose Creek, S.C., where Nathan is stationed with the U.S. Navy.

Jared Harpole, b’04, works as a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Overland Park.

Kevin Hedges, e’04, lives in Overland Park and is a chemical engineer for Black & Veatch in Leawood.

Mekaela Nichols, c’04, is a real-estate loan processor for Wells Fargo Financial in Olathe.

Nikki Nugent, j’04, works as office manager for the Kansas Rush Soccer Club. She lives in Olathe.

Rachel Larson Nyp, c’04, j’04, is staff writer for the KU Alumni Association. Her husband, Jon Nyp, b’04, is a staff accountant for Lowenthal, Singleton, Webb and Wilson in Lawrence, where they live.

Ashley Searcy, a’04, makes her home in Las Vegas, where she’s an architecture drafter for Carpenter Sellers Architects.

Jared Thurston, ’04, directs communications for Pi Kappa Phi in Charlotte, N.C.

Daniel Toy, c’04, is a stockbroker with Scottrade in Menlo Park, Calif.

Jennifer Wellington, j’04, works as staff coordinator for development and alumni at Boston University. She lives in Somerville, Mass.

MARRIED

John Gariglietti, b’04, and Mary Rowden, j’05, July 2 in Lawrence. He’s an account executive with American Family Insurance, and she’s a long-term care insurance specialist with Genworth Financial.

Sara Gillispie, d’04, and Jason Miller, e’05, July 23. Their home is in Oskaloosa.

Sarah Robinson, j’04, to Carl Hebert, July 16. They live in Wichita, where she coordinates communications for Craghead & Harrold.

Jessica Rodriguez, c’04, d’05, and Jacob Larsen, d’04, May 28 in Lawrence, where they both teach at Central Junior High School.

Jill Worrel, j’04, to Brian Norwood, Sept. 17. They live in Overland Park, where they own a
Farmers Insurance Group agency.

2005

Andrew Giebler, c’05, serves as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. His home is in Great Bend.

Luis, l’05, and Caryn Carter Gomar, l’05, celebrated their first anniversary in September. They live in El Paso, Texas.

Monica Harbit, c’05, recently joined RSM McGladrey in Kansas City as a business professional.

Sommer Heiserman, d’05, coordinates marketing for the Kansas Speedway. She lives in Lawrence.

Stephen Hopkins, a’05, works as a designer for Gould Evans Associates. He lives in Mission.

Brandon Kent, a’05, lives in Baldwin City. He’s a designer for Gould Evans Associates.

Rebecca Opole, m’05, is an assistant professor of internal medicine at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

Seamus Smith, l’05, commutes from Lawrence to Topeka, where he’s an associate attorney with Newbery, Ungerer & Hickert.

Amy Sullivan, j’05, is a wedding coordinator at the Chicago Historical Society.

Gregory Zielinski, a’05, recently became an associate in the Lawrence-based firm Gould Evans Associates.

MARRIED

Kamme Kostner, c’05, to Justin Carlsten, Sept. 16 in Wichita, where Kamme studies for a master’s in public administration at Friends University. Justin serves with the U.S. Navy in Bahrain.

Kathryn Nye, n’05, to Dustin Huff, July 2 in Lawrence. She’s a neonatal intensive-care nurse at Children’s Mercy Hospital, and he works at UMB Bank. They live in Overland Park.

Susan Stephenson, c’05, and Grant Ternes, c’05, May 28 in Goddard. They live in Overland Park.

BORN TO:

Kristina Harris Barger, c’05, and Sean, daughter, Theresa Claire, Sept. 23 in Shawnee.

Tosha Green Jansen-Conkey, c’05, and Daniel, son, Jaden, March 22 in Emporia.

Kevin, g’05, and Julie Morris, g’05, son, Andrew, Aug. 17 in Mission.

Justin Overmiller, m’05, and Beca, son, Wyatt, May 5 in Salina.

2006

Brian Smith, EdD’06, is superintendent of the Galena School District.

Tosha Green Jansen-Conkey, c’05, and Daniel, son, Jaden, March 22 in Emporia.

Kevin, g’05, and Julie Morris, g’05, son, Andrew, Aug. 17 in Mission.

Justin Overmiller, m’05, and Beca, son, Wyatt, May 5 in Salina.

Associate

Thorsten Liebers is chief research officer at Tech University in Dresden, Germany.

MARRIED

Betty Banks to Ronald Otto, Nov. 4 in Eudora. Betty is a data entry operator for the KU Alumni Association.
In Memory

1920s

Rose Schuepbach Brooks, c’33, 93, Nov. 7 in Kansas City. She is survived by two sons, David, c’62, g’64, and Richard, c’68; a daughter, Anne Brooks Peschke, c’65; a sister; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Freda Brooks Hadley, c’35, 90, Sept. 22 in Kansas City, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Elinor Hadley Stillman, c’60; two sons, one of whom is Fred, c’68; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Nell Rezac Haney, c’32, 98, Oct. 25 in Overland Park. She was a founding sponsor of KU’s Delta Delta Delta sorority chapter and is survived by a son, Paul, j’68; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Mary Donovan Jones, c’31, 95, Sept. 19 in St. Louis. A son, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Wilford “Woody” Parsons, b’32, 95, Oct. 30 in Hilton Head, S.C. He had been an air-traffic controller in Kansas City for many years. Two daughters, a brother, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

Charles Rankin, c’35, l’38, 91, Oct. 9 in Lawrence, where he practiced law and was a Douglas County judge. He is survived by his wife, Polly Gowans Rankin, c’41, g’49; a son, Paul, c’74, g’79; and a sister, Pauline Rankin Reed, f’45.

Elizabeth “Betty” Raymond Raymond, c’39, g’41, 87, Oct. 14 in Lawrence, where she was a retired librarian and teacher. Several cousins and nephews survive.

Virginia Thies Scherrer, f’34, 92, Oct. 25 in Shawnee Mission. She gave piano lessons for more than 40 years and is survived by a son, Kenneth, b’61; a sister, Marjorie Thies Jett, f’43; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Virginia “Penny” Pensinger Shaffer, ’34, 92, Nov. 5 in Chillicothe, Mo. She is survived by a daughter, Sharon Shaffer Rankin, d’60; a son, Walter III, d’66; a sister, Helena Shaffer Nelson, c’38 four grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Clifford Willis, e’39, 92, April 30 in Alexandria, Va., where he was a consulting geologist. A son survives.

1940s
William Brownell, m’44, 85, Oct. 17 in Topeka, where he was former chief of staff and acting director at the Veterans Administration hospital in Topeka. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; three daughters, two of whom are Barbara Brownell Kabus, ’81, and Loree Brownell Gaines, g’97; a son; two brothers, one of whom is Morton Jr., c’39, m’42; a sister; and nine grandchildren.

John Burton, b’47, g’47, 84, Oct. 12 in Lawrence, where he was a former stockbroker for Prudential Bache. He is survived by his wife, Bernadine Hall Burton, f’41; a son, John Jr., c’77; three daughters, Linda, d’70, Kristin Burton Johnson, c’72, and Bernadine Burton Brown, d’77; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Dyer Jr., b’47, 84, Sept. 15 in Seattle. He is survived by his wife, Frances, a son, five daughters, a sister, a brother, 11 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Avonne Gould Gale, ’46, 82, Oct. 25 in Wichita. She lived in Syracuse, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. She is survived by a son, Robert Jr., b’75, l’78; a brother, Zeno Gould, ’50; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

John Hayne, e’47, 83, in Leawood. He divided his time between homes in Eagle Rock, Mo., and Olathe. He is survived by four daughters, three of whom are Linda Hayne Cape, n’73, Janet Hayne Damore, d’74, l’91, and Loretta Hayne Quackenbush, d’76, g’92; a son, David, ’88; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

William Langworthy, c’41, 85, Aug. 29 in Framingham, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Rowena; two sons, one of whom is David, c’74; two daughters; five grandchildren; and a stepgrandchild.

Frank Lawler, c’48, 86, Nov. 1 in Overland Park. He had been a city manager and spent 10 years as a consultant to the government of Liberia. Survivors include his wife, Shirley Liem Lawler, ’49; three sons, two of whom are Tim, c’72, g’74, and Patrick, c’72, g’75; and 11 grandchildren.

Joan Moorhead Oakson, ’42, 86, March 15 in Colorado Springs. She is survived by her husband, John, c’40; a son, John, b’64, g’65; a daughter, eight grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.


Eleanor McHarg Reber, b’49, 78, Jan. 25 in Denver. Surviving are a daughter, Nancy Reber Pantzer, c’77; two sons, one of whom is John III, ’80; and two grandchildren.

Wister Shreve, j’48, 82, June 30 in Point Pleasant, N.J. He was founder and president of Autographic Services in Mahwah and is survived by three sons, two of whom are Cary, c’71, and Scott, c’79; two daughters; a sister, Barbara Shreve Kelly, ’52; two brothers; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jay Simon, c’40, 88, Oct. 14 in Green Valley, Ariz., where he was retired managing editor for Golf Digest. Surviving
are three sons, one of whom is Jay, a'73; a brother, Richard, '48; a sister, three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**1950s**

Charles Cory, c'50, g'56, Aug. 31 in La Jolla, Calif., where he was a research psychologist. He is survived by his wife, Elisabeth, a son, two daughters and nine grandchildren.

Glenna Davis Herd, '53, 73, Oct. 6 in Overland Park. She lived in Lawrence, where she was a retired teacher and real-estate saleswoman. Surviving are her husband, Eldon, b'52; five sons; and six grandchildren.

Thomas Jester, '56, 70, Nov. 5 in Winfield. He had owned and operated Oxford Bank and is survived by his wife, Shirley Spohn Jester, '59; a son; and two grandchildren.

Guy Kidwell Jr., b'50, 82, Oct. 31 in Lawrence, where he was a partner in Holmes, Peck and Brown Real Estate. Surviving are his wife, Shirley McCormick Kidwell, assoc.; a son, Craig, b'78; a daughter, Linda Kidwell Capps, b'79; a sister; a brother; and two great-grandchildren.

R. Wayne Nelson, g'53, 93, Oct. 5 in Lawrence, where he was a retired director of fine arts for USD 497. He is survived by two daughters, Kay Nelson Davis, f'57, and Judith Nelson Greer, f'80; three grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and six stepgrandchildren.

Jack Snider, e'56, 72, Oct. 3 in Boulder, Colo., where he worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He is survived by his wife, Jane Henry, d'56; two sons; a stepson; a stepdaughter; a brother; and a sister.

Samuel Stewart, c'50, 80, Oct. 23 in Eugene, Ore. He worked in the insurance business, taught school and later was a real-estate agent in Oakland. Three sisters survive.

James Young, d'50, g'52, PhD'71, 85, Oct. 9 in Topeka, where he was former vice president and provost at Washburn University. He is survived by his wife, Alice; two sons; a daughter, Amy Young Malone, c'79, s'82; and eight grandchildren.

**1960s**

Clare Donmoyer Getto, '62, 70, Oct. 1 in Pasadena, Calif. She was catering manager at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence for many years and is survived by a daughter, Mary, c'83; a son; and a sister.

Richard Gorsuch, '61, 66, Oct. 27 in Las Vegas, where he was vice chairman of Aviation Insurance Services. A niece and a nephew survive.

Ronald Hansen, p'67, 64, Nov. 8 in Dodge City, where he was a pharmacist at Wal-Mart. A daughter, a sister, a brother and five grandchildren survive.

Walter League Jr., g'69, 81, Nov. 2 in Peoria, Ill. He taught Latin in Leavenworth for 48 years before retiring in 1994. Surviving are his wife, Donna Burr League, assoc.; a daughter; a son; and two grandsons.

Keith Parker, c'61, 67, Nov. 9 in Overland Park, where he was retired from Marion Laboratories. He is survived by his wife, Judith; two daughters; two sisters; and seven grandchildren.

Lauralee Milberg Peters, c'64, 62, Aug. 23 in McLean, Va. She was former U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, former deputy assistant secretary of state for personnel and had served on the National Security Staff for Latin American Affairs. Three sons and a daughter survive.

John Tillotson, c'62, 65, Nov. 4 in Leavenworth, where he was a lawyer. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; a son; a daughter; his mother; a sister, Carolyn Tillotson Smith, '64; and two grandchildren.

**1970s**

Gary Harmon, c'77, m'81, 50, Oct. 11 in Overland Park, where he was a pulmonologist. He is survived by his wife, Deanna Vorderstrasse Harmon, h'80; two daughters, one of whom is Kristen, student; a son; and his parents.

Richard Irwin, '71, 65, April 10 in Alfred, Maine, where he was a retired self-employed tax accountant. Two brothers survive.

Timothy Turner, j'71, 57, Oct. 27 in Wichita, where he owned West Side Foot Clinic. He is survived by his wife, Diane Baker Turner, '67; two stepsons, one of whom is David Lake, f'97; a stepdaughter, Jennifer Lake Hearne, j'93; and three grandchildren.

**The University Community**

Aryeh Hurwitz, Oct. 3 in New York City, where he was a neurologist specializing in Parkinson’s Disease. He had been neurology chairman at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City and is survived by his wife, Vicki, and three sons.

Joseph Kuo, 84, Oct. 29 in Lawrence, where he was former associate professor of East Asian languages and literature at KU. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. He is survived by a daughter, Rose, ’83; three sons, two of whom are Simon, c’83, c’84, PhD’95, and David, c’87, g’90, m’00; a sister; and three grandchildren.

George Walrafen, c’51, 76, Oct. 17 of injuries sustained in a car accident in Gaithersburg, Md. He was an adjunct professor emeritus of chemistry at KU. A niece, two nephews and several cousins survive.

**Associates**

Marjorie West Gamble Lamb, 85, Oct. 27 in Topeka. She lived in Lawrence, where she was a retired art teacher. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. Surviving are her husband, Arthur, assoc.; a son; two daughters, one of whom is Susan Gamble Hamelin, ’81; a sister; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.
In the 15 years Gary Finch lived at 934 W. 21st St., hardly a week went by that someone didn’t stop and ask for a tour. Passersby could readily see how unique the house is on the outside, and they couldn’t help but be curious about the inside. The house with the roof built in the shape of a hyperbolic paraboloid has been an object of curiosity in Lawrence since it was built, in 1956, by associate professor of civil engineering Donald Dean. But until real estate agent Tom Harper, s’92, listed the home on eBay, complete with a visual tour, the curious had to content themselves with what they could see through the house’s ample windows. Even Harper, who lives nearby and often stopped to chat with Finch on his patio, had never been inside before he listed the house.

Dean built the home after the 1956 KU Engineering Exposition to prove that the roof design—think of it as a saddle shape, made by folding a rectangle into the shape of a butterfly—was feasible. It is thought to be the first hyperbolic paraboloid built of wood rather than of concrete. Architecture and architectural engineering students provided the labor, under the supervision of Dean and Willard Strode, associate professor of architectural engineering, and the Douglas Fir Plywood Association provided materials. The roof, which is actually a self-supporting fir shell that rests on three piers, was built first. Cinderblock walls were then built up to the roof. Dean and his family lived in the house until 1960, when he took a job at the University of Delaware.

Harper’s eBay listing drew lots of inquiries from East and West Coast fans of modernist architecture and even led to an offer from a back-up buyer. But he sold the house the old-fashioned way, by talking it up to everyone he knows. The new owners, Maj. Randy Masten, g’03, and Kathleen King-Masten, c’04, had lived nearby in their student days and always admired the house. Now living in Washington, D.C., but planning to retire to Lawrence in a few years, they moved quickly to purchase a piece of Lawrence—and KU—history. The Mastens wrapped up the long-distance deal in November, and they’ll rent out their new home until Maj. Masten, stationed now at the Pentagon, can work out a transfer to Kansas.

They bought the house, fittingly, without ever setting foot inside.

—Steven Hill

This bold house

At 50, Lawrence landmark with campus connections is back in the KU family
Hall of flames
Founder vows fatal fire won’t douse nascent music shrine

The Oct. 7 Boardwalk Apartments arson fire that killed three residents and reduced an apartment building to rubble claimed yet another victim: the archives of the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, stored by the group’s president, Bill Lee, in his third-floor apartment. As of early December, the only artifacts Lee had recovered were charred records by Eric and the Norsemen and Las Estrellas Orchestra.

“Everything else,” Lee says, “is smoke and vapor now.”

Lee, ’80, was working his usual night shift at the Lawrence Holidome when the blaze ignited; as the conflagration consumed his and 75 other apartments, Lee lost everything but his car and the clothes he wore to work. Along with the archive of Kansas music and ephemera that he had amassed since the mid-1960s, Lee also lost all of his pictures of his children, grandchildren and family ancestors, and all of his research for the final three volumes of his planned four-volume history of Kansas music.

The fire’s fatalities were 21-year-old KU senior Nicole Bingham; 33-year-old social worker Yolanda Riddle, s’97; and electrician Jose Gonzalez, 50.

Building resident Jason Allen Rose, 20, accused of setting the blaze, has been charged with their murders.

“Yeah, I lost all my stuff, but three of my neighbors are gone,” Lee says, blinking to stifle tears. “Not their stuff. They are gone.”

Yet Lee insists the show must go on, as the Kansas Music Hall of Fame inducts its second class March 18 at Liberty Hall.

The evening’s honored acts and artists will be Gene Clark, of Bonner Springs, an original member of The Byrds; Leavenworth native Melissa Etheridge; The Jerms, from Topeka; McPherson’s King Midas and the Mufflers, currently in their 40th year together; Lawrence’s Spider and the Crabs; Wichita jazz guitarist Jerry Hahn; Kansas City rhythm and blues pianist Kelley Hunt; and, fittingly, “frat-rock party band” Eric and the Norsemen.

Tickets are available at ksmusichalloffame.org; also available are hall of fame memberships, which start at $25 and include voting privileges.

Lee also encourages any donations of music or memorabilia that can help rebuild an archive of the state’s music history, in anticipation of the day, perhaps 10 years or more away, when the hall can afford to staff and maintain a brick-and-mortar home. Donations can be sent to Kansas Music Hall of Fame, PO Box 1176, Lawrence, KS 66044.

“Occasionally music separates people, but not very often,” Lee says. “Usually it brings us together. Keep looking forward, keep going, hopefully keep up ... and music helps all of us do that. Music is a wonderful, wonderful thing.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Cartoon network
New Yorker magazine’s take on the Internet draws KU professor

The Internet is a scary place, where cheating spouses, pedophiles, smut peddlers and identity thieves run amok.

The Internet is a grand utopia that promises to transform the world by bringing people together, making vast amounts of information available to all, and ending war as we know it.

These competing, equally extreme depictions of cyberspace are the two most commonly propagated by mass media, according to Nancy Baym, associate professor of communication studies.

But her research has turned up a third depiction: The Internet is where nobody knows you’re a dog.

As part of her work to understand how movies, newspapers, magazines and other popular media portray the Net’s effect on personal relationships, Baym is analyzing dozens of cartoons from the New Yorker magazine.

The most famous of these is one of the earliest: a 1993 Peter Steiner drawing in which a dog sits at a computer, a paw perched on the keyboard, and tells his canine companion, “On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog.”

The cartoon reflects the early hype about the network, which portrayed the new technology’s anonymity as a great leveler that would eradicate racism and sexism and make disability a non-issue. But it pokes fun at this enlightened notion by making the recipient of such egalitarian deliverance a dog.

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In that sense, Steiner’s cartoon fits a pattern, Baym says. “What I’ve found overall is these cartoons are making fun of a high-tech panacea—they’re sort of punching holes in the utopian promise of the Internet.”

Humor makes a good vehicle for understanding culture, Baym notes,
because it’s based on shared cultural assumptions. “For something to be funny, people have to get it,” she says. If viewers don’t recognize the assumptions, the joke falls flat. The befuddlement with which Americans greet British sitcoms is a good example.

“So from looking at cartoons you find a lot about what are the values a culture is assumed to have, and what are the tensions within that value system that the cartoonists are exploiting for humor,” Baym says.

But if New Yorker cartoons pooh-pooh the idea that the Internet is a panacea, they also belittle the notion that it’s a place of peril at the hands of strangers. In one, the worried parents of a small child sit him down for a serious talk. The caption reads, “It’s very important that you try very, very hard to remember where you electronically transferred Mommy and Daddy’s assets.” The message, in part, is that your own children, not strangers, are the biggest threat.

That’s a more realistic depiction than the media-propagated extremes, Baym thinks.

“Movies about the Internet are either horror films or love stories; movies depict the Internet in really utopian or dystopian terms, with very little in-between,” she says. “What I like about the cartoons is you see those two extremes getting bridged. The Internet is being made ordinary and mundane, which is exactly what I think it increasingly is for people.”

If children are the threat, the cartoons suggest, is the Internet really such a ominous—or unusual—place?

“If you look back at New Yorkers from the 1920s, there were cartoons of threatening children then,” Baym says. “Part of what the cartoons do is say, ‘You know, this new technology that seems so potentially disruptive is not all that radically different, and things are a little too solid to be disrupted.’”

Baym got the idea to study media depictions of the Internet after an earlier project discovered contradictions in KU students’ experiences with online communication and their attitudes toward it. Despite reporting good experiences in their use of e-mail, they rated it inferior to face-to-face and phone communication, reflecting a broader cultural bias toward online interaction that they may be absorbing from media.

To explore further how the Internet plays out in our social lives, Baym plans to look next at advice columns that deal with the network’s effect on personal relationships. But for now, she’s enjoying the serious work of decoding comedy.

“They still crack me up. These cartoons are so complex, and the more I look at them the more I appreciate them. It’s amazing how they continue to reveal themselves and still remain funny.”

—Steven Hill

Guide on
Kansas guidebook offers tips for modern explorers

Here’s the problem with The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers: It can’t be two places at once.

This 2-pound plumper deserves to be read thoroughly at home, and it certainly is attractive enough to be displayed on a (sturdy) coffee table; just be sure it isn’t left behind when you hit the road to tour historic, verdant or kitschy Kansas.

Marci Penner, c’79, director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, based in Inman, drove more than 40,000 miles to produce pithy entries about all 627 incorporated Kansas settlements and cities, plus “dozens of unincorporated towns and a handful of ghost towns.”

Staying true to her life’s mission—promoting Kansas to Kansans—Penner wrote not a word about franchised restaurants or chain motels, instead focusing her reporting and photography on local cafes, grocery stores, museums, churches and inns, as well as tiny post offices, wildlife refuges and unusual historical sites (such as the homestead dugout near Concordia once occupied by Boston Corbett, who allegedly shot the assassin John Wilkes Booth).

The photography, by Penner and her father, Mil Penner, is sumptuous; color-coded by region and county, the organization is instantly clear; the index is
comprehensive; and Penner’s writing sparkles with wit, enthusiasm and the good eye of an experienced traveler. The book itself, printed in Newton by Mennonite Press, deserves praise for a spiral binding that makes it easy to read and vivid reproduction on glossy stock. (One suspects the book will age gracefully, too, as its pages become dog-eared, travel-worn and coffee-stained.)

Maps are found at the introduction to each of the book’s six regional sections, yet probably won’t be detailed enough to confidently guide a traveler down backroads of an unfamiliar county. Penner notes that free maps are available at most chambers of commerce and visitor centers, and she references innumerable local Web sites. Her written directions, too, are invariably precise.

More important, though, detailed maps would defeat the spirit of this enterprise. The point, Penner shouts from her 3,597 entries, is to veer off the interstate highway or state road and simply go. A pleasant nook surely awaits, as do Kansans who will appreciate your business and interest.

The book is available online at www.kansasguidebook.com, or by calling the Kansas Sampler Foundation at 620-585-2374. Also recommended is membership in the Kansas Explorers Club (dues, in honor of the state’s founding, are $18.61), which offers informative newsletters and, like founding, are invariably precise.

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—Chris Lazzarino

Cell break

Discovery could boost stem cell research while avoiding cloning controversy

Chad Cowan is part of a Harvard University research team that successfully reprogrammed adult cells to behave like stem cells—without resorting to controversial therapeutic cloning.

Cowan’s technique makes use of stem cells previously obtained from discarded embryos. Some who oppose the continued destruction of embryos do not object to using stem cells from previously destroyed embryos. A May 2005 CBS Evening News poll found that, while 58 percent of people favor stem cell research, only 37 percent approve of using federal funds to create new lines of stem cells. However, Cowan acknowledges that his technique does not resolve everybody’s moral qualms.

“If I’m talking to a Catholic priest, I’m using tainted material,” he says.

Cowan also cautions that he and his colleagues must overcome several problems before they can put their fused cells to widespread use. The fusion process remains very inefficient. Cowan says he had to mix together 50 million skin cells and 50 million stem cells to get just 10 or 20 hybrids. Also, the fused cells have two full sets of chromosomes, which interferes with normal development. Cowan believes they will eventually solve these problems.

“It’s a breakthrough in that we now know it can happen. We’re going to apply a lot more time and energy into trying to overcome those hurdles.”

—Michael Campbell, g’93, is a frequent contributor to Kansas Alumni.

University, belongs to a team that learned how to reprogram adult cells to act like embryonic stem cells, including the unique ability to develop into any kind of cell.

The team did the reprogramming by fusing adult cells from human foreskin with embryonic stem cells. Cowan hopes his technique will help scientists learn how to manipulate stem cells to create treatments for people with nerve or brain damage and degenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s or diabetes.

Previously, scientists could reprogram cells only by adding the nucleus from an adult cell to a human egg with its nucleus removed—a process known as therapeutic cloning. The limited supply of eggs restricted the number of reprogrammed cells available for study.

Cowan says his technique should give scientists a limitless supply of cells to study as they seek to unlock the secrets of reprogramming.

“Eventually, we might know what cocktail of drugs you would need to back an adult cell up a step in embryonic development,” he says. “If you’re interested in curing diabetes, you might reprogram pancreatic cells, back them up a step, and then allow them to differentiate into the insulin-producing cells the patient needs.”

Cowan says his technique also sidesteps some of the ethical concerns surrounding therapeutic cloning. Getting stem cells from cloning requires allowing the unfertilized egg to divide several times with its new nucleus and then destroying it. Some people believe that this amounts to destroying a potential human life.

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When Kansas Union building engineer Wayne Pearse found this old clock discarded in a trash can during a building renovation in 1986, he rescued it from what he was certain had been an unintended demise.

The clock had been custom-built long ago by IBM, on orders from longtime Union director Frank Burge. With dials that indicated current time in cities across the globe, Burge’s clock ticked away the years in the old fourth-floor Forum Room and the main lobby’s candy counter. But the timepiece broke in the mid-‘80s and was shoved aside in a storage room. When the building was cleaned out for renovations, the clock was tossed.

“So I said, ‘Do you mind if I take it home?’” Pearse recalls. “And they said, ‘Help yourself.’” Pearse spent six months tinkering with the clock on his home workbench. He found that the motor worked fine, but gears needed replacing. No parts were available, so he fabricated his own. When he finally got it working again, Pearse proudly displayed the clock on his family’s mantel.

After the terror attacks of 2001 and subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Pearse noticed that his children had begun paying closer attention to their world clock.

“Wherever the current news of the day was—Afghanistan, New York, Iraq—my children would see what time it was there,” Pearse says. “It helped them develop a sense of the world, especially for my 11-year-old. You know, they were scared, and they were just trying to understand. That’s when I saw its educational value, just as Mr. Burge intended.”

After the latest round of renovations created the new first-floor Hawks Nest, Pearse irked his family by offering to return the fascinating timepiece. This time Union management agreed, and the mechanical wonder now spins its dials on a shelf in the Hawks Nest’s main seating area, offering old-school globetrotting of the imagination to students taking a break from their around-the-world-in-an-instant Internet machines.

“It’s a unique piece, custom-made for this city,” Pearse says. “So I’m glad to see it found its home again. It belongs here.”
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