Lost and Refound

Biodiversity Institute researcher’s Philippine finds shed new light on a scientific mystery 100 years in the making
Does your health check out? Come to a free senior wellness screening event at Aberdeen Village and find out. We’ll have medical professionals from The Health & Wellmobile™ on our campus providing the latest wellness tips and complimentary health screenings, including:

- Blood pressure tests
- Glucose screenings
- Hearing checks

FREE SENIOR WELLNESS SCREENING EVENT

Tuesday, September 29
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Aberdeen Village
17500 West 119th Street
Olathe, Kansas 66061

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us out — call 913-826-6216 today to schedule a personal tour.

A Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America Senior Living Community
True Detectives
A century ago, Edward Taylor penetrated unexplored Philippine jungles to write the book on that country’s amphibians and reptiles. Now, retracing the controversial zoologist’s steps with modern methods, Rafe Brown is rewriting our understanding of the global biodiversity hot spot—and of Taylor’s contributions to science.

By Steven Hill
Cover photograph by Steve Puppe

Local Revival
By salvaging what they can and using materials new and reclaimed, design-build firm Struct/Restruct is leading a vintage-modern renaissance in the historic East Lawrence neighborhood.

By Heather Biele

Where Everybody Knows Your Name
Sixty years after it opened on Mount Oread’s eastern slope, the iconic near-campus gathering spot and Jayhawk shrine known as The Wheel just keeps rolling, rolling, rolling. Wangburger, anyone?

By Chris Lazzarino
Step up your sock game!

Upgrade your membership this fall and receive an exclusive pair of socks featuring the great tradition of our beloved Jayhawk—all seven historical versions.

*Upgrade by Nov. 30 using the option most convenient for you:*

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Socks are available in medium (fits women’s shoe size 5-10) and large (fits men’s shoe size 10-13).

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The University of Kansas Hospital
“While this book is not an omnibus history such as Griffin’s,” they write, “it does offer a good deal of insight about the changes that have occurred in this large and complex institution and the historical circumstances that have contributed to them.”

In his introduction, Rury chronicles the University’s dramatic growth over a brief and pivotal time span from a “somewhat bucolic college” to an international research university. He provides the backdrop for the essays that follow.

KU’s transformation was at times tumultuous and painful, as Bill Tuttle, professor emeritus of American studies, explains in his chapter on student activism. In addition to civil rights and antiwar protests, students demanded greater rights and freedom on campus and a voice in KU government. As Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost emerita, describes in her chapter, “A Seat at the Table,” a new form of campus government emerged from upheaval. “Shared governance was born at the University of Kansas, and in 1968 KU students wielded greater authority than at any other university in the United States,” writes Nemeth Tuttle, g’72, PhD’96.

Throughout KU’s history, Jayhawks have made their voices heard. In 1883, only 10 years after the University presented its first diploma (see KU 150, p. 76), graduates formed the self-governing Alumni Association to advocate for their alma mater and help ensure that future generations would benefit from the life-changing KU experience. As we recall the extraordinary leadership of Chancellor Robert Hemenway, who died July 31 (see Hilltopics, p. 10), we also remember his gratitude to KU’s exceptionally loyal alumni, whom he often credited for helping lift their alma mater to prominence as an international research university. “It makes a huge difference for those of us who are on the Hill every day to know that we’ve got alumni out there who truly care about the kind of job we’re doing,” he told Kansas Alumni when he announced his retirement in 2009.

For Chancellor Bob—and legions of Jayhawks past, present and future—we will lift the chorus ever onward.

Our magazine crew has worked together for a good many years, so of course we have developed our own insider language full of jargon and abbreviations, along with slang and nicknames not fit to print. Our frequent conversations about University history usually include a mention of “Griffin,” as in, “What does Griffin say about the post-World War II overcrowding on campus?” or “Check with Griffin on when KU’s May Day celebrations ended.”

Our resident sage is Clifford S. Griffin, KU professor of history from 1959 to 1996. Though he died only a year after his retirement, he lives on through his authoritative book, The University of Kansas: A History, published in 1974, nine years after KU’s centennial. Relying on University Archives, The Graduate Magazine (precursor to Kansas Alumni) and numerous other sources, Griffin wrote the detailed history of KU’s first 100 years that has become our daily reliable reference.

Now, thanks to a team of faculty and staff members, led by professors John Rury and Kim Cary Warren; the University Press of Kansas; and the KU 150 sesquicentennial committee, the past half-century is documented in Transforming the University of Kansas: A History, 1965-2015, which includes a foreword by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. Each chapter includes an essay on pivotal aspects of the University:

• the eight chancellors who have guided KU
• Kansas government and politics
• continuity and change in liberal education
• KU’s international dimensions
• the research mission
• student activism
• student government and services
• Jayhawk athletics

As editors Rury and Warren explain in their preface, “In this way, we hope to lend a bit more coherence to the wide diversity of people, events and circumstances” included in the past 50 years.
Exhibitions
“KU 150: Celebrating 150 Years of Leadership, Scholarship and Tradition at the University of Kansas,” Watson Library, through December

“Achievement of a Dream: The Birth of the University of Kansas,” Spencer Research Library, through December

Special Dole ADA Exhibit, Dole Institute, through December

Lied Center events

SEPTEMBER
26 The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi
29 Tunes at Night with Rev Gusto

OCTOBER
23 “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”
26 KU Symphony Orchestra with Benjamin Beilman, violin
29 Paul Taylor Dance Company

NOVEMBER
5 The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass
7 Thodos Dance Chicago
11 KU Jazz Ensemble I with Sean Jones, trumpet

When Harry Kemp left New York City in 1906, his unconventional journey to Lawrence made the front page of the New York Tribune. The article detailed the adventures of a young poet who traveled thousands of miles—under a freight car with just 3 cents in his pocket—to attend the University of Kansas. The Kansas City Star also picked up the story and dubbed him the “Tramp Poet.” Kemp, who wanted to study German and Latin, decided to attend KU after reading Professor W.H. Carruth’s books on German grammar and composition. Upon arriving in Lawrence, Kemp sought out Carruth, who was so impressed with the young man he invited him to attend the University the next day.

(For more KU history, visit blogs.lib.ku.edu/spencer.)
**NOVEMBER**

**14-15, 19-22** “A Doll’s House,” directed by Peter Zazzali, Stage Too!

**18, 20, 22** KU Opera: Alcina, Baustian Theatre

**20** Helianthus Contemporary Ensemble

**Lectures**

**OCTOBER**

**21** Humanities Lecture Series: “On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City,” Alice Goffman, The Commons

**NOVEMBER**

**17** Humanities Lecture Series: “The Adventure of Civility,” Krista Tippett, Kansas Union

**20** KU School of Business Anderson Chandler Lecture: Steve Wozniak, Lied Center

**Academic Calendar**

**OCTOBER**

**10-13** Fall break

**Kansas Honors Program**

**SEPTEMBER**

**23** McPherson

**28** Sedgwick

**30** Dodge City

**30** Hutchinson

**30** Lawrence

**OCTOBER**

**7** Garden City

**7** Salina

**7** Shawnee Mission

**8** Hays

**14** Ottawa

**19** El Dorado

**21** Southern Johnson County

**26** Emporia

**NOVEMBER**

**2** Manhattan

**2** Wichita

**3** Topeka

**4** Chapman

**4** Liberal

**4** Independence

**9** Johnson County Blue Valley

**10** Kansas City

**11** Winfield

**Alumni Events**

**SEPTEMBER**

**24** KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumna Reception honoring Anne Levinson, Seattle

**25-27** KU Black Alumni Reunion, Adams Center

**25** Colorado Springs Wine Tasting

**26** KU vs. Rutgers tailgate, Piscataway, New Jersey

**OCTOBER**

**3** Jayhawk Roundup

**3** KU Night with the Portland Timbers

**3** KU tailgate at Iowa State

**6** Art History on the Rocks: Thomas Hart Benton and Bourbon, Lawrence

**8** Preview KU Tulsa

**10** Member Tailgate, Adams Center

**10** Party on the Patio, Lawrence

**14** Dallas: Jayhawks and Java

**15** Familiar Wines, Unfamiliar Places: A Guided Wine Tasting, Adams Center

**NOVEMBER**

**14** Veterans Day Run

**19** Denver: Networking breakfast

**19** KU Alumni online networking

**20** KC Network Hawktoberfest at Boulevard Brewing Company

**25-31** Homecoming (for complete schedule, visit homecoming.ku.edu)

**29-31** J-School Generations, Stauffer-Flint

**31** KU Law Homecoming Reception, The Oread

**31** Member Tailgate, Adams Center

**Directory**

- Adams Alumni Center .................. 864-4760
- Athletics .......................... 800-34-HAWKS
- Booth Hall of Athletics .......... 864-7050
- Dole Institute of Politics .......... 864-4900
- Kansas Union ................. 864-4596
- KU Info .......................... 864-3506
- KU main number ................. 864-2700
- Lied Center ..................... 864-ARTS
- University Theatre Tickets .......... 864-3982
- Spencer Museum of Art ............. 864-4710
Office space: The final frontier?

It is good to be the boss. The latest evidence of which is the fanciful and massive USS Enterprise-inspired company headquarters built in China by computer gaming entrepreneur Dejian Liu, c'95.

Liu, a KU chemistry alumnus hailed by CNN.com as “one of China’s most wealthy men and a self-described Trekkie,” is the founder of the Chinese online game developer NetDragon Websoft and a board member of the Chinese search-engine giant Baidu. Big is apparently what Liu does really, really well, and he seems to have stuck to that strategy in dreaming up the notion of permanently landing a Sovereign-class Starfleet battle cruiser in the southeastern province of Fujian.

Before launching construction in 2010 on the founder’s pet project, NetDragon first reached out to CBS, which holds the rights to the “Star Trek” franchise. A NetDragon official explained to The Wall Street Journal that the company has “always held a negative attitude toward piracy,” a stance fearlessly embraced in deep space by Capt. Kirk and his comrades-in-phasers.

It wasn’t until a batch of legal documents arrived that CBS realized the request was not a joke, and the ginormity of the entire enterprise is no laughing matter, either: 850 feet long, 300 feet wide, six stories tall, $100 million.

For true starship authenticity, however, NetDragon faces a challenge even more daunting than the terrestrial monolith’s size and cost: interplanetary workforce diversity.

Pranks for the memories

**Principal Sherman**

Padgett has seen senior pranks aplenty in nine years at Wichita North High School. Heck, he approved most of them beforehand. But when senior Emily Jones handed him a bucket and said, basically, “Here, hold this,” Padgett said pranks, but no pranks.

“I was wearing a luchador mask and cape,” he recalls, “because we were celebrating our wrestlers going to state.” Rather than host pep rally send-offs, Padgett, d’89, f’90, dons crazy costumes—in this case a “Nacho Libre” inspired getup—and parades the halls with cheerleaders, athletes and the marching band to inspire school spirit. “I said, ’No way, I’ve got a hall march to lead.’”

Adds Padgett, “Heaven knows what kids can put in a bucket. I wasn’t too interested in finding out.”

Jayhawk Walk
To become a ninja, a warrior must conquer many obstacles. Warped Wall. Rolling Log. Tilting Ladder. Academic Conference.

Mitchell VeDepo’s bid for the $1 million prize on “American Ninja Warrior” hit a snag before the bioengineering PhD student stepped foot on the NBC show’s challenging obstacle course. The Kansas City regional conflicted with a Society for Biomaterials meeting where VeDepo was to present research on tissue-engineered heart valves for children.

He arranged to compete instead in Orlando, Florida. Alas, the union’s steamiest state proved a less-than-ideal locale for attempting insanely athletic, physics-defying contortions on a course inspired by Mount Midoriyama, Japan’s obstacle Olym-pus. VeDepo aced the first four challenges, but “a combination of sweaty palms from the humidity and a little bit of nerves” greased his grip on the Tilting Ladder. He finished 33rd out of 120 contestants, missing the cut by only three spots.

He wasn’t in it for the million, anyway.

“On the application they ask, ‘What would you do with the money?’ My answer was, ‘What money? I’m doing it because it looks like fun.’ It’s a big kid’s playground that I got a chance to play on.”

He’ll try again next year. If he does win? “I’d like to open a ninja warrior gym,” VeDepo says. There’s also bioengineering to fall back on. “I’d like to stay in academics,” he says, “and one day be a professor.”

After besting the Warped Wall, scaling the Ivory Tower should be no problem.

That’s amore

The planet that Clyde

Tombaugh’s late wife once joked was “his first love” is giving some love back to him.

On July 13, during its historic and much-anticipated flyby of Pluto, NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft captured a distinct, heart-shaped feature on the planet’s surface, informally named “Tombaugh Regio” after the astronomer who discovered the distant celestial body, according to media reports from NASA.

Tombaugh, c’36, g’39, discovered Pluto on Feb. 18, 1930, at the Lowell Observa- tory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Until recently, very little was known about the solar system’s outlier, which in recent years was downsized to a dwarf planet.

Now, thanks to images gathered from New Horizons’ nine-year mission, astronomy enthusiasts worldwide have warmed to the icy body, especially its “heart,” estimated to be 1,000 miles across at its widest point—about the same distance from Denver to Chicago.

“We never had anywhere near this good a view of Pluto or its system,” says Barbara Anthony-Twarog, professor of physics and astronomy at KU.

Although the name “Tombaugh Regio” appears to be a perfect fit for the newfound feature, Anthony-Twarog explains that it still has to be approved by the International Astronomical Union, the authority on planetary nomenclature.

Let’s hope they’re as smitten with the name as we are.
A leader and scholar

University mourns the loss of Chancellor Hemenway

There’s no arguing the fact that Robert E. Hemenway, KU’s 16th chancellor, accomplished much in his 14 years of leadership at the University he came to love. But if anybody would attempt to support an opposing view of his lasting legacy, it might have been Hemenway himself.

It is a leader’s job to establish goals and point the way, then slip behind the scenes and let others work the magic of their labor and intelligence, he might explain. That would be the way of a truly fine leader, which Hemenway was indeed.

And perhaps he would have been right, but, for now, as the University community mourns the loss of a titan in modern KU history following Hemenway’s death July 31, at 73, from complications of Parkinson’s disease, his praises must be sung.

“My father was an ardent believer in education,” Hemenway’s son Zach, ’04, said at the Aug. 9 memorial service in the Dole Institute of Politics, “and education is what took him from a small town in Nebraska to see the world.”

When Hemenway became chancellor in 1995, he arrived at a University that was at a crossroads. KU’s accrediting agency that year issued a list of nine “concerns,” including out-of-date infrastructure, under-representation of women and minorities, and woeful technology.

Hemenway—a literature scholar, lifelong teacher and author of the definitive biography of the American novelist Zora Neale Hurston—changed KU’s administrative structure and hired business professor David Shulenburger as the first provost, granting him oversight of the Lawrence campus. Together they got to work, and within 10 years the invigorated University received a glowing report from the same accreditors who previously warned of dire shortcomings.

He was a gentle and kind man—never once, noted KU Endowment president Dale Seuferling, ’77, did Hemenway correct anyone who pronounced his name as “Hemingway”—yet he also was stern in his expectations for preparedness and effort.

Hemenway embraced KU traditions with a passion that inspired, and constantly reminded Jayhawks that our walk down the Hill is Commencement. He abandoned his frugal refusal of a formal inauguration only when he was convinced by his own reading of KU history that “the sense of tradition” demanded ceremony.

He was a zealous academic who loved sports and believed wholeheartedly in varsity athletics’ ability to unite alumni in support of their alma mater.

He supported alumni and endowment missions with his professional influence and personal time, and he helped spur the University through startling growth in private giving. He also continually fueled the life of the University one person at a time, whether chatting with a student perched alone at a bus stop or encouraging promising high school seniors to consider Mount Oread.

He taught an early morning literature course nearly every semester, and was so in tune with students that, under his

“In the words of Zora Neale Hurston, Bob challenged us to jump at the sun. We not only got off the ground; we got into orbit.” —Dale Seuferling
guidance, KU’s too-low tuition rates were raised not over students’ objections but with enthusiastic student support. Even visiting accreditors were baffled by the accomplishment, and looked unsuccessfully for students to criticize rising costs.

In 1998 Hemenway led the University of Kansas Hospital away from state control to oversight by a private hospital authority, a governance change that has proven wildly successful, and in 2006 he issued the challenge that defined his chancellorship: The University’s top priority would be designation as National Cancer Institute. Six years later, KU won NCI designation. “In the words of Zora Neale Hurston, Bob challenged us to jump at the sun,” Seuferling recalled. “We not only got off the ground; we got into orbit.”

Hemenway resigned the chancellorship in 2009 and settled into a quiet little office in a far corner of the Hall Center for the Humanities, where he worked on long-planned book projects. When asked by Kansas Alumni in 2005 to describe the building that one day would bear his name, Hemenway expressed his hopes for a new home for the humanities.

Asked the same question, Shulenberger answered that, thanks to unprecedented growth in research funding and construction, it would likely be in the sciences.

The $57-million, 210,000-square-foot Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center at KU Medical Center stands as testament both to Shulenburger’s assessment and Hemenway’s vision. —Chris Lazzarino

Paving the ways

Memorial Drive next up in campus road upgrades

With another successful summer of Jayhawk Boulevard reconstruction completed—this time from the four-way stop at the Sunflower Road intersection to 14th Street, between Danforth Chapel and Spooner Hall—major campus road improvements will next turn to Memorial Drive, beginning immediately after the May 15, 2016, Commencement.

Like the boulevard, Memorial Drive will receive a total overhaul, completed in stages, including subsurface utilities, rebuilt concrete road surface and sidewalks, and improved LED lighting, with crimson and blue banners adorning the lamp posts. Head-in parking will be created on the south side of Memorial Drive, likely with retaining walls built into the hillside, and, in a significant improvement, sidewalks will be added to the north side of the entire length of the winding road.

In a nod to the north-slope road’s revered status as the primary home of the University’s war memorials, “The Victory Eagle” now perched in front of Dyche Hall.

The University broke ground on the new Health Education Building at KU Medical Center Aug. 27. The state-of-the-art classroom building will serve as the primary training center for students in the schools of medicine, nursing and health professions. It will enable the University to address a statewide shortage of doctors by graduating an additional 50 doctors per year, and is designed to better serve a modernized medical curriculum that emphasizes small-group, interdisciplinary problem-solving and simulations and interactive televideo in training students.

The $75 million building is funded by $25 million in state bonds, $15 million in KU resources and $37 million in private support raised by KU Endowment, which includes a $25 million gift from the Hall Family Foundation of Kansas City. A lead gift from retired physician David Zamierowski and his wife, Marilyn, will fund simulation equipment and facilities in the Zamierowski Institute for Experiential Learning.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September and wrap up by June 2017. Fundraising will continue during construction to cover technology and equipment expenses. —Steven Hill
Research redux: The School of Pharmacy again ranks No. 2 in the U.S. in National Institutes of Health funding, earning $17.8 million in NIH research grants in fiscal 2014 according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. It’s the fourth time in six years that the school achieved the No. 2 ranking, and the 14th consecutive year it has ranked in the top five. KU is the only Big 12 school in the top 10.

The statue placed at the Douglas-Leavenworth county line, thought to be the second in the country, was dedicated in 1929, but, as interstate highways overtook their two-lane counterparts in primacy, “The Victory Eagle” became overlooked and, in 1980, was vandalized and knocked off its pedestal.

Tom Swearingen, g’60, then director of exhibits for KU’s Natural History Museum, secured the 4-foot-tall statue, with a wingspan of more than 7 feet, for Dyche Hall, and it was restored and rededicated on its Mount Oread aerie in 1982. But, tucked well away from the busy boulevard sidewalk, “The Victory Eagle” has never garnered the attention and affection it deserves, both as a work of art and memorial to Americans lost in World War I.

University Architect Jim Modig, a’73, is eager for that to change.

“It’s a war memorial,” Modig says, “and it would be great to get it down there with the other memorials and treat it with respect that way.”

Memorial Drive reconstruction is budgeted at about $6 million. Like the Jayhawk Boulevard project, public funds will be used for the utilities, road surface, sidewalks and lighting, and private donations will fund landscaping improvements. Three summers of work will begin near the Vietnam War Memorial, stretching to Snow Hall; the second summer of work will wind from Spencer Research Library, past the Campanile and end somewhere behind Strong Hall; the third phase will conclude at Mississippi Street.

Once the project reaches Mississippi, Modig anticipates that the current traffic booth could be replaced with automated gates, which will be placed higher up the street, toward Bailey Hall. Similar gates on Sunflower Road, between Stauffer-Flint Hall and Watson Library, are now in place, and the traffic booth at Sunflower Road and Sunnyside Drive has been removed.

“The booth made an extremely difficult turn for buses and trucks down there at Sunnyside,” Modig says. “Taking that out of there then provides ease of access for those vehicles to come up and go in behind Wescoe and make their deliveries, and for [official KU] service vehicles and buses, it allows them to come up to the top of the hill. All other unauthorized vehicles won’t be allowed to proceed beyond that point. That will help reduce, we hope, the traffic conflict with pedestrians at that intersection.

“No private vehicles will be allowed through at all [during hours of restricted campus access]. Only emergency services, maintenance and buses.”

The final stretch of Jayhawk Boulevard improvements had originally been scheduled for completion in summer 2016, at the intersection of 13th Street. It is now scheduled for 2017.

—Chris Lazzarino
Habitat help

Monarch Watch lands two grants for milkweed restoration projects

Monarch Watch, the education, conservation and research group headquartered on KU’s West Campus, has built a large following by persuading citizen scientists and gardeners that even small projects can help boost imperiled monarch butterfly populations.

One of the nonprofit organization’s most popular restoration efforts—a program that calls for establishing Monarch Waystation gardens in homes, schools and workplaces—recently passed an important milestone by enrolling its 10,000th registered Waystation site.

When the program was launched in 2005, Monarch Watch founder and director Chip Taylor, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at KU, hoped to reach that number in three years.

“It took 10 years to do it, but in the last year and a half we added probably 3,500 sites,” Taylor says. “This thing is taking off.”

But with some 2 million acres of monarch habitat lost each year to development and overuse of pesticides, a more large-scale effort was needed. So Monarch Watch in 2010 launched Bring Back the Monarchs, a nationwide landscape restoration program that aims to restore 20 milkweed species used by monarch caterpillars as food, and to support planting of native flowers that produce nectar used by adult monarchs and other pollinators.

Much like the Waystation program, Bring Back the Monarchs has started slowly, Taylor says. But a pair of grants landed this summer is allowing Monarch Watch to accelerate the program and distribute 200,000 free milkweed plugs for large habitat restoration projects.

“Now that we’ve got these plants in the ground,” Taylor says of the grants from Monsanto Corporation and The Natural Resources Defense Council. “It looks like in the next year and a half we are going to be donating plants to people on private land, public land, tribal land and some major restoration programs like oil restoration and mine restoration sites.”

Bring Back the Monarchs asks restorers to take at least 200 plants at a time. At the recommended planting rate of 50 plants per acre, that means the minimum site is usually 4 acres and the largest sites are in the 100-acre range. While that may seem massive compared to the smallest Monarch Waystations, which can measure 200 square feet and less, it is dwarfed by the immensity of the problem.

“To be perfectly blunt, none of the efforts that are underway—ours or anybody else’s—are of sufficient magnitude to address the scale of the loss,” Taylor says. “Yet.”

But it is a start.

“It’s a start on a way of dealing with a very large problem. We’re talking about having to restore 20 million acres of lost habitat, and even with 200,000 plugs at 50 plugs per acre, it’s just a drop in the bucket relative to what’s needed. It has to be a multiyear project, and it has to be a lot bigger than what we’re doing.”

For more information on Monarch Watch habitat programs, including free milkweed plants for restoration projects, visit monarchwatch.org.

—Steven Hill

Milestones, money and other matters

The Association of Public Land Grant Universities named KU to its 2015 class of Innovation & Economic Prosperity Universities. The designation acknowledges universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little called the designation a “significant national recognition for KU, especially for the researchers whose discoveries and new technologies have such a profound economic impact.”

The Kansas Board of Regents approved a 3.6 percent increase in tuition and fees at each of the six Kansas universities for the current academic year. The increase raised tuition $158 per semester for undergraduate resident students at KU.

A $10 million award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute will allow KU Medical Center to study the effectiveness of obesity treatment options in rural communities. Christie Befort, associate professor of preventive medicine and public health, leads the project, which compares three models of obesity treatment: a traditional, fee-for-service model, a patient-centered medical home, and a telephone-delivered disease management program.
NASA funds student startup to keep drones on safe path

**Engineering**

industry analysts foresee a time when unmanned aircraft—drones, in popular parlance—will be a thriving, multi-billion-dollar industry in the United States, used to deliver packages, capture stunning images on film, aid in search and rescue operations and more.

With so many unmanned aircraft crowding the skies, avoiding collisions will become a priority.

Doctoral student Lei Shi, e’05, and his faculty adviser, Christopher Allen, e’80, g’82, PhD’84, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, have addressed that need by co-inventing a radar system that will help drones avoid collisions. Last year Shi launched a startup company, UAVradars, through the KU Catalyst student entrepreneurship program, to develop the system, which will use electromagnetic signals to help drones detect other aircraft on their flight path.

Shi and Allen developed the radar system with help from colleagues in aerospace engineering, and Shi has gotten support from the School of Business, the Self Graduate Fellows program, the Bioscience and Technology Business Center, and KU Innovation and Collaboration, the University’s bi-campus technology partnership and commercialization office.

The company also got a boost this summer from NASA, which awarded it a Small Business Innovation Research grant for $122,000.

“It comes at a critical time, and it kind of validates that we’re on the right track because NASA sees a need for this technology,” Shi says of the grant.

“It also provides critical funding for commercialization. We’ve worked a long time on the research, but to actually implement it requires additional funding, and that’s what this grant allows us to do.”

**Class Credit**

Doctoral student Chan Kin Onn has been fascinated with nature since he was a child in Malaysia, a “megadiverse” country where new species are still discovered at a high rate.

“I’ve always had the urge to explore and ‘catch stuff’ for as long as I can remember, and Malaysia is great for that because we have a lot of beautiful habitats all over the country,” Chan said in a KU news release.

“Whenever I could, I’d always make trips to forests to try to find cool stuff. When I was younger, it was mostly bugs that intrigued me, but now it’s amphibians and reptiles.”

In fact, the student in Rafe Brown’s herpetology lab at the KU Biodiversity Institute has participated in field research in his home country that has resulted in the discovery of 78 new species, work which boosted the nation’s amphibian and reptile count by more than 25 percent.

Thanks to a $20,000 grant from the National Geographic Society, Onn will next explore the shallow-water islands of three Malaysian mountain chains—the Bintang, Timur and Titiwangsa ranges—thought to hold many reptiles and amphibians new to science. Chan will also use KU labs to sequence DNA and examine species dynamics among four species of river-dwelling frog.

He will look especially for species whose habitat is imperiled by tourism and agriculture, with an eye toward publicizing the threats to their survival. Chan’s past projects have halted a proposed airport expansion and stopped quarrying that might have eradicated a rare gecko.

“As a biologist and conservationist, we’re always at odds with human development,” Chan said. “Unfortunately, we’re on the losing side as more areas are being destroyed than conserved. However, it’s encouraging to see our research has bore some fruit.”
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Academic accelerator program up and running

A CAMPUS PROGRAM designed to recruit international students and provide academic, cultural and social support during their freshman year at KU hired two key administrators this summer as it geared up for its second year.

The KU Academic Accelerator Program (KUAAP), a partnership between the University and private company Shorelight Education, brought on Roberta Pokphanh, c’95, g’97, PhD’09, in June to serve as academic director, and in August announced the hiring of Amy Neufeld, PhD’13, as managing director.

KUAAP provides English language instruction and support with academic instruction and acculturation for new international students recruited to KU by Shorelight. Students receive language instruction and take classes in the College of Liberal Arts. Those who complete the 12-month curriculum can enroll at KU as sophomores with 30 credit hours completed toward an undergraduate degree. About 180 students are expected to enroll in the program this fall.

“We train them to use the University system,” says Pokphanh, who was formerly assistant dean of the Office of Graduate Studies. “We introduce them to the writing center, libraries, advising and other academic tools they need to be successful. But we also help them understand the culture and what makes KU special. We’re creating Jayhawks.”

ENGINEERING

Spahr Library reopening after renovation

AFTER CLOSING LAST YEAR for a much-needed makeover, the Spahr Engineering Library has reopened, just in time for the start of the fall semester.

The library’s renovation is just one part of the School of Engineering’s massive expansion project to accommodate an anticipated 60-percent enrollment growth. The expansion includes the Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center (M2SEC); the Hill Engineering Research and Development Center; and the main building expansion, also known as the Learned Engineering Expansion Phase 2 (LEEP 2).

To answer the needs of the growing student population and encourage collaborative learning, the first floor of Spahr now boasts group study rooms with large-screen monitors and dry-erase walls, which can be reserved through KU Libraries’ online reservation service. An improved cafeteria and a wall of self-storage lockers round out the main floor.

More group study rooms are available on the second level, as well as an enclosed quiet area featuring individual workspaces that overlook the courtyard. Laptop computers are available to check out, and wireless internet coverage is provided throughout the building. A librarian also will be on-site to assist students.

“Overall, it’s going to enhance the study space and the research help we can provide students,” says Jeromy Horkman, c’98, director of public operations for KU Libraries. “Hopefully it’ll be a great way to turn on new students who might not have considered studying in a library, or in this area, to use the space.”

Milestones, money and other matters

• Amie Just, a junior in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, was one of six national winners of a 2015 Jim Murray Memorial Foundation Scholarship. Just, of Funk, Nebraska, won for her column on Cliff Cushman, d’61, the KU track star and Olympian who was killed in Vietnam. She dedicated her award—which includes a $5,000 scholarship—to Cushman, noting that “he made the ultimate sacrifice.”

• A $1.99 million grant from the Department of Education will establish the Heartland College Assistance Migrant Program, a retention effort for college freshmen that expands on migrant-student services offered through KU’s Achievement & Assessment Institute. The principal investigator on the five-year grant is Ngondi Kamatuka, g’83, PhD’87, director of the Center for Educational Opportunity Programs in the Achievement & Assessment Institute.

• The inaugural Beckman Scholars are Michael Cory, Wichita, and Aidan Dmitriev, Lawrence. The new program funded by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation is designed to encourage undergraduate research. Scholars receive $21,000 via stipend and travel and supply funds, and the scholars’ mentors each receive $5,000.

• James Lichtenberg, associate dean in the School of Education who retired June 1, received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Counseling Psychology Section for the Promotion of Psychotherapy Sciences. In his 40-year career, Lichtenberg served as professor of education and director of training for the doctoral program in counseling psychology and as director of the University Counseling Center (now Counseling & Psychology Services).
Debut disappoints

Beaty era opens with tough loss; ‘Hawks vow they’ll bounce back

Sometimes down the road, if the reconstruction of KU football progresses as planned, perhaps three or more seasons from now, David Beaty’s first game as head coach might be fondly remembered as an important first step, what coaches like to call a teachable moment that set the tone for a long journey.

In the immediate aftermath of the Jayhawks’ sweat-soaked, 41-38 loss Sept. 5 to South Dakota State, though, it was difficult for players and coaches to take much solace in the long view.

Sure, the young Jayhawks, playing with about as many scholarship players as their lower-division opponents, fought back gamely from a stunning, 31-7 deficit early in the second quarter, and were positioned to take a one-point lead early in the fourth quarter had they been able to score a touchdown after gaining a first-and-goal at the 6-yard-line.

But the Jayhawks squandered that opportunity, settling for a 23-yard field goal after two running plays and a fade route to the left corner of the end zone all failed. The biggest error of the game came in the thrilling final seconds: A bobbled snap foiled junior quarterback Montell Cozart’s hopes of spiking the ball to stop the clock, preventing strong-legged junior kicker Matthew Wyman from sprinting onto the 105-degree field to attempt a 55-yard field goal with a strong wind at his back to send the game into overtime.

“It would have been fun to see how it played out,” Beaty said afterward.

The coach did not blame the quarterback—who rallied from a fumble and a bad interception, both of which led to South Dakota State touchdowns, to complete 25 of 38 passes for 291 yards and a touchdown, along with 95 yards rushing — and instead insisted it was his own fault. But reaching beyond the usual coach-speak, Beaty offered a detail that illuminates his thoughts on game preparation: He failed, Beaty explained, because he did not think to drill quarterbacks on how to execute a rapid recovery should they fumble the snap when attempting a spike in the final seconds of a game.

“This one goes on me, not on those kids,” Beaty said. “I didn’t have them prepared to get it done right. That’s a situation you don’t think about very much, but I promise you I’ll be thinking about it moving forward.”

As Kansas Alumni went to press, the Jayhawks were preparing for another nonconference home game, against Memphis State, to be followed by a Sept. 26 trip to Rutgers before opening Big 12 play Oct. 3 at Iowa State. Among other highlights, they will be buoyed by the debut of junior-college transfer running back Ke’aun Kinne, who rushed for 157 yards and two touchdowns; 82 yards and three receptions by senior wide receiver Tre’ Parmalee; and a 91-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by redshirt freshman Ryan Schadler, a three-time state track champion at Hesston High School.

“The thing that I was most encouraged by was, although there wasn’t a lot of rah-rah going on the sideline, I didn’t see deflated kids over there, and that is huge,” Beaty said. “It’s obviously unbelievably disappointing right now. That was a very tough locker room to look into for my first day as a head football coach in Division I football. Those kids, they battled, and I’m really proud of them for that. They kept fighting, and that’s been something that we’ve been stressing from the day we got here.”

As he reflected on what might have been had he gotten the chance to attempt a...
Good as gold

KU, as Team USA, sweeps World University Games

The first hint that the KU men's basketball team's participation as the USA National Team in the World University Games might turn out to be something special came in two June exhibition games against Team Canada in Kansas City's Sprint Center.

Though forced to play without injured guards Brannen Greene, a junior, and sophomore Devonte' Graham, and sophomore guard Svi Mykhailiuk and newly recruited forward Cheick Diallo, international players ineligible to compete for Team USA, the Jayhawks showed a resilience against the determined Canadians that reminded coach Bill Self and fans how fun it can be to watch a team loaded with experienced talent. The last KU team with as much experience as this bunch, Self noted, was 2012, when the Jayhawks marched all the way to the NCAA Tournament championship game.

But the Jayhawks were new to international play and in Gwangju, South Korea, would face older, stronger players.

“I just want the kids to go over there and have fun and compete,” Self said in Kansas City, “and see what happens.”

What happened was gold.

After their 84-77 double-overtime victory over Germany in the July 13 championship game, the Jayhawks emerged from the grueling, eight-game tournament energized about their prospects for the season to come.

“Our team really bonded, came together,” Self said after the gold medal game. “We were dead tired, no legs, no lift, couldn’t make a shot, and then basically just kind of willed ourselves to win late.”

Junior guard Frank Mason III, who scored 18 points against Germany, including two free throws to send the game to its first overtime and a driving layup with nine seconds remaining to send it to OT No. 2, was named the Finals MVP. Junior guard Wayne Selden Jr., the tournament’s second-leading scorer with 19.3 points per game, was named World University Games Best Player.

“This right here,” Selden said, holding aloft his gold medal, “it’s my first one of these. We’re happy about this. We’re going to cherish this moment.”

Team USA wobbled in the July 3 opener against Turkey, trailing 36-32 until a 12-2 run helped launch a 66-57 victory, promptly followed by victories over Brazil, Chile, Serbia, Switzerland and Lithuania. In the first World University Games medal-round game for a Team USA squad since 2009, USA toppled Russia, 78-68, to advance to the title game against Germany.

“If you had told me before the trip that we could get to the medal round and we’d have a shot at playing for the bronze or whatever, it would be a great trip,” Self said after the hard-fought win over Russia. “But here we are. Our guys haven’t settled for that at all. This is a team that started the tournament down 11 or 12 to Turkey in the first quarter, scared to death, and now we’re in attack mode.”

The Jayhawks hope to use the experience gained in the fast-paced international game—which features a 24-second shot clock as opposed to the NCAA’s 35—to unleash a similarly uptempo pace when their season begins Nov. 13 against Northern Colorado (following Late Night in the Phog Oct. 9 and exhibition games Nov. 4 and 10).

With Graham ready to assume more point-guard responsibilities, freeing Mason to finally establish himself in his more natural position of off-guard, Selden, too, will be allowed to shrug off the shackles imposed on him as a secondary ball handler and focus instead on creating scoring opportunities from the wings.

Self remains hopeful that McDonald’s All-American power forward Diallo—who, Self promises, runs the floor better than any big man he has had in his 12
Sports

previous seasons at Kansas—will be a big part of the fast-paced attack; yet, as of Kansas Alumni press time, KU was still awaiting certification of Diallo’s high school transcript by the NCAA.

“That group that went to Korea, they played great,” Self told students at Traditions Night, as reported by the Lawrence Journal-World. “But you could look at it, potentially, that we could have had four of our top eight guys not even travel. That gets me excited.”

On the attack

Francis designs offense to feature Salazar’s goal-scoring prowess

In his 17th season as KU’s soccer coach, Mark Francis has always used a preseason fitness test to motivate players to arrive in the best shape possible. For the first time in his career, Francis this year saw no need for the grueling drills: His players were all on campus this summer, training hard, and they reported to camp in the best shape of any group he’s yet had. With fitness concerns no longer a distraction, Francis focused on making offensive adjustments to feature the strengths of senior midfielder Liana Salazar, the Big 12’s second-leading scorer last season.

“Liana had a great season last year and we expect her to have another great one this year,” Francis says. “Our system this year is going to allow her a lot of freedom and opportunity to attack and get into the attack, but from a deeper position.”

KU opened the season 2-1-1, all road games. Freshman Parker Roberts, described by Francis as “a very talented offensive player,” had a goal, an assist and seven shots in the first two victories, at SMU and North Texas, and was named Big 12 Freshman of the Week.

UPDATES

If KU volleyball again advances to the NCAA Tournament, senior outside hitter Tianna Dockery would be the first player in KU history to experience postseason play all four years of her career. “When you start talking about players playing in the NCAA Tournament for their entire career,” says 18th-year coach Ray Bechard, “then you start to develop some momentum within your program, start to develop tradition and you start to build your brand.” A second-set rally propelled the Jayhawks to a four-set victory over Arkansas Aug. 29 to claim the Arkansas Invitational. Sophomore setter Ainise Havili was named tourney MVP, and junior middle blocker Tayler Soucie notched 15 kills and eight blocks in the title match. “[Soucie] really got us going with her physicality, blocking and attacking,” Bechard said ...

Sophomore Lydia Saggau sprinted away from the pack with 1,000 meters remaining in the Sept. 1 Bob Timmons Classic to score her first collegiate victory in 18:04.8. The meet was the first at Rim Rock Farm since the Aug. 4 death of legendary coach Bob Timmons, d’50, g’50. Among his many accomplishments— including numerous conference and NCAA team titles, seven Olympians and 16 world-record holders—Timmons’ most enduring legacy is the farm north of Lawrence that he acquired in the early 1970s and fashioned as one of the nation’s preeminent cross-country courses. The Rim Rock Classic is Oct. 3, and Timmons’ famed circuit on Nov. 13 hosts NCAA Midwest Regionals. ...

Maddie Stein, d’15, softball’s all-time RBI leader and Big 12 Softball Scholar-Athlete of the Year, in July was nominated by the conference for NCAA Woman of the Year. ... Senior golfer Connor Peck was named a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Peck posted two top-10 finishes last season and was named Academic All-Big 12 First Team. ... Terry Beeson, ’80, an All-Big 8 linebacker in 1976, and softball All-American and former coach Tracy Bunge, ’87, were named to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame’s Class of 2015. Enshrinement is Oct. 4 at the Wichita Boathouse. ... Women’s basketball coach Brandon Schneider opens his KU career Nov. 15 against Texas Southern, preceded by exhibition games Nov. 1 and 8 and Oct. 9 Late Night in the Phog.
Enjoy the KU Football game-day atmosphere on the first floor of the Adams Alumni Center. Join fellow Jayhawks for family-friendly activities and an easy walk to Memorial Stadium.

Enjoy:
- A delicious meal
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$15 per adult
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Call 785-864-4760 or sign up at kualumni.org/gameday.
At KU Libraries, we love to tell stories, and KU’s sesquicentennial provides the perfect opportunity. As the campus community celebrates 150 years of innovation and discovery, the university archives capture the story of KU—where we started, who brought us to where we are today, even how our mascot was hatched. From timeless traditions to those forgotten, this is just one piece of the libraries’ diverse collections that contribute to research, teaching and learning at KU and beyond. Learn more about these items and how you can become our official sponsor at lib.ku.edu/sponsor.

Join KU Libraries and the KU Alumni Association at one of our nationwide events celebrating KU 150: kualumni.org/events
Montell Cozart (2) helped KU generate 576 yards of total offense in the opener against San Diego State, the Jayhawks’ best mark in eight years; safety Tevin Shaw (30) crushed dangerous receiver Jake Wieke; Tre’ Parmelee (11) caught three passes; Ke’aun Kinner (22) fought for tough yards; Kent Taylor (81) stretched for a sideline pass in the end zone; and coach David Beatty guided the action in his first game as a college head coach.
afe Brown had been searching for the rare, amphibious creature known as a Malatgan River caecilian since 1994. Now, nearing the end of a 2014 research trip to catalog biodiversity on the island of Palawan in collaboration with the local Centre for Sustainability, the herpetologist had come to the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila to see a purported specimen collected by a student volunteer working with the museum’s herpetology division.

Brown, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator-in-charge of the herpetology division at KU’s Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, had his doubts about the find. Since the Malatgan River caecilian was discovered, in 1920, by herpetologist Edward Taylor, c’12, g’20, PhD’26, it had largely disappeared. “After Taylor there was one specimen, from the early 1970s,” Brown says. “And there was no habitat data with the ’70s specimen.” Even when found, the elusive amphibians are often confused with the foot-long earthworms native to the region. Upon discovering a new caecilian species in the 1920s, Taylor himself initially tossed the creature to the ground after misidentifying it. “I noticed, though, that it moved more like a snake than an earthworm,” Taylor wrote half a century later in his memoir, “and I picked it up again and examined it carefully. It was no worm. It had a mouth with four rows of teeth!”

So when Brown watched the student reach into an aquarium at the National Museum and withdraw what he knew immediately was an earthworm, he figured the mysterious, disappearing caecilian remained—like so many of Taylor’s Philippine discoveries—lost to science.

He broke the news gently.

“I’m like, ‘Oh, no, sorry, that’s a worm,’” Brown recalls. “And then the student says, ‘Oh, OK. Hey, here’s another one.’ And he hands me the real deal: a caecilian.”

The prank—herp humor!—turned into “kind of a bucket list moment” for Brown; it was also the latest in a long chain of finds and rediscoveries that link the...
Edward Taylor’s world-class collecting career began at KU, on a 1909 summer trip by wagon to western Kansas (above). By the time he died, in 1978, he had discovered and named 500 species and collected 75,000 specimens in field trips to the Philippines, Costa Rica, Thailand and Mexico (right). Among his finds was the parachute gecko (cover), discovered in 1915. Brown (page 22) later added specimens of the long-lost species—encountered during his early forays into the Philippines in the 1990s—to the vast herpetological collection at the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum.
current herpetology division leader with the man recognized as the founding father of both Philippine herpetology and the KU program that has become one of the nation's best for the study of reptiles and amphibians. Taylor's first academic publication, "New Species of Philippine Lizards," in 1915, is now celebrated as the start of a century of herpetology at KU, a milestone observed most recently at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, which the Biodiversity Institute hosted July 31 to Aug. 3. After joining the faculty in 1926, Taylor launched the program that Brown now heads, roaming the same Dyche Hall environs that are Brown's campus headquarters.

But even before Brown came to KU, in 2005, the two men were connected by their shared love of the Philippines: Brown focuses most of his research on the archipelago, and Taylor, who died in 1978, casts a long shadow there as the earliest cataloger of Philippine fauna. "The big collections were all Taylor's," Brown says, noting that the world's understanding of the region's rich biodiversity is based on Taylor's voracious, systematic cataloging of Philippine fauna. "He was the one who really targeted amphibians and reptiles—and he was also collecting everything else along the way."

But the specimens Taylor deposited in the National Museum were destroyed during the firebombing of Manila in World War II. Many species he discovered—like the Malatgan River caecilian—have been seen only rarely or not at all since Taylor found them, leading many to conclude that either the widespread logging and burning of Philippine forests led to their extinction, or that Taylor had erred in designating them as new species in the first place. Adding to the controversy, a 1954 taxonomic review by Field Museum herpetologist Robert Inger "sunk" more than half of the Philippine amphibians that Taylor named, effectively concluding that the critters were in fact members of species already known to science, not entirely new species as Taylor claimed.

Since his earliest forays to the Philip-
He drew two unenviable assignments: Because he was a strong swimmer, he spent most of his time in the water, clearing debris from the seine used to net fish specimens. And he was tasked with collecting a barrel of water snakes.

“The barrel was a very large one,” he later wrote, “and I must confess my inadequacy in that at the end of our work I had the barrel only about two-thirds full.” He caught malaria—apparently not an uncommon ailment at the time in Kansas—and suffered so much on the return trip that the little expedition had to stop and bed him down in a barn until he regained the strength to continue.

It was one of the few times that Taylor failed to excel in the competitive sport of specimen collecting. By the time he made his last field trip, a 1966 Panama excursion that resulted in the discovery of nine new species of caecilians, he had hunted herps on four continents and many islands around the world, becoming one of the world’s leading authorities on amphibians and reptiles. Most of his 75,000 specimens commanded princely sums when he sold the collections to leading American museums, but nearly 10,000 ended up in the collections to leading American museums, but nearly 10,000 ended up in the herpetology holdings at KU, where they formed the core of a collection that now numbers 340,000, the fifth-largest in the nation.

At 23, having completed his first KU degree in three-and-a-half years, he decided to forgo job hunting and declared instead, “I think I shall go abroad and hunt adventure.” The Philippines in 1912 was a good place to find it. Taylor’s Philippine sojourns, recounted vividly in his memoir, Recollections of an Herpetologist, read like an Edgar Rice Burroughs novel: He snatches a cobra barehanded and faces down spear-wielding headhunters, Malay pirates and the occasional crocodile; he even uses his knowledge of a coming solar eclipse to convince his tribal hosts that he has the powers of a god.

Wildier still are the tales Taylor left out of his autobiography, but hinted at tantalizingly in conversation: that in 1918 he was part of a covert U.S. mission to rescue the czar and his family in Russia, that he spied for the OSS during World War II, participating in the capture of a Japanese spy who later ended up at KU as a postdoctoral student in entomology.

“No one’s ever going to know the absolute truth of it,” says Linda Trueb, c’62, PhD’68, curator emerita of herpetology and associate director for finance at the Biodiversity Institute. “One of the things Ed did very well was build expectation but never fulfill it. He’d hint.”

“Especially,” adds William Duellman, professor emeritus of herpetology, “when he’d had ‘tee many martoonis,’ as he called it.”

Duellman joined the faculty in 1959, when Taylor, then 70, had left the museum but still taught and conducted research. “He was a legend at that point,” says Trueb, “fiercely independent. When Bill walked in he almost had to assume his mantle. The Ed Taylor mantle. He passed it on.”

Harry Greene, professor of herpetology at Cornell University and a keynote speaker at the SSAR conference this summer, credits Duellman and Trueb with building a herpetology program at KU.

“They started a program where for the last 40 or 50 years there’s been a critical mass of grad students drawn from all over the world, postdocs and international visitors, just seething herpetology,” Greene says. “And they’ve spun curators, professors, members of the National Academy of Sciences, and international leaders out of that little hallway down in the herp division. That’s a big deal to go from Taylor to that.”

Taylor, it seems, was less a builder than a gatherer. A ravenous, tireless collector in the field, he was so hungry for specimens that he often took great risks to get them. “He claimed he found things by crawling on his knees and feeling the leaf litter with his hands,” Greene says. “There’s a lot of stuff that will hurt you if you do that.”

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since joining the faculty in 1959, William Duellman, professor emeritus of herpetology, has seen more than half of KU’s century of herpetology research and education firsthand. Herpetology at Kansas records the evolution of the Biodiversity Institute division as it grew into what is recognized as a top-five program in the country. Chapters focus on prominent professors past (Ed Taylor, Henry Fitch, Linda Trueb, Joseph Collins) and present (Rafe Brown, Rich Glor), research trends (the rise of systematics, biogeography and phylogenetics) and memorable field trips (including the epic “Trip of Dreams” to South America that Duellman and Trueb undertook in a custom-made Ford camper truck with their 4-year-old daughter, Dana, and collection manager John Simmons). Biographical sketches and photos of the 138 herpetology alumni (80 of whom were in attendance at the SSAR convention held at KU this summer) round out an insightful history of the scientific study of reptiles and amphibians and KU’s essential role in it.

—S.H.
His field notes sketch a scorched earth approach to specimen gathering—“rape and pillage, we call it now,” Trueb jokes—with only cursory attention paid to the natural history of the animals collected. In a chapter on Ed Taylor in his new book, *Herpetology at Kansas: A Centennial History*, Duellman writes, “By the standards of any herpetologist today, Taylor’s field notes would receive a D-minus.”

“He did things we’d never do today,” Brown agrees, taking out one of his own field notebooks to show how researchers tag every specimen with a unique number and record a slew of precise observations: time, date, habitat type; size, weight and sex; GPS coordinates. Taylor had no access to GPS, of course, but he also reused tags and relied on memory, recording data days after specimens were collected. Looking at Taylor’s notebooks, Brown says, “I can almost see what was happening: He was traveling so fast, collecting along the way, moving quick and dirty from site to site, then trying to write down what he saw after a week’s work.”

These century-old field notes, gathered in dusty notebooks in the herp division’s library, offer scant clues about Taylor’s whereabouts, sometimes noting only that a specimen was collected somewhere in a day’s ride along a horseback forest trail between Philippine villages—routes that are now four-lane highways linking cities.

“Maybe that’s one of the things that makes it more like detective work,” Brown muses. “In his notes he should have told us how he caught the caecilian; all he said was, ‘If you have a shovel you can get them.’ We’re like, ‘Huh, OK, guess that means we’ve got to dig. That’s all we know.’”

Brown’s earliest and closest research collaborator in the Philippines is Arvin Diesmos, curator of herpetology at the National Museum in Manila. The two met in the early ’90s, and Diesmos—who studied with the eminent Philippine herpetologist Angel Alacala—joined a 1993 research team from the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History that Brown joined as an undergraduate. (“Rafe was a typical college dude,” Diesmos recalls, “a rock ‘n’ roll kid, just gung-ho about collecting stuff”) He was there when Brown made his first Taylor discoveries, resurrecting five species of stream frogs that Taylor had described and Inger had sunk back into a single species.

And they were together on the island of Luzon in 1998 when Brown resurrected another long-lost Taylor find.

“We were sitting on the forest floor, listening to calls, smoking, talking about our dreams for herpetology, what we wanted to do and what we should work on,” Diesmos recalls, “and it starts raining.”

Rain is a stroke of luck for frog hunters: It gets frogs talking, and suddenly an area that appeared barren of amphibian life can be revealed as teeming with it.

“Then we heard this strange, pulsing call and we didn’t know what it was,” Diesmos says. “There was no way they were climbing this spiky, 12-foot screw pine the sound was coming from, so they asked their guide—a young boy they’d hired from a local village—to chop it down.

“It fell on us, but we were able to capture the frog,” Diesmos says, grinning. It was *Platymantis cornutus*, the horned forest frog. Discovered by Taylor in 1922 in these same mountain forests of northern Luzon, it was right where he said it would be.

“When we found it, we were celebrating, shouting. Many people thought it was extinct. But in the rain we found many more; they were common.”

That pattern repeated with *Platymantis montanus* and other species. Field searches showed Taylor species thought to be extinct were still living right where Taylor found them.

“What we learned is there’s really no
save what remains.

“The Philippines has always been viewed as very poor in species, mainly because it was assumed that many of its herpetofauna were already known, especially after the publication of the monograph by Inger,” Diesmos says. “That assumption we know was incorrect.”

In fact, Brown’s most ambitious project to date—a $900,000 National Science Foundation-funded comprehensive survey of land vertebrates and their parasites that wrapped up in 2014—struck a hopeful note by finding that many species have survived the widespread deforestation that has claimed something like 85 percent of Philippine forests in the last 100 years.

“It’s incredible how many species have survived the removal of the big forests,” Brown says. “The conservation community really treated the Philippines as a lost cause; everyone just expected everything to go extinct because of the loss of all that forest. The doomsday prophecies about extinction really didn’t happen—which is kind of exciting for me.”

Indeed, Brown’s importance to the conservation movement is widely known. “He is an international leader in fostering conservation of biodiversity in southeast Asia, especially in the Philippines,” notes Leonard Krishtalka, Biodiversity Institute director. “And he does it in a way that is comprehensive.” Detailed surveys of local fauna—often for the first time in half a century or more—establish baseline data about wildlife populations. Genetic analysis gives a more detailed picture, often finding that frogs or snakes thought to be a single widespread species are actually several smaller, rarer species. “That, in turn, informs authorities of the enormous diversity of amphibians and reptiles they have, which ones are rare and endangered, and which need to be preserved and protected,” Krishtalka says, noting that Brown’s contributions extend to educating local officials, scholars and students in conservation biology and providing authorities with genetic tools to use “biodiversity forensics” to protect wildlife exploited by the illegal pet trade.

Brown’s research has helped boost conservation efforts for a tiny primate called a tarsier, established an online archive of frog calls and other animal sounds, and supplied the first major survey of a potentially devastating amphibian fungus. In 2014, Brown (along with Biodiversity Institute researchers Town Peterson and Rob Moyle) won a $125,000 NSF grant to survey damage to biodiversity at eight forest sites devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Along the way he has discovered more than 50 new species, including two species of monitor lizards, previously unknown to science, which he found for sale at a street market.

Science can’t know every species that calls the Philippines home, Brown says. “But I feel like the biodiversity is so underestimated in the Philippines, even for a place that’s already recognized as a global conservation hot spot. I want to know, is it underestimated by 10 percent? Fifty percent? If it’s badly underestimated, can I do something about it in a dozen years, or if we work really hard on it for five years can we change the situation?”

When Brown began his quest to retrace Taylor’s research steps—a trek that sometimes takes him and Diesmos into still-isolated jungle and other times into landscapes completely transformed since Taylor’s day by logging, agriculture or urbanization—the number of known Philippine amphibian species was about 80. That count is now 108, and once the papers they are currently writing are published, Brown and Diesmos say, that number will top 200. They have more than doubled Philippine amphibians’...
family tree in the last 20 years.

Before he decided to see for himself, Brown heard that the forests had been butchered, that the country was a lost cause. His work is proving that’s not the case. Locating and resurrecting Taylor’s species (he has resurrected 25 to 30 of the 44 Inger sunk, with another half-dozen in the works) and discovering new ones, he believes, means “leaving this incredibly beautiful country a little more biodiverse than I found it.”

That, Brown says, is his mission. “That’s the raw fuel for conservation.”

Recalls. “Being in the field, collecting, that was the charmed part of his life.”

He would never retrace his Philippine steps, but he left a record of them—the vaguest of traces—for anyone else who cared to. Decades later, Rafe Brown took up the trail.

From time to time Brown is reminded of that connection. Circling Bunuwan in a plane, he looks down, sees water coursing, realizes this is the river, this is the only way he could have gotten into the interior. Traveling by ferry from Mindanao to Manila, passing the island of Mindoro, he thinks, this is the path Taylor’s boats would have taken, this is the coastline he’d have been looking at. “There’s something about having my first herpetological experiences in the Philippines and latching on to Taylor’s writing then, that I just keep going back to it,” Brown says. “It’s not something I think about every day, but he keeps cropping up.”

Much has changed. The archipelago’s once-mighty forests have been slowly stripped by man. The trip, grueling enough by jet, is nothing compared to the weeks aboard ship that Taylor endured—and is a farther cry still from the jostling covered wagon ride that launched Taylor’s global collecting career. Science has advanced as well: Brown is using genetic tools such as DNA sequencing that were beyond imagining when Taylor explored these jungles—using them to prove that, despite the limitations he faced, Taylor got much of it right.

“He definitely made mistakes,” Brown says. “By today’s standards some of his practices would be pretty sloppy, because we have such better tools, such better data now.”

The generation of herpetologists right before Taylor weren’t even doing fieldwork, Brown notes. “They were just getting the specimens from professional collectors already preserved, so they didn’t get to see the animals in life, didn’t know much about their habitat. Taylor got that extra bit of information by seeing them in life. A lot of the time he had a pretty sharp eye.”

Much has changed. But the basic draw—the urge to go afield, to wander, to explore, the child’s curiosity to pick up a frog, a snake, a lizard, to see for oneself—that hasn’t changed. That is the sturdy root of science.

“The best thing, for me, is late at night out in the forest after a heavy rainstorm and the frogs are just dripping off the trees,” Brown says. “I get to see this diversity I’ve read about and know only from stilted telegraphic descriptions of Latin and technical terms and then I get to hold the frog in my hand, and it’s just amazing: It’s really there. He was right. Taylor’s right. Once again.”

Edward Taylor’s initial two-year adventure in the Philippines clearly had a hold on him. Watching the coastline disappear as he sailed away from “the wonderful island of magic, Mindanao,” he mused, “What was hidden in the mountains and jungles beyond the ranges? Would someone find the source of the gold that we panned in the river? Would I go back and retrace those footsteps?”

Recollections of an Herpetologist ends abruptly with a brief summary of a second stint in the islands and says nothing about his later travels in Latin America and Asia. It was published in 1975, three years before his death.

Around that time a young Rafe Brown moved from his house near the Cincinnati Zoo (where from the front porch he could hear gibbons, peacocks and elephants) to a farm in southwestern Ohio, where he caught black rat snakes and carried them home as pets. Taylor had done the same as a boy in Maysville, Missouri, and he continued keeping snakes as a KU student living in the Lawrence home of Gov. Walter Stubbs—once showing off his prize captive to an approving houseguest named Teddy Roosevelt.

William Duellman says that whenever he and Linda Trueb and their graduate students returned from field trips, Taylor insisted on hearing every detail of where they’d been and what they’d done. “He’d say, ‘Oh, my feet itch to get in the field again.’” Duellman
Design-build group breathes new life into East Lawrence's historic homes and 'hood

Standing vacant at the corner of 10th and Delaware streets, the shabby two-story house was hardly inviting. Its chipped, bleached-yellow siding did little to shield a tired frame that rested on its buckling foundation and rotting floors. Inside, termites had ravaged the walls.

The structure, across from Hobbs Park in East Lawrence, dated back to the early 1900s and had been a longstanding rental property in its prime. But recent neglect had taken its toll.

"It was just a shell of a house," says Simon Bates, who in 2009 purchased the home with his wife, Codi, c’14. "It was abandoned. Cats were living in there."

But the home’s proximity to Lawrence’s lively downtown area was appealing, and, at the time, real-estate pickings on the east side of town were slim. The Bateses took a chance on the fixer-upper, and they knew exactly who should lead its restoration.

In 2008, just a year before the Bateses bought the property, Matt Jones and Eric Jay, longtime friends who grew up together in Newton, reconnected in Lawrence. Jones, f’01, was building furniture in a small garage in East Lawrence and had just started picking up larger restoration projects when Jay moved back from Colorado, where he had been designing high-end, custom residences in a resort community.

The timing was perfect. The two decided to merge their talents—Jones’ craftsmanship in woodworking and Jay’s expertise in architecture—to form a full-service, design-build company, Struct/Restruct.

The Bateses took a chance on the fixer-upper, and they knew exactly who should lead its restoration.

"I was originally going to go into architecture," he explains. "I liked design, but I also liked building. I was drawn to the common shop."

Matt Jones

by Heather Biele

Portraits by Steve Puppe

Project photography by Heather Smith Jones
Jones and Jay preserved elements of the Bateses’ original structure (p. 31) when possible, retaining the rustic ceiling beams and yellow pine floors to provide plenty of rich texture and warmth. The home’s kitchen showcases several different types of hardwood creations, including a built-in bar and cabinetry, all from locally sourced lumber.
At KU, Jones was inspired by an instructor who was a furniture designer and builder. He agreed to help teach a materials workshop class. “That’s how I got interested in furniture design,” he says.

Although Jones and Jay regularly collaborate on ideas for project designs, when it comes to execution, each brings his own contribution to the table.

“For Eric, it’s more about the space,” Jones says. “For me, it’s more about the material. I’m pretty inspired by the materials and what they can do.”

In the Bateses’ house, that meant incorporating salvageable contents from the home with outside materials, both new and reclaimed, including shingles from a century-old house in North Lawrence and roof sheathing from the Poehler building in East Lawrence, which was undergoing renovation of its own.

Although the main frame of the home had deteriorated, Jones and Jay were able to save it, along with a portion of the original flooring, siding and stones from the foundation. They built an addition to the south side, complete with a glass-roofed hallway that connects the historic structure to its modern counterpart. To boost the home’s livable space, they hoisted it from its original foundation and poured a new concrete basement.

Jones procured eight different types of wood for the home’s interior, including some spalted maple and a “wormy” ash—materials that are “so much fun they just have to be used”—which found their way into the second- and first-floor bathrooms. Aromatic cedar, recovered from a tree downed during a microburst storm in Lawrence in 2006, became part of the home’s flooring and trim.

The Bateses, who knew they wanted a home rich in wood and texture, got their wish. “The warmth and craftsmanship of the wood is great, because it’s not a cookie-cutter idea or concept. It’s one of a kind,” Simon Bates says. “There’s nowhere else in the world that has this bar top, this window ledge or this floor.”

“Now in its seventh year, Struct/Restruct has made a name for itself in town, thanks to strong designs that marry modern architecture with vintage construction and creative use of reclaimed,“ —Matt Jones

Struct/Restruct’s signature mix of modern architecture and sturdy craftsmanship is evident throughout this 1870s structure. A unique blend of local raw materials created this home’s staircase, trim and doors.
Struct/Restruct restored. From 2008 to 2010 he studied more than 700 homes in the neighborhood’s core, visiting with current residents and researching each home’s architectural and historical significance.

“These homes are cultural products, just like books or art,” Domer says. “They tell us a lot about who we are, how we did things, what we believe in and how those things change over time.”

Domer notes that many years ago, East Lawrence wasn’t really a desirable place to live. “It was just kind of bypassed,” he says. “It was kind of funky; some people even thought it was blighted. It wasn’t a cool place to be.”

About the time Struct/Restruct was hitting its stride with home restorations, another neglected building in town was making a comeback. The historic Poehler Mercantile Co. grocery warehouse at 832 Pennsylvania St., which was abandoned for years in East Lawrence’s industrial district, was converted in 2012 to 49 artist loft apartments, led by the efforts of Tony Krnich, c’04,
and his real-estate development and management group, Flint Hills Holdings.

“The Poehler building was a huge step for people realizing this neighborhood is going somewhere,” says Jay.

Since then, Flint Hills holdings has acquired six more buildings in the area, five of which are historic, and in June the company completed a new 43-unit apartment complex called 9 Del Lofts, which is already fully occupied.

In addition to creating affordable, rent-controlled housing, Krsnich and his team envisioned the district as an ideal spot to cultivate the arts and support Lawrence’s creative community.

“Lawrence is a very creative, eclectic and innovative town,” says Tom Larkin, ‘09, vice president of development at Flint Hills Holdings, “but there was kind of a fragmented art community. Everybody knew each other, but there wasn’t really a hub where they could sell, work or showcase.”

The development group wanted to change that. It converted one of its buildings, formerly an old cider distillery at 810 Pennsylvania St., into the Cider Gallery, a home for exhibitions, events and, on the third floor, a co-working business port, where up-and-coming entrepreneurs and small businesses can rent workstations or offices from $75 to $600 a month.

One block over, on 720 E. 9th St., the SeedCo Studios provides a comfortable, family-like venue for local artists and musicians, with more than a dozen rentable workspaces and three recording and rehearsal studios.

Both locations, in the area that’s now popularly known as the Warehouse Arts District, have become prime destinations for local art lovers during Lawrence’s monthly Final Fridays art walks, which includes among its stops the Lawrence Arts Center at 940 New Hampshire St. and a number of eclectic, locally owned shops and galleries in the downtown area.

“We weren’t anticipating the neighborhood to blow up like it has,” Simon Bates says. “We’re glad we’re still here with all the crazy, fun things happening.”

As Jones and Jay wrap up a handful of restoration projects this summer, they’ll also expand into uncharted territory. They have acquired nine lots in the 1200 block of Haskell Ave. and plan to construct new, custom-built houses, ranging from $200,000 to $250,000. They hope to break ground this fall.

Struct/Restruct also wants to introduce retail lumber sales into its services, giving the public access to the unique, local hardwoods Jones and Jay incorporate into their home and furniture designs.

And of course there are Jones’ side projects. He’s currently working on his own home in East Lawrence, which boasts the same innovative style and creative use of materials that Struct/Restruct is known for. But he confesses he’s been hoarding a different kind of material for his personal use.

“I ended up with all the Douglas County highway signs,” Jones says with a laugh, admitting that the recycled signs may become awnings for the front windows of Struct/Restruct’s shop if they don’t make the cut at his house. “I’m pretty excited about it. Those are going to be pretty fun.”
Where Everybody

By Chris Lazzarino
Photographs by Steve Puppe
On the 60th anniversary of The Wagon Wheel Cafe, a campus icon continues to serve up crimson-and-blue tradition alongside its trademark burgers and beers.
For a remarkably thorough examination of the backstory of The Wagon Wheel Cafe and its underlying property we can thank Wichita attorney Tyler Heffron. After enrolling in a national historic preservation research workshop, Heffron, l'05, decided to focus on The Wheel.

"To be honest, it was my last semester of law school and I wanted to do something fun," Heffron recalls from his office at Triplett Woolf & Garretson, where he is a partner specializing in civil litigation. "I knew it had been around a long time, and I suspected that the building had to have been something before it was The Wheel. Turns out that was accurate."

According to Heffron's extensively documented research—an academic exercise that was never submitted for consideration by historic preservation councils—a large swath of the eastern slope of Mount Oread was first owned by U.S. Sen. Edmund G. Ross, a former Army officer who had two horses shot out from underneath him at the Battle of Westport; founded Lawrence's first Free State newspaper, the Kansas Tribune; and, after his appointment to the Senate following U.S. Sen. James H. Lane's 1866 suicide, political pariah for turning against fellow "Radical Republicans" by casting the deciding vote for acquittal in the 1868 Senate impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson.

Ross's heirs sold their patriarch's Mount Oread property in 1919 to prominent Lawrence businessman J.D. Bowersock, but the lot on which The Wheel is now perched might have been purchased...
shrimp, omelets and fresh pies were on the menu. Beer was not.

“My mom didn’t want to sell beer and she didn’t want to have pinball machines,” Large recalls. “They wanted to have a nice restaurant and have it open seven days a week. Once they did that for about the first year they realized that nobody was coming there because they wanted to drink beer.

“That’s when they switched it over to burgers and fries and beers. It took off and was phenomenally successful.”

The Larges supplemented the business by opening a newsstand and sundries shop in the lower level, where The Wheel Pizza Co. is now located. They embraced their new clientele, yet continued to employ professional servers, rather than part-time student employees, and kept the tablecloths and candles, hoping to discourage a rowdy atmosphere.

“Because my mom had such a presence, all the sororities felt that it was a very safe place to go for food and beer,” Jim Large says. “They just kind of gravitated to my mom because she ran it as most of the girls’ parents wanted. The Jayhawk used to be the place, and then all of a sudden, when all these girls started coming in, they all shifted up to The Wheel.”

Success came at a price. The Larges, their son recalls, worked from Ross more than a decade earlier by stationers D.L. and Anna Rowlands, who in 1906 built a new bookstore—on what was then called Adams Street—and moved their popular, longtime Massachusetts Street business closer to students on campus.

Except for a few modifications and additions in the 1920s and ’50s, their 1906 neoclassical Craftsman-style cottage, which also served as the Rowlands’ family home, is the same structure we see today.

From 1906 until its apparently sudden departure sometime around 1954, Rowlands College Book Store remained “Booksellers to Jayhawks” and the place “Where Students Go” for textbooks, stationery, engineer’s instruments, Jayhawk souvenirs, toiletries and snacks.

The family, KU and Lawrence suffered a terrible loss on March 28, 1912, when Mr. Rowlands died following “a very serious operation.” Publishing its lamentation on the top of the front page, the March 29, 1912, Lawrence Daily Journal-World bemoaned, “There was not a man in Lawrence better to his family than D.L. Rowlands nor a man who made more friends for himself. Ever since coming to Lawrence he has been in the book business and in his College Book Store he came in contact daily with hundreds of students who learned to love him.”

The Rowlands family carried on, and even opened Rowlands Annex at 1237 Oread Ave. The flagship store on 14th Street was part of what Heffron described in his research as a “student services corridor” that also included a clothes cleaning and pressing business near Rowlands; the Jayhawk Cafe and a neighborhood grocery at 14th and Ohio; and, at 14th and Tennessee, a tobacco store, barbershop, and, at the current site of Bullwinkles Bar (formerly The Bierstube), a small restaurant called The College Inn, which was taken over shortly after World War II by Jim and Virginia Large, who previously owned a thriving bus-station sandwich shop in Cabool, Missouri, serving soldiers traveling to nearby Fort Leonard Wood.

“They made a lot of money doing that,” recalls the Larges’ son, Jim, b’66, from his home in Lake Quivira, where he is retired from a 30-year career at Hallmark Cards. “And then after the war they realized there was no future with that bus station.”

Mrs. Large’s sister, Dorothy Thomas, who owned Allison Thomas Flowers at 941 Mass, urged them to move to Lawrence, and here the Larges took over The College Inn. When Rowlands departed, sometime in 1954 or perhaps early 1955, Jim and Virginia Large decided to move up the hill; during a visit to a Lone Star farm owned by the father of Homer Allison, Dorothy Thomas’ business partner in the flower shop, the Larges found three discarded wagon wheels and struck upon the theme for their new restaurant.

Renting the building from the family of Gertrude Rowlands Wetmore, the Larges in 1955 opened The Wagon Wheel Cafe. With tablecloths, candles, and ceramic water and tea pitchers [opposite page, top], the Larges hoped to make a success of a nice restaurant close to campus yet catering largely to local folks.

They used the outdoor display case that had featured Rowlands’ goods to cook ham, enticing customers with the aroma. Steak, shrimp, omelets and fresh pies were on the menu. Beer was not.

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Success came at a price. The Larges, their son recalls, worked...
tirelessly, recharging only during the winter holiday, spring break and especially summer vacation, when Mr. Large took refuge at Lawrence Country Club. There one of Large's golf partners was James Wooden, whose son, John, was one of the best junior golfers in the region.

John Wooden, '61, gave KU a try after his graduation from Lawrence High School, but by all accounts he quickly judged that college was not for him. Instead he sold cars and real estate, and, at some point, went to work for Mr. Large at The Wheel.

“He was a hustler,” lifelong friend John Hadl, d'68, associate director of athletics, says affectionately. “He was always hustling something, and he was good at it, and everybody loved him in the meantime.”

Wooden told the University Daily Kansan in 1986 that he bought half of The Wheel from the Larges in 1965 and the rest in 1966, the same timeframe he shared with employees—although he was known to also add when relating the story that the second half of the purchase was for $1. Family members say he was working there at least by the winter of 1966, although apparently not as the owner, and Jim Large says it’s his understanding that Wooden bought The Wheel from his father in 1969, after working there for perhaps a year previously. Wooden’s accountant, Dean Radcliffe, '64, agrees that a 1969 sale is “pretty close.”

Whatever the precise timeline might be for the sale from the Larges to Wooden, it is certain that at some point after the mid-1960s, the long hours, relentless clouds of cigarette smoke and changing student attitudes had finally eroded the Larges’ enthusiasm. When their son returned from Vietnam, in 1969, he made it clear that he did not intend to carry on the family business.

“My dad wanted me to take it over, but I didn’t want any part of it because I saw what it did to my dad. It was a killer business. He would work 16 hours a day when he ran that thing and at the end of the year he just looked like he was about ready to die.”

Once the Larges completed the sale to Wooden, the family left the business behind. Jim Large says he rarely returns, yet the family retains both affection for The Wagon Wheel Cafe and pride in its campus legacy.

“Most people today associate it with Woo. But I run into people all the time who were in school in the ’60s and they always say my dad was the greatest confidant they had. My mother, too. The girls would all talk to my mother when they had personal problems and the guys would talk to my dad.

“They were very good people. They loved those kids.”

Enter Dr. Woo.

“First of all, he was one of a kind, there’s no question about that,” Hadl says. “He loved KU to his bone. He just was a KU man all the way. And he was a hell of a golfer, too. He could shoot whatever he needed to shoot. He was a crook, basically, at golf.”

“He had a handicap that I don’t think was worthy of how well he played,” coach Brown says. “He was a tremendous player. He didn’t look like one but he could play.”

“He didn’t play golf for free,” says Jackie Wooden Loneski, Wooden’s third wife, “and he didn’t play gin for free.”

“Once a year he’d let us come play golf with him,” says Farha, a former student employee and manager who bought The Wheel from Wooden’s estate after Woo died on March 4, 1997, at 57, while putting on the 18th green in Palm Springs, California. “He wouldn’t gamble with us because he wasn’t going to take money from his former employees, but on the 18th hole he’d say, ‘I’ll play for a double-dip pistachio ice cream cone.’ And every time we’d meet back at his house afterward and I’d have to go by Baskin-Robbins and buy him his ice cream cone.”
"The Wheel was as much a part of my father as anything," says Wooden’s daughter, Mandy Wooden Gorman, g’00. "He had this way of making people ... I don’t know if it was feel special, but when they came to The Wheel it was as if he was always waiting for them to come in."

Jim Connelly, d’68, g’72, a jewelry artist and owner of Silver Works and More, worked at The Wheel after returning from Vietnam and enrolling in graduate school. When Connelly couldn’t find a job after graduation, Woo installed him as manager at another bar he’d recently purchased, The Harbour Lights, at 1031 Mass, which he apparently owned until sometime in the late 1970s. Wooden also briefly owned a second bar on the same block on the west side of Mass, The Voodoo Hut, and he bought The Wheel’s building from the Wetmore family in 1975. By then Connelly was borrowing money from Wooden to buy gold for his jewelry business, which in the 1970s was soaring toward $400 an ounce.

“He was sitting in the booth and he says, ’Well, how much do you think you need?’ I said, ’Maybe $500.’ He said, ’OK, here you go.’ So he gives me $500 to buy gold.”

Cash, whether for gambling or paying employees, was Wooden’s preferred currency. He generated about 25 percent of his gross sales on football game days—“They are not that anymore,” Farha says, explaining that the growth of pregame tailgating and fluctuating kickoff times dampened The Wheel’s football game-day tradition—and Jackie Loneski recalls Woo coming home and counting the cash on their bed. He was also known to tuck bills into employees’ back pockets at the end of their shifts; it wasn’t much, but it was cash.

“There was one time I said, ’John, I’ve got to quit. This is not enough money for as long as I’ve been in here working,” Connelly recalls. “So I quit on him, and then he came back and got me the next day. I had a couple of friends who worked for him and they probably set the record for the number of times John fired them and then hired them back again.

“He helped an awful lot of kids, he really did.”

Sean Butler, c’91, vice president of human resources at Mosaic, the world’s largest supplier of phosphate and potash, was managing The Wheel when former manager Charlie Farha, ’83, stopped by with Rob Farha, a freshman, in tow.

“Charlie said, ’I’d like you to meet my little brother. If you can find a way to give him a job, that would be great,’” Butler says from his office in Lithia, Florida, near Tampa. “So we slipped Robbie into the payroll. I think he worked his first game day and we realized he had some character and charisma and we could probably move him up the food chain pretty quick over the next two or three years.”

“Oh, boy,” Butler adds with a laugh, “do I regret that...”
Rob Farha doesn't shy away from his freshman nickname, a play on “Robbie” that emphasized his lanky frame—all knees and elbows. “Knobbie” seemed to fit, and it stuck. The customized “Knobbie” license plate that has hung behind the bar since Butler put it there in 1985—in honor, he says, of a particularly outstanding job Farha did in cleaning out behind the Dumpsters after a frenzied game day—is testament to the fact that Farha doesn’t duck the less-than-elegant moniker.

Farha corrects his former mentor in one minor detail, however: His first shift wasn't on a football game day, but rather a notorious annual spring bash with its own unfortunate name—[insert Kansas town name here] Trash Night. It was spring 1985; Farha was a freshman when his cousin Tim, b’87, also a Wheel manager, called him and said, “Get up here at 11.” Since The Wheel closed at midnight, Knobbie responded, “What, one hour?”

No, in fact. Many hours.

“I was the cleanup boy,” Farha recalls with a laugh. “That was my first night, until Sean hired me in the fall of ’85.”

Wooden named Farha one of his managers in fall 1987, and he continued in the job through May 1989, a semester after his December graduation. Farha then “bounced around Kansas City,” managing a Westport club for a year and selling clothes at Woolf Brothers on Ward Parkway.

When American Century Mutual Funds launched a hiring boom in 1992, Farha signed on as a customer service representative.

But he always returned regularly to visit with Wooden.

“He was my confidant,” Farha says. “American Century was a great company but how far was I going to go with them? So I'd always bug Woo: ‘Why don't you sell me the bar?' And his quote was, ‘I'm not selling it until after my daughter is married.’

“So I go to Mandy’s wedding, and I ask him at the reception, ‘Your daughter’s married. Are you ready to sell me the bar?’ And he chewed my [butt].”

Farha laughs at the memory, but adds softly, “And then he died three months later.”

Jackie Loneski says her late husband always told her he’d like Farha to return and run the bar, “But no, he wouldn’t have sold it. That really was his life.”

Mandy Gorman, who returns to The Wheel frequently with her family—in part, she says, so her children will grow to appreciate their grandfather’s legacy—says she understands when people say her father “died doing what he loved,” on a golf trip to Palm Springs, but that doesn't diminish the pain.

“Anytime there’s a sudden death like that, people search for the right kind of words to comfort,” she says. “But it was a shock. It was absolutely a shock. Yes, he was doing what he loved, and certainly you can’t quite imagine him going in a better way. I just wish it wouldn’t have been so early.”

Suddenly forced to confront the status of a seasonal business that needed leadership in place before the start of fall classes, Gorman knew one thing for certain: She would not run The Wheel.

“That was never, ever my intention, nor was it ever my father’s intention. The thing he always said to me was, ‘Never sell the building. Never sell the building.’

When she asked for bids on the business, Farha’s stood out. Not just because he’d always been one of her father’s favorites, but because of his pledge to respect the traditions in which her father had taken such great pride.

“Robbie just felt right,” she says. “He was not going to change anything, and that, to me, is the goal for The Wheel. Yes it’s for the students, but as alumni, when we come back we want to see that it hasn’t changed. And not everyone who was interested in buying it understood that.”

Finally confronted with the goal he’d been pursuing for years, Farha had to first face his fears: a good job with a Fortune 100 company, retirement plan and health insurance versus being self-employed in a seasonal business whose most profitable days might have already passed. So Farha stopped in for a visit with his boss’s boss, an executive named Brian Jeter.

“Before I could say two words he said, ‘I know why you’re here. Get the hell out of here. If it doesn’t work I’ll hire you back in two years.’ That was the best push I could get.”

Farha laughs and adds, “And he was a Missouri guy, too.”

How good was Frank in the fourth quarter?”

Topeka Capital-Journal columnist Kevin Haskin is asking men’s basketball coach Bill Self for a comment about the electrifying second-half performance by point guard Frank Mason III in the first of two June exhibition games in the Sprint Center against Team Canada.

Haskin is deservedly one of Self’s favorites, and as he starts to give a thoughtful reply, Self, noticing Farha standing back near the TV lights, grins and asks, “Is this the media room?”

“Yeah,” Haskin says. “It is.”

“Well, how did Knobbie get in here? Summer career? Must be providing free pizzas for everybody.”

So, yeah, he’s made it. A laughing namecheck by none other than Bill Self, in front of a room full of reporters, assures that Rob Farha, now in his 19th year as The Wheel’s owner, is no
longer a mere caretaker of the business built by Jim Large and John Wooden. Shout-outs come frequently, too, from Farha’s sportscaster pals Neil Everett, Scott Van Pelt and Rece Davis, who are known to holler, “Powered by the Wangburger!” when narrating KU basketball clips on ESPN—not because The Wheel was No. 3 in USA Today’s 2013 ranking of the nation’s best college bars, but because they’ve patronized the pub and left as fans and friends.

Coach Brown loved the place so much that one year he even contracted with Wooden to host his team’s training table in The Wheel. (“I think he probably overcharged us,” Brown says with a chuckle.) Farha used to have lunch ready for former men’s basketball coach Roy Williams and assistant coach Joe Holladay, who frequently ended their afternoon jogs and power walks at The Wheel. Sports Illustrated profiles of both John Riggins, ’81, and Larry Brown included photographs of them at The Wheel.

“I admit, I love it. It boosts my ego a little bit,” Farha says of the TV shout-outs and famous patrons. “I'm not a big celebrity chaser or whatever, but boy, I want them to come by.”

That’s because The Wheel’s celebrity reputation helps Farha maintain his pledge to Gorman about avoiding change. He resists when students urge him to add promotions or curry to the rowdier crowds that fill other nearby college bars. “It's probably cost me a little bit of business,” Farha concedes, “but I kind of like to keep the mystique the way it is.”

Tyler Heffron sees The Wagon Wheel Cafe as a crucial connection point between city and campus that goes far deeper than football game days and alumni reunions over cold beers and hot hamburgers.

“The fact that it's been a bar that long is certainly a tradition in and of itself,” Heffron says, “but I think maybe the whole story behind the building and the underlying property shows how that particular spot, and that larger area, drew the University and community together for a long, long time.

“The building itself, from an architectural standpoint, is nothing significant. It's what's happened there. That's what makes it historic.”

Sadly, one tradition has ended: The owner of The Wheel no longer deals cards. Ever since the 2012 death of his gin-game buddy Marcus Patton, d’65, g’72, PhD’74, Farha has stopped playing afternoon games in the corner booth. Not that others aren't welcome to ... if first they can somehow secure one of the toughest tickets in town: hot-tub seating in The Wagon Wheel Cafe.

“You knew you graduated from KU when you had your diploma,” Sean Butler says. “But you knew you really graduated when you could sit in the corner booth.”

Royalty at last.
Summer of transition

Peterson serves in interim role; Storey to lead fundraising

Heath Peterson, vice president of alumni programs, became interim president of the Alumni Association Aug. 1, following the resignation of Kevin Corbett.

The Alumni Association’s national Board of Directors named Peterson, d’04, g’09, to the interim role while a national search is conducted. The Board has formed a search committee, and the job description for the president is posted on the Association’s website, kualumni.org.

Corbett, c’88, accepted an executive vice president position with Affiliated Builders Group (ABG) headquartered in Edmond, Oklahoma. Association Chair Rick Putnam thanked Corbett for his leadership of the organization since 2004. “Kevin has been a great asset for the KU Alumni Association,” said Putnam, c’77, f’80. “His contributions were numerous, and as a result of his hard work and dedication, the Alumni Association is on extremely solid ground.”

Over the past decade, the Association’s annual programs and events have grown from 70 to more than 400 worldwide. Each year, more than 50,000 alumni and friends participate in Association activities, and 80 percent of these events highlight KU academic programs, student recruitment, or networking opportunities for alumni and current KU students. The Association’s Presidents Club donor program, created in 2006, now boasts more than 500 annual members whose support has helped fund the organization’s unprecedented growth. Membership in the Association has grown from 38,000 to more than 42,000.

“It has been an honor and privilege to serve the alumni of my alma mater, the University of Kansas,” Corbett said. “I am proud of the progress made during my time with KU, and believe that even greater things are on the horizon.”

Peterson, a Hugoton native, joined the Association staff 12 years ago and has been instrumental in boosting the Association’s presence throughout Kansas and the nation by recruiting a large group of volunteers and spearheading the development of a number of alumni programs.

The Association also welcomed Angela Riffey Storey, b’04, g’07, to the staff as vice president of donor relations. Since 2011, she has assisted fundraising for the Association’s Presidents Club as associate development director for KU Endowment. She joined the Alumni Association staff full time Sept. 14, succeeding Mike Davis, senior vice president for donor relations. Davis, d’84, g’91, resigned to manage key sales accounts for Grandstand Sportswear, based in Lawrence.

Leaders, innovators

Biennial Black Alumni Network reunion to honor Jayhawks

Twelve alumni will receive the KU African-American Leaders and Innovators award for their contributions to the University, their profession and their communities. They will be honored Sept. 26 during the Black Alumni Network’s biennial reunion.

The honorees include:

- Nedra Patton Bonds, c’70
- Mickey Brown c’59, g’65
- Bertram Caruthers Sr., c’33, g’35
- Ralph Crowder, PhD’95
- Nathan Davis, d’60
- Cynthia Harris, c’78, g’82
- Alferdeen Harrison, PhD’71
- Erica Hawthorne-Manon, j’02
- Audrey B. Lee, j’76, g’78
- Alversa Milan, f’55
- Julie Johnson Staples, j’78
- Evelyn Welton, c’49

Ten recipients will attend the campus event Sept. 26; two will be honored posthumously, along with Mike Shinn, e’66, who helped found the KU Black Alumni Network and the Leaders and Innovators Project. The award will be renamed for Shinn, who died in March, and his wife, Joyce, who will attend the event.

Bonds, of Kansas City, is an artist, civic activist and educator. Born into a family of quilters, she started quilting at age 6. As an
adult, she has used her work to express her views. Bonds has exhibited nationally and internationally, and her quilts are on display in prominent Kansas City locations, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She also has participated in the AIDS Memorial Quilt and Quilts of Valor. Last fall, Bonds was inducted in Kansas City, Kansas, public schools’ Reasons to Believe Alumni Honor Roll. She continues to conduct workshops and classes for adults and children.

Brown, of Atchison, has served as a leader in his community for years. During his time in the Chicago area, he was involved in the local chapter of the NAACP and Community and Youth Development, an organization that provides mentoring programs for disadvantaged children. Brown is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and participated in the Mu Mu Lambda chapter’s educational initiative “Go to High School, Go to College.” He has mentored high school boys and coached Little League baseball teams. As a scientist he has published several articles and earned recognition for his work with Abbott Laboratories, Argonne National Laboratory and Altria Group Inc.

Caruthers, who died in April 2002, led a 38-year career as a science teacher, principal, assistant to the superintendent and university professor in Kansas City. He secured funding for and implemented the first Career Education Program in the state of Kansas, which became a model for promoting vocational education. Caruthers served on the board of several organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Wyandotte House. In 1985, he received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Alumni Association and the University.

In 2002, Hawthorne Elementary School in Kansas City was renamed Bertram Caruthers Elementary School, and in 2005, he was inducted posthumously in the Kansas City Kansas Community College Endowment Association’s Mid-America Education Hall of Fame alongside his daughter, Patricia Caruthers.

Crowder, of Riverside, California, came to the University to pursue his doctorate in history. He received the George L. Anderson Award for Best Dissertation. He joined the history faculty at the University of California-Riverside and led the ethnic studies department as chair. He also served as a mentor for faculty and at-risk youths. In July 2012, he retired as professor emeritus. Crowder has widely published and presented his research on 19th- and 20th-century African-American history, Pan-African history and the Black Indian experience. His most notable books include John Edward Bruce: Politician, Journalist, and Self-Trained Historian of the African Diaspora and Black History Month: Reclaiming a Lost Legacy.

Davis, of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania, is a multi-instrumental jazz performer and educator. Growing up in Kansas City, near Charlie Parker’s childhood home, he got an early education in local jazz from bandleader Jay McShann before coming to KU to study music. After earning his degree in music education, Davis joined the military, studying at the Naval School of Music and playing in military bands throughout Europe. After his service ended, he became a stalwart of the lively Paris jazz scene, recording his first studio albums and building a steady performance career as a bandleader and a sideman to Kenny Clarke, Art Blakey and other jazz greats.

In 1969, Davis returned to the U.S. to found one of the nation’s first jazz studies programs, at the University of Pittsburgh. He launched the Annual Jazz Seminar, started an academic journal devoted to the scholarly study of jazz, and established the International Academy of Jazz-Hall of Fame, which preserves a trove of jazz
artifacts in the Sonny Rollins International Jazz Archives. Davis received the BNY Mellon Jazz 2013 Living Legacy Award at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for his contribution to jazz education and performance. He retired in 2013 to devote more time to composing and performing.

Harris, of Tallahassee, Florida, directs the Institute for Public Health at Florida A&M University. A Kansas City native, she earned degrees in biology and genetics from KU and completed her doctorate in biomedical sciences at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, she became the first African-American to serve as branch chief for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a coordinating agency of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

She created the first doctoral program in public health in Florida, and she designed the online master’s degree program, a first for the university and among all historically black colleges and universities. Harris chairs the board of the Florida Public Health Association and the editorial board of the Harvard Journal of Public Health. She also serves as vice president of the Trust for America’s Health, and she serves on the Florida Sickle Cell Task Force and the National Science Advisory Board on Exposure and Human Health.

Harrison, of Jackson, Mississippi, was the first African-American to earn a doctorate from KU’s department of history, and she helped lay the groundwork for the University’s African and African-American Studies department. In 1972, she joined the faculty at Jackson State University in her home state of Mississippi and created the university’s academic program in public history, the first established among historically black colleges and universities. In 1977, she spearheaded the development of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center, the first state museum to highlight African-Americans in Mississippi.

When famed poet and novelist Margaret Walker Alexander (1915-1998) retired as founder and director of Jackson State’s Institute for the Study of Life and Culture, Harrison transformed the institute into the Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, a prominent museum and archives. Harrison received the 2012 Thad Cochran Humanities Award for her contributions to the enhancement of Mississippi history and culture.

Hawthorne-Manon, of Philadelphia, has championed the arts in her community. As a poet and actor, she is popularly known as RhapsodE. She co-founded Spoken Soul 215, a collective of young artists, singers and poets who produce the Harvest Open Mic & Showcase Experience, a monthly event. Hawthorne-Manon also mentors aspiring artists in Campus Philly Open Arts program. In 2012, she received a Knight Foundation Challenge Grant and founded Small but Mighty Arts, a program that provides micro-grants to local artists. For her work, she received a Philadelphia DoGooder Award in 2013.

As a journalist, Lee, of Paducah, Kentucky, worked on international media campaigns for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Pope John Paul II and U.S. ambassadors. She also served on the faculty of the University of Louisville, Sullivan College and Paducah Community College. After earning her law degree from the University of Kentucky, she now works as a senior criminal defense attorney in the Paducah Trial Office for the Department of Public Advocacy. In 2012, she was recognized as the Woman of the Year by the Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women, and she received the Mayor’s Award of Merit.

Milan, who died in April 2014, led community programs for children and parents. She started her career as an occupational therapist at the VA Medical Center in Topeka and later served as assistant chief of domiciliary operations at the VA Medical Center in Leavenworth.

As a Lawrence resident, she was an activist for racial integration and supported those who faced physical and economic challenges. In 1964, she helped establish the Children’s Hour, the city’s first racially integrated nursery school. She welcomed KU students into her home for mentoring, meals and tutoring, and served as the undergraduate adviser for her sorority. Throughout the 1960s, she served on the Lawrence Public Library board. She also co-founded the Lawrence Branch of Concerned Black Parents, a social justice organization that provided support for students at Lawrence High School.

After moving to Kansas City, Milan helped establish the Mother to Mother ministry, which provides support and mentoring for disadvantaged mothers. In 2013, she wrote *Raising Children Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3*.

Staples, of Brooklyn, New York, has pursued varied careers in journalism, finance and the ministry. She is currently interim senior minister of the 116-year-old Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church.

As a KU student, she was the first African-American editor of the University Daily Kansan. She eventually became the White House correspondent for the Baltimore Sun and The New York Times. In 1994, she earned her law degree from Georgetown University and went on to serve as the Justice Department correspondent for ABC News. She later began a career in international investing at Warburg Pincus and became the firm’s first African-American partner. Her career shifted again when she returned to graduate school to study theology and became ordained in the Congregational and American Baptist Church. She serves on the board of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Welton, of Kansas City, devoted her career to epidemiological and pediatric studies. She retired after 35 years as a medical technologist for the Veterans Administration. In her community, she advocates for older residents and leads the Center City AARP Chapter No. 1544 as president. She also serves on the city’s executive board of the NAACP. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a founding member of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. Welton is an active member in St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Kansas City.
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Photography by Jerry Wang

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The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships July 1 through Aug. 31. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

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Cruises on the Severn River are a summer tradition for the Baltimore-Annapolis Jayhawks. Chuck, c’63, l’66, and Pam Hewitt host an annual picnic at their Severna Park, Maryland, home along the river. This year they welcomed about 40 alumni, friends and prospective students July 11 for hours of fun that lasted long past sunset.

Hawkfest

More than 3,500 students enjoyed free pizza, ice cream and sandwiches as they learned about various campus groups during Hawkfest Aug. 22. The Student Alumni Association and the Student Involvement and Leadership Center hosted the annual prelude to Traditions Night in the stadium. More than 150 of KU’s 600 student groups participated.
Class Notes by Heather Biele

James Gunn, j’47, g’51, professor emeritus of English at KU and author of more than 40 books, has been named to the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame.

Ellen Patterson Long, c’49, celebrated her 90th birthday in July. She and her husband, Robert, c’49, m’53, also will celebrate 65 years of marriage in September. They live in Olathe.

Charles Hill, g’59, and his wife, Mary Ann, recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. He is a retired school superintendent and principal. They make their home in Lawrence.

Jerry Lewis, b’61, is chairman of Lewis Investments Inc. He lives in Birmingham, Michigan.

Peter Haggart, g’63, is a retired professor and administrator at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

William Reese, b’64, l’67, owns a franchise of European Wax Center in Antioch, California.

Arthur Buikema Jr., g’65, PhD’70, has been named alumni distinguished professor emeritus at Virginia Tech, where he has taught for 44 years.

Katherine Lumpkin Maxwell, c’65, d’67, has earned the chartered advisor in philanthropy designation from the American College of Financial Services. Kay is the president of Maxwell Financial Services in Dallas, where she lives.

Michael McGill, b’65, retired in July from the U.S. General Services Administration.

Bryan Shewmake, c’65, e’70, g’71, and his wife, Cheryl, recently enjoyed a cruise to the Norwegian fjords. It was the sixth time they have crossed the Arctic Circle.

Nancy Maloney Rich, c’67, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation for her work in community crisis support. After 40 years in Denver, she now lives in Lawrence.

Deanell Reece Tacha, c’68, dean of law at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, was the keynote speaker at the 26th Kansas Women Attorneys Association in Lindsborg.

Richard Hellman, m’69, a clinical endocrinologist and professor of medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, received the 2014 Distinguished Reviewer Award from Diabetes Care.

H. Edward Flentje, PhD’70, retired as professor emeritus from Wichita State University.

Gordon Jones, c’70, l’73, retired after almost 37 years as senior trial counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Thomas Averill, c’71, g’74, an English professor and writer-in-residence at Washburn University in Topeka, made the 2015 Kansas Notable Book List. His latest book, A Carol Dickens Christmas: A Novel, was published last year by the University of New Mexico Press.

James Young, c’71, to Kathryn Lavelle, July 31 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He is a cardiologist and executive dean of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Barbara Beeson Stuber, f’73, made the 2015 Kansas Notable Book List. Her latest book, Girl in Reverse, was published earlier this year by Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Clark Case, j’75, g’78, is the director of finance and administrative services for Leesburg, Virginia.

J. Brad Donovan, d’75, has been reappointed to a six-year term as a deputy commissioner of the North Carolina Industrial Commission in Raleigh.

James Brooks, g’76, is the director of sales and marketing at Huntington Hotel Group in Ballwin, Missouri.

Edward Kirkman, c’76, is retired CEO of TS&D. He lives in Tigard, Oregon.

Rex Niswander, c’76, chairs the Global Language Project in New York City. He also serves as advisory board chair of KU’s School of Languages, Literatures and Culture.

Beth Llewellyn, c’77, is the chief executive officer at Health Care Access in Lawrence.

Thomas Standish, b’77, is the Wyandotte County legislative auditor.

Cheryl Hausler Johnson, c’78, is retiring from North Liberty Family Health Centre in North Liberty, Iowa. She founded the clinic 28 years ago.

Ann Ardis, c’79, is the interim vice provost for graduate and professional education at the University of Delaware in Newark.

Jim Groninger, b’79, is regional manager of state government affairs at Koch Companies Public Sector in Washington, D.C.

William Pollard Jr., g’79, wrote Forts and Posts in Kansas During the Civil War: 1861-1865, which was published in June by CreateSpace. In July, he was elected to chair the Highlands County Historic Preservation Commission in Sebring, Florida.

David Mould, g’80, oversees training and research projects for UNICEF.

Richard Tholen, m’80, joined the International Association of Healthcare...
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Professionals and will be included in The Leading Physicians of the World. He is the co-owner and president of Minneapolis Plastic Surgery in Minnesota.

81 David Holland, p’81, manages the pharmacist program at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth. Cheryl Unruh, d’81, made the 2015 Kansas Notable Book List. Her latest book, Waiting on the Sky: More Flyover People Essays, was published last year by Quincy Press.

82 Gretchen Moeller Unger, c’82, is chief scientific officer at GeneSegues Therapeutics in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

83 John Ronnau, s’83, Ph.D’90, is the senior associate dean for interprofessional education at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. Lorna Tucker-Malone, b’83, is senior director of global operations at JCPenney in Plano, Texas.

84 Robyn Oberhelman Haenisch, s’84, s’90, ’98, is an outpatient therapist at KidsTLC in Olathe. Her husband, Thomas, c’85, is a manufacturer’s representative.

85 Nancy Ahlstrom, m’85, is a hospitalist at Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles, Washington, where she and her husband, Gerald “Jerry” Stephanz Jr., c’79, m’83, live.

86 Venida Chenault, s’86, s’90, Ph.D’05, is the president of Haskell Indian Nations University, which recently had its accreditation reaffirmed following a comprehensive review by the Higher Learning Commission.

87 K.K. Neilsen Cleland, j’87, is the chancellor of the Peralta Community College District in Oakland, California.

88 Michael Mader, c’87, g’95, is senior associate dean of students at Arizona State University. David Nelson, c’87, teaches mathematics at Brickhouse Academy in Sarasota, Florida, where he lives with his wife, Joy.
Fred Rose, g’88, is a retired principal with the Hawaii Department of Education. He and his wife, Susan, have four children. John Sisco, g’88, PhD’90, is a pharmaceutical consultant at JM Sisco Pharma Consulting in Bradenton, Florida.

Karoline Knock Felt, c’89, is a development specialist at the University of Texas in Austin. Capt. Robert Newson, c’89, is a naval special warfare (SEAL) officer in the U.S. Navy. He was past director of the joint interagency task force-counter terrorism. David Peterson, c’89, is a senior staff engineer at Kohler.

Mark Garrett, b’90, is the chief people officer at Smithfield Foods in Kansas City. He makes his home in Village of Loch Lloyd, Missouri. Lt. Col. David Hartwell, c’90, is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is a pilot for FedEx. Deborah Hernandez Mitchell, c’90, g’96, l’96, is a district judge for Kansas’ 18th District Court in Wichita.

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Mark Garrett, b’90, is the chief people officer at Smithfield Foods in Kansas City. He makes his home in Village of Loch Lloyd, Missouri.

Lt. Col. David Hartwell, c’90, is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is a pilot for FedEx.

Deborah Hernandez Mitchell, c’90, g’96, l’96, is a district judge for Kansas’ 18th District Court in Wichita.

Fred Rose, g’88, is a retired principal with the Hawaii Department of Education. He and his wife, Susan, have four children.

John Sisco, g’88, PhD’90, is a pharmaceutical consultant at JM Sisco Pharma Consulting in Bradenton, Florida.

Karoline Knock Felt, c’89, is a development specialist at the University of Texas in Austin. Capt. Robert Newson, c’89, is a naval special warfare (SEAL) officer in the U.S. Navy. He was past director of the joint interagency task force-counter terrorism. David Peterson, c’89, is a senior staff engineer at Kohler.

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Deborah Hernandez Mitchell, c’90, g’96, l’96, is a district judge for Kansas’ 18th District Court in Wichita.
FROM PROMISE TO POSSIBLE

MY PASSION IS:
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for 20 years, most recently at Olathe East High School.


**Shannon Hunter Short, d’92, g’96**, teaches special education at Gilbert public schools in Arizona.

Col. **David Smith, c’92**, commands the 582nd Helicopter Group at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

**Steve Talbott, c’92**, is a talent manager at Enterprise Holdings Inc. in Irving, Texas.

**Munro Richardson, c’93**, is executive director of Read Charlotte in North Carolina.

**Corine Wegener, g’94, g’01**, is a cultural heritage preservation officer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

**Jerry Cross, e’95**, is a senior project manager at HVJ Associates.

**Kyle Gregory, c’95**, is the managing director at Shoestring Creative Group in Gardiner, Maine.

**Chad Lawhorn, j’95**, is the managing editor of the Lawrence Journal-World.

**Maria Dolores Marquez, g’95**, is a senior human resources manager at Emerson. She and her husband, Julian White, live in Pearland, Texas.

L.t. **Paul Muckenthaler, c’95**, retired after 20 years with the U.S. Navy.

**Roberta Pokphanh, c’95, g’97, PhD’09**, is the academic director for KU’s International Academic Accelerator Program.

**Jeremy Bezdick, b’96**, is vice president of biofuels and ingredients at Flint Hills Resources in Wichita.

**Edmund “Ted” Hamann, g’96**, received the 2015 Anthropology in Public Policy Award from the American Anthropological Association. He is a professor of teaching, learning and teacher education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, PhD’96, the 2009-’13 Kansas Poet Laureate, made the 2015 Kansas Notable Book List. Her latest book, *Chasing Weather: Tornadoes, Tempests, and Thunderous Skies in Word and Image*, was published last year by Ice Cube Press.

**Amy Bartosik Wilson, b’96**, owns KC Juice Co. in Kansas City.

**Matthew Bryan, e’97**, is vice president and geomarket manager for Atlantic and Eastern Canada at Schlumberger in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

**Jodi Faustlin, f’97**, is the CEO of Dubuque Internal Medicine in Dubuque, Iowa.

**Stephen Kok, e’98**, is a regional contract manager at Redknee Inc. in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Robyn Marcinkiewicz, ’98**, is a senior
financial analyst at Sprint.

Timothy White, ’98, is the executive officer for the State of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

Kimberly Nelson Brown, c’99, g’14, is a licensed addiction counselor and regional administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Ryan Lombardi, g’99, is vice president for student and campus life at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Kerrie Crites Greenfelder, c’00, is a project manager at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

Jennifer Ryan Newton, c’00, g’01, PhD’12, is an assistant professor in the school of education at St. Louis University.

Chad Sublet, s’00, l’06, is the director of protection and code enforcement at Denver City Attorney’s Office.

Stacey Wright, b’00, is a senior human resources consultant at SAP in Palo Alto, California.

01 Eric Beightel, c’01, is associate director of federal environmental policy practice at Parsons Brinckerhoff in Washington, D.C.

Terry Horton, c’01, is an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He lives in Fairfax Station, Virginia, with his wife, Kristin.

James Landavazo, c’02, manages agricultural planning and development at BNSF Railway in Fort Worth, Texas.

Carolyn Oelkers Payne, c’02, is associate general counsel at 1st Farm Credit Services.

Douglas Woolley, c’02, retired from his position as an associate professor at KU’s School of Medicine in Wichita.

Karthik Balasubramanian, g’03, works for Arista Networks in Santa Clara, California.

Christopher Gilliam, g’03, DMA’03, is the symphony chorale director for the Winston-Salem Symphony in North Carolina.

BORN TO:

Lisa Peterson Rosenkoetter, b’03, and her husband, George, daughter, Nora, Feb. 8 in Leawood.

Ann Foltz Strunk, c’03, and her husband, Aaron, daughter, Ella Louise, April 5 in Abilene.

Eric Braun, b’04, manages global financial planning and analysis at Emerson Process Management in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he makes his home.

Brian Hollenbeck, c’04, m’08, is chief of infectious disease at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston.

Brian Konie, c’04, is a transitioning marine officer retiree in the U.S. Marine Corps. He and his wife, Christine, live in Washington, D.C.

Cynthia Martin, g’04, teaches adapted physical education at Northwood School in Kansas City and coaches Special Olympics in Kansas and Missouri. She lives in Raymore, Missouri.

Timothy Smith, c’04, is a production analyst at Sprint.

Ryan Lombardi, g’00, is vice president for student and campus life at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Kerrie Crites Greenfelder, c’00, is a project manager at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

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Stacey Wright, b’00, is a senior human resources consultant at SAP in Palo Alto, California.

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manager at C3 Presents in Austin, Texas.

Capt. Paul Brand, c’05, is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and is a general management apprentice at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Erik Heironimus, a’05, g’09, is a senior designer at WATG in Seattle.

MARRIED

Jessica Smith, j’05, to Andrew Herrmann, June 6 in Hastings, Nebraska. She is the director of research at the Platte Institute for Economic Research in Omaha, where they live.

BORN TO:

Kenneth Albers, b’05, and his wife, Jill, daughter, Abigail Robyn, May 18 in Wichita, where she joins two brothers, Damian, 4, and Dominic, 3.

Brandon Crain, a’06, is an architect at Yost Grube Hall Architecture in Portland, Oregon.

Douglas Croy, c’06, j’06, is a talent agent at Windish in New York City.

Bryan Culver, b’06, was named the Wally manager at C3 Presents in Austin, Texas.

Miranda Shank Ruland, c’06, is a certified child life specialist at the Children’s Research in Omaha, where they live.

Mike Fitzpatrick, PhD’06, is vice president of education at Pratt Community College.

John Leese, c’06, g’10, works in assurance services at Ernst & Young in Kansas City.

Capt. Paul Brand, c’05, is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and is a general management apprentice at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

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Douglas Croy, c’06, j’06, is a talent agent at Windish in New York City.

Bryan Culver, b’06, was named the Wally manager at C3 Presents in Austin, Texas.

Galluzzi Volunteer of the Year by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce. He chairs the Leadership Lawrence advisory board.

Mike Fitzpatrick, PhD’06, is vice president of education at Pratt Community College.

John Leese, c’06, g’10, works in assurance services at Ernst & Young in Kansas City.

Miranda Shank Ruland, c’06, is a certified child life specialist at the Children’s Research in Omaha, where they live.

PROFILE by Kim Gronniger

Writing coach’s toolbox inspires corporate clients

Growing up in a home filled with books and “huge piles of drawing paper,” Ann Wylie spent hours creating lesson plans for imaginary students, foreshadowing a career as a professional writing coach for corporate clients like NASA and Nike.

She spent 10 years editing publications in Kansas City for Hallmark Cards Inc. and Ingram’s Magazine, where she honed her storytelling and editing skills after obtaining degrees in English literature and journalism.

“I like figuring out how to take things that have happened and then tease them into a literary form,” says Wylie, g’84, who has earned more than 60 communications awards, including international accolades.

Writing, editing and assisting former Hallmark colleague Gordon MacKenzie on his 1998 classic Orbiting the Giant Hairball: A Corporate Fool’s Guide to Surviving with Grace ultimately led her to achieve her childhood dream of teaching.

She taught graduate writing courses at Webster University, where she tested the “toolbox for writers” concepts that became the impetus for Wylie Communications Inc., which she launched in Kansas City, Missouri, and relocated to Portland, Oregon.

“You can reach people by giving them information that helps them live their lives better,” Wylie says, “or you can entertain them, or you can do both.”

Wylie describes her teaching evolution from nine weeks in a university classroom to nine hours in a hotel ballroom in places as diverse as Helsinki and Hollywood as “really, really fun.”

With warmth and wit, she shares sound literary conventions and extensive examples for writers to emulate and avoid through in-house training sessions, public workshops and a monthly tip-filled newsletter delivered to inboxes all over the world. She and contract employees also provide writing services for client projects.

Unlike many writing coaches, however, Wylie is as enamored by research as she is by words, as eager to pore over The New York Times Book Review as she is journalism reports from the Poynter Institute.

She culls scientific and strategic insights regarding literacy rates and readership and comprehension levels to help people become “more powerful communicators” by showing them not only what to do, but why.

“The inverted pyramid doesn’t work and many people read at a very basic level,” Wylie says. “If corporate clients are writing for a college-level audience using the inverted pyramid, then the person who needs health care in Pittsburgh or information about public transportation in Portland isn’t going to be reached.”

“Good writing is as much about the science as it is the art and craft.”

Gronniger, g’83, is a Topeka freelance writer.
Class Notes

dren’s Hospital at Saint Francis in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jill Maycumber Sommers, ’06, joins the Eisenhower Memorial Commission’s advisory committee in Washington, D.C. She was a former Commodity Futures Trading Commission commissioner and now chairs the audit committee for BATS Global Markets.

Martha Moreno Wolf, ’06, is a quality data analyst at Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri. She lives in Kansas City.

MARRIED

Jane Alford, ’06, to Max Meggs, April 12 in Dallas, where they live. She is a personal assistant.

Sarah Vodopest, ’06, m’12, to Joseph Ekstrand, May 9 in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a rheumatology fellow at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where they live.

BORN TO:

Andrew, ’06, g’08, and Kati Lepajoe Coleman, ’08, son, William Johannes, Feb. 21 in Tallinn, Estonia, where he joins a brother, Oskar, 2.

07 MARRIED

Jordan Brewer, ’07, and Emily Kennedy, ’09, Oct. 25, 2014, in Kansas City. He is an assistant attorney general for the State of Kansas, and she is a copywriter for Pacific Sun and a fashion columnist for the Lawrence Journal-World. They live in Lawrence.

Brian Pitts, ’07, to Robyn Thomas, May 16 in Birmingham, Alabama. He is a resident physician in pediatrics at UNC Health Care in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

08 Lyonel Anderson, ’08, is the head strength and conditioning coach for Indiana University Bloomington’s men’s basketball team.

Dylan Jones, ’08, joined the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys. He practices law in Ozark, Missouri.

Matthew Kincaid, ’08, l’12, g’12, joins Dysart Taylor Cotter McMonigle & Montemore as an associate attorney.

Lauren Ford McLean, b’08, g’09, is a senior tax analyst at Compass Minerals in Overland Park.

MARRIED

Ryan Ingle, c’08, b’08, to Laura Swanson, June 13 in Brooklyn, New York. He is an associate in the real-estate group at Blackstone.

Meghan Sullivan, c’08, j’08, to Christopher Hurd, April 18 in Chicago. She is associate director for campaign initiatives at the University of Chicago.

09 Kathryn Basye, c’09, is a product designer at Salesforce. She lives in Berkeley, California.

Darchelle Ralls Ellis, c’09, is a commercial banking relationship manager at U.S. Bank in Lawrence.

George Kwok, g’09, PhD’14, is an engineer at Selective Site Consultants in Overland Park.

Nathan Mack, c’09, is associate director of admissions at Franklin University Switzerland.

Lindsay Yankey, f’09, made the 2015 Kansas Notable Book List. She wrote and
I am Chip Hilleary, and I am a PROUD MEMBER

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—Chip Hilleary, d’94, Proud Life Member, Executive Vice President, West Camp

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MAY 19-30

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MAY 20-JUNE 2

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MAY 29-JUNE 9

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JUNE 23-JULY 8

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JULY 17-27

Grand Danube Passage
AUG. 11-25

The Magnificent Great Lakes
AUG. 22-31

Canada and New England
SEPT. 30-OCT. 12

Southwest National Parks
OCT. 5-14

Captive Mediterranean
OCT. 8-16

Trade Routes of Coastal Iberia
OCT. 25-NOV. 2

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NOV. 22-26

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illustrated Bluebird, which was published last year by Simply Read Books. Her new book is Sun and Moon.

10 Chad Gerber, d’10, will attend The Ohio State University this fall to earn a PhD in kinesiology-sport management. He also will be a graduate teaching associate in the sports industry undergraduate program.

Kerry Meier, d’10, taught English at the International Language School in Korea.

Nathan Miller, c’10, g’11, is a site acquisition specialist at Selective Site Consultants in Overland Park.

MARRIED
Elizabeth “Betsy” Robb, d’10, g’12, to Isaiah Lang, July 25 near Marion. She teaches mathematics at Maize South Middle School in Wichita.

Rachel Sanner, b’10, to Chris Lahey, June 20 in Lawrence. She is a natural gas market analyst with Koch Energy Services in Wichita, where they live.

BORN TO:
J. Angelo Tiberti, b’10, e’10, g’11, and Lindsey Fisher Tiberti, PharmD’12, daughter, Sutton Kaye, June 25 in Las Vegas.

11 Alyson Smith Bull, b’11, is a talent sourcing specialist at PeopleAdmin in Prairie Village. She and her husband, Michael, c’13, a mechanical designer, live in Lenexa.

Alex Earles, c’11, is a development manager at International Rescue Commit-
Class Notes

tee in New York City, where he makes his home.

Clare Prohaska, c’11, m’15, is a physician at the University of Colorado in Denver.

Graham Ryan, b’11, g’11, is a CPA and the manager of RubinBrown in Overland Park.

MARRIED

Sara Exon, c’11, and Wesley Kimmel, c’11, July 18 in Wichita, where they make their home.

12 Thomas Hiatt, c’12, l’15, is an associate attorney at Spencer Fane Britt & Browne in Kansas City. He and Elizabeth Riedel Hiatt, c’12, g’14, live in Lenexa.

Daniel Lee, c’12, supervises order processing at Ron Tonkin Family of Dealerships in Portland, Oregon.

MARRIED

Amanda Gion, d’12, DPT’15, to Abraham Noll, June 27 in Hutchinson. She is a physical therapist at Atchison Hospital.

13 Julia Bauer, g’13, is an architectural designer at Incite Design Studio in Kansas City.

Maggie Blowey, p’13, PharmD’15, is a pharmacist at CVS.

Kyle Gardner, c’13, is an administrative support staff member at Trinity In-Home Care in Lawrence.

Alexandra Hyler, e’13, received a 2015-16 Fulbright U.S. Student Award and will study in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Brian Long, c’13, is a residence hall director at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

MARRIED

Amy Bullerman, DPT’13, to Ryan Duckers, June 27 in Kansas City. She’s a physical therapist at Pinnacle Therapy Services.

Mitchell O’Trimble, b’13, and Grace Hupe, ’14, July 18 in Perry. He works at O’Trimble Farms, and she teaches first grade at Topeka public schools.

Tara Volmer, p’13, PharmD’14, to Tyler Thompson, April 25 in Parsons. She is a pharmacist in Coffeyville.

14 Maurice Green, g’14, is an Army fellow in the U.S. Army. He lives in Stafford, Virginia.

Brian Hanson, g’14, PhD’15, is an assistant professor at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.

Mark Peper, c’14, is a delivery consultant at Cerner. He lives in Lenexa.

Andre Smith, c’14, is the business office secretary at Topeka Veterans Hospital.

15 Nathaniel Abeita, e’15, is a construction engineer at TranSystems Corporation in Kansas City.

Kellie Amott, e’15, is a software engineer at Garmin. She lives in Eudora.

Mary Anderson, b’15, is an account executive at OMNI Online Solutions in Torrance, California.

Katherine Berg, d’15, is an educator at the American Academy for Girls. She
lives in La Grange, Illinois.  

Nicole Bettes, c’15, is a mortgage loan originator at TruHome Solutions in Lenexa. She and her husband, William, c’13, g’15, live in Mission.  

Lisa Botkin, g’15, is a counselor in the Ottawa school district. She and her husband, Troy, have two children.  

Lauren Bridge, u’15, teaches music at Gladden Elementary School in Belton, Missouri. She lives in Kansas City.  

Rachel Bullock, c’15, is a secondary educator at Teach for America.  

Alyssa Canfield, c’15, is a video sales associate at Karl Storz. She lives in Salt Lake City.  

Stefanie Carnahan, c’15, is an education program specialist at KU.  

Margaret Neal Carter, d’15, teaches in the Shawnee Mission school district. She and her husband, Nathan, c’10, live in Shawnee.  

Michael Cleary, e’15, is a petroleum engineer at Baker Hughes.  

Shanna Clock, n’15, is a clinic manager and medical oncology nurse at Central Care Cancer Center.  

Haedyn Cole, b’15, in an investment banking analyst at George K. Baum & Company in Kansas City.  

Lori Collins, c’15, is a recovery coach at Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health in Kansas City.  

Daniel Cross, e’15, is a mechanical engineer for Union Pacific Railroad.  

Abby Crow, s’15, is a social worker for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment in Olathe. She lives in Overland Park.  

John Dechand, PharmD’15, is a pharmacist at Baylor Scott & White Health in Dallas, where he lives.  

Dipankar Dey, c’15, is a field engineer at Baker Hughes.  

Michelle McGinnis Dingess, g’15, is a speech-language pathologist at Topeka public schools.  

Jordan Dockery, d’15, teaches at Gordon Parks Elementary School in Kansas City.  

Kayla Eddins, n’15, is a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Hospital.  

Parrish Essell, b’15, is an associate account executive at Randa Accessories. She lives in Chicago.

Aimee Fields, s’15, is a social worker at Kansas Soldier’s Home in Fort Dodge.  

Katie Flippo, d’15, teaches second grade at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Kansas City.  

Amanda Floerchinger, g’15, is a senior specialist of scientific insights at Hill’s Pet Nutrition in Topeka.  

Nikolaus Franklin, c’15, is associate vice president for Personal Capital. He makes his home in Denver.  

Carly French, b’15, is a marketing associate at DISH Network. She lives in Englewood, Colorado.  

Tyler Gratton, c’15, is an office assistant for the State of Kansas.
Join the Jayhawks for the 103rd annual Homecoming celebration! The week includes more than 20 campus and community events.

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- Homecoming Pep Rally
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**Saturday, October 31**
- KU vs. Oklahoma Football Game

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Keenan Gregory, c’15, is a certified medical and nursing assistant at Brandon Woods at Alvamar in Lawrence, where he makes his home.

David Greub, b’15, is a buyer at Associated Wholesale Grocers in Kansas City.

Allison Hammond, c’15, j’15, is a news producer for WDTN-TV in Ohio.

Megan Hazelwood, j’15, is a national sales assistant at Entercom Radio in Mission.

Katherine Hoefer, u’15, teaches music in the Shawnee Mission school district.

Angela Holmes, h’15, is a radiologic and nuclear medicine technologist at Mercy Hospital in Independence.

Crystal Hong, c’15, j’15, is a talent manager specialist at Payless ShoeSource in Topeka.

Brandon Johannes, c’15, is the president of the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

Layne Johnson, b’15, manages transportation operations at Union Pacific Railroad.

Taylor Johnson, d’15, teaches fifth grade in the Douglas County school district. She lives in Lone Tree, Colorado.

Audra Schildknecht Jones, d’15, teaches special education in the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville school district. She lives in Lenexa.

Garrett Jones, u’15, is a trainer in the Kaw Valley school district.

Sarah Dansro Kelly, g’15, teaches in Lawrence public schools. She and her husband, Kevin, c’89, make their home in Lawrence.

Peggy Miksch Kemp, PhD’15, is a trainer at KU’s Bureau of Child Research.

Alison Ward Kidd, g’15, manages

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

From QB to fire captain, Seurer still a team leader

Frank Seurer, the second-leading passer in KU football history and now a captain in the Lenexa Fire Department, explains that actual fires are, in reality, “a very, very small percentage of the calls we run.” That’s why he still appreciates his first day as a firefighter, in March 1993.

“We had a house fire. It wasn’t a very big one, but it was one of those where the house was just black with smoke as we were going in,” recalls Seurer, c’97. “That could be intimidating, but at the same time it was such a thrill, such a rush.”

Although he was a four-year starter at KU and played professionally with the L.A. Express of the USFL and the Kansas City Chiefs, Seurer learned that day that his conditioning had to improve. Still in operations 22 years later as an engine captain and coordinator of the water rescue team, Seurer’s commitment to the job’s physicality never wavered: “It tries to keep me young,” he says of the grueling assignments, “to stay on top of my game.”

That first fire call inspired more than fitness. It told Seurer he had finally found his calling, six years after his football career was cut short by a 1987 car accident that dislocated a hip and tore the ligaments in one of his ankles.

He had been the surprising No. 1 quarterback for new Chiefs coach Frank Gansz after spring minicamps, but the injuries forced Seurer to miss training camp. He recovered in time to return for a brief stint as the starter late in the season, after which the Chiefs released him.

“It was devastating not to play anymore, and it was devastating the way it ended, but that truly did end as soon as I got into the fire department. I felt like I belonged right away. I felt like I had a purpose again. I felt good about what I was doing.

“But it took a while to get there.”

Overcoming adversity was nothing new to Seurer. A Southern California native, he and high school teammate Kerwin Bell chose to attend KU together, and the summer before Seurer’s senior season his family moved from Huntington Beach to Lawrence and bought a barbeque restaurant from former Chiefs great and pro football Hall of Famer Bobby Bell. The elder Frank Seurer was found dead there the morning of Aug. 2, 1983, murdered by an angry former employee.

Less than two months later, Seurer led the Jayhawks to a 26–20 upset of 10th-ranked Southern California, in Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, throwing for a career-high 385 yards. USC had been Seurer’s dream destination, and the game had been circled on his father’s calendar from the moment KU announced its 1983 schedule.

“For me it wasn’t about wallowing in the fact that he wasn’t there. It was about being determined to play the game of my life for him, you know? There were so many things that made you think his presence was there. It took on a life of its own.”

Battalion Chief Rick DeVries says of Frank Seurer, “He is passionate and a very likable guy. You would never know that he played for the NFL. You’d probably have to drag it out of him.”

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

From QB to fire captain, Seurer still a team leader

Frank Seurer, the second-leading passer in KU football history and now a captain in the Lenexa Fire Department, explains that actual fires are, in reality, “a very, very small percentage of the calls we run.” That’s why he still appreciates his first day as a firefighter, in March 1993.

“We had a house fire. It wasn’t a very big one, but it was one of those where the house was just black with smoke as we were going in,” recalls Seurer, c’97. “That could be intimidating, but at the same time it was such a thrill, such a rush.”

Although he was a four-year starter at KU and played professionally with the L.A. Express of the USFL and the Kansas City Chiefs, Seurer learned that day that his conditioning had to improve. Still in operations 22 years later as an engine captain and coordinator of the water rescue team, Seurer’s commitment to the job’s physicality never wavered: “It tries to keep me young,” he says of the grueling assignments, “to stay on top of my game.”

That first fire call inspired more than fitness. It told Seurer he had finally found his calling, six years after his football career was cut short by a 1987 car accident that dislocated a hip and tore the ligaments in one of his ankles.

He had been the surprising No. 1 quarterback for new Chiefs coach Frank Gansz after spring minicamps, but the injuries forced Seurer to miss training camp. He recovered in time to return for a brief stint as the starter late in the season, after which the Chiefs released him.

“It was devastating not to play anymore, and it was devastating the way it ended, but that truly did end as soon as I got into the fire department. I felt like I belonged right away. I felt like I had a purpose again. I felt good about what I was doing.

“But it took a while to get there.”

Overcoming adversity was nothing new to Seurer. A Southern California native, he and high school teammate Kerwin Bell chose to attend KU together, and the summer before Seurer’s senior season his family moved from Huntington Beach to Lawrence and bought a barbeque restaurant from former Chiefs great and pro football Hall of Famer Bobby Bell. The elder Frank Seurer was found dead there the morning of Aug. 2, 1983, murdered by an angry former employee.

Less than two months later, Seurer led the Jayhawks to a 26–20 upset of 10th-ranked Southern California, in Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, throwing for a career-high 385 yards. USC had been Seurer’s dream destination, and the game had been circled on his father’s calendar from the moment KU announced its 1983 schedule.

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marketing at Ascend Integrated Media in Leawood.

Young Jun Kim, PhD’15, is a professor at Korea National Defense University in Seoul, where he and his wife, Eunsil, live.

Chelsea Koksal, u’15, is a choral director in Lyndon public schools.

Charlotte Lamping, e’15, is an assistant project manager at Burns & McDonnell in Englewood, Colorado, where she makes her home.

Megan Lethbridge, c’15, is assistant to the founder and artistic director at the Wichita Grand Opera.

Patrick Lewandowski, e’15, is a structural engineer at Bob D. Campbell & Company. He lives in Kansas City.

Ben Malick, g’15, is an equity analyst at Mitchell Capital Management in Leawood.

Jay McDaniel, g’15, is a radar engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies.

Todd Miles, g’15, is a special program manager at KU.

Lisa Miller, g’15, manages claim projects at Allstate Insurance Company. She lives in Wadsworth, Illinois.

Brent Mitchell, e’15, is a software developer at Koch Ag & Energy Solutions. He makes his home in Wichita.

MacKenzie Modlisch, c’15, is a consulting analyst at Cerner. She lives in Lawrence.

Alexander Montgomery, b’15, is a consultant at Cerner. He lives in Lenexa.

Scott Moran, g’15, is an intern architect at DLR Group. He lives in St. Louis.

Daniel Muchiri, g’15, is a project engineer at Chevron Phillips Chemical in Texas.

Christopher Newell, g’15, is a detailer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Millington, Tennessee. He and his wife, Stacey, have four children.

Kristina Nixson, d’15, is an associate claims specialist at Nationwide. She lives in Johnston, Iowa.

Lauren O’Brien, c’15, j’15, is a marketing product and innovation specialist at Southwest Airlines in Dallas, where she makes her home.

Amanda Parks, e’15, is an assistant electrical engineer at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

Natalie Rose Pennington, PhD’15, is an assistant professor in the department of communication studies, theatre and dance at Kansas State University.

Francisco “Frank” Perez, g’15, is the band director at Baker University in Baldwin City. He’s also an artist/clinician at the Conn-Selmer Instrument Company.

Angela Heintzelman Peterson, c’15, is a veterinary technician at Smith Veterinary Clinic in Tonganoxie.

Bradley Phillips, b’15, is a QA analyst at Lanyon. He lives in Lecompton.

Rachel Bloom Pojar, PhD’15, is an assistant professor of English at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Theresa Powers, b’15, is a merchandise distribution analyst for Payless ShoeSource.

Paul Quigley, e’15, is a mechanical engineer at Kiewit in Lenexa. He lives in Prairie Village.

Virginia Rogers Rader, DPT’15, is a physical therapist at North Kansas City Hospital.

Jonna Ramos, c’15, is an applied behavior analysis therapist at ACI Learning Centers. She lives in Overland Park.

Jennifer Randle, g’15, coordinates youth advocacy and training at Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council in Oklahoma City.

Anrenee Reasor, c’15, is an underwriting analyst at Cigna Group Insurance. She lives in Mission.

Jessie Riggs, g’15, is a residence life coordinator at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

James Savage, c’15, is a deputy sheriff in Johnson County. He and his wife, Rebecca, have four children.

Jacob Schneider, e’15, is a customer service engineer at Textron Aviation. He lives in Wichita.

Derick Shackelford, c’15, owns Shack Built LLC in Olathe.

Heathyr Johnson Shaw, d’15, teaches English in the De Soto school district. She
and her husband, Andrew, u’14, live in Lawrence.

Gabrielle Siegler, b’15, is a business consultant at Cerner.

Kevin Staten, g’15, is a design professional at HOK in St. Louis.

Thomas Stona, g’15, is a supply officer for the U.S. Marine Corps. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Morgan Tade, g’15, is an architect at Good Fulton & Farrell Architects in Dallas, where she lives.

Sarah Taylor, e’15, is a ride mechanical engineering intern at Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale, California.

Brittany Thiesing, j’15, is a graphic designer.

Morgan Tichy, PharmD’15, is a pharmacist at Auburn Pharmacy.

Armando Villanueva, m’15, is a physician at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, where he makes his home.

Trynn Waldon, g’15, is a nurse education specialist at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Breyawna Washington, b’15, lives in Wichita, where she is a project manager at Textron Aviation.

James Wharton-Hess, c’15, is a public affairs coordinator at Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in Los Angeles. He lives in Long Beach, California.

Eric Williams, g’15, is assistant director at MANNA Worldwide in Littleton, Colorado.

Laura Konecny Williams, c’15, joined the campus staff at Student Mobilization.

Laura Williamson, d’15, teaches at Blue Valley Southwest High School in Overland Park.

Rachel Will Willis, g’15, is a research project coordinator at KU’s Achievement and Assessment Institute in Lawrence.

Lisa Johnson Wilson, s’15, is a therapeutic case manager at KVC. She and her husband, Mark, live in Shawnee.

Michaelah Wilson, c’15, is a chemist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Lawrence.

Zach Wright, n’15, is a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Hospital. He and his wife, Samantha, make their home in Lawrence.

Syed “Ali” Zaidi, e’15, b’15, is an aftermarket support engineer at Cessna Aircraft Company.

MARRIED

Bridget O’Connor, g’15, to Andrew Cho, Aug. 1 in Castile, New York. She is a research assistant at KU.

Jill Winter, PharmD’15, to Michael Baalmann, April 11 in Andale. They make their home in Corpus Christi, Texas.

BORN TO:

Katherine Danielson, g’15, and her husband, Daniel Erlandsen, son, Luke, Feb. 15 in Olathe. Katherine is a nurse manager at Olathe Medical Center.

David Gregory, g’15, and his wife, Maria, son, Joseph, Feb 3 in El Paso, Texas, where he joins a sister, Chloe, 3. David is a deputy inspector general for the U.S. Army.

Bring the Hill home with the KU Campus Gallery

Artists participated in a “plein air” painting event on the Lawrence campus, creating an amazing body of work that captured the renowned beauty of the KU campus. Fourteen selected archival-quality giclee prints are available in three sizes (unframed). Exclusive to the KU Alumni Association and Southwind Gallery of Topeka, these prints are perfect for any KU enthusiast!

Association Members receive special pricing

8x10 prints: Non-member $30 | Member $27 | Presidents Club $24
11x14 prints: Non-member $55 | Member $50 | Presidents Club $44
16x20 prints: Non-member $85 | Member $77 | Presidents Club $68

To order, visit the art store at kualumni.org/shop or call 1-800-584-2957
In Memory

Mary Hartnett Hazen, c’36, 102, May 24 in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was a longtime hospital volunteer. Survivors include three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

C. Robert Meyer, b’39, 97, May 14 in Naples, Florida, where he was a retired general partner at Ernst & Young. He is survived by a son, Robert, ’66; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Thomas Payne, d’37, 98, Nov. 20, 2014, in Salina, where she played violin for 30 years and was an original member of the Salina Symphony. She is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Payne, d’69, g’71, and Barbara Payne Brown, d’71; a son, J. Thomas Payne, c’66, PhD’70; two grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Vince Rethman, e’39, 99, June 18 in Prescott, Arizona, where he was a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force and a unit chief technologist at Boeing. Surviving are three sons and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Katharine Kufahl Bales, f’45, 91, May 19 in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she had been a piano teacher. She is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jordan Burkey, c’48, m’51, 91, June 12 in Springfield, Missouri, where he practiced ear, nose and throat medicine for 40 years. Two daughters, a son, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Clyde Bysom, ’40, 97, June 1 in Lawrence. He played clarinet and saxophone in 50 bands throughout his musical career. Surviving are a daughter, Terri Bysom Stringer, ’84; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Joseph Cannon, j’48, 87, July 10 in Eloy, Arizona, where he was retired president and publisher of Tri-County Publications. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Louise, two daughters, a brother, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

Loretta Osborn Doepke, c’41, 95, June 25 in Milwaukee. She taught in Kansas and Wisconsin and retired as an educational research analyst for the Milwaukee public school system. Surviving are her husband, Howard; two sons, one of whom is James, d’74; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Forrest Haynes, e’48, 90, May 23 in Prairie Village. He had owned several businesses, including Haynes Equipment Company and Micro-Comm. He is survived by his wife, Marie; a daughter, Pamela Haynes Cote, n’71; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Robert Hazen, c’44, m’47, 93, June 7 in Prairie Village, where he was a retired physician. Surviving are his wife, Elaine, assoc.; a daughter, Terri Hazen Blount, ’85; and a granddaughter.

Mary Louise Vansant Hughes, c’47, 90, May 10 in Vale, South Dakota. She was a volunteer docent at KU’s Spencer Museum of Art. Survivors include a daughter, a son and two grandsons.

Morton Jacobs, m’44, 98, June 23 in Leawood, where he was a retired psychiatrist. Surviving are two daughters, Julie Jacobs Sizemore, b’77, and Patricia Jacobs Settle, ’73; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Arthur Keller, b’49, 88, May 17 in Overland Park, where he was a retired accountant. He is survived by two daughters, Kathleen Keller Lane, f’77, and Joyce Keller Schroeder, ’80; a son, Philip, c’79; eight grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Pennell Kerford, ’48, 90, May 14 in Atchison. She was retired from a 25-year career with Kansas Social Rehabilitation Services. She is survived by a son, Pennell, ’76; a daughter; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Velma Knowles, f’42, 93, Aug. 16, 2014, in Atchison, where she was a retired art teacher. A sister, Dorothy Knowles Thompson, c’47, survives.

Patricia Riggs Kost Lewallen, c’42, 93, Nov. 15, 2014, in Oakley, where she managed a drug store. Surviving are two daughters, Barbara Kost Brothers, b’69, and Judith Kost Collins, ’74; a son, Kenneth Kost, b’80; and a sister, Phyllis Riggs McCormick, f’45.

Mary Baker Liston, c’42, 94, May 25 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she was a retired teacher. Surviving are two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Frances “Tassie” Sartori Livingston, d’46, g’51, 88, June 10 in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, where she was a retired director of guidance for a high school. A daughter, a son and four grandchildren survive.

James Maloney, b’48, 91, June 2 in Topeka. He was director for the supply department for Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Robert Menninger, c’48, 93, June 18 in Topeka, where he had several clinical and administrative roles with the Menninger Foundation. Survivors include two sisters, one of whom is Julia Menninger Gottesman, g’42; a son; two daughters; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jane Waring Nesselrode, a’40, 95, July 5, 2014, in Lawrence. She volunteered at St. Luke’s Hospital for many years. Surviving are three daughters, Judith McCoy Carmen, ’66, Patricia McCoy, f’72, g’97, and Melissa McCoy, f’77; two sons, Frederick McCoy Jr., c’69, and Steven McCoy, ’81; three stepdaughters, two of whom are Jean Ann Nesselrode, ’73, and Georgia Nesselrode, EdD’96; nine grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Idabelle Bradley Ostrum, c’45, g’48, 89, Aug. 2, 2014, in Austin, Texas, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by a son; two daughters; two brothers, Keith Bradley, d’49, and Aubrey Bradley Jr., c’47, f’49; three grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Wilbur Ostrum, b’48, l’51, 95, April 7 in Austin, Texas, where he was a retired accountant and auditor for Texaco. Surviving are a son, two daughters, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

William Pendleton, c’46, l’57, 94, May
15 in Lawrence, where he was a retired attorney and had served as judge of the Municipal Court. He also received KU School of Law’s James Woods Green Medallion. Survivors include a daughter, Helen “Hendle” Pendleton Rumbaut, c’71; a son; a granddaughter; and a great-grandson.

Bertha Peters Piercey, d’41, 96, Sept. 25, 2014, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she was a retired elementary school teacher. She is survived by a son, Bruce, c’67; and two daughters.

Leon Ramsey, p’49, 91, July 1 in Hutchinson, where he was a retired pharmacist and owner of Plaza Pharmacy. He is survived by four daughters, three of whom are Gwendolyn Ramsey Arnett, c’76, m’79, Juli Ramsey Burnett, b’79, g’81, and Sherrill Ramsey Clarke, d’82; two sisters, one of whom is Emma Ramsey Littlejohn, n’54; a brother; and two granddaughters.

Arthur Robinson, c’42, m’44, 93, May 12 in Mission Hills. He was an internist and assistant clinical professor at KU Medical Center. He is survived by a son, Arthur Robinson Jr., c’75; two daughters, Betsy Robinson Vander Velde, s’73, s’74, and Jane Robinson Leach, d’80; and six grandsons.

William Robison, b’48, 90, May 2 in Lake Lotawana, Missouri. He had owned a lawn and golf course supply business with his father and brother. A son, a daughter, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

Homer Sherwood, b’48, 91, May 23 in Boerne, Texas. He had worked for many years in the industrial piping industry. Two daughters, a son, two granddaughters and a great-grandson survive.

Ruth Warren Wilkin, c’40, 96, July 5 in Topeka. She was the first woman and Democrat to represent her district in the Kansas House of Representatives. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Donna Wilkin, d’72; and two grandchildren.

James Yoxall, c’48, 88, Dec. 12 in Maize, where he was a retired attorney. Surviving are his wife, Connie; a son, Richard, b’75; a daughter, Bonnie Yoxall Frederick, b’79, g’81; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

50s

James Arthur, e’54, 89, May 8 in Wichita, where he was retired from a career with Boeing and Beechcraft.

Gene Couey Bockelman, a’55, 83, June 13 in Falls Church, Virginia, where he was a retired architect. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a son, Peter, j’93, and two granddaughters.

Montie Bowen, e’53, 86, May 21 in Basehor. He spent 23 years in civil service, both with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Navy. Surviving are two daughters, one of whom is Jennifer Bowen Schmitendorf, c’86, g’11; and a son.

John “Jack” Brand Jr., c’54, l’59, 83, May 12 in Lawrence, where he practiced law for 50 years at Stevens & Brand. He also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from KU School of Law. Surviving are his wife, Barbara Sample Brand, d’59; three daughters, Kelly Brand Pettit, ’84, Becky Brand Meschke, c’83, and Elizabeth “Betsy” Brand Six, assoc.; and 11 grandchildren.

George Bures, g’54, m’57, 85, May 6 in Bay Shore, New York, where he was a retired obstetrician and gynecologist. He is survived by a son, George Bures Jr., c’80, m’85; four daughters; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Ray Cox, d’57, g’63, 81, May 10 in Bonner Springs, where he was a retired investment consultant and former Kansas State Representative. Survivors include his wife, Judy; four daughters, one of whom is Robin Masters Neal, b’97; a son, a brother, Dennis, c’71, a’74; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert DeKlotz, m’59, 86, March 1 in Fresno, California, where he was a retired urologist. Two sons and four grandchildren survive.

Finis Easter, e’50, 88, June 29 in Independence, Missouri, where he was a retired electrical engineer and helped develop the Doppler weather radar. He received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award from KU. Survivors include his wife, Jean, three daughters, two sons, two stepdaughters, two stepsons, a sister, 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Richard Field, c’51, m’55, 85, July 4 in Topeka, where he was a retired anesthesiologist. He is survived by his wife, Dolores Mercer Field, g’57, g’80; three daughters, Debbie Field-Kresie, m’85, Diane Field, f’87, and Cynthia Field, ’80; a son, Dwight, ’87; a brother, Louis, c’50, m’54; two grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Carol Buhler Francis, j’50, g’71, 87, March 21 in Lawrence, where she was a freelance writer and an active member of the Lawrence Preservation Alliance. Survivors include her husband, George, ’50; two daughters, April Francis Dwyer, c’76; and Wendy Francis Clay, ’80; two sons, Jon, c’85, and Jay, c’88; a sister, Geraldine Buhler Smith, c’43; and five grandchildren.

Charlene Lashbrook Gibbs, c’51, 85, April 5 in Prairie Village, where she volunteered for the Children’s Therapeutic Learning Center. Surviving are her husband, George, ’50; two daughters, April Francis Dwyer, c’76, and Steven, f’80; a daughter; and a brother.

Nancy Schnelli Hamleton, ’50, 90, June 7 in Lawrence, where she was retired director of business development for Gould Evans. She is survived by a son, Jeffrey, c’74; a daughter, Ann Hamleton, ’72; and two grandsons.

Richard Hegarty, b’51, 88, April 18 in Millbrae, California. He was a CPA and businessman. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are two sons, a daughter, a sister, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Marc Hurt, c’55, 81, April 14 in Olathe, where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Paula; five sons, four of whom are Matthew Hurt, c’85, Jason McKinney, c’93, Adam Drake, e’15, and John McKinney, g’15; two daughters, Megan Hurt, c’87, g’96, and Amy Hurt Fulton, c’07; and five grandchildren.

W. Don Johnston Jr., c’54, 83, July 3 in Shawnee. He was president of Echlin Manufacturing and also owned a cabinetry business. Survivors include his wife, Peggy, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Lloyd Lively Jr., e’56, 81, May 12 in Overland Park, where he was a retired air quality control engineer at Black & Veatch.
In Memory

He is survived by his wife, Audrey; a daughter, Lisa Lavelle Metcalf, b'84; two sons, Laurence, c'83, and William, d'87, g'94, h'97; four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Warren Legler, c'52, PhD'69, '03, 85, May 12 in Lawrence. He taught at KU and later retired as a product development engineer. He also served on the advisory board of KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis; a son, Stephen, e'76; a daughter, Kathy Legler Wright, '81; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

J. Marvin Le Suer Jr., c'54, e'59, 82, April 5 in Burbank, California. He worked as an aircraft electrical engineer for Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Richard Loeb, c'59, m'63, 81, May 29 in Springfield, Missouri, where he was a retired physician. Surviving are his wife, Faye, assoc., a daughter, two sisters and four grandchildren.

Loren “Fuz” Martin, d'57, 81, March 29 in Emporia, where he retired after more than 30 years as a realtor. He also was a coach and teacher. He is survived by his wife, Nannette Pitman Martin, d'55; a daughter, Kimberly Martin Clapp, d'88; a son; a sister; two grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Joan Young Mills, c'50, 88, June 12 in Kansas City, where she was a retired physical therapist at Truman Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Dee Mills, '92; and four grandsons.

Robert Mitchell, g'58, 86, May 13 in Temecula, California, where he was a retired city manager. Surviving are his wife, Lois, three daughters, a son and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eileen Maloney Olander, '50, 86, June 19 in Scottsdale, Arizona. She tutored public school children and immigrants through Literacy Volunteer Services in Phoenix. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include a son, C. Wayne, a'72; two daughters, one of whom is Kristen Olander Palmer, d'81; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Jane Dunmire Rhudy, d'52, 85, May 27 in Raleigh, North Carolina. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Darrell, p'52; two sons; a daughter, Fred Dunmire, b'55; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Richmond, c'55, 82, May 30 in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was a retired public relations executive.

Richard Rumsey, c'56, l'58, 81, June 7 in Wichita, where he was a retired attorny. He is survived by his wife, Lorie Dudley Rumsey, d'57; two sons; two sisters, Ann Rumsey Olson, f'57, and Susan Rumsey Rappard, '74; and 10 grandchildren.

Doris Holloway Sindt, g'56, PhD'68, 93, July 9 in Lecompton, where she was a retired professor in the department of psychology and counseling at Pittsburg State University. Survivors include a son, Steven, e'93; and a sister.

Philip Stevens, c'50, m'54, 87, July 2 in Tonganoxie, where he had a 60-year career as a physician. Surviving are his wife, Betty DeLisle Stevens, c'51, d'62; four sons, two of whom are Philip, m'77, and Matthew, '92; two daughters, Lisa Stevens Scheller, h'76, g'03, and Loralee Stevens, EdD'05; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Judith Ferrell Taggart, g'55, 83, May 11 in Overland Park. She founded JT&A Inc., an environmental outreach and education firm. Surviving are three daughters, Lura Taggart Svestka, '82, Carlene Taggart Bahlner, '83, and Sarah Taggart Crowson, '82; a son, William Taggart Jr., b'81; two brothers, James Ferrell, b'63, and Robert Ferrell, '65; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Paul Wagner, c'56, m'60, 80, June 9 in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where he was a retired anesthesiologist. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Carrie Wagner Homstad, c'89; and a sister, Martha Wagner Tegeler, '61.

Anne Wiedeman, d'57, 79, May 2 in San Francisco, where she was a retired real-estate marketing consultant. She is survived by two brothers, Ted Wiedeman, b'51, and John Wiedeman, j'50; and a sister, Mary Wiedeman Rogler, c'56.

William Woods, b'56, 80, June 29 in Lawrence. He and his family had owned Woods Lumberyard in Arkansas City, and he later worked as a financial planner for CIGNA. Survivors include his wife, Sara Gilbert Woods, d'56; a daughter, Cynthia Woods Kim, '81; a son; a brother, Thomas, b'65; and four grandsons.

60s

Marla Leuenberger Beimforde, s'63, 76, May 2 in Camarillo, California. She was a social worker for the Ventura County Department of Mental Health. Among survivors are a son, a daughter, a brother and four grandchildren.

Robert Bryan, e'66, 72, May 31 in Emory, Texas, where he was a retired pilot for the U.S. Air Force and UPS. He is survived by his wife, Susan, assoc.; two sons; a daughter; two brothers, one of whom is Harold, '70; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Betty Ann Landree Dickinson, c'68, 82, May 22 in Lawrence, where she was a medical technologist at KU’s Watkins Student Health Center. She is survived by her husband, William Boyd Dickinson III, c'53; two sons, one of whom is William Dickinson IV, j'76; and four grandchildren.

Janet Tharp Leiker, d'64, 73, May 28 in Wichita, where she was a retired public affairs manager for Nissan Motor Corporation USA. Surviving are her husband, Tony, d'67; a daughter, Lisa Leiker Alexander, d'95; a son; her mother; a sister; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a step-grandchild.

Sara Lucinda Eggleston Rohrs, d'62, g'65, 75, June 24 in Columbia, Missouri, where she was a retired teacher and librarian. She is survived by two daughters; a sister, Susan Eggleston Donaghe, d'60; and a granddaughter.

Joan Hubbell Rumpel, '61, 75, May 12 in Hays. She had a 34-year career as assistant professor of accounting at Fort Hays State University. Survivors include her husband, Max, PhD'62; a daughter, Karen Rumpel-Lopez, b'87; a son; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Donald Sayles, e'60, 82, May 7 in Yorkville, Illinois, where he was a retired engineering manager for Lucent Technologies. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, a
son, a daughter, two brothers, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Douglas Vogel, c'65, g'74,** 74, July 3 in San Antonio, where he was retired vice president of fiscal affairs at Trinity University. Survivors include his wife, Janice Jones Vogel, c'65, g'72; three sons; and a daughter.

**Jerry Wible, c'69, m'73,** 67, June 29 in Springfield, Missouri, where he was a retired physician and colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, a son, a daughter, a brother, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**Janet Woerner, d'65, PhD'84,** 72, June 29 in Yucaipa, California. She was a professor emeritus of science, math and technology education at California State University in San Bernardino. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are two stepsons, two stepdaughters, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Jerry Bottenfield, j'70,** 67, May 11 in Lawrence. He had been president of Bottenfield Beauty Supply in Pittsburg. Surviving are his wife, Laurie Hallock Bottenfield, d'69; two daughters, one of whom is Dana Bottenfield, c'02; a sister, Judith Bottenfield Callahan, ’72; and two granddaughters.

**John Butterfield, c'78,** 60, July 10 in Katy, Texas, where he was a retired business development manager at TURCK. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, LuAnn Ellis Butterfield, n'77; a son; a daughter; and three sisters.

**Joyce Murray Cheatham, e'77,** 69, Sept. 2, 2014, in Kansas City, where she was a retired Revenue Service. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include six siblings, two of whom are La Vert Murray, c'71; and Charlene Scroggins, ’88.

**Robert Heil, c'72, 65,** May 10 in Dewey, Oklahoma, where he was a retired photograher. He is survived by his wife, Amelia; two daughters; a brother, John, d'66; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

**Judith Price Hinton, g'77,** 95, June 3 in Merriam, where she was a retired nurse for the Shawnee Mission school district. Surviving are two daughters, Laurie Hinton Franklin, c'76, and Allison Hinton, ’74; a son; and four grandchildren.

**Nancy Harman Hoglund, c'74,** 63, July 5 in Kansas City. She was a registered nurse for 33 years, including 11 years at KU Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Douglas, ’82; and three sisters, Barbara Harman Watson, d'75, Sandra Harman Adams, g'90, and Leslie Harman Hubbel, ’78.

**Linus Orth, c'77,** 60, July 8 in Roeland Park, where he served on the city council for eight years. He is survived by his wife, Judy Jarsulic Orth, j’77; a son, Linus, b’06; a daughter; his mother; four sisters, Lea Orth, f’71, Lois Orth-Lopes, d’71, g’89, ’00, Sheila Orth, ’83, and Carmen Orth-Alifie, f’87; and five brothers, three of whom are Nilus, e’84, g’89, PhD’92, Fabian, e’87, PhD’93, and Vincent, ’72.

**Leah Stanley Babin, e'83,** 81, June 27 in Lenexa, where he was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. Survivors include his wife, Eloise Alderson Babin, ’58; a son, David, c’14; a brother, Frank, c’71; and two granddaughters.

**Gay Anne Doudoroff, ’83,** 74, July 2 in Lawrence, where she volunteered for Headquarters Counseling Center and Visiting Nurses. She is survived by her husband, David, two sons and a grandson survive.

**Mary Stanley Kettlewell, s’85,** 58, May 16 in Lake Lotawana, Missouri. She was a program officer at Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and also served as director of Child Protection Center. Surviving are her husband, Evan; a son, Gregory Wiley, b’01, g’03; her mother, Ellen May Stanley, ’81; three sisters, one of whom is Gail Stanley Peck, d’67; a brother; and a granddaughter.

**Rachel Hut Bremen, g’07,** 32, May 19 in Phoenix. She was a senior management assistant for the City of Glendale, Arizona. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are her husband, Adam, her parents, a sister and a grandmother.

**THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

**Jed Davis,** 93, May 25 in Lawrence, where he was a professor emeritus of theatre and a co-author of two books for children. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a son, John, c’73; a daughter; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Robert Hemenway,** 73, July 31 in Lenexa. He served as chancellor of KU from 1995 to 2009 and led the University’s many efforts to receive designation as a National Cancer Institute Cancer Center. In 2012, the Alumni Association honored him with the Fred Ellsworth Medallion. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Leah, assoc.; five sons, three of whom are Matthew, g’01, Zachary, j’04, and Langston, g’05; three daughters, one of whom is Robin, g’97; and 12 grandchildren.

**Reynold Iwamoto,** 86, June 17 in Lawrence, where he was a professor of analytical chemistry. He is survived by his wife, Kuniye, assoc.; a son, Bryan, c’75; two daughters, Karen Iwamoto Berlekamp, b’79, and Ellen Iwamoto, j’81; a brother; a sister; and five grandchildren.

**Jeannot Barnes Seymour, f’64,** 84, Aug. 1 in Lawrence, where she was retired from a 30-year career as art director for KU’s Office of University Relations. Surviving are her husband, Todd, j’50; a daughter, Ann “Bunny” Seymour-Bierlaagh, c’80; a brother; and a grandson.

**Robert Timmons,** d’50, g’50, 91, Aug. 4 in Lawrence. He served as head coach of KU’s track and field and cross-country teams for 22 seasons, and he created KU’s cross-country course at Rim Rock Farm. His teams won 31 league titles and four national championships. He received the Alumni Association’s Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2000, and he was inducted in the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2011. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Pat, ’51; three daughters; a son; a brother, George, ’48; and two granddaughters.
American master

Exhibition and book bring new perspective to sculptor’s long, iconic career

Wendell Castle’s upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York City pairs the world-renowned artist’s latest work with some of his first pieces, which launched a new sculpture genre in the 1960s and helped establish the Emporia native as the founding father of the American art furniture movement.

The new pieces were created with the old ones in mind, the 82-year-old Castle says. It’s all part of the long process of re-examining a nearly 60-year career that lately seems to have come full circle.

“They’re borrowing eight or 10 early pieces from the ’60s and talking about how they came into being and how they were made,” Castle says of the MAD show, “then skipping up until today to talk about what new things we’ve brought to the table.”

What Castle, ’59, g’61, has brought to the table—and the chair, cabinet, bench and other traditional furniture pieces—is a whole new way of thinking about what furniture and sculpture can be.

An early Castle dining room table featured a big hole in the table top. “The reason I did that,” Castle says, “is that the sculptural part that’s really open to a lot of exploring is on the bottom side of the table, not the top. So by opening up a table you can look right down and see what’s going on below.”

That piece will be joined by a table he is making now in his Scottsville, New York studio. “That also has a hole in the top,” he says, “but that’s where the similarity stops. They’re not remotely similar in any other way.”

The restless, inventive Castle has never been interested in repeating himself—even when it might have paid handsomely to do so.

“There have been times when I made something that has been very successful, and there would be buyers out there if I wanted to make a lot of them,” he says. “But I don’t want to make a lot of them. I want to move right on.

“I don’t get anything out of repeating something. I don’t learn anything. I want to learn something from my work. I don’t believe it’s true art if there’s no risk.”

“Wendell Castle Remastered,” which runs Oct. 12 to Feb. 28 at MAD, is the first museum exhibition to examine work that Castle created using digital tools. Though he still favors handcrafting techniques such as carving, rasping and finishing, he has lately begun to embrace computer technology as well. He still prefers to draw by hand, but he also makes digital scans of handmade models and uses a computer-guided machining robot, freeing him to make large-scale sculptures that can be disassembled and moved.

“Pieces we’re doing now we could not have possibly done in the ’60s,” Castle says. “The robot’s doing a lot of things that we just can’t do by hand.”

Then and now the key technique in Castle’s work is a process called stack lamination. It involves gluing together thin layers of wood and then sculpting the finished piece from that block, much like a sculptor hews a statue from a block of stone.

Castle says he first heard of stack lamination from KU sculpture professor Poco Frazier, ’29. He didn’t explore the technique much until he left the Hill, and he found...
“I don’t get anything out of repeating something. I don’t learn anything. I want to learn something from my work. I don’t believe it’s true art if there’s no risk.”

—Wendell Castle

Indeed, according to Castle’s own “10 Adopted Rules of Thumb,” available on his website, wendellcastle.com, if you always hit the bullseye, the target is too near.

“If you make a perfect piece every time, you’re not really growing,” Castle explains. “You’ve got to put risk into your work, and that keeps you on your toes.”

—Steven Hill

that it allowed him to make furniture without relying on classic furniture-making techniques like joinery.

“It immediately put me in a unique place,” he says. Not bound by traditional woodworking techniques, he was also not bound by traditional furniture design. Anything went.

Just how far Castle has been willing to push that freedom is evident in Wendell Castle: A Catalogue Raisonné, 1958-2012. Due this fall from The Artist Book Foundation, the richly illustrated record of his life’s work (with more than 1,100 color and 400 black-and-white photographs) includes every Castle piece that author Emily Evans Eerdmans could track down from private collectors and the more than 40 museums and dozens of corporate collections that hold his work. The book also includes essays by Glenn Adamson, Jane Adline and longtime Castle friend Dave Barry.

“In the book is everything they could possibly find, whether I liked it or not,” Castle says with a wry laugh. “Some things I wished they hadn’t found. But that’s the way it goes. They’re not all good.”

by Emily Evans Eerdmans
The Artist Book Foundation, $150

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FRIEDMAN BENDA/JON LAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Environment for Contemplation, 1969-70

FRIEDMAN BENDA AND THE ARTIST/ADAM REICH PHOTOGRAPHY

More or Less, 2014

FRIEDMAN BENDA AND THE ARTIST/MATT WITTMEYER CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM AND FRIEDMAN BENDA, LA, CA

Dining Table, 1966

FRIEDMAN BENDA AND THE ARTIST/MATT WITTMEYER
Vocal prowess
Aspiring dramatic soprano finds purpose in performing

Diane Kalinowski’s love of music was evident as early as her fourth birthday.

“I remember my mom giving me little melodies,” she says, recalling the gift of a toy keyboard from her parents. “She’d go do something and say, ‘When I get back I want you to have the melody for “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” or “Jingle Bells.”’ So I would sit there and plunk out the notes on the keyboard until I could get the melody line out.”

Piano lessons, school musicals and hours of band practice followed, and by the time she was 13, Kalinowski was enrolled in voice lessons and participating in community theatre productions.

Now, 20 years later, she’s an aspiring dramatic soprano with vocal competition awards under her belt, including three of the top 10 prizes at the 27th-annual Annapolis Opera vocal competition earlier this year.

“I was just blown away,” Kalinowski, g’13, says of the event, where she took home $5,000 in prizes. “It was one of those pinch-me moments.”

Kalinowski knew she wanted a career in music, although she initially thought a role in education or music therapy would fit the bill. Her vocal instructors, Vicki and Ward Jamison, encouraged her to pursue performing arts.

During her senior year of high school, she was accepted into the Pennsylvania Governor’s Schools of Excellence, a five-week program that gave junior and senior high school students opportunities to explore career interests in subjects such as the arts, science or technology. It was held at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, where Kalinowski later attended school and earned a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance.

Her time there proved invaluable. Because the university offers only an undergraduate program in music, students don’t have to compete with more experienced graduate students for leading roles in the school’s productions.

“I got so much experience on stage with an orchestra in a big performing arts hall that I wouldn’t have gotten at a Juilliard or Northwestern, where I would be one of 20 undergraduates and the graduate singers would get all the leading roles,” Kalinowski says. “I walked out of Mercyhurst having learned 27 arias.”

She auditioned for graduate school at KU and did so well she was asked to sing for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, which has a training program for young singers attending school. “I ended up getting the apprenticeship and the position at KU,” she says. “It was kind of serendipitous how it worked out.”

After three years of study at KU and professional exposure with the Lyric Opera, Kalinowski left the Midwest for Washington, D.C., with the hope of auditioning for roles in New York City. To pay the bills, she took a job as a receptionist at a real-estate firm. But after two years, she hadn’t made any progress with her music career.

“I really didn’t sing much,” she admits. “I was just unhappy.”

She moved back to Pennsylvania and contacted Vicki Jamison, her first vocal instructor. She scheduled a voice lesson and has been working with her ever since.

Kalinowski knew it would be tough to break into the industry in her 30s, so she investigated competitions as a way to improve her vocal capacity and become more comfortable in auditions. Her efforts paid off.

In the past 18 months, Kalinowski has participated in several competitions worldwide, including the Elizabeth Connell Prize last fall in Sydney, Australia, where she was one of five soprano finalists after the semifinals held at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

“It was pretty incredible,” Kalinowski says of the experience. “I mean, just having an audition in the building was cool. It was pretty humbling.”

She will venture into academia this year, heading back to Mercyhurst University as part-time instructor of voice and vocal literature. But she won’t give up performing. She will play the title role in Giacomo Puccini’s “Tosca” this fall with the Connecticut Concert Opera.

“I definitely want to have a professional opera career,” Kalinowski says. “Never in my life do I feel more at ease, more comfortable, more like I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing than when I’m performing on stage. It doesn’t matter where the stage is or if it’s for anybody, it’s just when I open my mouth to sing … it’s indescribable. I feel like my purpose has been met.”

—Heather Biele

Haruf’s Holt saga closes with timeless tender mercies

Novelist Kent Haruf, ’68, died Nov. 30, 2014, at his home in the Colorado Rockies, high above the plains where he long ago placed his patiently paced examinations of life, love and loss in Holt, Colorado. His final gift to readers who had grown to crave his precise craftsmanship and gentle artistry is the posthumously published Our Souls at Night.
The tight novel is a fitting end to Haruf’s gently swaying Holt saga, again leading deep into hearts and minds of ordinary people leading extraordinary lives.

And then there was the day when Addie Moore made a call on Louis Waters.

So begins Our Souls at Night, and we are introduced to an improbable union of lonely souls. “I’m seventy years old. I don’t care what the town thinks,” Addie later tells her disapproving son about the day when her emptiness became unbearable and she had visited Louis with this proposal: “I wonder if you would consider coming to my house sometimes to sleep with me.” Louis accepts. Their nights in a chaste bed are at first exactly as Addie had suggested: nothing more than two solitary people enjoying the comfort of sharing a bed. Of course the town gossips get wind of the arrangement, but Louis and Addie declare they are too old to care.

What they discover, though, is that they do care for each other. A great deal. They share the stories of their lives: A regrettable adultery that nearly destroyed a family. The loss of a child that continues to echo its pain through the years. Their sins and losses are both past and present, yet Louis and Addie also find themselves trying to make possible a future neither saw coming. They discover passion, both for physical intimacy and renewed interest in rejoining the world. Public dates. Private skinny dipping. Cocktails in Denver.

I didn’t know what to think. You surprised me. Don’t you feel okay now?

It was a good surprise. I’m not saying it wasn’t. But I still don’t understand how you got the idea of asking me. I told you. Loneliness. Wanting to talk in the night.

It seems brave. You were taking a risk.

As we found in Haruf’s five earlier installments in the Holt journey—including Plainsong, a finalist for the 1999 National Book Award—the author stares honestly through the summer-scented interludes and declares that the chill of fall must soon arrive.

A fate that can be felt lurking from the first page emerges. Despite their determination to live their lives as they see fit, relentless carping of small-minded family and neighbors finally consumes Louis and Addie’s hopes for a romance of their own private fashioning.

For a time, at least.

It is during a surreptitious phone conversation, after Addie has left Holt, when she finally calls Louis her “dear,” and our hearts swell with his. With that, the Holt chapters close, but left open are possibilities for lonely people smitten with love, too wise to give a damn what anybody else thinks.

—Chris Lazzarino

Young man, blow your horn

Lost first recording shows trumpeter Carmell Jones already a giant of jazz

As record companies and family members sift through piles of forgotten tapes, the “previously unreleased recording” has in recent years established itself as much of a jazz standard as “Mood Indigo” and “My Funny Valentine.” And like fresh new takes on old songs we know in our bones, there occasionally emerges an indisputable treasure.

Such is the case with “Carmell Jones Quartet: Previously Unreleased Los Angeles Session,” featuring the 24-year-old Jones, ‘60, in his first recording, playing with pianist Forrest Westbrook (who recorded little, despite his long West Coast performing career), Gary Peacock on bass and Bill Schwemmer on drums. The cats clicked.

Jones, a Kansas City, Kansas, native who studied music at KU for two years after leaving the Air Force (where he played in the band at Hawaii’s Hickham Air Force Base), in July 1960 heeded advice from his KU mentor, Bill Hardy—who had left for Occidental College during the years Jones was earning money as a railroad porter—to venture to Los Angeles and immerse himself in the West Coast scene.

Jones reportedly planned merely to listen and learn, at least at first, but soon found himself in a tight quartet practicing in Westbrook’s Santa Monica Boulevard apartment, where the pianist had installed studio-quality recording equipment. In late August they rolled tape, hoping to create a demo that could win them a recording contract.

As happens with big-star dreams, those plans were dropped and the reel-to-reel tape forgotten—until now, with its recent release by Fresh Sound Records.

The razor-sharp recording of six songs plus four alternate takes highlights dizzying talents across the quartet, none more startling than the mature, exciting sound created by a young trumpeter on the cusp of greatness.

—Chris Lazzarino

—Chris Lazzarino
On June 11, 1873, KU celebrated its first Commencement ceremony in University Hall. The monumental occasion, complete with remarks from Chancellor John Fraser and a speech by U.S. Sen. John Ingalls, culminated with the four graduates—Flora Richardson, Ralph Collins, Murray Harris and Lindorf Tosh—receiving their diplomas. Richardson was the class valedictorian and the University’s first graduate.

According to KUhistory.com, Richardson and her fellow graduates addressed a crowd of more than 1,000 attendees with individual orations on Class Day, the day before the graduation ceremony. Her speech was on the “Uses of Superstition” and was praised by the Daily Kansas Tribune.

Richardson was 19 when she came to Lawrence with her family in fall 1870, and she enrolled in classes at KU the following spring.

As a student, Richardson was a member of the Oread Literary Society and a founding member of the Kappa chapter of the I.C. Sorosis, which in 1888 became the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She also created the school’s first student entomological collection under Professor Francis Snow.

After graduating, Richardson taught school and married Osgood Colman in 1875, the same year she earned a master’s degree in arts from KU. She and her husband had seven children, one of whom was Nellie Colman Bigsby, who graduated from KU in 1900.

More than a century after Richardson and her classmates made history at KU, Larry Smith, ’60, and his brother, the late Ethan Jr., ’56, made history of their own: They discovered Richardson’s diploma in their grandmother’s attic. Richardson was their great-grandmother.

For years, the diploma hung over the mantel in Larry Smith’s house. “It made for a good conversation piece,” he says. “People had no idea that something like that was in my little humble house.”

The diploma has served as a source of great pride for Smith and other Richardson descendants, including one of her great-granddaughters, Virginia Wulfkuhle, ’69.

“We always knew about her devotion to KU,” Wulfkuhle says. “When I was little I always heard the story that my great-grandmother was the first to graduate from KU. There was a real sense of pride that was part of the family’s heritage.”

To help the University celebrate its sesquicentennial this year, Smith has loaned the diploma to KU, where it will be displayed in the Spencer Research Library exhibition “Achievement of a Dream: The Birth of the University of Kansas” from Sept. 11 through December.

“The fact that the first diploma ever bestowed by the University of Kansas still exists within the family of the recipient, Flora Richardson, is amazing,” says Becky Ozier Schulte, ’76, University archivist. “Being able to share this particular diploma with the public during the University’s sesquicentennial is remarkable. This kind of alignment of the stars rarely happens.”

—Heather Biele
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