Field of View

For photographer Terry Evans, every picture tells a prairie story

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COVER STORY

Landscape Perspectives
Photographer Terry Evans has spent her long, distinguished career documenting the prairie and the people who call it home.

By Steven Hill

Tribal Counsel
A Medical Center program helps American Indians break the cigarette habit while respecting the traditional role of tobacco in their culture.

By Lydia Benda

The Long View
Designation as a Kansas Historic District honors the beauty of Mount Oread, and ensures that the heart of campus will continue to dazzle future generations of Jayhawks.

By Chris Lazzarino
“I’ve had opportunities to study in Crete and do a mission trip in New York. I’ve taken some really amazing classes that have shaped my thinking and help me understand what I want to do in the future.”

Alexis Knutsen
Class of 2014
Major in Classical Languages,
minor in Arabic
Scholarship recipient

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March 2013

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Panoramania

I just finished reading Chris Lazzarino’s article, “Where the Wild Things Are,” in the January issue of Kansas Alumni, and would like to thank you for the great article.

My oldest sister enrolled at KU as a freshman when I was 4 months old, and my frequent visits to campus began then, continuing for many years as two other sisters and two brothers followed her to KU. Pretty much every one of my trips to Lawrence included a visit to the Natural History Museum in Dyche Hall, with a check on the Panorama as the first item on my visit. It was without a doubt one of my favorite KU places throughout my growing-up years, and when I eventually became a KU student myself, the Panorama remained one of my favorite places on campus. I’d guess I visited at least a couple of times a month throughout my four years at KU.

When I was very young, I thought of many animals in the Panorama as my friends, and I looked forward to visiting them. The polar bears were particular favorites, as was the lynx crouching on a rock, and the large bull moose. One of my sisters convinced me that the prairie dog that periodically emerges from his burrow, looks around, then ducks back into the burrow, was alive, that he had been enclosed in the Panorama accidentally when it was built, and the builders decided to let him live in the museum.

As I aged, my understanding of the Panorama naturally changed, but my appreciation for it never abated. I was absolutely thrilled, almost giddy, when, while I was a KU student, a friend got a job at the museum and took me inside the Panorama on a private after-hours tour, the one and only time I’ve ever seen my lifelong friends from the other side of the glass.

I am certain my long association with the Panorama is one factor that led me to major in environmental studies and pursue a lifelong career in environmental protection and sustainability. Even now, as a 50-year-old long gone from the University, I still make it back to Lawrence at least a couple of times a year, and almost always find a few minutes to stop by Dyche Hall to look in again on the Panorama. I am pleased to read that efforts are underway to restore and preserve the collection for another century, and wish the effort success.

Thanks again for the great article—and for the great magazine.

Ed Hubert, c’84, g’02
Parkville, Mo.

I loved the wonderful article on Dyche Hall and Lewis Lindsay Dyche.

As a third-generation Jayhawk, I fondly remember visiting the Panorama. One gentleman who worked behind the scenes, literally, on the taxidermy upkeep was Tom Swearingen, f’60, one of my cousins. Back in 1977, when I was a student teacher at KU, he graciously let my class come for a behind-the-scenes look-see.

I know a lot of folks have worked on the Panorama over the years, and I hope the museum can raise the money needed for the conservation assessment and restoration. It’s a treasured bit of Jayhawk history that should be preserved. This article is a great way to spread the word, and hopefully folks will think it needs to be saved.

Beth MacCurdy Wigner, d’78
Prairie Village

Great article about the Natural History Museum’s Panorama. I hope it will help generate funds to keep this famous and historic spot intact for KU and future generations.

I first visited the Panorama as a child of 10, when we moved to Lawrence in 1948 so my father could be a professor in the School of Education. Wow! Coming from the woods of Minnesota, the Panorama opened up a whole new view of Minnesota, the Panorama opened up a whole new view of ecozones and their animals. During school years my classes often were fortunate to visit Dyche and its many collections.

My children were introduced to Dyche and fell in love with the Panorama. One son was fascinated by the tar pits exhibit and always wanted to go there first. Our eldest son was always ready to see Comanche. We also took our grandchildren to Dyche, and our niece’s children. All of the kids have loved the Panorama and other special spots, and the gift shop was our last stop on each visit.

I was involved in the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau for years, and several times brought out-of-town motorcoach groups to Dyche for a tour and dinner at the Panorama. Judy Billings of the Lawrence CVB made all the arrangements, and the travelers loved their time in the museum.

Fond memories. Let’s keep them going for generations.

Pete Anderson, f’60
Lawrence

What a delight to read about the Natural History Museum. Much of my college time was spent in those halls. Our class visited the bird display to create our own keys to duck identification. I served as a student receptionist one summer, welcoming visitors to the Panorama, and used calipers to measure and draw tiny mice skulls for Dr. E. Lendell Cockrum’s book on microtine rodents of North America. A few were used.

Some work was being done on the Panorama in the early 1950s. I remember Sam Dickinson, an artist who did the actual work. It was my job to run the hydraulic press to form plastic leaves for foliage to be used in the tropical section of the Panorama.

The biology department taught a “museum techniques” class that I loved and which was the inspiration for my
museum career. Part of that class was training in the paleontology lab in the basement of the museum. Since my school days there I have worked at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, the Florida State Museum when it was still in the Seagle Building, the Jacksonville Children’s Museum, and I spent the majority of my career at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. I used the knowledge I gained at KU when I served as a volunteer at the Biblical Resources Center in Jerusalem. I am now using that same information at the Explorations in Antiquity Museum in LaGrange, Ga.

KU is a great university, and the Natural History Museum will always hold treasured memories for me. I am so grateful to have been a part of the museum world at KU. Thank you so much for the article.

Barbara Trotter Herlan, c’54
LaGrange, Ga.

JACK THOUGHT the latest issue of Kansas Alumni, which featured those fabulous bison on the cover, came from CU. I had to remind him that the only mail we get from CU is a bill!

I read the fascinating article ["Where the Wild Things Are"] and appreciated not only the subject matter, but the consistently fine writing in Kansas Alumni. We KU alumni do not realize how very privileged we are to have such extraordinary resources. Thanks!

Donna Multer Ward, d’65
Pueblo, Colo.

Editor’s Note: As Donna reports, her husband remains the ever-faithful University of Colorado alumnus, but Jack is true blue when accompanying Donna on their many Flying Jayhawks adventures—though we might suspect he has his fingers crossed while joining the Jayhawks in our traditional closing-night rendition of the Alma Mater.

Hip, hip hooray

THREE cheers for your article on Professor James Shortridge! [“Prairie Tales,” issue No. 1]

I share his belief in the importance of the concept of region and his curiosity about what makes the Midwest distinct. He has succeeded in clarifying what it means to be a Midwesterner magnificently in his book The Middle West: Its Meaning in American Culture.

Since leaving KU, I have lived in New England, Texas, California and the South. In each place, I was envious of the keen sense of regional identity that people had, as well as the abundant literature available exploring the subject. This led me to a search for comparable studies of the Midwest in general, of my hometown St. Louis, and of Kansas. This proved very frustrating, as I found studies that sort of nibbled around the edges but nothing as meaningful as the books I had read about the other regions where I had lived. Nothing that is, until I found Professor Shortridge’s fine study.

Unfortunately, I only discovered the value of political geography after graduating from KU, but it is a rich, insightful way of looking at who we are and where we live. I rank Professor Shortridge right up there with the other major authors I have read in this field, including D.W. Meinig and William Cronon. Having recently visited Kansas City after doing a lot of reading beforehand, I look forward to reading Professor Shortridge’s book on that fascinating city to fill in the gaps in the knowledge I have gleaned thus far. Just as he is finding out about himself as he writes his books, so am I finding out about myself as I read them.

Michael McGill, b’65
Alexandria, Va.

Editor’s Note: In February James Shortridge’s book, Kansas City and How It Grew: 1822-2011, was awarded the 2012 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize from the American Association of Geographers. It’s the second time Shortridge has won the prestigious award.

Remembering Wolf Trap

I READ WITH GREAT interest the article in issue No. 6 on the Filene Center at Wolf Trap [“Art in the Parks”].

I had a hand in the construction of the center. I was the construction coordinator with the National Park Service during that period and was in charge of the project supervisor, Kramer Chapman. Kramer, now deceased, one of the best project managers associated with the National Park Service, also supervised construction of the St. Louis Arch.

My recollection of Wolf Trap is very pleasant. I was pretty proud of being a part of such an endeavor.

Thomas Lippert, ’51
Lakewood, Colo.

It’s a gas, gas, gas

AS ONE OF THOUSANDS who bounced to the rhythms of the Gaslight Gang in the Lawrence United Methodist Church during special Sunday services in the early 1970s, I attest that Paul Gray [Profiles, issue No. 1] ministered for at least two decades longer than those for which he credits himself.

Roger Tobias, b’73, m’76
Lyons

Noteworthy

I ALWAYS ENJOY READING about alumni in Class Notes. It’s interesting to see what people have been doing since graduation.

One person I especially enjoy reading about is Deannell Reece Tacha, c’68. When I was assistant copy editor of the Jayhawker yearbook, I wrote biographies of graduating seniors [Tacha among them] designated as “Hilltoppers.” She has really proved the prediction that she would achieve and be notable in her life.

I look forward to reading more about her as time goes on.

Thomas Lippert, ’51
Lakewood, Colo.

Linda Kerby, n’71, c’87
Leawood
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The University of Kansas Hospital is one of the first in the country and first in Kansas City to earn recognition as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission. The certification recognizes the exceptional resources, staff and training of our Center for Advanced Brain and Neurological Care. Above all, it means better outcomes and fewer complications for stroke patients.

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The four Jayhawk couples who in 1981 founded the University's stalwart campus preservation group now known as Historic Mount Oread Friends (HMOF) could not boast more prestigious credentials: Hal Sandy, j'47, drew the most enduring symbol of our beloved bird when he was a journalism student on the Hill. The “Sandy Jayhawk” remains a cherished symbol to alumni and friends worldwide. Hal and his wife, Wilda., assoc., helped create the Historic Kansas City Foundation.

Allen Wiechert, longtime KU director of facilities planning, and his wife, Sandra, ’80, have devoted years to campus research and preservation; for them, Allen's career became a shared lifelong calling. A Kansas City Star story about Allen's extensive study of Spooner Hall caught the attention of Hal, who had lived in the sub-basement of Spooner in the crowded postwar 1940s. He called Allen to talk about starting a KU preservation group.

Hal next called Del Shankel, assoc., and his wife, Carol, ’68, with whom he and Wilda had brainstormed about campus preservation years before, on an Alumni Association Flying Jayhawks cruise of the Rhine River. In 1981, Del was completing his first of two stints as chancellor, and Carol worked for the Spencer Museum of Art. Their service to KU has continued ever since.

The couples also recruited Dean, e’56, g’63, and Ginny Ward Graves, c’57, fellow preservationists in the Kansas City area and founders of The Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE), a nonprofit agency that helped schools nationwide incorporate lessons on architecture and historic preservation.

Since 1981, HMOF leaders have written several books on KU history and helped add two campus landmarks, Strong and Bailey halls, to the National Register of Historic Places, bringing KU’s total to five (Spoon, Dyche and Lippincott ascended to the list in 1974). They have helped Pioneer Cemetery on West Campus and championed the adaptation of the 1887 Powerhouse into the lovely Hall Center for the Humanities.

Now, as Chris Lazzarino reports in our feature story, a team including current HMOF leaders Dennis Farney, j’63, g’65, and Dale Slusser, assoc., has achieved historic designation for the heart of campus known as the Jayhawk Boulevard corridor. The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review in February named the district to the Register of Kansas Historic Places and forwarded a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sarah Jackson Martin, c’02, national register coordinator for the Kansas Historical Society, works with the all-volunteer site review board. During her eight years with the society, she has watched many nominations wend their way through the national process. There are currently 1,293 Kansas sites on the National Register, she says, and the decision on national designation for Jayhawk Boulevard could come in mid-May. “This is the first university campus we have listed on the state register, so it’s pretty exciting,” she says.

After the momentous February meeting in Topeka, Farney called Hal Sandy. Later they celebrated over breakfast. Although he’s no longer active in HMOF, Sandy couldn’t be more proud. “This is a culmination,” he says. “The district has expanded far more than I ever thought we could achieve. Dennis is unbelievably tireless in the task, and the group has stayed with it. The idea of the national register is absolutely fabulous.”

Preservationists must remain vigilant, Sandy cautions, because “it’s easy to make a mess of things.” But our university on a hill has an advantage, he says: “We have at KU a spectacular setting.” And dedicated Jayhawks with spectacular vision.
The KU Jazz Combo livened up Watson Library Feb. 15 at the opening reception for “Rhythm and Meaning: Jazz at KU,” an exhibition featuring prominent jazz collections of the Midwest from the American Jazz Museum, the Mid-America Black Archive and more. Film and Media Studies professor and jazz critic Chuck Berg spoke at the event about his fascination with the genre and the 7,000 recordings he donated to the collection. The exhibition runs through April 19.

Exhibitions
“Rhythm and Meaning: Jazz at KU,” Watson Library, through April 19
“Conversation XIV: Water,” Spencer Museum of Art, March 23 through July 28
“An Errant Line: Ann Hamilton/Cynthia Schira,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Aug. 31

Lied Center

MARCH
26 Joy of Singing

APRIL
2 KU Wind Ensemble
5 Regina Carter: “Reverse Thread”
9 Pipedreams Live! with Michael Barone
12 Brentano String Quartet

Murphy Hall

MARCH
27, 29 Borromeo String Quartet, Swarthout Recital Hall

APRIL
3 Visiting Artist Series: Russell Miller, piano, with student singers and chamber ensembles
3-5, 7, 9-11 “Intimate Apparel,” a play by Lynn Nottage, William Inge Memorial Theatre
9 Men’s Glee, University Singers, Oread Consort
10 KU Jazz Composers Concert with Jazz Ensemble I and Combo I
11 Saxophone Quartets
18 Trombone Choir, Swarthout Recital Hall
19, 21, 25, 27 “La Boheme,” Crafton-Preyer Theatre
26 Helianthus Concert, Swarthout Recital Hall
27 Chamber Orchestra, Swarthout Recital Hall
27 Ad Astra Percussion, Swarthout Recital Hall

28 Instrumental Collegium Musicum, Swarthout Recital Hall
30 Chamber Choir and Concert Choir, Swarthout Recital Hall

MAY
4 Saxophone Studio Recital, Swarthout Recital Hall
4 Oboe Studio Recital, Swarthout Recital Hall
6 Tuba/Euphonium Consort, Swarthout Recital Hall
9 KU Youth Chorus

Lectures

MARCH
25 “The Interwoven Ideologies of Art & Artisanal Education in Postcolonial Tunis,” Jessica Gerschultz, Hall Center for the Humanities
Special Events

MARCH

25 KU Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall

26 “Empowering and Sustaining Malawi: Africa Windmill Project,” Dole Institute of Politics

27 “Making Our Voices Heard,” Sandra Fluke, Kansas Union

28 “Religion in American War and Diplomacy: A History,” Andrew Preston, Hall Center for the Humanities

MAY

9 Last day of classes

10 Stop Day

19 Commencement

Academic calendar

MARCH

18-24 Spring break

MAY

9 Last day of classes

10 Stop Day

19 Commencement

Association events

APRIL

1 Distinguished Professor Lecture, Anne D. Hedeman, Kansas Union

2 “Do Men Really Write Differently? Gender and the Literary Biopic,” Sigrid Nieberle, Kansas Union

2 Ancient Children,” Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Amy Richlin, Eve D’Ambra, Hall Center for the Humanities

16 Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series: H. George Frederickson, Kansas Union

18 University Lecture Series: “Exploring the Spatial Turn in the Digital Humanities: Maps, Deep Mapping, and Immersive Geo-Virtual Reality,” Trevor Harris, Spooner Hall

APRIL

11 Denver networking breakfast

11 Hall Center Lattner Family Foundation Lecture: Keats in America, Wichita

12 TGIF, Adams Alumni Center

12 Social Work Day, Kansas Union

MAY

1 Chicago Charlie Weis reception

2 Denver Charlie Weis reception

4-4 Class of 1963 50-Year Reunion, Lawrence

4 Gold Medal Club Reunion, Lawrence

4 Hawks, Helmets and Handlebars, Wichita

4 Mortar Board reunion

6 Houston Charlie Weis reception

9 Dallas Charlie Weis reception

9 Denver networking breakfast

10 Grad Grill, Adams Alumni Center

11 Hispanic Alumni Chapter congratulatory graduation banquet, Adams Alumni Center

11 Black Alumni Chapter congratulatory graduation banquet, Adams Alumni Center

16 Charlie Weis Wheat State Tour, Wichita and Liberal

19 Commencement Open House, Adams Alumni Center

For details about Association events and basketball tournament watch parties and rallies, call 800-584-2957 or visit www.kualumni.org.

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Like many college kids, John Hall knows how his parents will welcome him home this spring: with open arms and a long to-do list. “My dad likes to get a lot of work out of me, and my mom is a huge gardener,” Hall says. “I usually have to till beds or pull tomato plants when I go home.”

The industrial design major’s chore chops paid off last fall, when he won a contest sponsored by Garden Weasel. The company’s 25-year-old WeedPopper wasn’t faring well, so Garden Weasel and product development firm R2FACT, run by Steve Pope, ’91, asked students in visiting professor Huw Thomas’ class to design and build a prototype to update the brand.

Hall drew on research and his own experience to claim the $800 first prize. “I played on things I hate about weeding,” the Salina junior says. “It’s a lot of bending, a lot of stress on the back.” His WeedPopper uproots and captures weeds for disposal in one easy motion. “The cool thing about garden tools is they’re really elegant and simple but really effective at what they do. I tried to emulate tools I’ve used to figure out a more seamless way.”

Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door. Build a better weeder, and maybe Mom and Dad will cut you some slack the next time you’re home.
His class and work schedule is no more packed (and likely more flexible) than a nine-to-fiver’s, Bevens says. His campaign website quotes Abraham Lincoln: “It’s not the years in your life that matters. It’s the life in your years.”

Youth qualifies him to address the common complaint that elected officials are too eager to kick the can down the road. “They keep pushing off problems” to the future, Bevens says. “People say the next generation will have to take care of it. So I say, ‘Why not now?’”

Ballroom blitz

The Kansas Union
Ballroom looks better than ever after getting its most extensive renovation since a 1970 post-fire rebuild.

The $500,000 project completed Jan. 29 updated sound, light and video systems; built a new fifth-floor entry and a new two-story backdrop behind the stage; and enclosed portions of the balcony to allow more use of meeting rooms that line the sixth floor. A new dance floor was installed last year for about $250,000. Funding came from student fees and KU Memorial Unions, the not-for-profit service organization that operates the building.

“It’s a pretty significant space for people, and we wanted it to continue to be relevant,” says Lisa Kring, event services director. “It’s one of the first rooms students see during orientation and one of the last during Commencement, and when alumni come back they have a real attachment, too.”

Fanfare for the president

When associate professor of trumpet Steve Leisring got the call inviting the KU Trumpet Ensemble to play at the Presidential Inaugural Parade in January, he knew he could make it happen. Never mind that he had less than two weeks to gather 16 students, organize travel, arrange music and prepare to perform for the president. No pressure.

“I knew there was a way we could do it, and I knew we would look good and sound good and represent the state well, and those were my primary concerns,” Leisring says. “Then my secondary concerns took over, and I thought, ‘How do we get there?’”

Jānis Porietis, a graduate student from Latvia, was among the performers Leisring phoned. “He was speaking in a serious voice, and he said, ‘Are you sitting down?’” Porietis recalls. “At first I was worried, but when he told me we had the opportunity to play in the Inaugural Parade, I thought it was awesome,” he says.

With donations from the Alumni Association and others, Leisring booked a sleeper bus and hotel rooms. Sharon Ramsey Toulouse, ‘97, assistant director of bands and an alumna of the KU ensemble and the U.S. Army Field Band, suggested the group perform longtime KU band director Robert Foster’s arrangement of “Home On the Range” for President Obama, whose mother and grandparents were Kansans. The Jayhawks stepped lively in the parade’s first division with groups from Hawaii and Illinois.

The trip was a whirlwind but once-in-a-lifetime experience. “It was a real honor to do it, and the students know it,” Leisring says. “They learned fast, they looked good, they sounded good and I couldn’t be happier with the result.”

And in his spare time...

Matt Bevens has already earned Eagle Scout rank and a black belt in karate, competed on the KU debate team and coached high school debate, and built a small business with his parents while majoring in economics and philosophy.

Now the 21-year-old senior is campaigning door to door in Topeka, hoping to become the youngest City Council member after the April 2 election: “The first question I get is, ‘How old are you?’ They say, ‘Wow, that’s awfully young.’ But we get to talking and they either say, ‘You’ve got my vote’ or ‘I’d like to learn more about you.’”

The second question: Where will he find the time?
The University heard encouraging words in January from Gov. Sam Brownback, ’82, who proposed a two-year state budget that would hold higher education funding steady and provide a $10 million investment in the KU Medical Center’s initiative to educate more health care professionals for the state. The initial funding would help KU move forward on construction of a $75 million education building on the Kansas City campus. In recent years, KU also has expanded programs in Wichita and Salina to train more health professionals.

But January’s optimism faded to uncertainty by mid-March, as Kansas legislators debated various remedies for the state’s growing deficit, including dramatic budget cuts ($400 million and growing) and potential new tax revenue. Meanwhile, the ongoing federal budget stalemate in Washington, D.C., resulted in mandated cuts known as the sequester—the U.S. government’s self-imposed penalty for failing to resolve a budget by March 1. The sequester could decrease critical KU research dollars from federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, and other federal funds, including student financial aid.

In Topeka, KU leaders testified before legislative committees, providing detailed examples of the economic benefits of higher education. In her Feb. 18 testimony before the House Education Budget Committee, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little supported the governor’s proposal. “The recommendation by Gov. Brownback to maintain an essentially flat operating budget, combined with his recommendation for funding to start work on the Health Education Initiative, will help us continue our progress and contribute to the prosperity and well-being of our state,” she said. She also emphasized the importance of holding higher education funding steady after recent lean years. “The governor’s recommendation is also important in light of earlier budget cuts,” she said. “In actual dollars, KU received slightly less in state general fund revenues in FY 2013 than it did in FY 2006. Adjusted for inflation, KU’s state funding is down $124.4 million over the past 14 years.”

Gray-Little cited numerous ways in which teaching and research improve the economy, including:

• From 2006 to 2010, the median income of Kansans with bachelor’s degrees was $45,343, which is more than $17,000 above the median income of high school graduates. Those who earned graduate or professional degrees earned $58,212 a year. As of 2011, college graduates in Kansas also have an unemployment rate half that of workers who haven’t graduated from college.

• In FY 2011, KU conducted $256.1 million in externally funded research, more than all other Kansas universities combined.

To join Jayhawks for Higher Education: kualumni.org/jhe
For continuing news on state and federal budgets:
publicaffairs.ku.edu/govrelations/
and research.ku.edu/sequester_2013
KU research has helped create 24 active companies in the state. Of course, many discoveries that lead to commercial enterprises begin with federal investments in KU research. As the March 1 enactment of the federal budget sequester neared, Gray-Little joined university leaders nationwide to warn about the potential impact of cuts in research. Campus leaders calculated the costs of an immediate 5.1 percent cut for the remainder of the federal fiscal year (ending Sept. 30), which would translate to a 10.2 percent cut over the next seven months.

A campuswide team led by Steve Warren, c’74, g’75, PhD’76, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, will continue to work with federal agencies to cope with the sequester, if it is not reduced by further Congressional action. KU leaders initially determined that the sequester could result in a $12.6 million impact on research, student financial aid and other federal funding. Nationwide, the long-term effect of the sequester could reach $95 billion over the next nine years, according to ScienceWorksForUs.org, a project of the Association of American Universities, the organization of 62 leading research universities in North America, including KU.

In a March 4 memo to faculty and staff, Warren explained that initial estimates “assume the administration and Congress are unable or unwilling to reduce or repeal the sequester now that it is in effect. The consensus opinion among the higher education associations and KU’s federal relations staff is that no action is likely until later this month. A continuing resolution signed last September provides funding for the federal government through March 27. The necessity of extending that resolution may provide an opportunity to address the sequester as well.”

However, Warren noted that both houses of Congress were scheduled to be in recess March 23 to April 7.

The Kansas Legislature has scheduled first adjournment for April 5. Lawmakers will return to Topeka May 8 for the wrap-up session. In recent years, the Legislature has not resolved the state’s budget until these final days. As the budget debate continues, the University will continue to need the help of alumni and friends who are members of Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Alumni Association’s 1,500-member statewide advocacy network. To join JHE, visit kualumni.org/jhe. In the weeks ahead, KU will report the latest details on state and federal issues on its website; visit the links listed on opposite page for more information.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

A National Book Award-winning history of the Dust Bowl era will be the 2013-’14 KU Common Book. The Worst Hard Time, by Timothy Egan, chronicles a dozen families coping with economic and natural disaster across the plains in the Great Depression. The Common Book program began this academic year with Eula Biss’s Notes From No Man’s Land (“By the Book,” issue No. 6). It’s part of an effort to reinvigorate the first-year experience at KU. Freshman and transfer students receive the book at orientation, and activities and programs throughout the academic year (including a visit from the author) encourage students, faculty and staff to discuss the book and the issues it raises.

The program, part of the University’s Bold Aspirations strategic plan, aims to build community among faculty, staff and students; create a shared academic experience for first-year students; and encourage intellectual engagement.
Platinum Digs: The Center for Design Research, the West Campus building designed and built by the architecture students in Studio 804, earned a LEED Platinum Rating from the U.S. Green Building Council in January. It is the fourth straight project from Studio 804 (and the first building on campus) to achieve what is considered the highest mark for green design and construction.

Master of the game
Deford first sportswriter to win William Allen White citation

Frank Deford, a Sports Illustrated contributor for a half-century and the author of 18 books of nonfiction and fiction, visited campus in February to receive the 2013 National Citation from the William Allen White Foundation.

Accepting the award in Woodruff Auditorium, Deford—who established his reputation at Sports Illustrated with in-depth profiles of sport’s most iconic figures—said he was gratified to become the first honoree whose journalism has been dedicated mostly to sportswriting. He said the genre is too often overlooked, despite being important culturally.

“The fact that sports is found in every society throughout human history must mean something,” Deford said. “Yes, religion and sex are also found in every culture, and I wouldn’t rate sports quite so high as that, but, yes, it does matter.”

Deford quoted columnist Jimmy Cannon in characterizing the role that sportswriters play in journalism: “We are the toy shop of the profession.”


Added Deford, “Only love and war and fairy tales make for better stories” than sports, “and there is in sports an embrace of all of those.”

Deford started at Sports Illustrated as a researcher shortly after graduating from Princeton in 1962. His breakthrough assignment was a profile of fellow Tiger Bill Bradley, whom he brought to the attention of his editors. By the 1980s, Deford’s “bonus pieces”—extended, in-depth profiles of Bobby Knight, Pete Rozelle, Bear Bryant, Howard Coselle and others—were a central feature of the magazine, and many came to be considered the definitive portraits of their subjects.

Deford has also tackled topics outside of sports, writing for Vanity Fair and Newsweek. Among his many books are the novel Everybody’s All-American, and Alex: The Life of a Child, a memoir about his daughter, who died from cystic fibrosis at the age of 8. His work includes screenplays (two of which have been filmed), broadcast work (for which he earned both an Emmy and a Peabody), and weekly commentaries on National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition.” His latest book is the New York Times Best Seller Over Time: My Life as a Sportswriter.

During his two-day visit to the William Allen White School of Journalism, Deford talked of the transformation he has witnessed in journalism in general and sports coverage in particular since he broke into the business as a copy boy for the Baltimore Evening Sun.

Among the biggest changes, he told a class on celebrity journalism taught by Associate Professor John Broholm, is that many professional athletes have crossed a line from stardom to celebrity.

“Celebrities are much more difficult to interview, because they make more money and surround themselves with people,” Deford said. That hinders what he sees as the profile writer’s main task.

“I tried to divine who they were. What were they really like? What is behind the mask? That’s very difficult to do without access, even if you’re the greatest writer in the world.”

He advised students that interviewing is like a high school date: two people getting to know each other. The goal, he said, is to find that “spark of humanity” that allows journalist and subject to communicate person to person.

Frank Deford offered advice and answered questions from journalism students during a two-day campus visit in February to receive the William Allen White Foundation’s National Citation.
University of Kansas Hospital is one of the first five health care centers in the U.S. (and the first in the Midwest) to be named an Advance Comprehensive Stroke Center. Awarded by The Joint Commission, the designation certifies that the hospital meets new higher standards for treating the most complex stroke cases, including neuro-intensive care unit beds for stroke patients that can provide neuro-critical care around the clock.

Room and board at KU will rise by 2.5 percent this fall under a proposal approved in December by the Kansas Board of Regents.

A Strategic Initiative Grant from KU will provide three years of support for the University’s Native Plant Research Program. The grant, part of KU’s Bold Aspirations strategic plan, allows researchers from the Kansas Biological Survey and the School of Pharmacy to continue work to isolate compounds in native plants that show promise as drugs or nutritional supplements. The program had been imperiled after grant funding from the Kansas Bioscience Authority was discontinued.

A $500,000 gift from David Pittaway, c’72, will endow a fund to support the KU debate team’s head coach. Pittaway participated in debate under coaches Donn Parson and Gerald Ashen, g’63. It is the largest gift ever received by KU debate.

Green growers
Med school’s garden program helps grade-schoolers cultivate healthy food habits

Mark Manning knows a thing or two about gardening. He learned the ins and outs of organic gardening at his grandmother’s farm back when “organic food” was simply called “food.” These days he’s passing on his grandmother’s wisdom to a new generation: elementary and middle school students in Kansas City, Kan.

Manning directs the Kansas City Kansas Organic Teaching Gardens, set up in 1998 by Marcia Pomeroy, director of the K-12 Initiative at the KU School of Medicine. The teaching gardens serve the largest number of students in the K-12 Initiative, which also includes Saturday Science; Math, Reading and Technology Academy; Family Genetics; Media Project; and summer programs at KU Medical Center and KU. Manning prepares students for those programs and “he is also preparing students and families to take care of the earth and their bodies,” says Pomeroy.

As garden coordinator and “Healthy Food Activist,” Manning grants students the often-rare opportunity to get their hands dirty and build something outside. “We’re trying to make that connection that our grandmothers made about where food really comes from—how easy it is to grow your own food and make your own garden,” says Manning.

With nearly 130 on-site, raised bed gardens, he teaches 1,300 first-, fourth- and sixth-graders at seven area schools about the cycle of planting. Together they build gardens, plant seeds, harvest crops and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Manning works with teachers to incorporate what they learn outside into integrative classroom experiences. “In April we do our salsa workshop, where we teach kids to grow salsa gardens. They learn about the history of salsa—the music, the dance and the sauce,” Manning says. “I want to supplement what teachers are doing, reinforce it and help them, but also create something else that’s a way to make kids excited about school and proud to come to school,” Manning says.

The gardens’ yield—including more than 500 pounds of sweet potatoes each year—is not enough to channel to school cafeteria systems, but Manning ensures that all food is used in the program, sent home with students or given away.

Each year a new crop of kids meets with Manning, and many return to volunteer with the program during their high school years. “I think the kids recognize that it is an extra gift for them in their classroom,” Manning says.

“Mark truly brings to life the gardens’ life cycle,” says Pomeroy. “He teaches the importance of the garden creatures and the eco system, the ‘slow food’ movement and how eating healthy foods can change a life and health.”

Thanks to innovators like Pomeroy and gifted, green-thumbed teachers like Manning, perhaps today’s youngsters will plant a greener—and tastier—future for Kansas City and beyond. —Lydia Benda
Higher admissions standards approved for 2016

Getting into KU will get tougher in 2016, when new admissions requirements recently approved by the Kansas Board of Regents take effect.

Under the new standards, incoming Kansas freshmen must meet one of two thresholds for high school grade point average and standardized test scores: at least a 3.0 GPA and a minimum 24 ACT/1090 SAT (math and critical reading only) or a 3.25 GPA and a 21 ACT/980 SAT. Students must also earn a minimum 2.0 GPA on the revised Kansas Qualified Admissions curriculum.

Nonresident applicants must meet the same GPA and standardized test score requirements but need not complete the Kansas Qualified Admissions curriculum.

The changes were made with an eye toward improving success once students arrive at KU.

“As part of our mission of educating leaders, we need to give students and families an accurate picture of what it takes to succeed at KU,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “The new standards ‘encourage students to strive for excellence in high school so they’ll be ready to do well when they arrive at the University,’” she said.

Students who meet the criteria and apply before Feb. 1 will be considered for automatic admission. A committee will review applications of students who don’t meet the criteria before making a final decision on admission.

“These standards let students know what it takes to succeed at a research university, which will reduce the initial challenges some of them experience,” the chancellor said. “And for those students who need additional assistance, this process will enable us to direct the right services to them after they arrive at KU.”

Admission requirements are currently the same at all Regents universities. Students are admitted if they meet one of three criteria: They score at least 21 on the ACT (980 SAT), rank in

Visitor

Funny business

Peter Sagal—writer, humorist and host of the National Public Radio quiz show “Wait, Wait ... Don’t Tell Me!”—delivered a speech titled “Current Events: Why Satire is the Only Reasonable Response to the World We Live In” for the annual Student Lecture Series sponsored by Student Union Activities.

**WHEN:** Feb. 18

**WHERE:** Kansas Union Ballroom

**BACKGROUND:** Before in 1998, he was a playwright, screenwriter, stage director, actor, travel writer, essayist, ghostwriter and extra in a Michael Jackson video. In 2007 he published a collection of comic essays, *The Book of Vice: Very Naughty Things (and How to Do Them).*

**ANECDOTE:** Sagal never set out to be a humorist. “What I really wanted to be was a serious playwright. I wanted to tell the world what was wrong with it, because I knew,” Sagal explained. He stumbled into his role as host of the NPR show “by dumb luck” after first serving as a panelist. “It took me a while to adjust. I said, ‘OK, I’ll tell truth to power. I’ll be the jester.’”

**QUOTE:** “The $4 million a year that Roger Ailes makes every year at Fox News explains the disputatious nature of today’s political discourse, Sagal said. “Or Rachel Madow. Or Rush Limbaugh. Every war has its profiteers, and these are our political war profiteers.”
the top third of their class or post a 2.0 GPA in the Kansas Qualified Admissions curriculum.

Kansas law requires a four-year waiting period between approval and implementation of new standards, to give high school students time to adapt.

ENGINEERING

School of Engineering hires Branicky as new dean

Michael Branicky, a professor and chair of the department of electrical engineering and computer science at Case Western University in Cleveland, will become KU’s dean of engineering on July 1, the School of Engineering announced in February.

Branicky succeeds Stuart Bell, who left the school after 10 years as dean to become provost and executive vice chancellor at Louisiana State University.

Branicky has taught since 1996 at Case Western, where he also earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering and physics. He completed his doctorate in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is a past program manager at the National Science Foundation and served as an external expert for the NSF for the National Robotics Initiative.

LAW

College and Law work together to develop fast-track to degrees

Aspiring lawyers can shave a year off their undergraduate classwork under a new partnership between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Law that will allow the first year of law school to also count toward requirements for a bachelor’s degree.

Beginning this fall, the 3 + 3 BA/JD Accelerated Degree Program will invite 200 first-year undergraduates to apply. Competitive admission will require students to have a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 and a minimum ACT score of 28. Only 20 applicants will be accepted.

Students will spend three years completing requirements for the bachelor’s degree, and three years on requirements for the law degree. Participants who maintain at least a 3.5 GPA and score at least 157 on the LSAT exam are guaranteed admission to the School of Law after their junior year. The College will not issue an undergraduate degree until students finish their first year of law school.

“The program will lower students’ total costs and will help ensure that great KU students stay at KU,” said Stephen Mazza, dean of the School of Law.

“A $1 million gift from the Kansas Masonic Foundation will help cancer patients and caregivers at the KU Cancer Center deal with the emotional issues related to cancer. Establishing the Midwest Cancer Alliance Behavioral Health Therapist Fund, the gift provides access to a psycho-oncologist who can help people deal with the psychological stress associated with a cancer diagnosis. The foundation has provided nearly $23 million to the Cancer Center since 1975.

A new film by Kevin Willmott, KU associate professor of film, debuted in Lawrence Feb. 16. “Destination: Planet Negro” is the satirical story of a group of African-Americans who plan to colonize Mars as a way to escape Jim Crow-era America. The Liberty Hall screening raised money for construction of a new Film and Media Studies building at KU.

A $1.2 million estate gift from John, b’42, g’47, and Frances Peterson will benefit students and faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Music and the department of dance. The couple moved to Lawrence after careers in government service, and were involved in many University and community projects. John died in 2009 and Frances in 2012.

“I am the non-profiteer. I like to think of our show as the Christmas truce. It’s the one hour a week I hope we can bring people together.” —Peter Sagal
No apology needed

Topsy-turvy regular season ends with another Big 12 title

Two days after his Jayhawks won a share of their ninth-consecutive Big 12 championship, coach Bill Self was in no mood to say he was sorry about how they did it, and he wanted his friends who called with qualified congratulations to know one thing:

“That’s not true. It doesn’t stink,” Self said of his team tying with KSU after losing its final regular season game at Baylor. “We were in charge of the league race when we were 7-0, but after we were 7-3, we were never in charge of the league race. ... It was one of those deals we had to earn, and we did earn it. We’re not going to apologize for sharing it at all.”

Preparing for the Big 12 Tournament as Kansas Alumni went to press, Self and his squad hoped strong postseason play could erase the lingering memories of disquieting passages that made the season something of a jumble. After losing the second game of the year, to Michigan State, KU won 18 in a row and in late January was ranked No. 1 in the USA Today coaches’ poll.

Then came a home loss to Oklahoma State, followed by a humbling loss at TCU, described by CBS’s Seth Davis as the biggest upset in college hoops since Chaminade toppled Virginia in 1982. The loss led Self to make his now-famous comparison to KU’s loss to Topeka YMCA in 1900, the program’s second season, and when the TCU debacle was followed by a loss at Oklahoma, Self said, “I felt like we were ... what’s the word ... out-toughed, I think, in those three games. We weren’t tough enough to make a run. We need to have a knot put on our head.”

But the Jayhawks responded with a Big Monday victory at home over Kansas State, launching a seven-game winning streak that included a double-overtime victory at Oklahoma State and an overtime win at Iowa State spurred by senior guard Elijah Johnson’s 39 points, the most by a KU player since Terry Brown’s 42 against North Carolina in 1991.

“I knew our guys liked Elijah,” Self said, “but I didn’t realize how much they respected him and liked him until after the game. I have never seen a group of guys happier for one guy than they were for Elijah. ... He had to make five or six consecutive plays in a row for us to have a chance to win the game. I think that was what was amazing about it.”

Self needs his senior point guard to play at top form for the Jayhawks to advance far in the NCAA Tournament, but he also argues that he must depend on the other four starters—seniors Jeff Withey (named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year for the second year in a row), Travis Releford and Kevin Young and freshman sensation Ben McLemore, the team’s leading scorer and, with Withey, a member of the All-Big 12 First Team—as well as his primary bench players.

“We’ve got to have everybody,” Self says. “It doesn’t take much for the timing and the rhythm to get off. We’re not deep enough to say, ‘Well, if he’s not playing well, we’ll put somebody else in.’ We need to have seven, eight guys all contributing at a very high level.”

Despite his pride in winning the Big 12 title, Self also admitted, “We didn’t pop any bubbly on the way back from Waco, trust me.” Releford, the team’s best open-court defender, seemed in even less mood to celebrate.

“We split,” Releford said of the league title, “and that wasn’t something we wanted to do. We definitely have to make a team uncomfortable. We can’t go into a game and let a team like Baylor, or anybody else, get as comfortable as they were. If we do, it’s going to be a tough game for us, no matter who we play.”

“We’ve got to have everybody,” Self says. “It doesn’t take much for the timing and the rhythm to get off. We’re not deep enough to say, ‘Well, if he’s not playing well, we’ll put somebody else in.’”
Back on track

Geubelle wins double gold to help women to NCAA silver

The smile was a long time coming. When last seen on the national stage, triple jumper Andrea Geubelle had won bronze at the June U.S. Olympic Trials; though the top three event finishers technically make the U.S. Olympic team, her best jump of the meet—45 feet, 3 inches—did not meet the Olympic standard. What she thought was the winning triple jump at the NCAA Outdoor championships in Des Moines, Iowa—46 feet, 11 3/4 inches—would have qualified Geubelle for a trip to London, but it had been disqualified for a board foul after officials upheld an appeal lodged by a competing coach after the competition had concluded.

The shattering loss of NCAA gold left Geubelle in tears, and, as the rest of the month played out, watching the Olympics from home. But nine months later, Geubelle made her first leap toward competitive revenge, soaring 46 feet, 6 1/2 inches to win the triple jump at the NCAA Indoor championships March 9 in Fayetteville, Ark. Geubelle was grinning broadly even as she rolled onto her feet and immediately waved both hands high over her head.

Coming a day after she won the long jump, Geubelle's winning triple jump—the longest in school history, the fourth-longest in NCAA history and two inches shy of the American record—made her the fourth woman to claim gold in both events at the NCAA Indoor championships.

"Words can't even describe it," said Geubelle, a senior from University Place, Wash. "I don't think it's hit me yet. It's awesome. I honestly never would have thought a couple of years ago that I would be the long jump and triple jump champion at the University of Kansas. I've come a long way."

Geubelle's 20 points and a pole vault championship by junior Natalia Bartnovskaya paced the Jayhawks to their second-consecutive runner-up finish at the NCAA Indoor championships. Oregon won the meet with 56 points, followed by KU at 44 and LSU with 43.

"It was a great weekend," said 13th-year coach Stanley Redwine, named Big 12 Coach of the Year after his women's team won their first conference championship in February. "We had really great performances, starting off with Andrea in the long jump, and we knew she wasn't finished. She's just a phenomenal athlete. And Natalia in the pole vault. We have three national champions. Unbelievable."

Bartnovskaya, of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, won the pole vault on her second attempt at 14 feet, 7 1/4 inches, a school and personal record. "The mark is the eighth-highest in NCAA indoor history, and earned KU's second national indoor pole vault title, after Amy Linnen's in 2005. Bartnovskaya is in her first year at KU after transferring from Indiana's Vincennes University to train under vertical jumps coach Tom Hays, the 2011 National Collegiate Pole Vault Coach of the Year. "I like my teammates and coaches," Bartnovskaya said. "It feels awesome to work with one of the best coaches in the U.S."

The women's 4x400-meter relay team of junior Olympian Diamond Dixon and seniors Denesha Morris, Paris Daniels and Taylor Washington secured KU's runner-up finish by earning a point with an eight-place finish in the meet's final event. Dixon, who missed a month of training early in the season due to injury, was unable to successfully defend her NCAA Indoor title in the 400, placing sixth with a season-best time of 52.38 seconds.

Senior Francine Simpson took bronze in
the long jump, senior Alena Krechyk was fifth in the weight throw, Daniels ran eighth in the 200, and sophomore Lindsay Vollmer placed ninth in the pentathlon with personal bests in three of five events, the long jump, high jump and shot put.

The women’s Big 12 Indoor title was the first in program history and the first conference title for either of KU’s track teams since the men won the 1983 Big Eight crown. Event champions were Geubelle in the triple jump, Dixon in the 400, Daniels in the 200, Krechyk in the weight throw, Simpson in the long jump (with Geubelle in second) and Vollmer in the pentathlon (with senior Rebecca Neville second). Freshman Tianna Valentine ran a close second in the 60.

Leading the men’s team at the Big 12 meet was the 4x400-meter relay squad of senior Kyle Clemons and sophomores Michael Stigler, Michael Hester and Kenneth McCuin. Their time of 3 minutes, 8.06 seconds, the second-best time in school history, was good for second place. Stigler and McCuin ran second and third respectively in the 600. Clemons ran third in the 400 in 47.04, and junior Josh Munsch ran a personal-best 4:03.09 for third in the mile.

The outdoor season begins March 27 at the Texas Relays. The Kansas Relays are set for April 17-20 for what could be the legendary spring meet’s final renewal in Memorial Stadium. (KU hopes to launch the new Rock Chalk Park, in west Lawrence, by hosting the 2014 Relays in a new track stadium.)

“We have some standout athletes,” Geubelle said after the NCAA Indoor, “and we have so many athletes back home who are so excited to get back to practice and be here [at the NCAA championships] with us outdoor. It’s a great fire for our team. It will help push us, hopefully, to an outdoor national championship.”

Sports

UPDATES

With strong pitching by sophomore Alicia Pille and junior Alex Jones, softball scored shutout victories in three of five games in a sweep of the March 8-10 Florida Atlantic Tournament in Boca Raton, Fla. Senior left-fielder Maggie Hull hit her 20th career home run in KU’s 6-0 victory over Louisiana-Monroe in the tourney’s championship game, pushing KU’s record to 19-5 as the Jayhawks approached the start of conference play March 28 vs. Texas. “Every team was tough and I’m very proud of the girls,” said fourth-year coach Megan Smith, who scored her 100th KU victory at FAU with an 8-7 victory over Ball State. “They were determined to come out 5-0 and we came out 5-0.”

... Senior guard Angel Goodrich was named All-Big 12 First Team for the first time in her career and was picked as one of seven finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award, honoring the nation’s top point guard. Senior forward Carolyn Davis was named to the Big 12’s second team. Season highlights included a double-overtime victory Feb. 2 in Manhattan for a Sunflower Showdown sweep of Kansas State and a 10-point victory Feb. 17 at 22nd-ranked Oklahoma. As of press time, the Jayhawks (18-13) were waiting to learn whether they would receive a second-consecutive NCAA Tournament bid. ...

Sophomore outfielder Michael Suiter was named Big 12 Baseball Player of the Week after helping KU to its first four-game sweep since 2011, against Niagara March 7-9. Suiter, of Kailua, Hawaii, went 8-for-14 with seven stolen bases, five runs scored and two RBI. His on-base percentage in the series was .625 and he extended his hitting streak to 10 games. A month into the season, Suiter was second in the Big 12 in batting average (.438), tied for second in stolen bases (eight) and tied for third in on-base percentage (.500).

... The spring football game is set for 1 p.m. April 13 in Memorial Stadium. Among the highlights for coach Charlie Weis’ second season are debuts of QB Jake Heaps and receiver Justin McKay, junior transfers who had to sit out a year. Returning starters are led by senior halfback James Sims, who averaged 115.2 yards in Big 12 games last season. Special teams coordinator Clint Bowen, d’96, will coach linebackers, and all coaches will share special-teams responsibilities. LB Huldon Tharp chose to end his career a year early. “My body just can’t hold up anymore,” Tharp said.
A season of ceremonies included (clockwise from above) a jersey retirement for 2008 hero Mario Chalmers, '09; a 115th-year men's basketball celebration that included the great Jo Jo White, '69, and his coach, Ted Owens; Senior Night smiles from Elijah Johnson and his family; confetti-shredding Jays and celebrating students; a Senior Night group portrait of Travis Releford, c'13, Jeff Withey, c'13, Johnson and Kevin Young; and a hug for Young from coach Bill Self.
The prairie and its people are focus of photographer Terry Evans’ life and work

By Steven Hill

Curators at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City figured they had a hit when they saw sweep-time stats for their new photography exhibition. “Sweep time” measures how long museum-goers spend in a particular room, and it’s generally considered a more accurate indicator of engagement than ticket sales. And sweep times for the retrospective exhibition “Heartland: The Photographs of Terry Evans” were good. Very good.
But even more convincing was the strong emotional chord that Evans’ portraits of the prairie region and the people who call it home seemed to strike. “People are really moved by these pictures,” says Jane Aspinwall, the Nelson’s associate curator of photography. “I’ve had people cry. That never happens. I think people feel like this is us; this is our land, our lives. It’s our story.”

The exhibition of 100 photographs representing every major project in Evans’ 45-year career closed in late January after a three-month run. The first complete retrospective of her work, it is just one of several events that makes this a big year for Evans, f’68. A gorgeous full-color exhibition catalog from Yale University Press, with essays by curators and a chronology and personal bibliography outlining Evans’ life and artistic influences, offers the most definitive guide to her work thus far. Prairie Stories, published in January, a book of seven stories told in photographs, culminates a 20-year relationship with the land and people of the Flint Hills town of Matfield Green. And a new project, “Fractured: The North Dakota Oil Boom,” a collaboration with journalist Elizabeth Farnsworth that explores the changes brought on by fracking, launched a blog in February at the Nevada Museum of Art’s Center for Art and the Environment and will be the focus of an exhibition opening June 7 at Chicago’s Field Museum.

With work in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and dozens of other museums, including KU’s Spencer Museum of Art, Evans is renowned for stunning aerial photographs that capture the sweep and subtle beauty of a majestic landscape that too often befuddles the ground-based photographer. But these recent projects show that her fascination with the prairie is far deeper and broader.

“To say that Terry Evans is an aerial photographer of the prairie would be to leave out some really essential pieces of her,” Aspinwall says. “Prairie Specimens,” a series of portraits of plant and animal specimens from natural history museums, focuses on the region’s flora and fauna. “Steel Work,” studies of the interiors of Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania steel mills, ponders the raw materials mined from prairie ground and the industrial processes that transform them from resource to commodity. That project grew from another, “Revealing Chicago,” an urban study of the plains’ metropolitan hub and economic powerhouse. Even a series of studies of Greenland glaciers commissioned by the Spencer Museum in collaboration with KU’s Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets has a heartland connection, documenting global climate change that already may be affecting prairie ecosystems.

Top: Baby, King, and Kennedys, Lawrence, Kansas, 1972-73
Above: Kansas City, Kansas, 1972
Far left: Field Museum, oak leaves, Riverside, Chicago, Illinois, 1892, 2002
Left: Field Museum, Eskimo curlew, Kansas, 1837, 2001
Previous page: Train north of Matfield Green, Chase County, Kansas, July 2009
“She’s thinking of all these different aspects of the prairie, not just focusing on one,” Aspinwall says, “and she uses her camera as a tool to learn.”

And teach.

“The stories are there,” Aspinwall says. “Terry is able to use her camera to put them on view in a way people can really understand and respond to them. Above all, she’s a story finder.”

As a painting student at KU in the 1960s, Terry Hoyt Evans wanted to be Willem de Kooning, but Robert Kennedy changed her mind.

Abstract Expressionism was all the rage in those days, and de Kooning personified the movement’s artistic daring and emotional intensity.

“I admired him so much and I longed to be like the Abstract Expressionists, longed to have that emotional volatility where everything came from the subconscious and out onto the painting,” Evans told students and faculty when she visited campus in November to deliver the department of design’s Hallmark Design Symposium lecture.

But Evans was unable to reconcile the artist’s life she imagined (“Maybe I’d struggle over my paintings and then get together with my friends at the Cedar Tavern and talk about painting,” she mused, referring to a famous New York City hangout for Abstract Expressionists) with the isolation she felt working in her studio.

“It seemed to me that I didn’t have enough imagination, that I never thought I was quite good enough to be an abstract painter.”

When Robert Kennedy kicked off his 1968 presidential campaign during a visit to Kansas, including a stop at Allen Field House, she borrowed a camera from her father, Norman Hoyt, a commercial photographer in Kansas City. Evans called her father “my only photography teacher” and related how he’d include her in picture-taking excursions around town when she was young; one of her earliest photos, which she took with her own camera at age 4, is of her father at Loose Park.

On March 18, 1968, her father’s camera gained her access to the press section, where she got a close-up view of Kennedy and glimpsed a different future.

“That day when I was on the floor of the field house and Bobby Kennedy came out and the crowd surged forward and here were these journalists around me with cameras and I was part of that, I thought, ‘This is incredible. This camera got me in here, and look at this. This is important, this is part of history.’”

The photograph she took wasn’t a great picture, Evans says now, but it changed her life. “I had been sitting in my studio, painting, by myself, having a hard time figuring out what to do next. And suddenly I had this camera and it became my way into the world.”

Evans finished her degree in painting, but from then on, she says, she was a photographer. “I realized that I need to work from life.”

Her earliest projects drew on the social documentary photography of Dorothea Lange. Working closely with antipoverty agencies, Evans made dignified black-and-white studies of poverty in Lawrence, Kansas City, Salina and Belleville in the
Above left: Fent’s Prairie, Oct. 2, 1978
Above right: Former Wetland, 1991
Above: Evie Mae’s house, Matfield Green, Kansas, 1996

Prairie Stories
Radius Books, $50

Heartland: The Photographs of Terry Evans
Yale University Press, $60
early '70s. In the summer of 1974, she created portraits for “Kansas Survey,” a project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts to create an “aesthetic survey” of the state.

“I thought I would be quite happy doing social documentary work about poverty or farm people, because there is lots to learn,” Evans says. “I thought landscape photography was boring.”

That changed when Wes Jackson, '60, founder and president of the Land Institute, asked Evans to document his early work on a patch of native prairie near her husband’s family farm near Salina.

“I remember her starting at it in a dutiful sort of way, to help out as a friend,” Jackson recalls. “But then it began to be a passion for her.”

“I fell in love with it,” Evans says. “Everything interested me about it. Grass systematics, the whole biology of the prairie, how the Plains Indians had used medicinal plants, Willa Cather, everything.”

In the linear patterns she discerned in a square-meter of prairie grass, the rule-straight run of a section line, the graceful swell of a contoured field and the contrasting textures of virgin prairie and harvested cropland, Evans found a complex creative challenge that has kept her engaged ever since—the challenge of capturing dramatic images from a landscape many dismiss as plain and barren.

“She’s the kind of person who’s capable of goose bumps,” says Jackson, who notes that it’s possible to be greedy about beauty. “That’s not Terry. She’s focused but she’s generous. She wants to communicate to the world. The thing that’s interesting about looking through a lens is it causes someone else to see through your eyes; it helps people focus and see what is around them that they couldn’t see. I think that’s the art of her work.”

The “story finder” who longed to escape the isolation of the

Above left: Platte River, Nebraska, 1990
Above right: CNA building, downtown Chicago, April 27, 2004
Above: Rail, roads, and water, under the skyway, Calumet Harbor, Chicago, May 12, 2003
Documenting the extensive fracking in North Dakota—the scars etched into the land and the lives of the people who live there—has pushed her to speak out more strongly about what she believes is a shortsighted policy that puts money ahead of people, energy independence ahead of energy conservation.

“I don’t see any concern for the kinds of things that don’t have to do with material value, like these huge open spaces,” she says. “I’ve always felt like what I wanted to show was the vulnerability of land and people and how they’re interwoven. But it seems like the stakes are higher in North Dakota. It’s a good example of what’s happening a lot of other places in this country.”

Though Evans is less confident now that the needs of the economy and the needs of the land and people can be balanced, it hasn’t sapped her desire to work.

“I’m 68, and I have more energy for photography than I’ve ever had. What’s so exciting is I’ve done all these various projects, and I have all these tools I can use.” The North Dakota project shows the full power of those tools, blending sweeping aerial photographs of prairie (both pristine and industrialized) with intimate portraits of the people affected by the boom that hark back to her social-documentary beginnings.

Some are lifelong residents of the prairie. Some have come a long way to ride the boom. What is important to Evans is that each one has a story.

The portraits are her way of showing the complexity of the issue. For even though she knows exactly where she stands, she also knows that everybody’s story is different. Including her own.

“I found out I can’t be de Kooning, but I can be myself,” Evans says. “I can only see how I can see.”

“I thought it was so boring, and now I can’t think of anything more interesting,” she says of her discovery of the prairie—and how we treat it—as her great subject. “Land use seems to me to be about everything. It’s about how people live on the earth.”

Increasingly, the consequences of our decisions trouble Evans. After Jackson introduced her to the prairie, she served more than 30 years on the Land Institute Board, and the group’s progressive views on land use and sustainable agriculture deeply influenced her thinking. That influence has been present in her work for years, she says. But her experience documenting the North Dakota oil boom has marked a turning point.

“I have always felt like I was on the side of the prairie, or whatever landscape I’m photographing. I’m an advocate. But I always felt that it was more important to raise questions, to show the complexity of an issue. I’ve always felt like,

‘We can get this figured out.’ Until now.”
Julia White Bull has seen firsthand the devastating effects of a nicotine addiction. She saw it growing up on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation in South Dakota, and she has seen it in her own life. She picked up her first cigarette at age 13, and for 14 years she smoked a pack a day, unable to drop it despite family members’ desperate attempts to help her. The fear-based tactics of anti-smoking campaigns did no good.

“When you’re told, ‘Don’t smoke,’ you’re going to smoke,” says White Bull.

It wasn’t until 2009, as a student at Haskell Indian Nations University, that she heard of a new kind of smoking cessation program. This one, called All Nations Breath of Life, was tailored just for her as an American Indian. It recognized the importance tobacco plays in sacred ceremonies, and offered practical ways to separate traditional tobacco from commercial, habitual, cigarette use. As with anything worth doing, it was hard, and she failed the first time. But, after graduating from Haskell, she got an internship at KU Medical Center’s Center for American Indian Community Health (CAICH), and was once again presented with an opportunity to join All Nations Breath of Life. This time it took.

“They wanted to see people go on a better road to a better future and show their children, so they can show their children how to be healthy, how to be active, not to abuse drugs and alcohol,” White Bull says. Now she facilitates groups and helps others overcome their addiction.

“American Indians face oppression, and there’s not much encouragement in your own community, but when you get a group of American Indians together and you start encouraging each other in a program that’s culturally tailored, there’s a connection there,” says White Bull.

All Nations Breath of Life began in 2004 as researchers from KU Medical Center joined forces with Oklahoma Area Indian Health Services and representatives from 20 Indian nations to address the smoking epidemic. (At 32.4 percent,
smoking among American Indians and Alaska Natives is the highest by far among all racial or ethnic groups.) Together, the researchers, clinicians and tribal members created a curriculum for All Nations Breath of Life and designed a five-year study to see how it fared. Since then, about 500 people have gone through the program. According to White Bull, and a six-month studywide quit rate of 37 percent, it worked. Fear-based programs claim a quit rate of merely 8 to 10 percent.

“You can never motivate anyone through fear,” says Charlotte McCloskey, project manager for the trial and assistant professor at KU Hospital’s department of family medicine. She helped develop the program with Won Choi, executive director of KU’s master’s of public health program, and Christine Daley, associate professor of preventative medicine and public health. Thanks to their work, All Nations Breath of Life can be used by various tribes and allows for differences among cultures, traditions, languages and tobacco use.

“Unfortunately, some people think it’s going to be difficult to do cultural tailoring or difficult to do something for a specific group,” McCloskey says. “But I hope the numbers we have so far show that it’s worth it. There is some work on the front end, but people are going to get a lot more out of it and it’s going to have a longer-lasting effect.”

Cheree Solomon was one of the facilitators in charge of recruiting American Indians in the Kansas City area to join the program. Working as a receptionist at the Kansas City Indian Center, she was selected by program developers because of her involvement with the Indian community. During the study, Solomon facilitated eight groups of eight to 12 participants each, prepared materials for meetings and made phone calls to monitor progress throughout the week.

“We talked about traditional tobacco or ways we use tobacco in a sacred manner as opposed to just an addiction,” Solomon says. “There are so many variations, and each tribe is different.” On the Dineh (Navajo) reservation in Arizona where Solomon was raised, the tobacco is green and leafy, but many American Indians in the Great Lakes area smoke and pray with pieces of shaved red willow bark. “It was medicine to us before, and I think that touched a lot of people and got them thinking about tobacco in an entirely different way.”

She also checked in on participants’ medication, which was offered for free in the form of nicotine patches, gum or the smoking cessation drug Chantix. Groups convened nine times during the 14-week program, and facilitators held meetings wherever and whenever participants could make it work. “One group was held at a restaurant for people getting off third shift, so the facilitator would meet them at 7:30 in the morning and they would eat breakfast together,” McCloskey says.

Meetings offered useful tips for quitting, like going for a walk or putting cigarette money in a piggy bank, but stressed community involvement and respect of tradition first and foremost.

Solomon held many of her meetings at the Kansas City Indian Center, where groups shared meals and enjoyed culture nights to get back to their roots. White Bull remembers a session when an elder came to talk about the role of traditional tobacco in his tribe. “You could see the wisdom in his eyes; you could hear it in his voice,” she says. “I would like to see this program all over Indian Country.”

The research trial for All Nations Breath of Life ended in October, but preliminary results and anecdotal evidence show that culturally tailored health programs can produce dramatic positive results. McCloskey and other researchers at KU Medical Center are applying for grants to expand
The Long View

by Chris Lazzarino

Old Fraser Hall and KU’s first aerial image, taken in 1926.
‘KU Historic District’ honors and protects buildings, objects and landscapes that help define Mount Oread’s signature beauty

Dennis Farney grew up on a farm near Wilson, west of Salina. At KU he obtained a journalism education that led him to a long career with The Wall Street Journal, but his growth here was not limited to the classroom. From the day he first stepped foot on the Hill, Farney found himself transformed.

“When I came to campus in 1959, it was a revelation to me,” says Farney, j’63, g’65. “Here was a place that was beautiful, a place where people cherished their history and thought about it. I honestly think that impression probably had a greater impact on me than any course I took at KU.”

Mount Oread’s memorable first and lasting impressions, its historic foundation, topographic splendor, architectural treasures, river valley vistas and subtle delights, are, of course, primary elements of the KU experience. Now, thanks to a two-decade collaboration among Historic Mount Oread Friends—a nonprofit group of volunteer preservationists that Farney joined in 1986—and University planners, administrators and preservation boards, Jayhawk Boulevard and its immediate environs for the first time enjoy protected designation as a historic district listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

The KU Historic District designation, issued in February by the Kansas Historical Society’s Historic Sites Board of Review, includes buildings, landmarks and landscapes along the Mount Oread ridge roughly from Lindley Hall, near the Chi Omega Fountain at the boulevard’s west entrance, to the 13th Street entrance. To the north, the district includes the Hill, the Campanile, Memorial Drive and Potter Lake. (Buildings constructed or significantly renovated after 1951, such as the Kansas Union, Spencer Museum of Art and Wescoe Hall, are considered “non-contributing” elements.)

“Having the historic district officially designated recognizes the fact that this campus is a historic site,” Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little says, “and raises our level of awareness and vigilance about preserving the campus. It’s not just the buildings; it’s the environment in a certain area, a type of planting, a type of walk. It includes all those things that contribute to the environment of the campus.”

The historic district designation does not prevent the University from making changes to Jayhawk Boulevard’s buildings and landscape, but it does require careful consideration. Change will come, to be sure, but it must now be deliberate and closely examined.

That’s exactly why Dennis Farney, who watched in horror as a wrecking ball felled Old Fraser Hall in his final months as a KU student, first proposed the historic district designation two decades ago, and why he was on hand in Topeka when the state board made it official.

“Students are certainly aware that they are on a beautiful campus,” Farney says, “but when you are younger you may not be thinking in terms of preservation. You kind of assume the campus you see today will always be there ... until it’s not.”
Farney’s first assignments with The Wall Street Journal were in Dallas and then on the Page One desk in New York; in 1970 he was assigned to Washington, where he covered the Ford and Carter White Houses, national elections and Congress. Farney and his wife made their home in Alexandria, Va., where they cherished their Old Town neighborhood’s protected status as a historic district.

“Inside the historic district, everything was harmonious; even new buildings were harmonious with the old ones,” he recalls. “And if you stepped one foot outside the district you ran into the usual American urban scene of a filling station on one corner, a remnant building on another corner, a fast food place down the road. It made a great impression on me.”

Despite his affection for Alexandria, Farney says, he felt the pull of home and in the mid-1980s convinced his editors to allow him to cover national politics from the voters’ perspective, based in Kansas City. Soon after his return in 1985, he joined Historic Mount Oread Friends.

Dyche, Lippincott and Spooner halls had been added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974; Strong Hall made the list in 1998, and Bailey Hall in 2001. Inclusion on the National Register is a proud designation for cherished buildings, but Farney’s experience led him to think more could be done.

“Historic districts are very common in the South, including Alexandria,” says Farney, who first proposed a KU historic district shortly after completing his second term as president of Historic Mount Oread Friends in the early 1990s. “When I came back out here it struck me that KU ought to have one, as a way of labeling the campus as special. Once you label something as special, then I think that’s the best guarantee that it won’t be thoughtlessly torn down.”

Working closely with Jeff Weinberg, d’64, g’70, then assistant to
the chancellor and now an Honors Program lecturer, Farney’s biggest hurdle was convincing administrators that a historic district would not lock the boulevard and its buildings in a time capsule. If changes and improvements need to be made they can be, with approval from designated boards. Farney now says the arguments were seemingly successful at the time, but it was his impression that the University cooled to the idea in the wake of sometimes-bitter disputes with local preservation groups over KU’s plans to expand outside of its traditional borders.

Momentum turned in 2006, when KU landed a $130,000 grant from the Getty Foundation to closely study its physical heritage, and surged again two years later when the University revealed the grant’s result, the KU Campus Heritage Plan. The Getty-funded study motivated University planners, administrators and consultants to view the campus as a historical whole and to use that context in discussions about construction, renovation and improvements for everything from sidewalks to rooftops.

“It was a very, very powerful study with a very powerful end result,” says Jim Modig, a’73, University architect and director of design and construction management. “Out of that came the Campus Heritage Plan, which establishes a kind of baseline with all this research on the various components, whether it’s buildings, objects or landscapes that are historic in nature.”

Once the Campus Heritage Plan was completed, in 2008, Historic Mount Oread Friends suggested the next step should finally be pursuit of a historic district designation. The University agreed, and, with a contribution of $21,000 from HMOF, a team was assembled—including Rosin Preservation, Treanor Architects and landscape historian Carol Grove, as well as HMOF, the Campus Heritage Advisory Board and the Campus Historic Preservation Board. An extensive document was researched and prepared (see page 36 for online link) with detailed histories about every building and landmark within the plan’s projected boundaries. It was submitted to the state’s historic preservation office in December, and two months later sailed through its formal approval by the Kansas Historical Society, which also forwarded it to the National Park Service for consideration for the National Register of Historic Places.

A tangible benefit of historic district designation is tax credits for costs incurred in preservation work, which the University can sell on the open market for 90 cents on the dollar, generating even more revenue for restoration and repair. And, another study is underway for an application for historic district designation for the scholarship hall environs on the east side of Mount Oread.

“You really don’t stop to think very often about all of these components that are compiled to make the district,” Modig says. “It’s refreshing to go through that process. It helps you realize that, yeah, the lawn in front of Watson is a part of that environment. Yes, there’s going to be some limiting factors involved, but I look at it more as guiding principles that we need to take into consideration. It doesn’t prevent development, but if we do develop it, we do it in a smart and appropriate manner, and not do something that would be devastating to the character of campus.”
Dale Slusser came to KU not from a windswept Kansas farm, but from cosmopolitan California, and not as an impressionable student, but as a mature professional. In 2000, when he arrived to take a job with KU Endowment, Slusser was as thunderstruck with Mount Oread as Farney the farm boy had been four decades earlier.

“I was impressed of course with the city of Lawrence and the buildings here,” says Slusser, Endowment’s assistant vice president for development and a longtime aficionado of historic architecture, “and I was just stunned by how beautiful campus is. I had no idea that Jayhawk Boulevard was going to be so beautiful.”

As Farney had when he returned from Washington, Slusser promptly joined HMOF, and is now the group’s vice president. He also serves on the boards for the Lawrence Preservation Alliance and the Douglas County Historical Society.

At HMOF, Slusser found himself immersed among true believers, longtime members of the extended KU family who have devoted themselves to Mount Oread’s preservation since the group’s founding in 1981 (as the Historic Mount Oread Fund). Along with five Jayhawk Boulevard landmarks being named to the National Register of Historic Places and the Getty grant’s Campus Heritage Plan, the KU Historic District designation is itself a landmark achievement for the group’s vision for Mount Oread.

“The biggest value, to my mind, is that it really forces the University to pay attention and to think very carefully about any changes that are occurring in the historic district,” Slusser says. “It’s of paramount importance to stress that this is not an attempt to lock in forever what the campus looks like right now. That’s not what a historic district is for. It establishes some standards and requires you to look very carefully at any change, and if changes need to be done to advance the University, they can, and we all understand that.”

While the toppling of Old Fraser Hall was a heartbreaking event, Slusser sees the real danger in forces far less dramatic than wrecking balls swinging from cranes. “It’s the little things here and there that very gradually start to add up to some significant loss,” he says. “Walking Jayhawk Boulevard today is a powerful experience because it’s such a special place with a combination of views and landscaping and buildings, and in the next 10 or 20 years it’s only going to get better.”

Jayhawk Boulevard’s largest construction project in recent memory, a four-consecutive-summer overhaul of streets, sidewalks and sanitary and storm sewers, is set to begin immediately after Commencement. Among the improvements will be the addition of underground catch basins to prevent heavy rains from eroding the hillsides while also allowing for percolation into the soil to nurture trees. Lots of trees. Big trees.

Planners envision a return of the canopy that once enveloped the boulevard until it was wiped out by Dutch Elm disease. The new trees will be drought and disease resistant, and, as another precaution, likely won’t be a single species, as were the beloved old elms. But the spirit of what once was will rise again, draping Jayhawk Boulevard in the comforting shade of its long history and hopes for a bright future.

“To me,” Farney says, “a civilization preserves the best of the past. We don’t just tear everything down every 50 or 100 years and start all over again. And I really see a university campus—at least an attractive one like KU—as an embodiment of American civilization.

“The historic district isn’t just about history, but a sense of place, and preserving that special sense of place that KU has and that just about every graduate shares.”

The Mount Oread revelation. Past, present and future.
Buildings, landmarks and landscapes dating from 1863 to 1951—including the five Jayhawk Boulevard buildings already listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Spooner, Dyche, Lippincott, Bailey and Strong halls—are considered primary “contributing resources” of the KU Historic District. Elements built or significantly altered after 1951—such as the Kansas Union, Chi Omega fountain and Spencer Museum of Art—are “non-contributing,” but the impact of any changes to those structures on the historic district would still have to be studied and approved. The University is currently preparing a historic district proposal for the east-slope scholarship halls, Danforth Chapel and the Outlook.
Association

Boost for legacies

Gilpin family gives $100,000 to benefit student recruitment

Jayhawks Howard and Helen Moore Gilpin of Iola always encouraged their children to continue the KU tradition begun by Helen’s parents, Roy and Birdie Greenough Moore. Roy had finished his bachelor’s degree in 1907, and Birdie earned two degrees at a time when few women finished or even attended college. After her 1906 bachelor’s degree, Birdie completed her master’s in mathematics in 1909, an accomplishment that always intrigued their granddaughter, Joan, who recently found her grandmother’s Jayhawk yearbooks.

Joan Gilpin Golden, b’67, still remembers visiting the Hill for a recruitment weekend during high school and spending the night in the residence halls. She and her brothers, Jim, b’72, and Ken, ’69, heeded the advice of their parents, who were devoted alumni; Howard, b’38, served on the Alumni Association’s national Board of Directors from 1984 to 1989, and Helen, c’38, volunteered for many KU events.

Their $100,000 bequest to the Association has established the Howard and Helen Gilpin Legacy Relations Fund to assist in recruiting students from KU families and offering support and guidance while they are on the Hill. The gift is part of Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas. “Going back to our grandparents, KU has played such a special role in our lives,” Joan says. “We look forward to the programs that will help students know how much KU welcomes them and wants them to succeed here.” Joan and her husband, Web, c’66, saw their KU tradition continue when their youngest daughter, Gretchen Golden Curtis, n’94, g’98, followed them to the Hill.

“Recruiting legacy students has long been a priority of the Alumni Association, as has been providing programs and support to ensure legacies succeed while on campus,” says Kevin J. Corbett, c’88, president. “We are truly grateful for the Gilpin family’s support.”

Last July, the Association created a new staff position devoted solely to legacy...
relations. Joy Larson Maxwell, c’03, j’03, leads the program, collaborating with the KU Office of Admissions to ensure students from Jayhawk families receive the personal touch. Among current students, 4,252—22 percent of undergraduates—boast KU heritage, and 214 have received and retained the Jayhawk Generations Scholarship, a three-tiered system of four-year, renewable tuition waivers for academically qualified out-of-state students from KU families (for details, visit jaygen.ku.edu).

Maxwell hosted a dinner last November for the current Jayhawk Generations scholars as part of her ongoing efforts to connect with legacy students during their KU years. Cassidy Ritter, a freshman from Aurora, Colo., said the scholarship settled her college choice. “Without this scholarship, I would not have had the privilege to attend KU,” she said. “Hearing that I had received this scholarship made my decision. Out-of-state tuition is very expensive and this scholarship helps a lot.”

The awards, which began in 2009, also tipped the scales in favor of KU for families like the Hovens of Chester, N.J. Janet Gorman Hoven, j’78, is a former Association national Board member with a long KU family tradition; her husband, Don, graduated from the University of Missouri. Their daughter, Kathryn, now a senior, was among the first class of Jayhawk Generations Scholars, and her brothers, Tom and Will, both sophomores, also received the tuition discount.

“Even though I knew I wanted to go to KU, I still had to think about MU,” Kathryn recalls, “but once the Jayhawk Generations Scholarship became available, it gave a little edge to KU. It made my mom so happy—it was killing her that Missouri offered scholarships for children of alumni.”

Maxwell has reached out to all prospective students who have been awarded the Jayhawk Generation Scholarship for this fall, as well as all admitted high school seniors from KU families in Kansas. With admissions colleagues, she hosts campus visits, including a February trip by Sydney Power, a high-school senior from Tampa, Fla., and the daughter of Scott and Wendi Florio Power, j’87. Father and daughter managed to arrive in Lawrence between two colossal snowstorms that closed campus. After the trip, Scott sent a note to the Association: “Sydney and I really enjoyed our visit. Joy was very helpful in getting our visit coordinated, and it went off without a hitch despite falling squarely between the two ‘Snowmageddons,’ ” he wrote. “Joy was a wealth of information and really made us feel at home.”

Alumni also extend hospitality in students’ hometowns. In January and February, Maxwell, Corbett and KU admissions staff members traveled to several cities where alumni hosted receptions for seniors who have been admitted to KU and their parents: Dana, b’56, and Sue Anderson, assoc., hosted an event in Los Angeles; Mark and Lori Anderson Piening, b’92, welcomed students and parents in Austin, Texas; Rick, c’77, l’80, and Robin Putnam shared their home with prospective KU families in Omaha, Neb.; and Tim, b’80, l’83, and Melanie Andersen Trump, b’80, l’83, hosted an event in Tulsa, Okla.

These efforts will continue to grow, thanks to the Gilpin fund. “The University was built by generations of legacy students and graduates for more than 100 years,” Corbett says. “The Gilpins have helped to ensure that being a KU legacy is a special honor and carries a great responsibility to further the involvement and support of those who have gone before them.”

Architects celebrate a century

The School of Architecture, Design and Planning will host a reunion April 26-27. The schedule includes:

**Friday, April 26**
- 9 a.m. to Noon: Welcome and Open House, Marvin Hall  
- 2 p.m.: Architecture Program 100th Birthday Party, Marvin Hall Lawn  
- 5:30 to 7 p.m.: Reception, Adams Alumni Center, Seymour Pub  
- 7-9 p.m.: Reunion Banquet, Kansas Union Ballroom

**Saturday, April 27**
- 9 a.m. to Noon: Open House  
- Noon: Alumni Lunch, Marvin Hall Lawn

Questions? Contact Patti Baker, assistant to the dean, at pmbaker@ku.edu or 785-864-3114
President Club

Bill and Anne Harlanske Blessing, Lewis and Laura Davis Gregory, and Jenny Hurst Gunter and Mike Gunter attended a Presidents Club reception Feb. 9 at Indian Hills Country Club in Prairie Village. The Gregorys were honored as winners of the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award for their longtime service to KU. Nick Sterner and Betsy Winetroub, the Association’s assistant director of Kansas City programs, helped honor the Gregorys. Association President Kevin Corbett welcomed Cory Lagerstrom and his son, David, to a Jan. 26 Presidents Club gathering at the Adams Alumni Center. Also attending the event for Association donors were Jean Fisher Briley, Cindy Ballard, fellow ‘Millie’ award-winner Butch Billips and Becky VanWyhe Thomas. The Presidents Club now includes 389 members, who collectively have contributed $500,000 to expand the Association’s programs and events to more than 500 annually; 80 percent of these relate to KU academic programs and student recruitment.
Drive in KU style.

Let everyone know you’re a Jayhawk (and proud of it) with an official KU license plate.

Proceeds from Kansas Jayhawk license plates directly support the Kansas Honors Program, which recognizes outstanding high school seniors throughout the state. Plates are also now available for Texas and Maryland!

Kevin Corbett, c’88, Alumni Association president, and Kyle Vann, e’69, The Woodlands, Texas, show off Vann’s new Texas plate. Doug, e’66, g’72, and Marilyn Stone Ashbrook, d’66, Gaithersburg, Md., proudly display their new Maryland plate.

For more information, visit www.kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

www.kualumni.org
New Staff

The Association recently welcomed several new staff members, including Kelsey Hill, c’12, alumni programs coordinator for national programs; Emily Ellison, c’11, alumni programs coordinator for operations; Jane Mahoney, j’13, digital media and marketing coordinator; Laura Stephens, ’08, assistant director of hospitality services; and Dan Storey, staff photographer and videographer.

Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Jan. 1 through Feb. 28. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

- Susan Rauscher Alexander
- Ronald L. Allen
- Susan Campbell Anderson
- Scott E. & Bernadette D. Ashcraft
- Bryan N. Becker
- John P. Biersmith
- Stanley A. & Cynthia Eckert Bowling
- Dylan D. & Ellen Kraus Bryant
- Gerald N. Capps Jr.
- Chip Chalmers
- Robert M. Chapman
- Katie J. Cheney
- Scott & Cheri L. Clatterbuck
- Zachary S. Coble
- Meredith D. Crenshaw
- David W. Crook
- Jean E. Daniels
- Cristobal J. DeLeon
- Steve M. & Gena Gunn Dillard
- Debra Dennis Duckworth
- Elizabeth C. Dufresne
- Robert B. Elliott
- Sean T. Foley
- Donald R. & Melissa Schneider Frew
- Kate E. Giessel
- Brian D. Glaser
- Jeffrey B. & Amy Batchelder Handlin
- Michael J. Happe & Shannon Fitzsimmons-Happe
- Sue Ketcham Heilborn
- Marc A. & Krista L. Hensel
- Michael L. & Lisa Gotham Hinson
- Timothy E. Hornik
- Melissa B. Howe
- Jeremiah J. Hull
- Daniel J. Hulse & Laura K. Hulse
- Robert J. Kaleal
- Daniel T. & Janet Lee Kelly
- John D. & Peggy Cobb Knudtson
- Michael J. & Jane Robinson Leach
- Michael C. Leeson
- Jeanmarie Will Lively
- Michelle E. McComb
Judy L. Ruedlinger Award Winners
Maggie Zehren, Olathe junior; Tyler Rockers, Greeley senior; and Matt Visser, a senior from Harker Heights, Texas, are this year’s winners of the Judy L. Ruedlinger Award for their service to the Student Alumni Association. The scholarship honors the memory of Ruedlinger, who founded SAA in 1987 and created the fund. All three students have served on the Student Alumni Leadership Board: Zehren is vice president for legacy recruitment, Rockers is past president and Visser is past vice president for alumni relations.

Everything we do strengthens KU. Your membership in the KU Alumni Association is the single most powerful way to make all of KU stronger, including the value of your own degree.

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- **CHAIR-ELECT**
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  Jeff Kennedy, j’81, Wichita
  Douglas C. Miller, b’71, 174, Mission Hills
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- **ALUMNI CENTER**
  Timothy E. Brandt, b’74, Director of Adams Alumni Center

- **ALUMNI, STUDENT & MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**
  Michael Davis, d’84, g’91, Senior Vice President for Alumni, Student and Membership Programs
  Nikki Epley, Director of Reunions and Affinity Programs
  Teri Harris, Director of Membership
  Danny Lewis, d’05, Director of Alumni Programs
  Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, Assistant Vice President for Alumni and Student Programs

- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  David Johnston, j’94, g’06, Director of Internet Services and Marketing
  Chris Lazzarino, j’86, Associate Editor, Kansas Alumni magazine
  Jennifer Sanner, j’81, Senior Vice President for Communications and Corporate Secretary
  Susan Younger, f’91, Creative Director

- **DEVELOPMENT**
  Angela Storey, b’04, g’07, Associate Development Director

- **FINANCE**
  Jodi Nachtigal, Controller
  Dwight Parman, Senior Vice President for Finance and Human Resources and Treasurer

- **HOSPITALITY SERVICES**
  Bryan Greve, Senior Vice President for Hospitality

- **LEGACY PROGRAMS**
  Joy Larson Maxwell, c’03, j’03, Director

- **RECORDS**
  Bill Green, Senior Vice President for Information Services
  Stefanie Shackelford, Vice President for Alumni Records
50 Albert Jackson Jr., b’50, is vice president of the Kansas Masonic Foundation. He and his wife, Vivian, live in Topeka.

52 William Bunten Sr., b’52, will complete nearly 40 years in public service when his term as mayor of Topeka ends in April. He served in the Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate before becoming mayor in 2005.

53 Alfred Scherer, c’53, m’57, wrote his memoirs, God’s Man: The Tales of a Reluctant Doctor, published by iUniverse. He is a retired physician in Morton, Texas.

55 Sir Robert Worcester, b’55, chancellor of the University of Kent, was appointed to a three-year term on the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She and her husband, Donald, g’78, live in Topeka.

58 Albert Steegmann Jr., c’58, received the 2012 Franz Boas Award from the Human Biology Association. He’s a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Buffalo, and he makes his home in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

63 James Clark, d’63, g’69, was elected to the Missouri High School Wrestling Hall of Fame in recognition of his years of coaching. He’s retired in Grandview.

64 Robert Dennett, c’64, g’66, is retired in Pearland, Texas, where he and his wife, Sally, make their home.

65 John Atkinson, c’65, m’69, joined the Biothera Research Advisory Board. He’s chief of rheumatology and a professor of medicine and molecular microbiology at Washington University in St. Louis.

66 Homer “Bud” Yazel III, d’66, received the Charlie Finch Distinquished Coach Award from the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association. He is counselor and assistant cross country and track coach at St. Mary’s High School in Independence, Mo.

67 Robert Green, f’67, serves on the board of Peoples Bank. He and his wife, Joyce, make their home in Ottawa.

68 Ronald Brown, g’68, designed the cover of the January issue of the College Mathematics Journal. He lives in Upper Black Eddy, Pa., with his wife, Josette.

Robert Nelson, c’68, g’69, PhD’84, endowed scholarships for students at KU’s Pearson and Miller scholarship halls as well as a unitrust to further enhance the scholarships. Robert and Lois Adams Nelson, c’78, live in Kennewick, Wash.

70 Jerold James, j’70, l’78, owns West Ridge Lanes in Topeka. He and his wife, Brenda Barrand, d’79, g’81, live in Overland Park.

Larry Leonard, d’70, l’74, owns Larry Leonard PC in Tulsa, Okla., where he and his wife, Marcia, make their home. He also chairs the board of regents for Tulsa Community College.

71 Ralph Wilson, j’71, wrote Illegal Woman (A Gypsy Love Story), published last fall. He and Susan Vance Wilson, c’65, g’67, live in Pasadena, Calif.

72 Sheila Pyle Biggs, n’72, was appointed to a four-year term on the North-Central Kansas Library System Board. She and her husband, Dennis, c’70, m’74, live in Abilene.

Wayne Gaul, c’72, g’83, has been elected 2013 chair of the American Board of Health Physics Part II Panel of Examiners. He is senior program manager for Tidewater in Columbia, S.C.

John Hachmeister, f’72, associate professor of art at KU, received the Phoenix Award for Exceptional Artistic Achievement from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission. He and his wife, Diane, live in Oskaloosa.

William McMurray, d’72, g’77, was invested as a Knight of Magistral Grace in the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta. He serves as a public administrator for Buchanan County and lives in St. Joseph, Mo., with his wife, Judy.

The Rev. Russell Ritchel Jr., c’72, serves as interim pastor of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples, Fla.

Beth Coble Simon, f’72, facilitates insights and innovation at Decision Analyst in Arlington, Texas, where she lives with her husband, Ken.
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73 Brian Bracco, j’73, is vice president and general manager of 41 Action News/KSHB TV in Kansas City. He and Sarah Wallace Bracco, d’74, live in Leawood. She teaches art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. David Meredith, f’73, owns Right Brain Graphic Design. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Lenexa.

Paul Moxley, l’73, was nominated to the board of governors of the American Bar Association. He practices law with Parsons Kinghorn Harris in Salt Lake City.

74 David Hunke, j’74, is chief strategy officer for Digerati Inc. He and Janet Gantz Hunke, ’78, make their home in Arlington, Va. Marilyn Metzler, d’74, retired last year after a 34-year career teaching high-school German. She received the Outstanding German Educator Award from the American Association of Teachers of German. Her home is in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Patricia Young Thies, d’74, received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson, a diversified global manufacturer and technology leader based in St. Louis. Patricia teaches at South Point Elementary School in Washington, Mo., where she and her husband, Bob, make their home.

Kathleen Turner, c’74, received a service award from the National Communication Association. She is a professor of communication studies at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C. She and her husband, Ray Sprague, live in Cornelius.

75 Gregg Barner, b’75, e’75, is retired from a career with Honeywell. He and Ceralynn Behm Barner, n’86, make their home in Overland Park.

Richard Schulte, f’75, g’78, owns Dayton Global Enterprises, an e-commerce drop shipping firm. He lives in Los Angeles.

Naomi Stuart, l’75, was appointed officer in charge of the National Labor Relations Board’s subregional office in Overland Park.

78 John Wine Jr., l’78, was named general counsel for the Kansas Insurance Commission. He and his wife, Ellen, live in Topeka.

80 Lucia Amsden, s’80, wrote Breaking Eggs: Finding New Meaning with Chronic Illness, which was published last year. She lives in Ramah, N.M.

Dennis Depew, b’80, f’83, practices law with Depew Law in Neodesha. Robert Gish, m’80, chairs the hepatitis B Clinical Advisory Board for Arrowhead Research Corp. and is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of California-San Diego. He lives in La Jolla.

Bill Graves, ’80, was named Executive of the Year by the National Industrial Transportation League. He is president and CEO of the American Trucking Association and a former Kansas governor. He makes his home in McLean, Va.

81 Steven Obermeier, j’81, c’82, is senior deputy district attorney in Johnson County. He and Lisa Stoner
Scott Roberts, c’82, m’86, practices medicine at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Plano.

Brian Boutwell, c’83, is a project manager and estimator for Cornejo & Sons in Wichita.

Joel Hutchins, m’83, practices medicine with Family Practice Associates in Holton.

David Walden-Berg, c’83, is an application coordinator specialist at KP Health-Connect in Pleasanton, Calif.

Timothy Collins, b’82, is chief executive officer of Wild Earth Market in Asheville, N.C., where he and his wife, Tiffany, make their home.

Pamela Boles Eglinski, g’82, wrote a novel, Mother’s Red Fingernail Polish, which was published last year. Her second novel, She Rides with Genghis Khan, will be published in April. Pam and her husband, Edmund, assoc., live in Lawrence.

Mark Hamrick, ’82, joined Bankrate.com as Washington bureau chief. He is past president of the National Press Club. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Potomac, Md.

Jo Ulery Jurgensen, h’82, directs health information management for the Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.

Mark Obermeier, ’82, live in Olathe.

David Reese, p’81, is associate director of Navigant Consultant Inc. in Centreville, Va.

David Vernon, j’81, lives in Dallas. He’s chief development officer and vice president of franchise sales at Wingstop in Richardson, Texas.

82

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82

‘Boddington Experience’ puts viewers in the hunt

Craig T. Boddington’s father required three things of him: Become an Eagle Scout, attend KU and earn a commission in the U.S. armed forces.

Craig accomplished all three—which Edward Boddington, c’47, l’48, had accomplished himself—and then nearly followed his father in a fourth endeavor.

“I was admitted to KU law twice,” says Boddington, who declined the first time in order to fulfill his ROTC commitment to the Marines. The second time, in 1979, he had finished five years of active duty and Robert Petersen, founder of the Petersen magazine empire, had just offered him a job.

“I talked to Dad, and he said, ‘You know, son, you’re gonna be working a long time. Sounds to me like you’ve got a chance to do something you want to do that’s gonna be a lot of fun. I think you ought to do it.’”

For Boddington, c’74, it was a dream come true. He started hunting behind bird dogs while growing up in Kansas City, began submitting articles to outdoor magazines in high school and sold his first piece while at KU after collecting “a boxcar load of rejection notices.” He took the job, and only two years later was editor of Petersen’s Hunting, a giant among outdoor magazines.

His byline has since become one of the most recognizable in the field, topping more than 3,000 stories and 19 books about hunting and shooting around the world.

“I took Dad’s advice,” Boddington says, “and I’ve never regretted it.”

In the past decade he branched into television, hosting or co-hosting several outdoor shows, many highlighting his love of African plains hunting. His newest, “The Boddington Experience,” which debuted in June on Sportsman Channel, is a chance to get back to the outdoor pursuit he loves best: everything.

“I was becoming branded as the Africa guy, and I didn’t want that, because I love it all,” he says. “I love my Kansas whitetail hunting, too. Ultimately we all end up returning to our roots.”

For the California-based Boddington, that has meant buying land in southeast Kansas, where he plants food plots for deer and is renovating a farm building to house the many trophy mounts he has collected over the years.

Boddington retired from the Marine Corps Reserve as a colonel in 2005. Between a military life that spanned the 1975 evacuation of Saigon to the wars in the Persian Gulf, and a TV career that allows him to hunt in Europe, Asia, Africa and much of North America, he has seen a good bit more of the world than he imagined as a boy growing up in Kansas.

He looks forward to sharing some of his favorite destinations with viewers of his new show.

His most memorable hunt is “either the last one or the next one,” Boddington says. “I just love it.”
Class Notes

**84 Geoffrey Blatt, m’84**, is a partner in the Kansas City law firm Midwest Neurosurgery Associates. He and his wife, Ronda, live in Overland Park.

**Christina Connell Stanga, c’84, m’91**, practices psychiatry with the Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wis. She and her husband, **James, m’91**, live in Neillsville.

**Douglas Cunningham, j’85**, is associate publisher and editor of the Putnam County News & Recorder in Cold Spring, N.Y. He lives in Milford, Pa.

**Nancy Stoetzer Mays, j’85, c’86**, directs public affairs and communications for the Johnson County Manager’s Office. She lives in Shawnee with her husband, Keith.

**Sandra Stewart Worm, j’85**, recently became vice president of Mudlick Mail in Acworth, Ga.

**86 Gerard Armoury, d’86**, a U.S. Army master sergeant, served on the Joint Task Force National Capital Region in support of the 57th Presidential Inauguration, which coordinated all military ceremonial support for the inaugural period. He lives in Springfield, Va., with his wife, Catherine.

**Patrick Brough Jr., c’86**, is marketing promotion adviser for John Deere & Company. He and his wife, Annie, live in De Soto.

**Andres Carvallo, c’86**, is executive vice president and chief strategy officer for Proximetry. He lives in Austin, Texas.

**Lynn Kingsley, j’86**, works as a real-estate sales consultant with Re/Max First Realtors. She lives in Overland Park.

**Christopher Tilden, c’86, g’92**, directs community health for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department in Lawrence, where he and his wife, Katherine, make their home.

**87 Scott Diel, b’87**, wrote the libretto for a financial opera that dramatizes a Twitter feud between economist Paul Krugman and Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves. He and his wife, Janika, live in Searcy, Ark.

**Terence Robertson, c’87, m’91**, is an anesthesiologist at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia, Mo.

**Stephen Sullivan, PhD’87**, is a partner in the New York City intellectual property law firm of Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto.

**88 Marion Bollig Jr., g’88**, works as a reporter and photographer for The Leaven in Kansas City. He and his wife, Linda, live in Baldwin City.

**89 Grant Burgoyne, l’89**, was elected last fall to his third term in the Idaho House of Representatives. He also is managing partner of the Boise law firm of Mauk & Burgoyne.

**Anne Johnson, c’89**, recently became director of development for the San Francisco Symphony. She and her husband, **Chris Hepp**, assoc., make their home in Santa Clara.

**Katheryn Spalding McWard, c’89**, practices law with the law firm of Debra Schuster in St. Louis, where she...
and her husband, Douglas, c’86, live.

James Starr, c’90, coordinates projects for Systems Integration Solutions. He lives in Affton, Mo.

Scott Branton, a’91, is an architect with Spur Design in Kansas City.

Linda Moshier, f’91, performed with Nobody’s Business Trio in December at the Iridium Jazz Club in New York City, where she lives.

Christopher Palmer, c’91, is executive director of Cornerstone of Topeka.

Sarah Phillips Tidwell, g’91, received the 2012 President’s Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment from the Kansas State Nurses Association. She’s an assistant professor of nursing at Emporia State University.

Carey Mills Federspiel, d’92, is a self-employed children’s author and illustrator. She and her husband, Fred, live in Larchmont, N.Y.

Allan Hayton, c’92, was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Doyon Foundation. He is completing a master’s of arts in applied linguistics at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Elizabeth Phelps, g’92, is director of KanCare Interagency Coordination and Contract Mentoring at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Topeka, where she lives.

Jeffrey Bridgforth, a’93, works as front-end developer at Easy Designs. He and Anne Glidewell Bridgforth, g’93, live in Orlando, Fla.

Daniel Deaver, e’93, directs manufacturing for Georgia Gulf Sulfur Corporation.

Sarah Phillips Tidwell, g’91, received the 2012 President’s Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment from the Kansas State Nurses Association. She’s an assistant professor of nursing at Emporia State University.

Cara Busenhart, director of the KU School of Nursing’s nurse-midwifery program, says Gordon has provided valuable lessons and experience for students as an adjunct instructor and preceptor, accepting students into her clinical practice to teach skills in women’s health, primary care, gynecology, delivery, postpartum and newborn care. “Without Cathy’s support and willingness to accept students, our program would suffer tremendously,” Busenhart says. “New Birth Company provides excellent out-of-hospital birth experiences for our nurse-midwifery students—often the only out-of-hospital experience that they will get.”

Gordon says she hopes to see her birth center model replicated across the country. “I like to get things started and then pass them over to other people to run,” she says.

She has done the same for Kansas City’s Mercy & Truth Medical Missions, which she founded in 1994 after a mission trip to Mexico inspired her to treat those who could not afford health care.

With the help of her family and church, she created Mercy & Truth, a nonprofit, family-practice medical center for the uninsured. “We started the first clinic in Johnson County, which everybody thought was stupid,” Gordon says. “But Johnson County has the highest number of uninsured people in our state, so it’s not stupid—it’s just an affordable way to do health care.” The center now includes three locations in the Kansas City area.

Mercy & Truth also sends health care providers around the world. Gordon’s son, Matt, c’09, took over as executive director in 2010, freeing his mother to begin New Birth Company.

Gordon says she owes her healing gifts to her faith. “Without faith we’re just worker bees. What a great opportunity we have as health care providers to love and to serve.”

In addition to caring for mothers and babies, Gordon, here with granddaughter Iliana “Lala” Rose Lopez, wrote All Babies are Born, a 2011 book that chronicles the birth stories of 12 babies and mothers in nine countries.
in Valdosta, where he and Laura Gwilliam-Deaver, c’91, g’94, make their home.

Julie Porter Borsari, c’94, teaches at Jordan Elementary School and was recognized as the Lowell Joint School District Teacher of the Year and one of 16 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year. She lives in Fullerton.

Christopher Carter, f’94, was named chief executive officer of PDIX International in Houston.

Jason Haney, c’94, is a corporate trainer and performance consultant with Black & Veatch. He and Janice Khongmaly Haney, n’95, live in Gardner.

William Horton, b’94, teaches allied health at Hutchinson Community College.

Kurt Warnke, c’94, manages real estate for DKMallon in Wheaton, Ill. He and his wife, Laura, live in Elmhurst.

Lindsey Williams, f’94, g’99, an associate professor of music education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, received a Fulbright Scholar Award to lecture and do research at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. His home is in Lawrence.

Jason Patchen, b’95, is vice president and regional distribution manager for ACE USA in Overland Park, where he and Danica Hansen Patchen, d’94, g’01, make their home.

John Whitmer, ’95, was appointed to a four-year term on the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. He lives in Wichita.

BORN TO:

Cynthia Cogil, e’95, and Oliver Baumann, son, Nikolai Valentin Baumann, July 20 in Washington, D.C., where he joins a sister, Sasha, 3. Cindy is a principal at SmithGroup Inc.

Greg Gurley, b’96, directs development for Kansas Athletics’ Williams Education Fund and is an announcer for the Jayhawk Radio Network. He and Amy O’Neal Gurley, d’96, live in Leawood.

Braden Hopkins, j’96, is president of SC Fuels Trading in Park City, Utah.

Edward Lief, c’96, works as an agent for Liberty Mutual Insurance in Lake Oswego, Ore. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Donald.

Elizabeth Long, c’96, joined the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a KanCare integrated-quality monitor. She lives in Mayetta.

Melissa Miller Ringhausen, g’96, has been inducted into the Ottawa University Athletic Hall of Fame. She’s head coach of the McKendree University women’s basketball program in Lebanon, Ill. Melissa and her husband, Lance, live in O’Fallon.

Shauna Roche, b’96, was named to the board of the New Mexico Society of Certified Public Accountants. She lives in Farmington, where she’s a partner in Chandler & Co.

BORN TO:

Amanda Warren Martin, f’96, and David, b’97, daughter, Amelia Jane, Oct. 22 in Lawrence, where they live. Amanda is
Jayhawk Generations is now Future Jayhawks!
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an illustrator and designer with Amanda Warren Graphic Design, and David is a tax manager at Sprint Nextel.

**97** Stuart Canning, g’97, is chief development officer for the United Way of the Bay Area in San Francisco, where he lives.

William “Bo” Ferguson, g’97, recently became deputy city manager of Durham, N.C.

April Broussard Giles, s’97, is president and chief executive officer of the Colorado BioScience Association in Denver, where she and her husband, Gregory, c’96, make their home.

John Olander, g’97, is vice president and general manager of transmission and distribution at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

**98** Scott Garrie, ’98, is director of parks and recreation for the city of Nixa, Mo.

Christie Humphries, j’98, is an account executive at KMBC/KCWE TV in Kansas City. She lives in Overland Park.

Robert Salyer, f’98, is a partner in the Elko, Nev., law firm of Wilson Barrows Salyer & Jones.

Born to:

Stacey Scott Rinnert, c’98, and John, c’13, daughter, Megan Grace, Oct. 8 in Lawrence, where she joins a brother, Gabriel, 5. Stacey manages projects at KU’s Information Technology Services, where John is a media producer.

**99** Thomas Aldous Jr., f’99, is a partner at William Mullen in Richmond, Va. He and his wife, Amber, live in Charlottesville.

Mitchell Janasek, m’99, practices medicine at the Banner Health Center in Loveland, Colo.

Tara Mobray Ruff, c’99, manages quality assurance and is regulatory and IRB coordinator at QPS-BioKinetics. She and her husband, Kevin, PhD’01, live in Springfield, Mo.

Born to:

Paul, f’99, and Callie Shultz Castro, b’01, g’03, son, Louis Paul, July 2 in Shawnee, where he joins two sisters, Mia, 6, and Sophia, 4. Paul directs user experience at Front Flip LLC.

Kalletta Ebbs Caldwell, b’00, manages customer experience for Sprint Nextel in Overland Park. She recently finished 12th in the World Triathlon Grand Final in Auckland, New Zealand, where she had the third-fastest run time.

William Newton, c’00, is a communications specialist at James Madison University Health Center. He and Jennifer Ryan Newton, c’00, g’01, PhD’12, live in Harrisonburg, Va.

Mary Ann Saunders, f’00, won a Phoenix Award for Volunteer in the Arts
Test pilot pushes Citation to record speed, safely

The flight path that took Aaron Tobias from his private pilot’s license, earned while he was in high school in Lyons, to the command seat for the first test flights of Cessna’s high-speed Citation X, pointed directly through KU’s aerospace engineering program—not, as Tobias first envisioned, the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Swayed by scholarships and the opportunity to attend college with his girlfriend—now his wife of 13 years, Kimberly Semmel Tobias, d’02—Tobias, e’01, g’05, realized that the military was not his only option for a high-speed career in aviation.

“When an area of interest sends you in one direction, you shoot for the top,” he says, “and all the doors open below that. Then you can pick which one you want.”

Following his second year at KU, Tobias landed an internship in advanced design with Cessna in Wichita, but after a summer spent crunching numbers, he realized on his second-to-last day that he had yet to even see a real airplane.

“At that point,” Tobias says, “I knew there was something wrong.”

The next summer, Tobias requested an internship in flight test engineering, and there he discovered a unique benefit: a Cessna flight club offering rentals of nearly new airplanes for the cost of fuel.

“I became aware that Cessna had a bit of a unique situation, where a majority of the test pilots were what we refer to now as ‘home-grown,’” Tobias says. “They were training on their own in the company flying club, and then with their technical engineering expertise, they were given opportunities.”

Tobias joined Cessna’s flight-test engineering department in 2002, and over the next three years earned his flight instructor’s certificate and a KU graduate degree with an emphasis in flight test. Now an engineering test pilot, Tobias was designated the command pilot for the new Citation X, designed to push the original model’s top speed from Mach .92—92 percent the speed of sound—to Mach .935, making it the world’s fastest non-military aircraft.

In order to earn the safety certification, Tobias had to push his Citation X “basically right up against 1.0” to prove the aircraft’s worthiness in an overspeed emergency, such as a dive.

Tobias and his colleagues shared highlights of their near-Mach testing at the Society of Experimental Test Pilots’ annual meeting, for which they won the group’s prestigious Ray Tenhoff Award as the symposium’s outstanding technical paper.

“We’ve come up with some new techniques for dive testing, and I’m pleased to say that Cessna senior management sees the safety benefit to the industry as a whole.

“It’s always a challenge to carve the proprietary data out, but you can still communicate an effective message, which is focused almost entirely on safety.”
Class Notes

commander in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Amy, live in Norfolk, Va.

Kyle Richards, g’02, PhD’11, is a supervisory senior analyst at Kearney & Company in Alexandria, Va., where he and Briana Donovan Richards, ’13, make their home.

MADE
Nicholas Dawson, d’03, to Amber Ferguson, Aug. 4 in Ludlow, Vt. He works for ESPN in Bristol, Conn., and she works for Staywell Health Center in Waterbury. Their home is in Southington.

BORN TO:
Mahalley Allen, g’03, PhD’05, and Cory Turner, son, Ethan William Allen Turner, Oct. 23 in Chico, Calif., where Mahalley is an associate professor of political science at California State University.

Misti Boland Osbern, c’03, and Jeremy, c’04, son, Roman Lee, Oct. 19 in Lawrence. Misti is a freelance production designer and artist, and Jeremy owns Through A Glass Productions.

Regan Carrizales, c’04, g’06, was hired by Silicon Prairie News in Omaha, Neb., to work as a community builder.

Jason Fraser, c’04, serves as a management officer with the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife, Alison.

Catesby Major, s’04, l’04, was elected a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Bryan Cave.

Kyle Vena, d’04, has been promoted to assistant director of player development for the Kansas City Royals.

Abby Coble, p’03, works as a pharmacist at Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital in Topeka. She lives in Lawrence.

Philip Ehret, ’03, is a contract administrator at Black & Veatch in Overland Park. His home is in Lawrence.

Scott Gootee, b’03, l’05, became a partner in the Kansas City office of Stinson Morrison Hecker.

Courtney Deutsch Gruber, b’03, is an assistant vice president of college stores at Neebo. She and her husband, Charles, b’02, g’04, live in Golden, Colo. He’s project manager for Markit on Demand.

Sarah Millin, l’03, has been elected a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Lathrop & Gage. They make their home in Overland Park.

Ashlee Marshall, c’05, to Blair Teater, May 19 in Leawood. They both work for the Cerner Corporation in Kansas City.
Wilson also explores the power of the mind and chocolate's placebo effect. Biomedical evidence does not support that there is an addictive nature to the primary ingredients of chocolate, “yet, I have never spoken to an audience where more than half does not claim to be addicted,” Wilson says. “Chocoholics” are many, but few deny the restorative qualities of chocolate, and Chocolate as Medicine proves it’s not just good advertising.

“History plays itself out,” he says. “What once stood as fact gets a little gray as we come to learn a little more, and things don’t always quite work the way we had come to understand.”

Wilson learned the importance history plays in medicine during his KU undergraduate career in biology, when he researched past experiments. He went on to obtain a master’s in the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate in the history of science (medicine) at the University of London.

Looking to the past to improve modern health care is key to Wilson’s proudest accomplishment: directing the Doctors Kienle Center for Humanistic Medicine at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, where professionals from medical, nursing and public health departments treat patients through integrative medicine, healing arts such as visual arts and music, and education on end-of-life care. “It takes a lot more time per patient than we see in the normal clinical setting, but I think many of us feel this is the ultimate best endpoint,” Wilson says.

He hopes the Kienle Center improves communication lines between physicians and patients. “We understand as a society that there are some things that are beyond our knowledge right now to completely cure,” Wilson says. “But patients want comfort, professionally delivered—for physicians to be human with them, to pat them on the back or hold their hand, give them a hug, cry with them or laugh with them.”

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07  Justin Ballinger, d’07, is principal at the Medicus Firm in Dallas, where he and his wife, Kara, make their home. Dustin Duey, p’07, is a clinical pharmacist at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Ill.

MARRIED
  Jennifer Braley, b’07, g’09, to Matthew Engler, June 9 in Kansas City. She is an occupational therapist at MidAmerica Rehabilitation Hospital in Overland Park, and he teaches in Shawnee Mission.
  Amy Huber, g’07, to Richard Moritz, Oct. 6 in Kansas City.
  Jess Randall, c’07, m’12, and Callie Penzler, d’08, g’13, June 7 in Beaver Creek, Colo. He is a pediatrics resident at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and she teaches fifth grade in Tempe. Their home is in Phoenix.

BORN TO:
  Kimberly Duensing Hardouin, d’07, g’10, and Brian, t’09, son, Stephen, Nov. 19 in Loveland, Colo. Kim teaches sixth-grade language arts and social studies at Heath Middle School in Greeley, and Brian is a deputy district attorney with the Larimer County District Attorney’s Office.

08  Felicia Fairley, c’08, competed in the Miss California USA pageant representing the city of Compton.
  John Harrenstein, g’08, serves as city administrator in Eudora.

MARRIED
  Laura Berry, d’08, g’11, to Michael Brogdon, Oct. 26 in Overland Park. She teaches math in Shawnee Mission, and he’s an instrument technician for Specialty Medical Systems.
  Elizabeth Blomquist, c’08, and Alejandro Gonzalez, c’09, Oct. 13 in Kansas City, where they live. He’s a school psychologist with Lawrence USD 497, and she’s a student at the Cleveland Chiropractic College.
  Melissa Horen, c’08, to Jake Kaplan, July 1 in Kansas City. Melissa directs leadership management for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Atlanta, where they live.
  Travis Lower, c’08, to Jannell Hoffman, Oct. 27 in Lawrence, where they live.
  Travis works for Freightquote.com in Lenexa, and Jannell works at Associates in Dentistry in Lawrence.
  Lauren Miller, b’08, g’09, to Brandon Schomberg, Oct. 13 in Iowa City, Iowa. Lauren works at Datacard Group in Minnetonka, Minn., and Brandon works at Twin Cities Orthopedics in Edina. They live in Minneapolis.

BORN TO:
  Ellie Lloyd Heath, b’08, g’09, and Christopher, daughter, Reagan Grace, June 18 in Overland Park. Ellie is a federal tax senior associate at KPMG in Kansas City.
  Beau, c’08, and Ashley Trent Winfrey, d’09, daughter, Charley Nicole, Nov. 18 in Eudora, where they live. Beau works for Farmers Insurance in Olathe, and Ashley is a receptionist at Lawrence Family Vision Clinic.

09  Matthew Baker, a’09, g’11, is assistant regional planner for the Maryland State Highway Administration. He lives in Baltimore.
  Rachel Burchfield, j’09, coordinates
Class Notes

Greek affairs at the University of Mississippi. She lives in Oxford.

Karen Collier, b’09, is corporate counsel at NexLearn in Wichita.

Jeff Deters, j’09, edits sports copy at the Topeka Capital-Journal.

Keith Guertin, b’09, works as a financial advisor at Cornerstone Financial Advisors in Overland Park. He lives in Kansas City.

Brian Schneweis, j’09, c’09, coordinates communications for KU’s Office of Admissions. He lives in Lenexa.

Christopher Trepinski, f’09, appeared last fall in the 300th episode of Law & Order: SVU. He lives in New York City, where he works as an actor.

MARRIED

Jessica Smith, d’09, to Russell Beach, Oct. 6 in Tonganoxie. She is a sales and customer-service manager at Antigen Laboratories in Liberty, Mo., and he is a foreman electrician at Capital Electric of Kansas City. They live in Tonganoxie.

Zachary White, j’10, won first place in the Inland Press Association’s Newsroom Contest for his personality profile, Train Kids. He is a reporter for the Havre Daily News in Havre, Mont.

MARRIED

Kelsey Eriksen, b’10, to Jim Barnes, Sept. 29 in Lawrence, where they live. Kelsey is a development assistant at KU Endowment, and Jim is a self-employed musician and music producer.

David Hardy, g’11, is senior vice president and commercial market leader for UMB Bank. He lives in Jenks, Okla.

Cassie Rupp, j’11, coordinates marketing and events for Barracuda Networks. She lives in Los Gatos, Calif.

Katie Savage, g’11, wrote Whirlybirds and Ordinary Times: Reflections on Faith and the Changing of Seasons, which was published last year. She makes her home in Kansas City.

Michelle Scott-Young, n’11, works as an intensive-care unit nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka.

10

Aaron Whitesell, b’11, is a financial analyst at Textron. He and Megan Adams Whitesell, b’12, live in Montoursville, Pa. Megan works for PlattForm Advertising.

MARRIED

Jill Ethridge, c’11, to John Gillett, Nov. 3 in Topeka. Jill is a law clerk at Gillett Law in Chanute, and they live in Fredonia.

12 Julia Barnard, c’12, is a Repair the World professional at Texas Hillel in Austin, where she and her husband, Jordan Wade, g’12, make their home.

Joan Rhodes Benson, n’12, is an orthopedic clinic nurse manager at Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City. She lives in Shawnee.

Kyle Burns, d’12, manages arena tours for Feld Motor Sports in Fort Worth, Texas.

Erin Carlson, j’12, coordinates accounts for Kuhn & Wittenborn in Kansas City.

Courtney Burns Havens, b’12, is marketing director at Ross Brown Partners in Scottsdale, Ariz. She and her husband, Derek, live in Phoenix.

Tyler Hillmer, e’12, is an engineer in training at Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers. He lives in Goodland.

Kristin Maun, l’12, is an AmeriCorps equal justice works legal fellow for the Veterans’ Legal Project at Legal Aid of West Virginia in Martinsburg.

Holly Medlen, n’12, is a nurse with Olathe Health Systems in Paola.

Kathleen Nugent, b’12, works as an accountant for Koch Business Solutions in Wichita.

Jonathan Shorman, j’12, covers the statehouse beat and local politics for the Springfield News-Leader in Missouri.

Ryan Stein, b’12, works as a consultant for Microsoft. He lives in Charlotte, N.C.

MARRIED

Evan Bargnesi, g’12, to Laura Alford, Sept. 22 in Lawrence. They both work for Occidental Petroleum in Bakersfield, Calif., where they live.

Jordan Wright, c’12, to Amanda Haas, Sept. 22 in Lawrence. They live in Wichita, where he is a computer technician at Best Buy and she’s an attorney at Morris Laing Evans Brock & Kennedy.
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In Memory

20s Thelma NeView Hollowell, c’29, 103, Sept. 26 in Leavenworth, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by two daughters, Louise Hollowell Jones, c’65, and Janice, d’68; two grandsons; and a great-grandson.

30s Helen Moore Gilpin, c’38, 96, Nov. 21 in Iola, where she was active in church and community affairs. She is survived by a daughter, Joan Gilpin Golden, b’67; two sons, James, b’72; and Howard “Ken,” ’69; nine grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Eldon Sloan, c’31, 103, Dec. 16 in Topeka, where he practiced with the law firm of Sloan, Hamilton & Sloan. He is survived by two sons, John, c’57, and Paul, c’61; a daughter, Mary Sloan Mozingo, c’63; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

40s Lida “Betty” Fincham Aenchbacher, ’45, 89, Aug. 27 in Wichita. She is survived by her husband, Gene; two sons, one of whom is Arthur Jr., b’70; a daughter, Cathy Aenchbacher Songer, ’71; a brother; and two granddaughters.

Bill Belden, c’49, 86, Dec. 26 in Lincoln, Neb., where he retired from a 47-year career with Franklin Life Insurance. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, assoc.; a son, Scott, ’83; three stepsons, two of whom are Steven Sutton, f’82, and Robert Sutton, ’67; a sister, Barbara Beldon Miller, ’77; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Donald Burnett, e’48, 94, Nov. 11 in Deer Trail, Colo. He is survived by his wife, Martha, assoc.; a son; and a daughter.

Eugene Conklin II, c’49, m’52, 88, in Dubuque, Iowa, where he practiced pediatrics at Medical Associates. Surviving are his wife, Marilyn Steinert Conklin, j’49; a son; a daughter; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Evon Connell Jr., c’47, 88, Jan. 10 in Santa Fe, N.M., where he was an author. He is best known for his novels, Mrs. Bridge and Mr. Bridge, and his acclaimed Custer biography, Son of the Morning Star. He is survived by a sister, Barbara Connell Zimmerman, ’50.

Quentin Cramer, c’40, m’43, 93, May 10 in Kansas City, where he was a retired rheumatologist. His wife, Esther Robinson Cramer, n’43; and two sons survive.

James “Bob” Groff, b’41, in Anchorage, Alaska, where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by a daughter, Kyle Groff Rader, c’74; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Charles Medlock, e’49 p’61, 86, Nov. 4 in Bartlesville, Okla., where he was a retired pharmacist. He is survived by his wife, Mary McNalley Medlock, ’51; three sons, one of whom is Patrick, c’82; a daughter; two brothers; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Donna Stember Meyer, n’46, 88, April 8 in Chula Vista, Calif. She is survived by her husband, John; a son; a daughter; and two sisters, Beverly Stember West, d’49, and Muriel Stember Hannig, c’46.

Audene Faussett Miller, d’42, 92, Nov. 9 in Olathe. She is survived by three sons, Stephen, c’68, p’70, Thomas, b’69, and David, ’76; two sisters, one of whom is Carolee Faussett Hieber, ’47; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Cora Hepworth Myers, c’41, 93, Dec. 22 in Cora, Okla., where she was a retired teacher, librarian and school administrator. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Richard, c’69; a sister, Eugenia Hepworth Berger, d’46; and two granddaughters.

Leone Hoffman Park, c’40, 93, Oct. 8 in Prairie Village, where she was a retired executive president at UMB Bank. She is survived by a son, John Jr., c’68; a daughter, Daisy Park MacDonald, ’83; two grandsons; and a great-grandson.

William Reno Jr., b’48, 93, Dec. 17 in Leawood. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is William III, b’71; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Charles Rossman, e’49, 86, Nov. 6 in Ardmore, Okla., where he was retired from a career in the oil industry. He is survived by his wife, Brunhilde, a daughter, five sons, a brother, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Madison “Al” Self, e’43, 91, Jan. 13 in Hinsdale, Ill., where he founded Allen Financial. He was a recipient of KU’s Distinguished Service Citation, and in 2010 he was recognized as a life trustee of KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Lila Reetz Self, ’43. They established the Self Engineering Leadership Fellows program at KU and the Self Graduate Fellowship. Two grandsons also survive.

John Selton, b’47, 89, Dec. 30 in Shawnee Mission, where he was retired from the Celotex Corp. He is survived by three sons, Mark, ’70, John, ’77, and Thomas, c’87; a daughter; a sister, Katherine Shelton Jones, ’52; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert Sheppard, c’43, m’45, 91, Nov. 24 in Smith Center, where he was a surgeon at Smith Center Medical Group, which he founded. He is survived by his wife, Eda Jean, assoc.; a daughter, Debra Sheppard Evangelidis, n’70; two sons, Robert, c’71, and David, c’76; a sister, Maxine Sheppard Bowman, assoc.; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Ben Spencer, b’47, 89, March 19 in Wichita, where he had been a CPA for Fox & Company. He is survived by a daughter, Margaret Spencer Schmitz, d’68; and a son, Robert, c’71, c’72, g’74, Ph.D’78.

Shirley Hoyt Von Ruden, c’49, h’51, 85, Aug. 11 in Hutchinson, where she worked for Harris News Service and was former president of the Hutchinson Community College Endowment Board. She is survived by a son; a daughter, Libby Von Ruden Doann, n’77; a sister, Suzanne Hoyt Marquis, c’53; and six grandchildren.

Harold Wray, b’41, 93, Nov. 14 in Lawrence, where he was retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s computer center. He is survived by a daughter, Barbara Wray Dickerson, ’77; two sons, Michael, c’73, b’76, g’77, and Mark, b’76; a sister, Frieda Wray Culbertson, ’48; and four grandchildren.
Joyce Nickell Attwood, ’53, 82, Nov. 11 in Spokane, Wash., where she was a jewelry designer. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, c’51, m’59; two daughters; a son; a brother, Wendell Nickell, c’46, m’60; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Russell Ettenhouser III, c’55, m’59, 78, Jan. 2 in Kansas City, where he was a retired pediatrician. He is survived by his wife, Marie Taylor Ettenhouser, assoc.; a daughter; two sons, Russell IV, c’85, and William, c’89; and four grandchildren.

Fligg Frame, c’83; a son, William, ’91; and four grandchildren.

Marilyn Hentzler Peters, d’53, 84, Oct. 12 in Glasco, where she helped establish Glasco Medical Clinic. She is survived by her husband, Claude, c’51, m’55; a son, Larry, ’80; a daughter; two grandchildren; and two stepgrandchildren.

Rose Campbell Heine, d’59, 75, Nov. 9 in Wheat Ridge, Colo., where she was a retired teacher. Surviving are a son, Jeffrey St. John, ’10; a daughter, Suellen St. John Eichman, c’89; a sister; and a grandson.

Robert Howard, b’54, 87, Oct. 10 in Overland Park, where he was retired from a career with Sears, Roebuck and Co. He is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn, assoc.; a daughter; two sons; and four grandchildren.

Paul Johnston, e’57, 78, Nov. 22 in Lawrence, where he worked for Farmland Industries and the Cooperative Farm Chemical Association. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Griffith Johnston, assoc.; three sons; and four grandchildren.

Peterborough, N.H. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; two sons; two sisters; a brother, Hugh, c’49, m’52, and Stan, c’45; and 13 grandchildren.

James Zimmerman, e’51, 84, Nov. 16 in Topeka, where he was former project manager for the Topeka Engineering Department. He is survived by a son, James, assoc.; a daughter; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Wallace Dean Barnes, d’63, 72, Nov. 30 in Garland, Texas, where he was former district manager for Kellogg Sales Company. While at KU, he played football as a tackle, guard and place kicker. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; five sons; two brothers; two sisters, one of whom is Shirley Barnes Welch, assoc.; and 11 grandchildren.

Dennis Barritt, b’68, l’71, 66, Nov. 10 in Lawrence, where he owned Westridge Development Co. and had been vice president of Lawrence National Bank. A daughter; a son; two sisters; a brother, David, ’76; and two grandsons survive.

Shirley Hutchason Boersma, d’60, 74, Dec. 8 in Leawood. She is survived by her husband, Cornelius III, b’60; two sons, one of whom is David, b’87; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Marjorie Van Horne Denes, g’65, 89, June 16 in Mission, where she was a former speech pathologist. She is survived by five sons, two daughters, 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

William Faeth, c’63, 82, Dec. 21 in Concord, N.H. He practiced surgery in Kansas City for many years and later opened the Wound Healing Center in Peterborough, N.H. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Quick Woods, n’55, PhD’89; four sons, three of whom are Dennis, c’82, m’86, Donald, c’85, and Tom, b’87; a daughter; three stepdaughters; two brothers, Hugh, c’49, m’52, and Stan, c’45; and 13 grandchildren.

James Miller, c’56, 77, June 15 in Kansas City. He had been a professional with the Boy Scouts of America and later worked as a financial planner. Surviving are his wife, Helen, two daughters and three grandchildren.

James “J.F.” O’Malley II, m’54, 91, Dec. 20 in Leawood, where he practiced urology for many years. He is survived by his wife, Marybeth; three sons, three of whom are James III, g’73, Patrick, g’75, and Terence, g’84; two daughters; 19 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Hentzler Peters, d’53, 81, Nov. 10 in Topeka, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by a daughter, Karen Jaquith Voth, d’81, g’83; and two grandchildren.

James Salyer, p’58, l’73, 76, Dec. 30 in Lawrence, where he practiced law and had owned Round Corner Drug. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a daughter; a brother, d’80; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Virgil Schmidberger, ’51, 86, Nov. 11 in Lawrence, where he started Lawrence Decorating Service. He is survived by a son, Gary, c’71; a daughter, Cathy Schmidberger Raddatz, j’76; a brother; a sister; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Robert Schroff, b’51, 83, Feb. 7, 2012, in Springfield, Mo., where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Grace; three sons; four brothers, three of whom are Carl, c’52, m’59, Charles, c’54, m’57, and James, p’66; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Samuel Woods, c’52, m’55, 82, Dec. 21 in Concord, N.H. He practiced surgery in Kansas City for many years and later opened the Wound Healing Center in Peterborough, N.H. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Quick Woods, n’55, PhD’89; four sons, three of whom are Dennis, c’82, m’86, Donald, c’85, and Tom, b’87; a daughter; three stepdaughters; two brothers, Hugh, c’49, m’52, and Stan, c’45; and 13 grandchildren.

Robert Schroff, b’51, 83, Feb. 7, 2012, in Springfield, Mo., where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Grace; three sons; four brothers, three of whom are Carl, c’52, m’59, Charles, c’54, m’57, and James, p’66; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
In Memory

Niewald, f’64, survives.

David Kerr, b’64, 70, Dec. 16 in Overland Park, where he was a retired systems analyst for Yellow Freight. He is survived by his wife, Joan; a son; a daughter; two brothers, one of whom is Thomas, b’62; and five grandchildren.

Rama Kay Beims Mallett, d’66, 69, Sept. 1 in Trinidad, Colo. She was former director of human resources for the city of Denver. Surviving are her mother, Violet Beims, ’43; a stepdaughter; two brothers; two sisters; and three grandsons.

John Marx, PhD’65, 75, Dec. 13 in Lubbock, Texas, where he was an associate professor emeritus of chemistry at Texas Tech University. He is survived by his wife, Pat, a daughter, a son, four sisters and a brother.

Robert Nicholson Jr., c’69, l’72, 65, Jan. 1 in Paola, where he owned Nicholson Law Firm. He was a longtime Kansas Honors Program volunteer for the Alumni Association and received the Mildred Clodfelter Award in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, assoc.; a son, David, d’11; a stepson; a stepdaughter; his mother, June Powell Nicholson, ’39; and a brother, John, f’67, g’73.

James Renier, b’69, g’70, 66, June 19 in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was retired chief financial officer at 21st Century Grain. A daughter, a son, a sister and two grandchildren survive.

Irene Vollweider Rose, d’60, 97, Jan. 13 in Lawrence, where she was active in civic affairs. She is survived by a son, Frederick, c’65; a daughter, Carol, c’64, PhD’97; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Leo “Gene” Spalding, j’63, 70, May 11 in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, where he was retired from a career with Maytag. He is survived by his wife, Charlie, two sons, a brother and two grandsons.

James Thomas, ’61, 72, Sept. 21 in Houston. He ran Thomas Construction Company in St. Joseph, Mo., and is survived by a brother and a sister.

Barbara Anderson Unruh, d’62, 79, Dec. 27 in Lenexa, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by her husband, Duane, d’53, g’56; two daughters, Kathy Sue Unruh Hirleman, d’78, and Laurie Unruh Boyd, d’80, g’96; three sons, Kip, c’83, Kyle, ’84, and Kurt, c’89; 26 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jerrie “Jean” Shellhammer Wayne, c’67, 65, June 27 in Wichita. She is survived by her husband, Larry; a son, Jake, c’03, g’05; and her mother.

Barbara Holm Wetzler, c’61, g’84, 73, Dec. 7 in Overland Park. She had been a physical therapist for the Shawnee Mission School District. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Charles, c’60, l’63; a daughter; two sons, David, c’86, l’90, and Bradley, c’89; two sons, Kenneth, c’66, l’69, and Steven, c’71; and three grandchildren.

Lloyd Wisdom, e’66, g’68, 75, Sept. 4 in Gladstone, Mo., where he was retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His wife, Cora, a daughter, a son, a sister, a brother and six grandchildren survive.

70s

David Bauer, c’72, 62, Oct. 15 in Kansas City. A sister and a half-brother survive.

Robert Bridges, g’76, 71, April 14 in Kansas City. He had been city administrator of Clinton, Mo., and is survived by four sons and seven grandchildren.

Larry Clark, c’70, g’74, l’74, 64, Oct. 15 in Albuquerque, N.M. He had worked for the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., and is survived by his wife, Judy.

Gary Colton, d’72, 62, Aug. 10 in Kansas City, where he was a former teacher and salesman. He is survived by his wife, Cathryn, two sons, a daughter, 10 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Hazel Henderson Economides, s’70, 65, Sept. 20 in Olathe, where she was a former social worker. A son, John, c’94, survives.

Timothy Grojean, e’70, g’72, 63, Aug. 18 in Leawood, where he was president of Draw the Line Advertising and had worked at Webb Electronics. He is survived by his wife, Renee Warning Grojean, j’74; and his father.

Phillip Jones, g’72, 65, July 16 in Garland, Texas, where he was an attorney. A brother survives.

Douglas Kincaid, c’71, 63, Dec. 4 in Mukwonago, Wis., where he was a podiatrist. He is survived by his wife, Susan; and two sisters, Debra Kincaid Funk, 72, and Donna Kincaid Boles, d’81.

Roger Kraft, a’71, 65, Oct. 16 in Kansas City, where he was a principal in Roger Kraft: Architecture-Design. His partner, Scott Anthony, and two brothers survive.

David Mark, d’77, 66, Sept. 22 in Shawnee, where he was a rate analyst with Kansas Gas Service for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Seitz Mark, assoc.; a daughter; two sisters; and three grandchildren.

Jeffrey “Pooh” Miller, c’76, 59, Nov. 24 in Lawrence, where he worked for ICL Performance Products for more than 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Janice Wingert Miller, assoc.; a son; a daughter; his father, Eldon, ’52; his mother and stepfather; a sister, Jennifer Miller Harris, n’99; and a grandson.

Joanne Anderson Ramberg, g’74, PhD’86, 86, Oct. 1 in Lawrence. She had coordinated programs for the Division of Continuing Education at Washburn University in Topeka. Among survivors are two daughters, Linda Rambert Joler, d’73, and Laura, d’81; and three sons, one of whom is Steven, c’73, m’82.

Sandra Evertz Stephens, d’72, g’75, 62, Dec. 19 in Landenberg, Pa. She was a librarian at Maclary Elementary School in Newark, N.J. Survivors include her husband, Greg, c’69, PhD’76; a daughter; a son; her father; and a grandson.

80s

Douglas Buethe, d’84, 65, Aug. 11 in Winfield, Ill., where he owned Skyline Builders. He is survived by a son, two daughters, two sisters, a brother and three grandchildren.

James Golden, c’80, 62, Nov. 6 in Los Angeles, where he was a mechanical engineer. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, three sons, a daughter, his parents, a sister and six grandchildren.

Lois Mae Heilmer Hanson, ’84, 89, Sept. 11 in Newton. She is survived by her husband, Norman, b’48, g’51, PhD’86; three daughters, two of whom are Joy Hanson Robb, c’82, g’86, and Jennifer, b’85, g’87; and two granddaughters.

Janet Helsel, c’80, 57, Jan. 10 in Wichita, where she practiced law for 30 years. She is survived by a son, Benjamin
Farrell, c’12; her mother, Dorothy, assoc.; a brother, Michael, ’79; and a sister Peggy Helsel Santoro, ’88.

Thomas Hill, c’83, s’85, 59, Dec. 29 in Olathe. He had worked at the Johnson County Substance Abuse and Wyandot Mental Health Center, where he directed the alcohol and substance abuse treatment program. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, a daughter, his parents and a grandson.

Tracy Vanatta Lenihan, c’81, 53, Nov. 7 in Overland Park, where she worked for Sprint. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Jim, assoc.; two sons; her parents, Chester, b’59, g’63, and Patsy Vanatta, ’59; and a brother, Scott, c’03.

Margie McLean Winter, g’80, 91, Nov. 16 in Topeka. She lived in Prairie Village and is survived by a daughter, Karen, d’76; three sons; and six grandchildren.

Dawn Weldon Beye, s’92, 58, Nov. 29 in Independence, Mo., where she was executive director of the Child Abuse Prevention Association and an ordained minister. She is survived by her husband, Kirk; two sons, one of whom is Travis, s’02; and a granddaughter.

Michael Manske, g’98, 54, Nov. 26 in Overland Park, where he was a retired colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. He also worked as associate professor of criminal justice and legal studies at Washburn University in Topeka. Four daughters and a sister survive.

Roger Taylor II, s’91, 62, Dec. 27 in Kansas City. He lived in Lawrence for many years and was involved with the Court Appointed Special Advocates program. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Miles Taylor, f’92; a stepdaughter; two stepsons; and two sisters.

William Crouch, g’01, 62, Dec. 15 in Overland Park. He had been a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and later was director of internal auditing for BMA. Surviving are his wife, Donna Meeker Crouch, c’83; two sons, one of whom is Jeffrey, e’00; a daughter, Julie, n’12; his mother; a brother, Douglas, ’82; and a grandson.

William Stuart, PhD’00, 44, Sept. 9 in Richmond, Va., where he was a communications professor at Longwood University. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and two sons.

Raphael Blitz, ’14, 23, Jan. 4 in Lawrence, where he was a KU student. He is survived by his parents, Harry and Melanie Blitz, four brothers, four sisters and his grandmother.

Brian Carman, ’13, 32, Dec. 30 in Overland Park. He had served in the U.S. Marine Corps and with the Kansas National Guard. Survivors include his parents, Susan and Gerald Carman, and a brother.

Fred Bell Jr., 91, Dec. 21 in Lincoln, Neb. He retired in 1986 after 15 years as a fire service instructor for the KU Continuing Education Division. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Shull Bell, assoc.; a daughter; two sons; and eight grandchildren.

Morton Creditor, 89, Dec. 30 in Kansas City, where he was a professor emeritus of general medicine at KU Medical Center. Among survivors are his wife, Una, two daughters, two sons, a stepdaughter, a stepson and a sister.

Elizabeth Morey Goetz, g’70, PhD’77, 85, Nov. 2 in La Jolla, Calif. She was a professor emeritus of child development at KU and former director of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Laboratory. She is survived by two daughters, Vickie, n’88, g’97, and Sibyl Goetz Wescoc, c’75; three sons, two of whom are Steve, ’85, and Thomas, c’90; and six grandchildren.

Francis Heller, 95, Jan. 9 in Denver. He was a distinguished professor emeritus of law and political science at KU, where he served in faculty and administrative positions for 60 years. Among his many awards was the Distinguished Service Citation in 1998. A son and a granddaughter survive.

Robert Lineberry, 70, Dec. 5 in Houston, where he was a professor of political science and former provost at the University of Houston. Earlier he had been dean of KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Surviving are his wife, Nita; a daughter, Mary, ’90; a son; and three grandchildren.

Frank Gene Martin, Nov. 17 in Pensacola, Fla. He taught pharmacology and toxicology and was former dean of pharmacy at KU. Survivors include his wife, Peggy Walden Martin, ’71; a son, Patrick, ’87; a daughter, Megan Martin Culig, p’87; his mother; a sister; and five grandchildren.

James McLean, g’59, PhD’65, 86, Dec. 10 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he was an adjunct professor of speech and hearing at the University of North Carolina. Earlier he had taught at KU’s Bureau of Child Research. He is survived by his wife, Lee Snyder McLean, assoc.; two sons, one of whom is James, ’77; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Richard Moore, ’74, 89, Nov. 13 in Lawrence, where he started the interdisciplinary Remote Sensing Laboratory at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Daniel, j’75, g’80; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

James Ralston, d’52, g’58, PhD’73, 81, Nov. 7 in Lawrence, where he was a professor emeritus of choral music at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Susan Frederick Ralston, d’75, g’80; four daughters, three of whom are Julie Ralston Hodges, ’78, Meghan Ralston Adams, c’03, and Natalie Ralston Wilemon, f’05; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Tamerlan Salaty, e’63, g’68, 90, Dec. 27 in Lawrence, where he was a professor emeritus of Slavic languages and literature at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Caroline Logan Salaty, c’64, c’65; two daughters, Tamara Salaty Burton, c’96, and Madina Salaty, ’93; and two granddaughters.

Alvin Schild, 96, Jan. 14 in Lawrence, where he was an emeritus professor of education at KU. He is survived by his wife, Joyce McKercher Schild, assoc.; three daughters, Linda Schild Twitchell, j’73, Darcy, d’75, and Crystal Schild-Carstens, ’83; a brother; and four grandchildren.
Presidential performance

Music educator takes choir on an unforgettable trip

Kansas City Allegro Choir director Christy Elsner might have to start a new bucket list. In the past year she has built her dream practice space in Bonner Springs, taken her choir to Carnegie Hall, and performed for the president and first lady at the White House.

“2012 was a banner year and it was a crazy year,” says Elsner, d’92. She began Allegro Chois 13 years ago as an experiment, and now the successful outside-of-school program includes five groups and 225 members, second grade through high school. Under her direction, the choirs have earned many accolades, as well as opportunities to perform around the world, and she’s just as excited about the experience as they are. “Growing up in a small town, people just didn’t do that kind of thing, so I wanted to have an adventure,” she says. “It’s been awesome to see the world and bring what we have from Kansas somewhere else.”

That includes Washington, D.C. Since early 2012 Elsner had attempted to get in touch with the White House about a performance, but it was not until mid-November that she got the news she hoped to hear. “One of our staff members came running in right in the middle of rehearsal and said, ’I just got an email—from the White House!’” Elsner had two weeks to plan the trip for 25 high school girls, but she wasn’t about to let the opportunity pass. The real trick was keeping things hush-hush. “We didn’t even know what we were singing for and couldn’t announce that we were singing until after it happened,” she says.

Once they arrived, things could not have gone better. Elsner and her choir were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the White House, including the kitchen, and they enjoyed some taste-testing with the president’s pastry chef. They sang a cappella for 45 minutes for a holiday party, and after performing enjoyed “Bo the dog”-shaped cookies. But the real treat came as a surprise to everyone. The social secretary for the president told Elsner that if they could be ready quickly, the president and the first lady would greet them personally.

“They had heard how great these girls are from the state of Kansas,” Elsner says, “but the girls had black and purple teeth from eating those cookies!” Fortunately, they cleaned up in short order and met the president and first lady in the diplomatic receiving room. “They shook hands with every one of our girls and our staff,” says Elsner. “One of our girls was crying, and Michelle Obama just picked her up and hugged her and said, ’You need a hug!’”

The Obamas even requested that the choir sing again for guests at the end of the event, another hour and 15 minutes. For most, performing for the president would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but knowing Elsner, it might not be. “They asked if we would ever consider singing for an inauguration, and we were like, ’Yes!’” Elsner says. “We’ll put that on the bucket list now that we’ve crossed off the White House.”

—Lydia Benda
World stage

KU troupe reprises Miller play at Shanghai theatre festival

After her fall 2011 residency with University Theatre, during which she directed KU students in the Arthur Miller drama “All My Sons,” Chinese director and actress Guo Hua Lei left Lawrence so thrilled with the experience that she convinced colleagues organizing the Shanghai International Contemporary Theatre Festival to extend an invitation to her KU troupe.

The request was unusual—the festival typically invites only professional companies—but was eventually approved, and last November a dozen students and young alumni, along with Associate Professor Mechele Leon, trekked to Shanghai, where they again presented “All My Sons,” this time as the first production on the Shanghai festival’s main stage.

“When the invitation came, my heart stopped and I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, can we do this?’” recalls Leon, acting chair of the department of theatre. “But then I said, ‘We have to do it.’ No training is as important as what it means to share theatre around the world in festivals. It takes enormous preparation, and then you’re ready for anything thrown at you.”

Rehearsals began in September, and, with financial support from the chancellor and provost’s offices and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the KU group departed for Shanghai in early November. Once in China, the Jayhawks had about a week to gear up for two performances of their revival of Lei’s production, with Leon supervising as restaging director.

Their first challenge was immediately apparent: the Shanghai stage was smaller than Crafton-Preyer Theatre’s. Elahe Marjovi, g’12, who designed the original set for the 2011 production and now interns with the renowned Broadway designer Tony Walton, joined the KU troupe in Shanghai, and, along with lighting designer Julia Ubert, a second-year scenography graduate student, expertly reconfigured the set and its complex staging.

The next significant hurdle wasn’t nearly so typical: While preparing to reprise his lead role as the troubled businessman, father and husband at the center of Miller’s drama about tragic greed, Jake Smith, c’12, came down with strep throat. With three days of intravenous antibiotic treatments in a nearby hospital and extended bed rest in the hotel—which cost Smith his chance to join others in sightseeing—Smith rallied in time to take the stage.

“Jake was such a pro,” Leon says. “He was just a hero.”

Leon says the powerful play was a hit with the Chinese theatregoers, who share concerns about pitfalls in their country’s rapidly expanding capitalist society similar to those dramatized by Miller in “All My Sons,” set in the 1940s. Many audience members stayed for post-performance “talk-back” sessions, engaging the Jayhawks with eager questions and comments about the play’s themes.

“We had lots of compliments,” Leon says. “Many couldn’t believe that we were a college troupe. They thought we were professionals.”

One fan the KU troupe had already won over was also on hand to cheer them on.

“Guo Hua is so dynamic and passionate; people loved seeing her again,” Leon says. “There’s a way in which people are in awe of her; sometimes you’re almost put into silence in her presence.”

—Chris Lazzarino
Design students ponder creative options for new transmission controls in a Ford Taurus cut in half for easy access to the interior.

Big-time design
Ford is latest partner to seek innovation from KU designers

Designer Greg Thomas is fond of counting his blessings: Studying design at Yale. Landing a job with design titans Charles and Ray Eames, then moving to Hollywood to work for yet another legend, Saul Bass, before running his own California firm for 30 years.

When he arrived at the University in 2004, Thomas saw in KU’s design department an opportunity to create a design-research center focused on real-world partnerships with demanding clients from across industry.

“The great design think-tanks, places where creative ideas and innovation happen, are formulated on three key disciplines: design, business and engineering,” says Thomas, professor of design and director of the Center for Design Research (CDR). “Whatever product or service you can imagine, it has those elements in it. And that’s what attracted me to the university setting. We have each of those elements. It’s unique, and the resources are great.”

Now housed in the beautifully renovated and expanded stone barn and house adjacent to Bob Billings Drive on West Campus, the CDR has forged alliances with Garmin, Nokia, Bushnell, Bayer HealthCare and, most recently, Ford.

Thomas spent two years cold-calling Ford. After being told repeatedly that the automaker only worked with design students at MIT and the University of Michigan, he asked, “Why are we still talking?” Ford responded last summer with a proposal for KU students to come up with ideas for a next-generation child-safety seat. Thomas’ students came up with eight pages of concepts in two months, and impressed Ford’s designers enough to land another assignment: redesigning gear shifts in automatic transmission cars.

Ford even shipped to the CDR a 2012 Ford Taurus that had been cut in half to expose interior controls.

“Our task is to come up with something that hasn’t been done before,” Thomas says. “It’s a challenge we like.”

Thomas hopes his students in Advanced Design Studies 560 can reproduce the same success with Ford that they had last spring with Bayer. Unfettered by ties to a company that signs their paychecks, the student designers not only came up with strong concepts for new diabetes monitoring systems, but they also found flaws in existing systems that Bayer itself had not seen. Two of those students were recruited for paid internships.

“The group that heard our final presentation included Bayer HealthCare’s senior vice president of global innovation, and he was just blown away by what these kids had done,” Thomas says. “It was really the ultimate interview and Bayer got the pick of the litter.

“I know what people want when they hire new designers because I used to do it. The reality of these real-world situations is exemplified by what we do here.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Lowriders take high road
Book shows custom cars as art, symbols of family pride

As a prop in mass-media portrayals of Mexican-American culture, lowrider cruisers with their hydraulic shocks and custom paint jobs have become visual shorthand to announce the arrival of tough guys prowling their turf. The stereotype is unfortunate, says Ben Chappell, assistant professor of American studies, because the bouncy and beautiful custom cars are more typically viewed by their owners as productive outlets for recreation and bonding as well as expressions of pride in family heritage.

Chappell took part in a lowrider car club while living in Austin, Texas, both as an enthusiast and anthropologist, and used his experiences and research to write Lowrider Space: Aesthetics and Politics of Mexican American Custom Cars, published in 2012 by the University of Texas Press.

The book celebrates not just glittering cars, but also enthusiasts who embrace them.

“The lowriders I got to know best,” Chappell says of his car-club days, “really wanted to appear as positive forces in their communities.”

Chappell discovered that Austin’s lowriders frequently used club events as charity fundraisers, and their late-night weekend caravans were about far more
than swapping car stories.  “When people were gathered in a parking lot, you’d hear about a funeral if someone had lost a family member. Or relationships, or work issues. It was really a public sphere where people were talking about what was going on in their lives.”

Chappell found that cars most prized for customization are early-1960s Chevy Impalas, because the solid frames withstand hydraulic hops and expansive surfaces allow room for artwork to tell personal stories. Like the cars themselves, the art evokes a time when many Mexican-American families were first entering the middle class and were eager to become more visible in American society.

“The car should be an expression of the owner,” Chappell says, “and you have to build it and maintain it. So working on cars and sharing knowledge is a big part of it. People will barter labor and parts. There’s a really extensive social network around lowriding.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Lowrider Space
by Ben Chappell
University of Texas Press, $55

O READ READER
Writ large
Wells blasts literary convention to Kingdom Come

Okay, confession: I’m no petticoat, no girly betty, no hothouse orchid,” Wallis Armstrong bluntly admits at the start of Kellie Wells’ indelible tour de force, Fat Girl, Terrestrial. “I’m 8’ 11 1/2”, still a cubit or so shy of Goliath (depending on who you ask), 490 pounds, a few tubs of butter in excess of the dainty dish my mother, herself a windblown buttercup, assures me is trapped inside, beneath the impudent ballast of flesh.”

Wallis’ oversized body causes all kinds of trouble in this rambunctious fun house of a novel by Wells, j’86, c’89, who teaches at the University of Alabama. Wallis’ mother withholds food to thwart her freakish growth, her brother believes she’s God and the befuddled Kansans she encounters in her hometown of Kingdom Come and on her travels as a crime scene investigator (her specialty is constructing miniature dioramas of suicides) don’t know what to make of the “reluctant giant,” doomed by her size to be forever altering the course of things no matter how invisible she’d like to be.

When she discovers the similarly proportioned Vivica Planet, whose brother suffers a fatal asthma attack after Wallis douses him with pepper spray when he tries to mug her—she meets a kindred body, if not a kindred spirit. Where Wallis is ill at ease with her biblical dimensions, Vivica “luxuriates in her monstrosity, wears it like an ermine coat (if all ermines were still alive and snapping at the flesh beneath their razor teeth).” Together they poke and prod the mysteries of Kansas and the cosmos, perhaps none so personal for Wallis as the disappearance of children from Kingdom Come, including, finally, her own brother, Obie.

Wallis is larger-than-life not only physically, but also mentally: Her capacious narrative voice—a rich burgoo of hardboiled detective noir, absurdist fairy tale and metaphysical ruminations on the nature of God and humanity—lend this fabulist tale a fierce poetry from line to line while at the same time creating a plot as disorienting as a fever dream. Wells’ third book of fiction (her first, the story collection Compression Scars, won the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction) and her most ambitious to date, Fat Girl, Terrestrial is as sprawling, rough-and-tumble and utterly unique as Wallis Armstrong herself. No mean feat, that.

—Steven Hill

Fat Girl, Terrestrial
by Kellie Wells
University of Alabama Press, $19.95

First-person singular

Since the success of his 1977 comic novel The Last Cattle Drive, Robert Day, c’64, g’66, has focused his raucous wit and vision on razor-sharp short fiction. Where I Am Now collects seven stories—all first-person, all set in or influenced by his native Kansas, all first-rate examples of the form. From the aging firebrand in the beautifully elegiac “My Father Swims His Horse at Last,” to the philandering bone collector of “The Skull Hunter,” Day’s storytellers share his own honed sense of the absurd and love of lively language. Like the wronged wife who says of a rival, “I’ll cut her gut button out with my Queen Steel. And shove it down her throat,” Day’s stories have a way of biding their time before cutting like bladed steel straight to the heart of the matter at hand.

—Steven Hill

Where I Am Now
by Robert Day
BkMk Press, $15.95
Glorious to View Photograph by Dan Storey

Late-February storms brought three snow days, clearing the usually bustling Jayhawk Boulevard.
Momentum is growing for a new School of Business building at the University of Kansas, with donors contributing an additional $13 million for the project as of January 2013. In October 2012, Capitol Federal Foundation of Topeka announced its $20 million lead gift for the $60 million building project. The proposed six-story, 166,000-square-foot building will be located on the east side of Naismith Drive, across from Allen Fieldhouse at the south entrance of the campus.

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