Natural Leader

Shegufta Huma is KU’s 27th Rhodes Scholar
Fact:
25% more patients survive at NCI-designated Cancer Centers.

Why would you go anywhere else?
The University of Kansas Cancer Center is the region's only National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center, and among a select few in the nation. NCI-designated Cancer Centers lead this country's fight against cancer by excelling in research and treatment. Patients not only receive greater access to leading-edge options and the most promising discoveries, but something more important: 25% better survival rates.

Put the power of academic medicine to work for you. Call 913-588-1227 or visit kucancercenter.org.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center

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Champion for Change
For KU’s newest Rhodes Scholar, growing up Muslim in Kansas has been a source of strength and struggle. Both have fueled her fight for marginalized communities around the world.

By Heather Biele

Cover photograph by Steve Puppe

26

The Few, The Proud
The U.S. Marine Corps has no higher honor than the Leftwich Trophy. In the past five years this select group of leaders has welcomed two Jayhawks to its ranks.

By Chris Lazzarino

32

Honor the Father
For his first project as both writer and director, a budding filmmaker turns to a personal story of faith and family.

By Steven Hill
Jayhawk pride

It was with both a deep sense of admiration and bittersweet feelings of loss that I discovered in Hilltopics that Bernadette Gray-Little would leave the University of Kansas next June [“Eight fateful years,” issue No. 6]. I couldn’t be more proud of my University for her eight years of leadership. We should all be proud of the many achievements as we look back on her years at the helm.

While Hilltopics cites many of those accomplishments—in dollars and cents raised, in new programs begun or in construction undertaken—it is certain, I believe, Gray-Little will leave a far more enduring legacy to KU.

In an era that began with America’s deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, that saw the governor literally implode the state’s budget for higher education with short-sighted tax policies, and that gave voice to a new age of politics in the form of bigots, misogynists and racists, the serene face and calming hand of a woman—a woman of color—has seen KU through the storm.

I loved the picture of BGL on page 10 of Kansas Alumni. I will miss seeing her gracious smile as KU’s ship steers into the waters of 2017-2018. But I am immensely proud to say that my University—our University—had a black woman at the helm in very troubled times.

Timothy Rake, c’73
Forest Grove, Oregon

Teaching legacy

As I was reading through my Kansas Alumni magazine this evening, I happened to look at the In Memory section and noted the passing of Dr. Maryjane “MJ” McLendon. The most influential course I completed as an undergrad was, without question, Dr. McLendon’s “Literature of the Holocaust.” I think of it often, and reference the impact the course had on me to my own students and advisees.

It was an amazing, thought-provoking and influential class, taught by a gifted instructor. I am saddened that future KU students will not benefit from Dr. McLendon’s instruction.

My condolences to her family and University colleagues.

Jennifer Dennis, PhD’09
Associate professor of biology
Missouri Southern State University
Joplin, Missouri

Editor’s Note: Maryjane McLendon, PhD’91, was an assistant professor of American literature and a literature of the Holocaust scholar at KU. She died Aug. 12 in Lawrence.
FROM PROMISE TO POSSIBLE

“For me, this was a dream come true.”
—Robin Randolph, Amelia, Virginia, scholarship recipient

MY PASSION:
HELPING PEOPLE GET THROUGH THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

MY SCHOLARSHIP:
HELPED SUPPORT MY EDUCATION AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO DO AN INTERNSHIP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MY GOAL IS:
TO USE MY LEGAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE A KU EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR FUTURE LEADERS

SUPPORTING KU WITH YOUR GIFT WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS. TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT KUENDOWMENT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS.
Profiles of KU’s Rhodes Scholars are among our favorite cover stories. Since 1993, Kansas Alumni has featured six Jayhawks whose intellectual firepower, passion and commitment earned them one of academe’s most coveted accolades: Pam McElwee, c’93; Munro Richardson, c’93; Robert Chamberlain, c’02; Ruth Anne French-Hodson, c’05; Kelsey Murrell, c’12; and this year, Shegufta Huma, who will graduate in May with her political science degree, then begin her master’s studies at Oxford University in England. Staff writer Heather Biele shares the story of Huma, whose scholarly talent and bravery as an advocate and mediator earned her distinction as one of 32 U.S. Rhodes Scholars.

Courage and conviction—and the will to pursue a calling—add luster to several stories throughout this issue. In our second feature, Associate Editor Steven Hill describes the determination of filmmaker Paul Shoulberg, c’04, to bring his parents’ poignant story of love and faith to the screen. Don, PhD’75, and Gini Shoulberg, g’72, met when he was a priest and she was a nun. “The Good Catholic” follows the couple as they make the difficult choice to follow their hearts and heed the call to marry and start a family while remaining faithful Catholics. The film is their son’s memorial to Don, who died in 2013.

Honor and valor gleam in the stories of two Marine Corps officers, Ryan Sparks, c’97, and Thomas Morrow, c’06, whose leadership of their infantry companies proved worthy of the Marines’ most revered award, the Leftwich Trophy. As Associate Editor Chris Lazzarino, j’86, explains in our third feature, the fact that two alumni from a public university, rather than one of the military academies, earned the trophy makes their stories even more remarkable.

Another Jayhawk is just beginning his journey in the military as an Army ROTC cadet. Wilfredo Figueroa-Rivera, a Leavenworth sophomore, was among the students who took the Oath of Enlistment Nov. 12 in Memorial Stadium. Lazzarino was there to cover the football game, but he also came away with the story of Figueroa-Rivera, who so impressed Lazzarino in their conversation following the game that he found it difficult to share only a portion in our Jayhawk Walk section. We expect to chronicle the young Jayhawk’s achievements in years to come.

One of Mount Oread’s most treasured and honored professors, Elizabeth Schultz, taught English for 34 years and for several years chaired the humanities and comparative literature programs. Schultz devoted her scholarly life to Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick. For generations of students, she illuminated the ways in which the classic novel explores the essence of humanity and the questions we all struggle to answer. In our Hilltopics section, Steve Hill reports on Schultz’s gift to fund a KU professorship and ensure that the study of Melville and other guiding lights of literature will continue to flourish at the University.

No matter what our life’s work, we draw nourishment from the examples of Jayhawks who clearly see a purpose and work ceaselessly to fulfill it.”

“No matter what our life’s work, we draw nourishment from the examples of Jayhawks who clearly see a purpose and work ceaselessly to fulfill it.”
On the Boulevard

Exhibitions

“Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia,” Spencer Museum of Art, through March 12

Lied Center events

JANUARY

22 Ovation! USD 497 Talent Show
27 The Paludan Sisters present “The Music of the Mind”
28 Chinese New Year Gala
29 Russian National Ballet Theatre: “Swan Lake”

FEBRUARY

2 “Pippin”
4 KU Wind Ensemble and Jazz I
5 Prairie Winds and Sunflower Strings Concert
9 SUA Tunes at Night
10 Rebirth Brass Band
12 Jon Nakamatsu, piano
15 The Acting Company: “Julius Caesar”
16 The Acting Company: Marcus Gardley’s “X”
18 Scholarship concert featuring Carmina Burana
20 KU Symphonic Band and University Band
23 Adam Devine
25 Erik Kiel/Arch 8
26 Mr. Ho’s Orchestrotica Quintet

MARCH

2-4 Rock Chalk Revue
5 An Evening with Julia Alvarez
6 An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth Celebrating the Art of Elegance
7 SUA Tunes at Night
8 KU Wind Ensemble
14 KU Symphony Orchestra
15 Imani Winds
28 KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Kneebody
29 SUA Tunes at Night
31 American Brass Quintet

Students, faculty and staff got a sneak peek of winter in early December, when a light snowfall brought a quiet serenity to the University’s bustling campus.
University Theatre

FEBRUARY
9-12 “Seminar,” by Theresa Rebeck, William Inge Memorial Theatre

MARCH
31, April 1-2, 4-6 “Anon(ymous),” by Naomi Iizuka, William Inge Memorial Theatre

Lectures

FEBRUARY
24 Humanities Lecture Series Conversation: Matthew Stewart, Hall Center conference hall

MARCH
28 “Pursuing Elusive Equity in Higher Education,” Jennifer Hammer, The Commons

Academic Calendar

JANUARY
17 First day of spring classes

MARCH
20-26 Spring break

Alumni Events

JANUARY
24 KU vs. West Virginia watch parties
28 KU vs. Kentucky pregame party, Lexington, Kentucky

FEBRUARY
1 Great Bend: Kansas Honors Program
1 KU vs. Baylor watch parties
4 KU vs. Iowa State watch parties
6 KU vs. Kansas State watch parties
6 Pittsburg: Kansas Honors Program
11 KU vs. Texas Tech watch parties
13 Beloit: Kansas Honors Program
13 Iola: Kansas Honors Program
13 KU vs. West Virginia watch parties
15 KU Night with the Denver Nuggets, Denver
15 Paola: Kansas Honors Program
18 KU vs. Baylor watch parties
22 Atchison: Kansas Honors Program
22 Holton: Kansas Honors Program
22 KU vs. TCU watch parties
23 Axtell: Kansas Honors Program
25 KU vs. Texas pregame party, Austin, Texas
25 KU vs. Texas watch parties
27 KU vs. Oklahoma watch parties

MARCH
4 KU vs. Oklahoma State watch parties
11 KU Night with the Portland Trailblazers, Portland, Oregon
29 Chanute: Kansas Honors Program
Jayhawk Walk

**Blast of nostalgia**

Had enough of laughing cats, baby rap, cursing British butlers, foul-mouthed South Park kids, heavy metal and bubblegum pop? Then it’s high time you Rock Chalk your ringtone with an authentic five-second blast from KU’s original “Big Tooter” steam whistle.

Launched in October to announce the debut of Steam Whistle Creative, a student-run advertising agency within the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, the ringtone signals your crimson-and-blue allegiance with the coolest call announcer this side of Mount Oread.

The Alumni Association’s free KU Alumni App (kualumni.org/app) includes a tile that leads to the iTunes Store or Google Play, where you can search for “Steam Whistle Creative” to download the $1.29 ringtone. With the tone on your phone, navigate through “settings” to “sound,” select the steam whistle as your ringtone, and forever fuel your nostalgia for running late to class.

There’s no word yet on hacks to make the whistle sound at 10 till every hour.

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**LPD, #hilarious**

*After launching* the Lawrence Police Department’s Twitter page Dec. 31, 2015, with the usual dry reminders for revelers to designate sober drivers, Officer Drew Fennelly yearned to “find the voice for the Twitter account.”

His creativity burst forth three months later, as Fennelly, ’09, hunched over his laptop, bemoaning the men’s basketball team’s shattering loss in the NCAA Tournament. “Sorry, we can’t investigate Villanova ripping your heart out of your chest,” Fennelly wrote. “The crime occurred outside our jurisdiction. #RCJH”

The post was noticed by the Kansas City Star’s sports editor, who shared it with his 10,000 followers, and suddenly @LawrenceKS_PD zoomed to online fame.

“I felt the same frustration and despair that everybody else did about KU losing that game,” Fennelly says. “So I was thinking, how can I express to everyone else how I feel and relate it to the police department?”

He’d found the voice he’d been searching for, and his ensuing parade of comedy gold gained an even wider audience—hello, Jimmy Kimmel—Sept. 29: “We realize politics can make emotions run high, but being mad at a presidential candidate in a debate is NOT a reason to call 911.”

Fennelly says he scrutinizes every post for any possible hint of controversy or disrespect, but he otherwise lets the laughs loose almost daily, including an election-day reminder that “Electioneering is not a major at KU,” K9 officers posed for cute dog pics, Bad Luck Brian reminding citizens not to tempt thieves with unattended porch packages, and, best of all, the occasional Saturday-night #LKPDTweetalong, during which he rides with a fellow
officer and tweets the action from a citizen's point of view.

“Humor really is one of the best coping mechanisms for dealing with what we see on a regular basis,” says Fennelly, an officer since 2009. “I think you would be hard-pressed to find a police officer without a pretty good sense of humor.”

From dry to wry, all in a day’s work.

A recipe for good

**NAMED FOR A JAPANESE concept meaning “reason for being,” ikigai Noodle—a meal hosted Thursday nights from August to May at Westwood House, home of KU’s Lutheran Campus Ministry—is all about destigmatizing the soup kitchen.**

Diners build their own ramen bowls using ingredients supplied by Shantel Ringler Grace, ’02, who with her husband, Tim, owns the downtown Lawrence restaurant Ramen Bowls. Participants serve themselves and donate $2 if they like—or nothing at all.

By upending the traditional soup kitchen structure—“volunteers in T-shirts behind a counter serving people”—Grace hopes to create a festive, welcoming atmosphere where people feel good about accepting a little help when they need it.

“Some people don’t take advantage of resources because there’s a shame factor,” she says. “Our idea is, if you want to put a couple bucks in the donation box, that’s great. But there’s nobody sitting here taking money. Just help yourself.”

**End-zone enlistment**

**WILFREDO FIGUEROA-RIVERA** was already in uniform when he raised his right hand and took his oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army. But it wasn’t an Army uniform he wore the afternoon of Nov. 12.

That’s because the sophomore cheerleader was three-quarters of the way through KU’s “Salute to Service” game against Iowa State when he trotted away from the west sideline to join his ROTC comrades in the south end zone and fulfill the Army’s Oath of Enlistment.

As applause for the cadets filled Memorial Stadium, Figueroa-Rivera quickly rejoined the Spirit Squad and resumed cheering for the football ’Hawks.

“It was surreal,” Figueroa-Rivera says. “For the first few minutes, it was all muscle memory, instinct, because I was thinking about my life ahead of me and all of the things I’m about to do with my life in the military.”

After dinner with his Spirit Squad teammates, Figueroa-Rivera enjoyed a long phone conversation with his parents. His father is an Army major at Fort Leavenworth, so both parents offered sage advice from lifetimes of experience.

“There’s just a feeling of ... What was the feeling? It was almost like a feeling of welcoming, like you’re now part of something that’s a lot bigger than yourself and you have expectations to live up to. It was nice to see my family encouraging me to live up to those expectations and make everybody proud.

“Prouder than they already are.”

Truly worth cheering.
Budget-challenged

Governor’s budget proposal offers higher-ed initiatives, but fails to restore cuts to KU

As the Kansas Legislature convened in January, leaders at KU and the Kansas Board of Regents had but a short wish list for lawmakers: Restore the mid-year cuts made to KU’s budget last May and establish stable funding in the two-year budget covering the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years.

But even those modest requests looked to be a tough sell, as lawmakers started the session with a familiar challenge: Tax revenues are well short of projections, resulting in a budget shortfall of nearly $350 million that will require more work to balance the budget between now and the end of the 2017 fiscal year in June. The outlook for fiscal 2018 is even more dire, with a budget shortfall currently projected to top $550 million.

In his State of the State address Jan. 10, Gov. Sam Brownback, ’82, promised a balanced budget that addresses both expenditures and “modest, targeted revenue measures” such as tax increases to address projected deficits, while also signaling that higher education is among the few areas where he hopes to generate some new spending in the coming year. He called for starting a School of Dentistry at KU Medical Center to address a shortage of dentists in 87 of the state’s 105 counties; proposed a new scholarship program to aid Kansas college students who want to teach and urged expansion of an existing scholarship program for college students; and challenged the state’s colleges and universities to provide students a chance to earn a four-year degree for a total cost of $15,000, promising to fund 50 student scholarships for the first institution to achieve that goal.

In a detailed budget proposal presented to the House and Senate budget committees Jan. 11 by Shawn Sullivan, the state budget director, Brownback pledged $800,000 to pay for the initial planning costs of the dental school, which would be the first in Kansas. His proposed budget also includes $3 million next year and $6 million in fiscal 2019 to fund scholarships at Kansas universities for future teachers who agree to work in rural areas, and $1 million a year, starting in fiscal 2018, to fund the 50 scholarships for the $15,000 bachelor’s degree.

But the proposal did not address the $10.7 million hit the University took last May.

“On Jan. 11, the governor released his budget recommendations for the next fiscal year,” said Tim Caboni, vice chancellor for public affairs. “While he does not recommend additional cuts to the University of Kansas, his recommendations include the $10.7 million allotment cut he made to the KU budget last May—essentially making that a permanent annual cut.

“The sudden loss of $10.7 million has significantly impacted KU and its students and forced the university to make difficult decisions. With that in mind, KU is asking legislators to consider the following two priorities this session: restoration of the 2016 cuts to KU and stable funding for KU moving forward.”

Last year’s reduction in the state appropriation for KU was part of a $97 million spending cut that Brownback ordered statewide to bring the budget passed by the Legislature in balance with expected revenues. Those cuts resulted in a 4 percent reduction for most state agencies, including the universities governed by the Board of Regents. However, KU and Kansas State sustained proportionally higher cuts—5.1 percent of the state’s appropriation for KU—because lawmakers stipulated that higher education cuts be based on universities’ “all-funds operating budgets” instead of only their state general fund allocations. In a joint letter to Jayhawks for Higher Education and their Wildcat counterparts last May, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Gen. Richard Myers, then interim president at K-State, pointed out the flaw in this formula while encouraging advocates to persuade Gov. Brownback to line-item veto that provision.

“This formula penalizes Kansas State University and the University of Kansas,
whose all-funds budgets are higher because of our large research portfolios,” Gray-Little and Myers explained in their letter. “In essence, this formula punishes K-State and KU for conducting research and successfully securing federal research grants that bring new dollars to Kansas. In addition to harming the two universities and the state we serve, this type of funding decision sends a terrible message to the nation that Kansas does not value earning research grant funding and that our state actively penalizes our research universities when they succeed.”

When adjusted for inflation, state support per student at KU has declined 44 percent over the past 17 years. In 2016, the state appropriation of $236 million for KU remained below pre-recession levels. That continuing decline makes stable funding crucial for KU, administrators say. They hope to persuade lawmakers that the University cannot absorb additional cuts without negatively impacting the students, citizens, communities and companies KU serves.

In his speech, Brownback noted that the annual State of the State address “was once described to me as a beautiful ritual, pageantry, conducted just before the real battle begins. Perhaps it is.”

The governor’s wry delivery of that line seemed to suggest that he expects the battle may be particularly pitched this year.

A significantly reshaped Legislature—59 new lawmakers were sworn in at the start of the session, many of them moderate Republicans and Democrats who ran on a platform of repealing the governor’s tax cuts—is likely to resist many of Brownback’s budget proposals, which rely heavily on one-time funding sources such as raiding the state highway fund, delaying payments to public schools, freezing contributions to the KPERS retirement fund for state employees, and selling off future tobacco settlement money.

The proposal also doubles tobacco and liquor taxes and cancels a planned decrease in the state’s lowest tax bracket, but it leaves largely untouched the 2012 tax exemption for businesses that many blame for several consecutive years of budget shortfalls. Rep. Tom Phillips, a Manhattan Republican, wasted no time in introducing a bill that would repeal the so-called LLC loophole for 330,000 businesses that currently pay no state income taxes, and both Democrats and Republicans on the House tax committee have indicated support for a repeal, which would raise about $250 million.

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**Save the whale**

**Gift to lure Melville expert to KU, restore Moby-Dick to curriculum**

So dedicated is retired English professor Elizabeth Schultz to Herman Melville’s famed 19th-century novel *Moby-Dick*, she recently enticed a friend to read the book by offering to conduct a kind of one-woman master class.

“I’ll talk you through it,” Schultz says she told her friend. “Call me. I will.”

Schultz, who began teaching at KU in 1967 and retired in 2001, is one of the world’s foremost Melville scholars, and she taught his classic novel every one of her 34 years on the Hill. But with the retirement of Schultz and her English department colleague Haskell Springer, in 2003, the

**UPDATE**

Colombia’s Congress on Nov. 30 approved a peace accord engineered by President Juan Manuel Santos, b’73, finally concluding a difficult process that led to a Nobel Peace Prize for Santos (“Peace Prized,” issue No. 6) but struggled to bring an end to the half-century-long civil war that left more than 200,000 people dead.

In August the Santos administration announced that, after years of talks, it had reached a deal with rebels to end the war. The two sides held a celebratory signing, but voters defied expectations and polls by narrowly rejecting the agreement in October. Days later, the Nobel Committee urged both sides to continue talks, saying they hoped the prize for Santos would “give him strength to succeed in this demanding task.”

Santos followed his brother, Luis Fernando Santos, j’70, to Mount Oread in 1969. As detailed in a cover story in *Kansas Alumni* in 2011, he embraced social and academic life on the Hill, joining Delta Upsilon fraternity and completing a degree in seven semesters.

At a ceremony marking completion of a new accord meant to address the concerns of voters, Santos urged unity.

“On signing this agreement, as president of all Colombians, I want to invite all, with an open mind and open heart, to give peace a chance.”
Winter grads: More than 1,300 Jayhawks earned their KU diplomas at the end of the fall semester in December. Degrees are officially conferred in January, but winter graduates (who represent 57 Kansas counties, 40 states and 28 countries) are invited to participate in the annual walk down the Hill at Commencement on Sunday, May 14.

The tale of Captain Ahab's obsessive pursuit of a fabled white whale fell off reading lists. With a $1.5 million gift commitment, announced last fall, Schultz hopes to correct that omission by establishing the Herman Melville Distinguished Professorship to bring to KU someone to teach one or more of the great American writers of the mid-19th century, a grand roster that includes Melville, Emily Dickinson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman.

But Schultz is particularly keen to restore to syllabi a book she considers the Great American Novel. "In Moby-Dick I think there is not a perspective he doesn't touch on," Schultz says. "He's fundamentally asking large questions that have to do with the way we live our lives as individuals and as a community of people. To me the most important question we can ask is, 'What is a good life, and how can we live it?' I think we have in Moby-Dick a cast of characters that model a variety of kinds of behavior, and in the course of seeing how people act toward one another in that novel, the reader is asked to evaluate how he or she could do better."

Schultz first encountered Captain Ahab's vengeful quest as an undergraduate at Wellesley College. "I knew it was something amazing," she says, "something the likes of which I had never read before, and I was totally engaged." But she ended up writing her PhD dissertation on a very different kind of writer, Henry James.

At KU she first realized the novel's full power. "I found my first year of teaching at KU, in the fall of 1967, it was Melville who spoke to my students. I had many who were distressed about the Vietnam War, some of them guys about to be drafted, and they found that Melville spoke to their condition," Schultz says. "That is to say, they were on a ship of state that was doomed."

The story of an authority figure so blinded by his obsessive need for vengeance that he's willing to endanger himself and those he leads resonated with students then and still resonates now, Schultz believes. She wants to restore the novel to popular readership, yes, but she also sees it as a linchpin in the life of the University.

"I do think that the humanities are being challenged these days, and I would hope that having a distinguished person teaching central American works in the English department would inspire not only other humanists but the whole University campus," she says. "I would hope this would have a trickle out effect, not just a trickle down effect, that the ongoing presence of this professorship on campus would really emphasize the University's commitment to the humanities and the arts and culture in general, and that what courses in history and the classics and languages and philosophy are all about is good and clear thinking. We need it more than ever."

Radical lit

Student's Sacco and Vanzetti collection wins national prize

Ninety years after Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed for murdering two men during an armed robbery in Braintree, Massachusetts, people still disagree about the Italian immigrant anarchists’ guilt or innocence.

But the historical parlor game (did they or didn't they?) isn't what interests Megan Jones, a graduate student in English who has built a collection of books about the two figures. Her collection won KU's Snyder Book Collecting Contest in April and placed second in the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest (NCBCC) in October.

"I'm really more interested in what it is about these two men that has captivated

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“I'm really more interested in what it is about these two men that has captivated
the imagination of so many people, and
why we’re so interested in not only
preserving their legacy, but why we look
back at them as this big question,” Jones
says. Their arrest came at the height of the
Palmer Raids, mass arrests and deporta-
tions that occurred during the post-World
War I Red scare, she notes. “They weren’t
the only radicals arrested or accused of
crimes or deported or executed during this
time. Why are they the ones we talk about,
why are they the ones we talk about,
why we look back at them as this big question, ‘ Jones
bought the first book in her
collection in 2012. While an undergradu-
ate at Indiana University, she took a class
at The Lilly Library, the school’s repository
for rare books, manuscripts and special
collections. Looking for an archive to
explore for her class project, she stumbled
across Sacco and Vanzetti and remem-
ered a brief encounter with them in a
high school history class.
“I saw their picture in the corner of my
textbook and I asked my U.S. history
teacher who they were, because there was
only a tiny short blurb about them,” Jones
recalls. “And he was like, ‘Oh, don’t worry;
they’re not that important.’”
She started reading, finding handwritten
letters in the Lilly archives that the
anarchists had sent to friends, and quickly
became intrigued.
“You get a lot more of a person’s
personality by reading their handwriting
in letters they wrote 90 years ago,” Jones
says. “I think that’s what did it for me.”
Seeing these historical artifacts not only
fired her imagination, but also provided
material for scholarship. She sought out
collections of Sacco and Vanzetti’s letters to
see what had been published on the
subject, and was surprised to find major
discrepancies between the published versions
and the originals. The
edited letters make the
two men appear less
militant, Jones says. And less individual.
“Theyir personalities have both been a
little bit erased in favor of making them
martyrs for the general leftist anarchist
communist radical workers’ cause,” Jones
says. “We don’t see as much of their
individual personalities, and I think that
may be why they’re so popular. They’re
very different people, but they’ve been
linked and glorified in a way that’s
interesting.”
The discovery led to her undergraduate
thesis and fueled her collecting. She now
has about three dozen books—more than
she had before she won the $600 Snyder
prize and $1,000 NCBCCC prize.
“I thought I should spend at least some
of the money on getting more books,
right?”
But the crown jewel of the collection
came to Jones absolutely free: It is a
pristine copy of the 1927 John Dos Passos
pamphlet, Facing the Chair: Story of the
Americanization of Two Foreignborn
Workmen, from the book collection of the
late Melvin Landsberg, the professor
emeritus of English at KU who died in
March. Jones had contacted the estate to
see if the work might be in Landsberg’s
collection, since he was a Dos Passos
scholar and biographer.
It’s one of the few Sacco and Vanzetti
works she actively tracked down. Most she
discovers by happy accident.
“Part of the fun of my collection is I
don’t really know what all is out there,”
Jones says. “I’m always finding new things
that somehow relate. It’s the surprise of it
all.”

**Milestones, money and other matters**

- **David Dillon**, b’73, retired chairman
  and CEO of Kroger Company, heads the
  search committee chosen in November
  by the Kansas Board of Regents to find
  the University’s next chancellor. Alumni
  representatives on the committee include
  **Greg Ek**, b’76, Wichita, and **Dave
  Roland**, e’80, Excelsior, Minnesota,
  who serve on the Alumni Association’s
  national Board of Directors, and **Debbie
  Foltz Nordling**, d’79, Hugoton, a former
  Association Board member. Regents
  also voted to hire R. William Funk and
  Associates as search consultant. The
  committee will undertake a closed
  nationwide search to recruit a successor
to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little,
  who will step down June 30.

- **Charlie Rose**, anchor and execu-
tive editor of the PBS television news
program “Charlie Rose,” will receive the
2017 William Allen White Foundation
National Citation. Rose will receive the
citation on campus on William Allen
White Day, April 20.

- **Robert Sorem**, e’86, g’88, PhD’91,
  associate professor of mechanical
  engineering, was presented the 2016
  H.O.P.E. Award by the senior class at
  the KU-Texas game Nov. 19. Sorem
  has advised the Jayhawk Motorsports
  Formula SAE racing team for 22 years,
  winning the Carroll Smith Mentor’s Cup
  in 2009. The H.O.P.E. (Honor for an
  Outstanding Progressive Educator) was
  established by the senior class in 1959
  and remains the only honor the class
gives a faculty member.
Higuchi Awards recognize faculty research gains

Two researchers from KU and two from Kansas State received the most prestigious award for scholarly excellence that Kansas offers: the Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards.

Named for Takeru Higuchi, the late KU distinguished professor considered “the father of physical chemistry,” the awards, announced in December, recognize exceptional long-term research achievements of faculty members at Kansas Board of Regents universities. The 2016 awardees are:

Judith Carta, professor of special education, senior scientist at the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies and director of early childhood research at KU’s Juniper Gardens Children’s Project in Kansas City. She has led an externally funded research program at KU for 31 years, influencing changes in social policy and improving the quality of services for children and families across the nation. Carta received the Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences.

Randolph Nudo, Marion Merrell Dow Distinguished Professor in Aging and professor and vice chair of research in the department of rehabilitative medicine at KU Medical Center. Nudo’s research focuses on neural repair and neurologic recovery after stroke. Nudo received the Dolph Simons Award in Biomedical Sciences.

Christer Aakeröy, University Distinguished Professor of chemistry at Kansas State University. His research on aspects of intermolecular interactions and materials science has attracted major grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and the Petroleum Research Fund. Aakeröy received the Olin Petefish Award in Basic Sciences.

Philip Nel, University Distinguished Professor of English at Kansas State, co-founded and directs the Program in Children’s Literature, and his literary research focuses on the understanding of literature written for children. Nel received the Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Conservation upgrades help cut KU’s energy consumption

Gains by the Energy Office and the Center for Sustainability at KU to reduce campus energy usage are paying off with not only cost savings, but also a
reduced carbon footprint.

Heating, cooling and lighting the more than 130 buildings on campus takes a toll on the University’s budget and the environment. KU spends more than $15 million annually on utilities such as natural gas, electricity and water, using about 925 million BTUs of energy, which produces more than 160,000 metric tons of carbon emissions each year.

In fiscal 2016, electricity usage dropped by 1.9 million kilowatts and gas consumption dropped by 46 million BTUs, thanks to conservation efforts that seek to bring energy costs for campus buildings to 100 kBTUs per square foot. Energy consumption was reduced from 106 kBTUs in 2015 to 98 in 2016, exceeding that goal. The reductions are enough to power 156 homes and offset greenhouse gas emissions from 520 cars for a year.

The efforts use a combination of equipment upgrades (like replacing burned out halogen, compact fluorescent and incandescent bulbs with LEDs) and behavioral changes (such as the successful Shut the Sash campaign that reminds users to close fume hoods in campus labs to save energy and improve safety). Installation of 4,500 LED bulbs alone has saved an estimated $61,000, according to the energy report, which also details ongoing efforts to identify problem buildings that need further attention. Read the full report at energy.ku.edu/campus-energy-useage.

**C A M P U S**

**Mount Oread to be tobacco-free by 2018**

THE LAWRENCE CAMPUS is still on track to join the ranks of the nearly 1,500 U.S. colleges that are completely tobacco free, but implementation of the new policy has been pushed back to 2018.

As previously reported in Kansas Alumni [“Smoke Out?” Hilltopics, issue No. 2, 2015], Tobacco Free KU, a coalition that includes the human resources department, Watkins Health Services, Recreation Services and the student group BEAK (Breathe Easy at KU), is working to replace the University’s existing policy, which bans smoking inside buildings but allows outdoor smoking and permits student housing residents to use smokeless tobacco in their rooms. The new policy, originally set to begin this fall, will ban all tobacco products and e-cigarettes across campus.

An official announcement on the new policy is expected in fall 2017, with implementation scheduled for fall 2018.

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“Why write? To express the reality of human capacities. You really don’t need to be a unique creative genius to do this; you only need to have the language under your control.”

—Zadie Smith

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Milestones, money and other matters

- **Shane McCreery** leads the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access. The office works to strengthen diversity and inclusion at KU, and investigates discrimination and harassment complaints. McCreery previously directed the Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access at Illinois State University. He started at KU on Sept. 1.

- **Sandra Billinger**, interim associate dean for research and associate professor in the department of physical therapy and rehabilitation sciences, and **Belinda Sturm**, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, are the 2016 Edward and Thelma Wohlgemuth Faculty Scholars. The fund seeks to help KU retain promising faculty by recognizing their early career accomplishments and potential for future scholarly contributions. It was established by Dorothy Wohlgemuth Lynch, d’59, in 2000 to honor her parents.

- **Bozenna Pasik-Duncan**, professor of mathematics and courtesy professor in the departments of electrical engineering & computer science and aerospace engineering, is the 2017 Global Chair of the Women in Engineering Committee for the Institute of Engineering and Electronics Engineers. She oversees the world’s largest professional organization supporting women in science and engineering.

- **Rex Buchanan**, ’92, in October received the Geological Society of America’s Public Service Award for his decades of accomplishments as a leader and communicator on issues related to geology and natural resources. Buchanan retired recently as interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey, which he joined in 1978.
Detroit steel

Jackson a ‘special freshman’ who dazzles with rare talent

How to upstage Josh Jackson: Score the last-second, game-winning basket against rival Kansas State, and do so by brazenly bolting three, maybe four, strides without dribbling. Safe to say that nothing about the Jan. 3 home Big 12 opener will be long remembered other than junior guard Svi Mykhailiuk Walk Chalking straight down the lane and laying the ball in for KU’s 90-88 victory.

And yet it was Jackson, a No. 1 overall recruit and all-but-certain one-and-done superstar, who led all scorers with 22 points, his third 20-point-plus performance in the first 15 games of his college career, and added nine rebounds and six assists. After following that performance with 17 points and 10 rebounds Jan. 7 against Texas Tech, Jackson was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Week for the third time, to go along with the Big 12 Player of the Week honor won after scoring 21 at UNLV Dec. 22.

“I think the potential,” coach Bill Self says of Jackson, “is off the charts.”

As KU prepared to face Oklahoma Jan. 10 in Norman, the Jayhawks, 14-1 overall and 4-0 in the Big 12, were ranked No. 2 in the country, and senior guard Frank Mason III, national Player of the Year candidate and two-time Big 12 Player of the Week, was leading the Jayhawks in scoring at 26.9 points a game, including 26 against Texas Tech.

Junior guard Devonte’ Graham led KU with 35 3-pointers, followed closely by Mykhailiuk’s 33, and senior center Landen Lucas rebounded from a lackluster early season to post back-to-back double-doubles against TCU and Kansas State, earning a Big 12 Player of the Week honor of his own.

Program and individual milestones are also garnering well-deserved attention. Self, in his 24th season as a head coach, won the 600th game of his career with KU’s Dec. 6 victory over UMKC, his 400th at KU with the win at Oklahoma (a victory likely to elevate the Jayhawks to No. 1 after Baylor’s loss at West Virginia) and on Dec. 21 Self was announced as a first-time nominee for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The victory over Texas Tech, the Jayhawks’ 48th-consecutive in Allen Field House, made KU the second team in NCAA Div. I history to reach 2,200 wins, and the Nov. 18 victory over Sienna was the 207th for Self in Allen Field House, bettering Ted Owens on the all-time field house list.

But, short of a national championship, 2017 will likely be remembered as the season Josh Jackson was a Jayhawk.

As Self has noted, it’s impossible to become the best ever at a school where Wilt Chamberlain, ’59, and Danny Manning, ’92, played. And in the era of single seasons for freshman elites, Jackson won’t leave with any career records.

But his talents seem to surpass even those of another recent top-ranked recruit, Andrew Wiggins, ’17, and game-by-game displays of athleticism, court vision, shooting, passing, rebounding and acrobatic and powerful dunks are earning the 6-8 guard from Detroit, in Self’s estimation, “a chance to be one of the special freshmen the program’s probably ever known.”

Says Self, “I think his vision is probably the best thing. He’s inside a zone. I haven’t seen him be inside a zone before he got here, and man, he’s good in there.”

Jackson, who sports a winning smile and easygoing manner, says he’s inspired by Oklahoma City Thunder All-Star guard Russell Westbrook—”I’ve heard [West-
His vision is probably the best thing. He’s inside a zone. I haven’t seen him be inside a zone before he got here, and man, he’s good in there.”

—coach Bill Self on freshman guard Josh Jackson

To the bitter end

After winning first Big 12 title, volleyball drops NCAA thriller

The sweet memory of their thrilling five-set victory last season over powerhouse USC, a match that launched KU volleyball to its first Final Four in the NCAA Tournament, is preserved for the ages with a huge photograph displayed in a Horejsi Family Athletics Center hallway. That match's magic could not be repeated, though, as the Jayhawks, winners of their first Big 12 title, were ousted by Creighton in this season's second round.

The fourth-ranked Jayhawks (27-3) entered the Dec. 2 showdown with Creighton (28-6), one of the hottest teams in the country with 15-consecutive victories, with an 8-0 record in five-set matches, including a Sept. 8 victory at Creighton.

In their NCAA match, KU won the opening set 25-21. Creighton responded with 25-20 and 25-17 victories in the second and third sets. Down 2-1, KU played its best volleyball of the night in the fourth set, winning the first four points and cruising 25-16 to force the deciding set.

Junior right-side hitter Kelsie Payne, named first-team All-American for the second consecutive season, scored seven kills in the final set (and 26 for the match), and KU led 10-9, but it was not enough, as the Bluejays had their first match point at 14-12. KU rallied to fend off six match points, but the Jayhawks couldn't stop No. 7: Although five sets are played to 15, this one was decided at 20-18.

"It was a special atmosphere in there, a special effort from both teams," said coach Ray Bechard. "I'm as proud as I can be for our group, but pretty devastated that we couldn't flip the score."

After beating Big 12 powerhouse Texas Oct. 29 to secure a tie for the conference lead, the Jayhawks took sole possession of the Big 12 lead with a 3-1 victory Nov. 5, on a night that Texas was idle, at Oklahoma. A five-set victory over Iowa State Nov. 19 in Horejsi secured the Jayhawks' first Big 12 title.

"We are the aggressors now," senior libero Cassie Wait—an honorable mention All-American, Big 12 Libero of the Year, Big 12 Volleyball Scholar-Athlete of the Year and first-year KU law student—said of the growth of KU volleyball since her arrival. "We're in control of the play every single time. If we do our jobs every single time we step out on that court, we have the power to win every match."

Along with Wait's honors, others for KU included Big 12 Player of the Year for Payne; junior Ainise Havili becoming the first back-to-back winner of Big 12 Setter of the Year; Bechard as conference Coach of the Year for the second-consecutive season and the fourth time in five years; and junior outside hitter Madison Rigdon joining Payne, Havili and Wait on the All-Big 12 First Team.

Wait, senior Maggie Anderson, junior Kayla Cheadle, redshirt freshman Patricia Montero and senior Tayler Soucie were also named to the Academic All-Big 12 first team.
Swimming powered into its 2017 nonconference season with a memorable West Coast trip, including a dominating victory in the Jan. 7 USD Shootout. With four event victories and 53 points, the Jayhawks topped runner-up North Texas by 25 points. KU started the four-team meet with a second-place swim in the 400-yard medley relay. That was followed by a victory in the 1,000-yard freestyle by sophomore Libby Walker, with freshman Jenny Nusbaum close behind in second.

Nusbaum then won the 200-yard freestyle, and junior Madison Straight, coming off a victory in the 400-yard IM a day earlier in a double-dual at UCLA, took second in the 200 IM.

Senior Pia Pavlic out-touched San Diego’s Dani Taylor by one-hundredth of a second in the 50-yard butterfly, senior Yulduz Kuchkarova won the 50-yard backstroke, sophomore Haley Bishop placed second in the 50-yard breaststroke and 50-yard freestyle, and the Jayhawks closed out the busy trip with a victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

“The whole team is doing so good right now, not only at meets, but what’s even more important, at practices,” Pavlic said. “We are less than 50 days away from our conference meet [Feb. 22 at Texas] and we all carry a lot of energy in each practice, which is really what matters the most. This team has an unlimited amount of potential, so with time and a little bit of rest, we’ll light it up at Austin.”

Pool hustlers

Energetic swimmers cruise at four-team meet in San Diego

Sophomore Libby Walker won the 1,000-yard freestyle at the Jan. 7 USD Shootout, and a day earlier placed a close second to junior teammate Madison Straight in the 400-yard IM at a double-dual hosted by UCLA.

Updates

Sophomore Anastasia Rychagova, ranked No. 65 nationally in women’s tennis, won her singles match and both doubles matches on Jan. 7, the final day of the Maui Invitational. The Jayhawks were 21-6 in three days of competition against Hawaii and Washington State. The Jayhawk Tennis Center at Rock Chalk Park opens Jan. 20 with a match against Saint Louis. ... Football’s incoming recruits include a former starting quarterback for Washington State, junior Peyton Bender. Coach David Beaty, who received a contract extension through 2021, indicated that the QB job would likely be decided between Bender and sophomore Carter Stanley, who led KU to a 24-21 victory over Texas Nov. 19. ... Sophomore defensive end Dorance Armstrong Jr. was a unanimous selection as first-team All-Big 12. Senior safety Fish Smithson was also named first-team All-Big 12, and sophomore defensive lineman Daniel Wise was recognized by ESPN. ... Big 12 cross-country champion Sharon Lokedi, Big 12 Women’s Runner of the Year, ran fifth at the Nov. 19 NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Indiana, the best NCAA finish by any KU cross-country runner since John Lawson, j’92, won the men’s title in 1965. ... After placing second in the Big 12’s regular season, its best conference performance since 2004, the soccer team opened the NCAA Tournament with a 1-0, double-overtime victory over Missouri Nov. 13 at Rock Chalk Park. The game-winner was a close-range strike by junior Lois Heuchan, off a pinpoint pass by sophomore Grace Hagan. The Jayhawks were eliminated five days later by NCAA semifinalist North Carolina. ... Brandon Rush, named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team after KU’s championship run in 2008, will have his No. 25 jersey retired during the Feb. 22 men’s basketball game against TCU. “This is a big, big deal to have your number retired in the rafters of the field house,” said Rush, who now plays for the Minnesota Timberwolves alongside former KU teammate Cole Aldrich, c’13, and Andrew Wiggins, ’17. ... Sophomore McKenzie Calvert was named Co-Big 12 Player of the Week Dec. 27 after scoring 30 points in women’s basketball’s 90-84 victory over UC Riverside. Junior guard Jessica Washington scored 16 in KU’s 75-51 rout of Arizona Dec. 17.
New Stanford coach and former KU great Jerod Haase, b’97, g’01, returned to Allen Field House (above) Dec. 3. “He’ll be the most-loved head coach in the building,” coach Bill Self (far left) said before KU’s 89-74 victory. “He deserves that.” Other action for the Jayhawks included tipoff of the Sunflower Showdown Jan. 3 against Kansas State (top), Landen Lucas (33) and Svi Mykhailiuk (10) hustling for a rebound (above left) Jan. 7 against Texas Tech, and Devonte’ Graham, Carlton Bragg Jr. and Lagerald Vick (left) celebrating a 30-point victory Nov. 29 over Long Beach State.
Rhodes Scholar cements her role as an advocate for marginalized communities

by Heather Biele
Photographs by Steve Puppe

H uma proudly asserts that she inherited her fighting spirit from her parents. Her mother and father grew up in Bangladesh during a particularly tumultuous time in their country’s history, when genocide, deportations and other atrocities led to the Liberation War of 1971.

“My parents came of age during a time of bloody revolution,” Huma says. “My dad, in his college days, was a political activist and very much involved with resistance efforts in Bangladesh.”

Huma had just turned 7 when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred. That tragic sequence of events—and the anti-Muslim response that unfolded in its wake—helped shape her desire to become a vocal advocate for immigrants and other marginalized communities. Now, 15 years after that fateful day, Huma is poised to take a major step toward accomplishing that goal as she joins 31 U.S. Rhodes Scholars next year at Oxford University in England, where she will pursue two years of graduate studies in public policy, social justice and human rights.
KANSAS ALUMNI

/The University Honors Program
provided the close-knit community Huma hoped for. From her first moments on
 campus, even before she was fully entrenched in the program, she understood its value. “It allowed me to continue
having the type of supportive communities that I was accustomed to,” she says. “It
allowed me to have that in college, which was not something that I was expecting. I
was able to take honors courses that were oftentimes very small; some classes were
even smaller than classes I took in high school. I felt that I was really able to
connect to a lot of my professors in very personal and meaningful ways.”

Anne Wallen, assistant director for national fellowships and scholarships and
director of the University Honors Program, describes the program as a liberal

about global issues and policymaking. She did all this while excelling in the school’s
International Baccalaureate program, a grueling academic endeavor for even the
highest-achieving students.

“Educators in my life have been very influential in terms of making me care and
dedicate myself to my academics,” Huma says. “Even as far back as elementary
school, I had educators—some of whom I still keep in touch with—who saw some-
thing in me that I didn’t really see in myself at that time. They not only cel-
brated that, but they also helped me in whatever way they could to further my
prospects in terms of school and a career.”

One of those instructors is Jennifer Fry, who taught English at Wichita East High
School. “When you combine her personal life story with her scholarly passion, that’s
what especially sets her apart,” says Fry. “Life was not easy as a first-generation
Muslim female student, and it continues to be challenging. She’s very, very committed
and passionate about making a difference.

That also requires a high degree of bravery and courage. And she’s up to the task.”

Bolstered by the support she received from her high-school teachers, Huma
carefully researched her options—and considered her close ties with her family—
before selecting KU to further her studies. “It was close enough to home that my
parents felt secure with the decision and that they would still have access to see me,”
she explains. “But it was also far enough away from home that I felt like I would be
able to have the college experience and gain some more independence. I also
decided to come here because I was accepted into the Honors Program. I knew
the Honors Program was a community that I would want to be a part of if I was
going to go to a huge research institution like KU.”

“She’s someone who makes you think about things in ways you hadn’t thought of before,” says
Anne Wallen, who works closely with Huma in the University Honors Program. “And she does it in
a way that is disarming and surprising and just really delightful.”
arts college experience within a large research university. “Our students come in more likely to want to really hit the ground running, doing research and being very involved in student government and organizations,” says Wallen, c’03, who has worked closely with Huma for the past two years. “Our students are more likely to study abroad. Our job is to provide resources to help them make all of those things happen.”

Huma took advantage of many opportunities the University Honors Program provided. She immersed herself in student government and several other organizations, serving as president of the Muslim Student Association and a student senator for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and eventually being elected as vice president of University Senate. She also was one of 20 sophomores selected for the University Scholars Program. During the spring semester of her sophomore year, she helped found the Imagine Coalition, recognizing a need for change in the way Student Senate served the University.

“We decided to create our own coalition, because student government as it existed was not serving the needs of marginalized students,” says Huma, who helped manage the coalition’s campaign that ran on a platform of diversity, equity and inclusion.

But Huma’s newfound role as a leader on campus didn’t come without challenges. “I definitely faced a lot of backlash from people, both within and outside of this institution, for daring to criticize anything that is wrong in the status quo—for daring to want to change the ills that are plaguing this institution,” she says. “My colleagues and I dealt with a lot of backlash, because our platforms were based on social justice and equity.”

Precious Porras, director of KU’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, witnessed the tremendous impact Huma made during the election. “She was a key driving force in organizing a lot of that campaign and pushing forward,” Porras says. “While they ultimately lost, I think she really branded herself as a leader on campus, especially in terms of being a voice for marginalized students.”

Huma used her powerful voice to speak out against several other injustices on campus that year. While the Imagine Coalition campaign was underway, anti-Muslim social media posts created by four KU fraternity members and other students surfaced online. As president of the Muslim Student Association at the time, Huma worked to educate the University community about the harmful effects of these actions and to prevent similar events in the future.

“She immediately responded to and mediated—I think in a very respectful manner—a conversation between Greek life and the interim provost on how best to respond and resolve that event,” says Porras. “It was resolved in a manner which most students would not have the maturity to approach. She’s consistently committed to giving voice to the voiceless with such grace and maturity.”

Although Huma had grown accustomed to anti-Muslim incidents on campus and in her everyday life, nothing could have prepared her for the kind of harassment she received the following spring. While serving as an intern at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in Washington, D.C., during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, she publicly criticized pro-Trump and anti-Muslim comments that were written in chalk on the sidewalks of KU’s campus.

“After that I probably received the most backlash I’ve gotten in my life,” Huma recalls. “I wasn’t even on campus, and I was receiving hundreds and hundreds of hateful messages online from people wanting me raped, dead or deported, things like that.

“It just changed everything. I was very personally confronted with the bigotry. That really catalyzed my desire to want to dedicate everything to fighting towards social justice for the communities that I’m a part of and working in coalition with other marginalized communities across the world.”

Despite the difficulties Huma has endured, she hasn’t let up in her commitment to the causes she believes in. Last year, she became the University Honors Program’s first peer outreach advisor to ensure that all KU students are aware of the multitude of fellowships and scholarships available to them.

“As someone who has been a beneficiary of the system,” Huma says, “I felt it was really important to pay it forward and really spread the word to other people who could benefit from the fellowship and scholarship process at KU.”

Huma also accepted a position last fall as a peer educator for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, conducting training and workshops on social justice education and cultural competency for her peers and student organizations on campus.

Working closely with the University Honors Program and the Office of Multicultural Affairs was a natural fit for Huma, who says both organizations provided an immense amount of support during her struggles at KU.

“The University Honors Program has been very supportive of me not only in my academic life and academic triumphs, but also in a lot of the hardships that I faced at KU,” says Huma. “Whenever it felt like I haven’t had institutional support for causes
that I’ve advocated for, the support system that I have in the University Honors Program has never failed to help lift me up and carry me through whatever issues I was struggling through.”

Those who know Huma well know that much of her strength comes from within. “She’s just extremely determined and dedicated,” says Wallen, who guided Huma through the application processes for the Rhodes and Truman scholarships, both of which she was a finalist for. “She’s been through a lot, especially in the past year. She’s just sort of reached this point where she has accepted that she’s going to have challenges, but the things she cares about are important enough that she’s willing to fight through it. And that’s what she’s going to do: She’s going to keep fighting.”

Hannah Britton, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Injustice at the Institute of Policy & Social Research at KU, has also witnessed Huma’s strength in the face of adversity. As one of Huma’s instructors in fall 2015, during a time when the University was rocked by protests and reports of racism and discrimination following the Nov. 11 town hall forum on race, respect, responsibility and free speech, Britton saw

with most of her political science coursework behind her, Huma will dedicate her remaining time at KU to planning her studies at Oxford University, where she’ll pursue a master’s degree in refugee and forced migration studies during her first year, followed by a year earning her master’s degree in public policy.

“I’m really hoping that Oxford can open the door for me to be able to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,” says Huma. “That would be amazing. Maybe someday work in the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, & Migration.”

As evidenced by her unshakable leadership and advocacy for marginalized communities on campus, Huma has already laid the foundation to make those goals attainable. She will walk away from KU knowing that she never gave up, that she provided a voice for those who may not have had the courage to speak for themselves.

“I hope that future Jayhawks can see that if you really stay true to the values that you hold dear and fight for the causes that you believe in, it will be worth it and things will work out for you,” says Huma.

“Sometimes when it feels like you are facing hurdle after hurdle, setback after setback, for advocating for the causes that you believe in, it can be really easy to be dogged down and to give up,” she continues. “But as I have experienced with this entire process of winning the Rhodes Scholarship, I really do think that eventually the universe will reward you for your efforts.”

Huma’s strength in the face of adversity is a rare form of leadership emerge from her student.

“She’s one of the strongest leaders and agents for change I have encountered,” Britton says. “She stands up for things she believes in, even at great personal cost to herself.”

Britton has no doubt Huma will continue to persevere with great strength and purpose as she advocates for systemic change across the globe.

“She has a very strong vision for what she thinks the world should look like,” Britton continues. “And unlike a lot of students, she also has very clear plans. She says more than just, ‘I want to make a difference.’ She really will make a difference.”

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“I’m really hoping that Oxford can open
Nominate a worthy Jayhawk!

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ince 1975 the Fred Ellsworth Medallion has honored individuals “who have provided unique and significant service to KU.”

Fred Ellsworth Medallion recipients are honored by the Association in the fall and introduced during a home football game.

Past winners have been leaders in Kansas higher education, members of University boards and committees, consultants for KU projects and donors to the University.

If someone you know has continually shared time, talents and resources to benefit KU, submit a nomination today!

To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by March 31 at 800-584-5397 or kualumni.org
Each element of the U.S. military bestows within its ranks awards and honors unique to the branch. For the U.S. Marine Corps, none has higher status than the Leftwich Trophy, which once a year honors the infantry captain “who best exemplifies outstanding leadership within the Ground Combat Arms community.”

A point of pride for the few and the proud is that every Marine is infantry. While true in spirit, not all Marines become infantrymen; those who serve in different areas of expertise are not eligible for the Leftwich Trophy.

“In the Marine Corps there’s one trophy that matters. One. And that’s the Leftwich Trophy,” says Martin Minnich, c’06, a retired Marine officer now studying mathematics in San Luis Obispo, California. “It is the pinnacle. If you’re a Marine officer and you’re awarded the Leftwich Trophy, you are in a long legacy of great, and I mean absolutely great, U.S. Marines.”

Mike Denning, c’83, director of KU’s Office of Graduate Military Programs, president of the Alumni Association’s KU Veterans Alumni Network and a former Marine Corps aviator who retired as a colonel after 27 years of service, was thrilled when he learned that Ryan Sparks, c’97, a now-retired Marine captain, had been awarded the 2011 Leftwich Trophy—and a Silver Star—for his actions at the 2010 Battle of Marjah.

“Marines doing the right thing,” Denning says. “That’s what the Leftwich Trophy is recognizing, those captains in command who are making decisions and taking action, demonstrating the leadership that has strategic consequences for our nation.”

As thrilled as Denning and his fellow veterans on Mount Oread were to learn about Sparks’ honor, the next piece of news almost stopped them cold: Five years later, in May 2016, Capt. Thomas Morrow, c’06, was also awarded the Leftwich Trophy, for leadership of a training deployment that saw his Marines dispersed across eastern Asia and the Pacific.

“The fact that KU, over the period of the last five years, had two of these guys … well, you would expect for that to be Naval Academy,” Denning says. “Two Jayhawks with the Leftwich Trophy? That’s why this is really a great story.”

Feb. 12, 2010: Capt. Ryan Sparks stands before the men of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. Tomorrow begins the largest assault of the
long war in Afghanistan, against Taliban fighters, narcotraffickers and other assorted ruffians burrowed into Marjah, in the large southern province of Helmand.

Two and a half months earlier, on Dec. 1, 2009, President Barack Obama announced that 30,000 additional troops would head for Afghanistan; less than six hours after the president’s West Point speech, Bravo Company’s advance team had already departed Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The rest soon followed.

“We were the first,” Sparks says. “Packed, ready to go, and we were gone.”

Sparks suspected that they were headed to Marjah—a command and control hub for opium traders and terrorist networks, a safe haven for foreign fighters flooding the area—and he was right.

Bravo Company was ready to join the fight.

“I had been building this company, 200 Marines, for a year,” Sparks says, explaining that at various times he guessed incorrectly that they’d be deployed to Iraq or Japan. “We’re watching CNN every night to see what was going to happen.”

At Camp Dwyer, in southern Helmand Province, battle planners produced a map of the region and drew a circle around Marjah. Various Marine companies would assemble at staging areas around the perimeter and attack the city from the outside. One company of Marines would be ordered to go in the opposite direction.

“Who’s doing that?” Sparks recalls asking the officers in charge of staging the fight to come.

“They’re like, ‘Well, that’s you. You’re going to fly in with your 200 Marines and 100 Afghan soldiers, in the middle of the night. We’re going to plan to not be able to resupply you for two days and you’re going to fight your way out.’”

Under a brilliant desert sky, the men of Bravo Company listen intently as Sparks, a recruiting-poster Marine, his
captain’s bars glistening in the sun, clicks off a few highlights of the company’s preparation, much of which had been more cerebral than physical, including Kantian and utilitarian ethics, theories and philosophies on life and death, explorations of Judeo-Christian and Muslim values.

“Trust me,” Sparks says, as captured by freelance videographer Ben Johnson, who later turned months of footage into “The Battle for Marjah,” an HBO documentary, “this is going to be chaotic.”

As these men had learned at the outset of their assembly as Bravo Company, their leader—one of the first Marines sent to Afghanistan in fall 2001, as an enlisted member of Marine Force Recon—was more than a man of action. He also brimmed with intelligence and reflection.

At Fallujah in 2004, the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment, Sparks’ unit at the time, endured five months of daily gunfights, “but it wasn’t like a full-on attack.” Then came two months of all-out urban combat, during which Sparks’ battalion was “the main effort,” or primary war fighters given the critical missions upon which the success of other aspects of the battle would hinge. “A very intense deployment,” Sparks summarizes dryly.

Six months after returning to San Diego, 3rd Battalion deployed again, this time to a western Iraqi city called Haditha.

The commander of Lima Company and his officers, including Sparks, used the short stateside turnaround to begin combat training anew, consciously pushing their Fallujah experience aside in favor of picture-perfect training-manual techniques. Fallujah, they predicted, had been too much of an outlier, and Marine units that replicated the unique intensity of that battle would likely make mistakes.

Ryan Sparks (left and above) received the Leftwich Trophy May 5, 2011, from Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., then assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. The trophy (detail, p. 27) was created by Felix de Weldon, designer of the revered U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima.

They were, unfortunately, correct. A detachment of Marines from neighboring Kilo Company, which had undergone a leadership turnover before heading to Haditha, killed two dozen unarmed men, women and children, allegedly in retribution for an attack on a Marine convoy.

“In Fallujah, not that killing civilians was OK, but there just weren’t any there,” Sparks says. “And so the conditioned responses were different and the threat was a lot different. So we went back and kind of reset everybody. Our guys were very successful there. We didn’t lose a single Marine on that deployment.”

When finally given command of his own company, Sparks knew that the first test of his leadership would be in the training, all of which came to a head as his company
assembled for the final time before boarding assault helicopters and flying straight into the heart of a fight around which the others circled.

Sparks reminds his men about their lessons in “the gift of aggression.” When the enemy chooses to engage U.S. Marines, he is choosing to die. “Destroy him,” Sparks says flatly. “Immediately.” The captain also cautions, “I guarantee you we will lose Marines. I guarantee you that we will. Don’t let emotions control you.”

He is not ranting, frothing, fist pounding or foot stomping. He is crisp and cool. “What happens over the next five days,” Sparks says, “will be a cornerstone of your memory for the rest of your life.”

In the early morning hours, Company B conducted a low-light heliborne assault to seize the Taliban stronghold in the Koru Chareh village. ... Undaunted by enemy fire, Captain Sparks moved from position to position, covering hundreds of meters of open terrain in order to effectively direct his platoons. With complete disregard for his own safety, Captain Sparks led his company from the front, refusing to lose momentum and cede the initiative to the enemy.

—Citation for the Silver Star, awarded Sept. 28, 2011

For his “calm demeanor, confidence under fire, and exceptional tactical prowess,” as well as “bold leadership, determination, and complete dedication to duty,” Sparks was awarded the Silver Star, the U.S. military’s third-highest decoration for valor in combat. Only four were awarded from the Battle of Marjah, and Sparks was the lone officer so honored.

“That was probably the worst day of my life; you rely on great leaders like Capt. Sparks to help you get through the day,” Staff Sgt. Kevin Irons told a Marine Corps reporter at Sparks’ Silver Star ceremony. “He’s an incredible leader and definitely deserves this award. Every day he inspired us all to get the job done and worked hard to get us all home safely.”

And then came an honor not loftier, but still more rare: the Leftwich Trophy, given once a year since 1979, in honor of Navy Cross winner Lt. Col. William G. Leftwich, who was killed while leading an extraction mission during his second combat tour in Vietnam.

“There’s so many lessons out of that award for me,” Sparks says of the Leftwich Trophy. “There’s no way to earn or aim for the greatest things you’re going to achieve. That’s number one. Two, that’s a leadership award specifically, but there’s also no way to do it on your own. My team won that award.

“You focus on other people. As a company commander, probably more than any other time in my life, I spent all my energy and all of my time and all of my passion toward making my Marines better, enabling them, spending time with them, mentoring them, coaching them, making the team better. And then when we were in combat, making it a real thing, being with the people there.”

Thomas Morrow, a captain when he received the Leftwich last spring and now a major, was in the middle of a two-week training exercise with the Marines of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii when he received a call from another battalion captain, informing him that he had won the Leftwich Trophy.

“I didn’t believe it. I thought he was joking at first,” Major Morrow says from his office at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, where he is now the 2/3’s battalion operations officer. “I didn’t think that I individually deserve this, and I still don’t, because it’s never just me. It’s the team that provided this. I hope they really understand it’s about their efforts, and not necessarily mine. I’m just the face, and not a good one at that.”

The 2015 deployment for which Morrow was singled out saw Weapons Company strewn across its Asia-Pacific area of operations. While the bulk of the battalion trained with their South Korean counterparts, Morrow’s company sent a mortar team to Okinawa and a scout sniper and mortar detachment joined a three-month exercise with troops from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Morrow’s Marines were also dispatched to mainland Japan and the Philippines.

Morrow, according to commanding officer Lt. Col. Ryan Hoyle, as quoted in the Marine Corps Times, “built the best infantry company I’ve observed while serving in five different infantry battalions over 20 years.”

The son of a retired Marine infantry officer, Tom Morrow came to KU from Libertyville, Illinois, north of Chicago. He had hoped to land a Navy ROTC scholarship, but instead won only a stipend that helped with expenses but did not cover tuition. He carried on, and quickly embraced the infantry, not to follow his father’s lead but in pursuit of what he judged to be his strengths and passions.

“The things that associate themselves with being an infantryman are the things I ended up liking,” Morrow says. “The physical aspect of it, the challenge of the austerity, just you and your Marines...”
solving problems and tackling challenges. That met my personality.”

Martin Minnich, then a 28-year-old freshman, had already spent 10 years as an enlisted Marine, and attended KU as part of the Marines’ Enlisted Commissioning Education program. Despite the age gap, he developed unexpectedly close comradeship with a few fellow Navy ROTC freshmen, including Morrow.

“Right from the beginning of the program, Tom Morrow was mature, he had a goal before him and he never wavered from that goal,” Minnich says. “You’ll find that the majority of candidates KU sends [to Officer Candidate School] are going to be in the top 10 percent of that program. It’s not just that they’re out there winning the Leftwich Trophy, but they’re out there at every event that they’re participating in and making a solid reputation for the school. KU has a very, very good reputation for putting out quality Marines.”

As a second lieutenant, Morrow in October 2007 was in charge of a joint security station, partnered with Iraqi police, in northern Ramadi. As a first lieutenant, he commanded a combined anti-armor platoon that patrolled a wide range of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province.

Along the way, he was careful to absorb lessons from officers he respected as well as those he viewed as less than ideal.

“Strangely enough,” Morrow says, “one of the things that shaped who I am as a leader are the bad examples I’ve had, both in and outside of the Marine Corps, people you look at and you say, ‘I do not want to replicate whatever he was or did.’ So you see what’s wrong to be able to do what’s right.”

Like Sparks, Morrow drew upon his KU liberal arts education in training young Marines under his command, most notably the “What is the good life?” explorations he encountered in Western Civ I and II.

“I have since related ‘What is the good life?’ to what we often think of as providing ‘the why’ behind our actions,” Morrow says. “I have subordinate leaders who are smarter than I ever was or will be, but I can challenge them with those things that were provided to me by KU. Why are they doing this? What are they looking to provide? And not to themselves or their families, but to their country.

“We’re all trying to provide a good life, to either Americans or the people we’re defending abroad, so in a kind of roundabout way, I reach back to that: What is the good life?”

Exceptional leaders of fighting men and women extend their leadership beyond the battlefield. Of particular recent interest to Sparks is Tribe, a slim, thoughtful book by author and war correspondent Sebastian Junger.

“Today’s veterans often come home to find that, although they’re willing to die for their country, they’re not sure how to live for it,” writes Junger, who contends that loss of tribal identity is as much a cause of psychological collapse as are vivid combat memories. “It’s hard to know how to live for a country that regularly tears itself apart along every possible ethnic and demographic boundary. ... It’s complete madness, and the veterans know this.”

Among Junger’s suggestions is that we devote Veterans Day to community forums where veterans are invited to stand and say whatever is on their minds, to finally be heard, and that as a price of citizenship, their fellow Americans attend and give those voices the respect they deserve. The notion intrigues Sparks, who remains in regular contact with his former Marines to encourage them in their civilian lives.

Despite his best intentions, his leadership is sometimes no longer enough to see his Marines through to safety.
“I’ve lost guys to suicide, and continue to,” he says. “Eventually I’ll lose more guys to suicide than I have enemy fire, I’m sure.”

Sparks’ dedication to enlisted Marines is so intense that it drove him to become an officer in the first place.

Splitting his time between his parents’ homes in Overland Park and San Diego, Sparks grew up on a sun-bleached surfer. His wheels at KU were the VW van he drove here from the beaches of Southern California. “I was,” he says with a smile, “the only member of the KU surf team.”

But a serious streak lurked within.

Sparks’ grandfather, Vincent Smiley, a torpedo bomber pilot in World War II, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in the July 28, 1945, attack on the Japanese fleet at the heavily fortified anchorage near Honshu.

“With a grandfather like that,” Sparks says, “I always had an inclination to serve.”

He applied for the Marine Corps’ Platoon Leaders officer commissioning program while at KU, with the hope of becoming a Marine aviator, but was denied. The official reason was, incredibly, for dandruff; in reality, it was the height of the mid-1990s drawdown, and the Marine Corps was not inclined to grant waivers to its strict entrance regulations.

So Sparks embraced his KU experience, including a Study Abroad year at the University of Exeter, and after graduation he spent a year “just trying to figure it out.” He took a series of odd jobs—Sparks put himself through school by working summer construction—and when he finally tired of Lake Tahoe, where he was a snowboard instructor, Sparks returned to Lawrence, walked into the Marine Corps recruiting office at 23rd and Louisiana streets and enlisted. “A very rare path,” he says of a college graduate joining the Marines’ enlisted ranks.

He intended to get the military out of his system by serving for a few years before returning to KU for law school and an eventual career in politics. First, though, he had to see his enlistment through, and Sparks realized that the best way to loosen the grip of strict regulations was to be the best. He was No. 1 in boot camp, No. 1 at infantry school, and, when he found himself seeking a fresh challenge, he joined the elite Marine Force Recon.

On Sept. 11, 2001, his Force Recon unit was already deployed in Australia, and they were the first American forces sent into the fight, securing an airfield in Pakistan to prepare for the arrival of Air Force combat search and rescue teams that would precede Army Rangers and Green Berets headed to Afghanistan.

Sparks returned from Afghanistan in March 2002 and left the Marines three months later. He returned home to Kansas City, but, rather than applying to law school, Sparks found himself back in a Marine Corps recruiting office.

“I’m one of the 1,000 combat vets in the entire U.S. military. I think I should go,” he told the recruiter. “You have war on the horizon. I think I should come back.”

He was accepted for pilot training, but, after completing Officer Candidate School, Sparks wrote to the commandant of the Marine Corps, asking to be let out of his flight contract.

“I’m a Force Recon combat vet. I should be leading infantrymen,” Sparks says. “I know that people will die who shouldn’t die if I don’t do this.”

This time Sparks got his waiver, and by November 2004 he was in Fallujah as a second lieutenant in charge of a huge combined anti-armor platoon of more than 90 Marines. By the time he reached his fourth combat deployment, at the Battle of Marjah, Sparks had years of experience in preparing Marines for combat, so when Bravo Company assembled before dropping into the center of Marjah, Sparks relied on no notes.

“It’s kind of how you know you’re in the right place, right? You reach a level of mastery where you don’t have to craft anything. That’s all free flow.”

His pre-combat speech was about more than the battle his men would soon face. It was also about how his Marines should conduct themselves in a manner that would allow them to return with honor. As seen in the documentary, a neighboring company dropped explosives on a house harboring three families, injuring 11 and killing four children; Sparks’ Bravo team, trained in “a culture of ethical response,” did not inflict a single civilian casualty in its seven-month deployment.

Sparks, who now leads a technology implementation team for Chase Commerce Solutions in New York City, returned in November to KU, where he met with the KU Veterans Alumni Network, attended Marine Corps birthday celebrations at the Dole Institute of Politics and Salute to Service ceremonies during the football game against Iowa State, and visited the Center for Business, Industry and National Security at the School of Business, a fledgling program led by lecturer Tom Jindra, g’01.

Among other activities linking military and civilians, Jindra’s KU program brings together midcareer soldiers with executives from business, industry, the federal government and academia. The goal is to develop leadership skills by sharing insights and expertise while also gaining appreciation for colleagues from different career fields.

“When they work together on common issues,” Jindra says, “they begin to understand one another. It’s a way to connect, and those connections are awfully important.”

Says Sparks, “Tom Jindra’s program is fantastic. There needs to be more things like that.”

And more leaders like Sparks and Morrow, a mission KU accepts gladly.

More online

“The Battle for Marjah,” an award-winning documentary featuring Capt. Ryan Sparks and the Marines of Bravo Company, can be seen in its entirety at youtube.com/watch?v=b9PqvJZ2Fz8.
“And when I started to write they were like, ‘Well, why aren’t you writing that?’”

It took time—and the death of his father—but Shoulberg eventually saw the dramatic possibilities of a love story whose plot twists include a special dispensation from the pope. “The Good Catholic,” his first feature as both writer and director, is loosely based on the courtship of his parents, Don, PhD’75, and Gini Shoulberg, g’72, who married in 1971. Rather than a true-to-life retelling of their relationship, the film, set in the present day and shot in Bloomington, Indiana, is instead a loving homage to Don, who died in March 2013, just as production was beginning on “Walter,” Paul Shoulberg’s first script to be made into a feature-length movie.

“The death led directly to this film,” says Shoulberg of his father, who worked at

E very culture has one: a creation myth, a foundational story that explains how it all began. Adam meets Eve. Vishnu awakens. Raven tricks man.

Many families have their own creation story, the tale of how Mom and Dad met. Growing up, Paul Shoulberg believed that his family’s was nothing special.

“I always knew that my dad had been a priest and my mom was a nun and they met and fell in love and quit doing that and had a family,” says Shoulberg, c’04. “I thought it was pretty normal. But as far back as I can remember, people would be like, ‘Oh, my God, that’s a hell of a story. That’s a crazy story.’

In his first feature film as writer and director, Paul Shoulberg creates a monument to family and faith

by Steven Hill
Portrait by James Broscher
“There’s a heart to this story that just grabs you immediately. It tackles these very large issues of love and faith and family in a way that only Paul’s writing can—which is to hit you as incredibly funny one moment and the next moment, when you least expect it, bring you down to this very contemplative place.” —Zachary Spicer
Can a person serve God without following their heart? That was among the questions faced by Don, a Roman Catholic priest and master’s student at Duke Divinity School, and Gini Hartigan, a Dominican nun and teacher, who met in Durham, North Carolina, in 1967. They were introduced by a priest on the church steps before Mass.

Afterward, Don joined Gini and the other sisters at the convent for breakfast. “He stayed several hours, just talking to everybody, and we had a wonderful discussion,” Gini Shoulberg recalls. “When he left—they teased me about it later—I said, ‘I could talk to him forever.’”

Over the next two years they grew close. “He became a soul mate,” Gini says. “He and I were on the same wavelength spiritually. I just thought, ‘This is good.’ We were just very close friends.”

In May 1969, Gini was asked to leave her job teaching junior high school and join an experimental community her order was starting. Don won an internship in Houston to study marriage and family counseling. She loved her job, loved the parish, loved Durham. When she sought his advice, he confessed that he had strong feelings for her that were troubling him.

“I went on about how feelings are just feelings, you don’t have to act on them,” she says. “And that’s how it ended. But that night, it just exploded.” She’d decided to become a nun at age 12, she explains, and feelings repressed through high school and college now burst forth.

“It panicked me. I thought, ‘I’m supposed to be a nun; I can’t be feeling like this.’”

Don left for Houston, Gini stayed in Durham, and over the course of the next year apart they wrestled with what to do. Don decided first. “He said, ‘I’m leaving the priesthood. I want to be married,’” Gini recalls. “I said, ‘I can’t let you do it.’ And he said, ‘You don’t have a choice what I do; you gotta make your own decision.’”

It took her a couple of months longer to find her answer. The turning point came when she spoke to a Presbyterian minister, a former Duke classmate of Don’s.

“The first question he asked me, he said, ‘Leave the church aside, leave Don aside, leave everything aside: What do you want to do?’”

These were the days after Vatican II, the Vatican council that modernized many of the Roman Catholic Church’s teachings. But for those raised in the church and educated in Catholic schools, some of the old teachings died hard.

“I said, ‘I want to be married, but if I do God won’t love me,’” Gini recalls. “And those words freed me completely, because I knew that was ridiculous. I was earning God’s love, because that’s how we were brought up: You have to earn it because you’re really a bad person.”
Gini finished the school year, resigned her job and left her vows. Don announced his intention to leave the priesthood, which required permission from the pope. She flew to Houston to meet him, and together they drove to Lawrence, where he’d landed a job at KU, to begin their life together.

Don worked at Watkins Memorial Hospital and taught in the School of Social Welfare until 1982, when he joined the Menninger Clinic in Kansas City. He moved to private practice in 1990. Gini taught, first at Pinckney Elementary School and later at St. John Catholic School, where she retired in 2013 after 50 years of teaching.

Together they raised three children: Jennifer, b’94; Erin; and Paul.

“We left our vows, but we never left the church,” Gini says. As a priest, Don had been known for his counseling in the confessional. “He continued the work he was doing as a priest, and I continued the work I’d been doing as a teacher. That didn’t change. I’d loved living in community, and he became my community. When he died, that was one of my losses. I missed that faith community.”

Heady, Intellectual. A ceaseless reader who loved big ideas and dirty jokes, philosophical discussions and salty language. A man with endless patience, a sunny outlook and a nearly Olympic talent for listening—along with a wicked mischievous streak. That was Don Shoulberg.

“When the children were little, and they would start acting out at dinner, he’d laugh so hard,” Gini says. “I’d take my plate and come in here, close that door. I didn’t want them to see me laughing, because I felt like somebody had to maintain some control. But Don was one of them.”

While earning his bachelor’s in theatre and film, Paul Shoulberg made enough short films to satisfy requirements for his major, but his real love was screenwriting. Even when he dropped out for a while, after changing majors several times, he kept writing screenplays, posting his work to a website that offered peer reviews. When he came back to KU, he pressed his scripts on theatre actors, hoping to interest them in a reading. No one returned his calls. He was on the brink of giving up when someone—he thinks it might have been Don—suggested that he talk to Kevin Willmott, professor of theatre and film.

“I remember standing in line outside his door,” Shoulberg recalls. “There was always a line. I stood in line, not being a theatre student, never having met him, and I waited through his entire office hours and couldn’t get in because there were too many people. I went back and finally got in, and he was really nice.”

Willmott read one of Shoulberg’s scripts, and he liked what he saw.

“He was just one of those students that you know right away is special,” Willmott says. “He had the thing it takes to get there. He was just a great writer: smart and funny and sophisticated. And he had a voice, even at KU. I knew that it was just a matter of time for him.”

“He said, ‘You’ve got something. You’re good at this. Here’s some thoughts. Work on it and come back,’” Shoulberg says of that first script. “He kept telling me to come back, and I did that for three years. I don’t think I ever took a class with him, because I was meeting with him a couple of times a month in his office and getting the best education I could get. I owe so much to him, because I was about to give up and he repeatedly told me, ‘You have the ability to do this.’”

Through playwriting classes with Paul Lim, c’70, g’74, founder of KU’s English Alternative Theatre, Shoulberg discovered the allure of writing for the stage. “What I loved was that for no money you could find five actors and have a production,” he says. “It was so much easier than making a film.” That led to graduate school at Indiana University, where he completed an MFA in playwriting. His work won several honors, including the Kennedy Center’s 2007 Mark Twain Playwriting Award for Comedy. But critiques from his fellow students and teachers led to a realization.

“The response I was getting to my plays was, ‘These are like movies on stage.’ And I was like, ‘Yeah, because movies are better.’ And they were like, ‘Then why are you writing plays?’ So I kinda came back to film.”

After finishing “The Good Catholic”...
script, Shoulberg again sought out Willmott. He was determined to make the film, even if he had to fund it with Kickstarter and do it with volunteers on a bare-bones budget. Willmott, who has directed nearly a dozen of his own films, including “CSA: The Confederate States of America” and “Jayhawkers,” helped show him how it could be done.

“We talked about how hard it is to get something smart through the Hollywood system,” Willmott says. “How, if it comes down to that—if it comes down to raising money and making the film on your own—you should do that. And I think he was prepared to do that when he got lucky.”

Luck, fortune, kismet: These are not prominent gods in Paul Shoulberg’s pantheon. “He may quite possibly be the most cynical person I know,” says Zachary Spicer. “He worries about the worst possible scenario of everything all the time. Up to the point that Danny Glover got on the set, Paul still didn’t believe the movie was going to happen.”

Yet, Willmott explains, every independent filmmaker needs a bit of luck.

“Luck in the sense that there’s a lot of really great writers out there—and Paul is definitely one of them—but the thing you’re always looking for is you’ve got to get it to the right person. If you’re lucky enough to do that, then something can happen.”

For Shoulberg and his creative partners at Pigasus Pictures, a big break came when David Anspaugh, director of “Hoosiers” and “Rudy,” signed on as executive producer.

“He was just one of those students that you know right away is special. He had the thing it takes to get there. He was just a great writer: smart and funny and sophisticated. And he had a voice, even at KU. I knew that it was just a matter of time for him.” —Kevin Willmott

But that was far from the only stroke of good fortune, Spicer notes.

“David Anspaugh said that when he directed ‘Rudy’, everything looked like it was going to fail but at the last moment something always saved the situation. That happened throughout the process of making this entire movie. So many things could have gone terribly wrong for us and turned the movie into a disaster, but at the end every single time something always swooped in and saved the movie.”

Landing Glover and McGinley. Securing help from the City of Bloomington in filming certain key scenes. Convincing investors to open their checkbooks at critical moments. The specifics of their deliverance from disaster varied, but one thing was constant, Spicer says.

“If it weren’t for the personal aspect of this story—that we’re making it for Paul’s dad—the film wouldn’t have gotten made. That got people on board. Because they understood, there’s no determination like the determination of a child who wants to honor their parents.”

The natural state of an independent film is to not exist. Paul Shoulberg says he read that somewhere, and it’s the sort of creation story that rings true to him, a man who left the church at 16 but who nevertheless grew to understand and appreciate the role that faith played in his father’s life.

“I’ve never been particularly religious, and I’m still not, but as my father was dying, I really learned a lot about what religion has offered him, and I developed a real respect for how he embraced it and used it to be a better person,” he told the Lawrence Journal-World in a March interview. “To see how a really smart, progressive, loving guy can find meaning in religion did give me respect for it. And that was something I hadn’t really learned yet.”

With “The Good Catholic,” Shoulberg also learned to trust his own instincts as a screenwriter.

“When I was writing, I just felt I needed to be honest with these characters. And as a result it’s the most gentle script I’ve ever written.” The film is more of a “slow burn” than his previous work, Shoulberg says.

“I usually don’t have that much discipline. I like to come at you right away, the typical film thing where you really want to get everyone’s attention right out of the gate and really push and push.”

Although the film wrestles with big philosophical ideas like love and faith and the nature of true calling, there is a human scale to the plot and a genuineness to the characters that firmly grounds the movie’s spiritual questions in everyday life.

Paul likes that, and he thinks his father would have liked it too.

“I didn’t want it to turn into something not real,” he says. “I had to honor my father’s story.” —Kevin Willmott

Screen Shot

“The Good Catholic” will premiere in February at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in California, with additional festival screenings planned. For more information on the film, visit thegoodcatholicmovie.com or follow “The Good Catholic” on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @tgcmovie.
Masters of tradition
2017 Rock Chalk Ball to highlight a timeless golf classic

The Master’s Tournament provides plenty of golf’s richest traditions: distinctive green jackets, an honorary opening tee shot and uniquely costumed caddies. This year, Kansas City-area alumni will celebrate a twist on a classic Jayhawk tradition, as the 22nd-annual Rock Chalk Ball brings a taste of the legendary golf tournament to the Overland Park Convention Center April 29.

“We are working to create an event that highlights those who have impacted the KU community over the years and are true ‘Masters of Tradition,’” says Kelsey Hill, c’12, assistant director of Kansas City and Wichita programs. “We hope this is a theme with which attendees can really get creative and have fun.”

Hosted by the Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network, the annual event unites Jayhawks in the nation’s largest KU community and raises funds for Association programs to advocate for KU, communicate to alumni and friends in all media, recruit students and volunteers, serve alumni and KU, and unite all Jayhawks.

Alumni are encouraged to perfect their swings and gear up in golf attire for this year’s celebration, which will feature silent and live auctions and the music of the Karen Davis Project. Brian Hanni, j’02, the play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks, will serve as emcee.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Shade Little are honorary chairs of this year’s event, a fitting tribute as Gray-Little announced in September that she will step down June 30 after serving the KU community for the past eight years.

Sasha Flores Boulware, c’98, g’00, and Jason Booker, b’99, will lend their services to the ball as network co-chairs. Boulware is a Presidents Club member and a longtime ball participant. She has served on the Greater Kansas City board since 2000. Booker is a Life Member and a Presidents Club member and has participated in the ball since 2008. He is entering his second year on the board.

“A NOTE FROM HEATH

School of Engineering merits KU pride throughout the region

One of the Alumni Association’s most critical roles is to inform, engage and mobilize the KU community to strengthen the University. As graduates, donors and members of the KU Alumni Association, you can attest to the power of a KU education. As “shareholders” of the University, you also understand that your support and service help increase the value of the KU degree.

Therefore, I want to highlight our world-class School of Engineering and enlist your help to educate your peers and recruit the next generation of Jayhawk engineers! To be an effective advocate, all you need is the ability to articulate the facts, along with a little Jayhawk enthusiasm:

• The KU School of Engineering has produced true giants in business, including Alan Mulally, e’68, g’69, former CEO at Boeing Commercial Airplanes and Ford Motor Company, who was widely credited for his innovative leadership helping Ford thrive after the devastating losses during the Great Recession and is now on the board of directors for Google’s parent company, Alphabet; and Brian McClendon, e’86, vice president of advanced technologies for Uber and formerly one of Google’s most influential engineering executives, who developed the digital mapping software that became known as Google Earth. They are only two of countless engineering alumni around the world who have led their industries.

• The KU School of Engineering is the top-ranked program in the state of

—Continued on p.40
Join the
Pioneer Ridge
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Founder’s Club

Take advantage of our pre-opening specials and gain membership to our exclusive Founder’s Club. Don’t miss out!
Call 785.748.4999 to pick your apartment now and make Pioneer Ridge Independent Living your next home.

I am excited to move to Pioneer Ridge Independent Living. My wife and I are looking forward to the kind of people that will be there. The thing that will be neat about it is, you will get to know everybody else’s story. You can meet up for a party, or a meal, or to shoot pool. It’s all just a few steps away!

- Phil Arnold, Pioneer Ridge Independent Living Founder’s Club member

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And more!

650 Congressional Drive, Suite D
Lawrence, KS 66049
785.748.4999
PioneerRidgeLawrence.com
**Sweepstake wins**

Thanks to everyone who entered the Alumni Association’s Membership Mania Sweepstakes. The following winners renewed or upgraded their memberships, purchased a gift membership or made a year-end contribution to the Association to enter the drawing:

- **Grand Prize:** $1,000 Visa® gift card, 2016-’17 KU men’s team autographed basketball and four tickets to the KU vs. West Virginia basketball game
  
  **Carole Haggard**, g’94, Olathe

- **Second Prize:** 60-inch Samsung® flat screen television
  
  **Wendy Rohleder-Sook**, c’98, l’01
  
  Hays

- **Third Prize:** Yetti® Jayhawk cooler and two tumblers
  
  **Jason Scheiderer**, Kansas City

- **Fourth Prize:** Bose® Bluetooth speaker
  
  **Karen Pershall-Wilder**, PharmD’08
  
  Olathe

- **Fifth Prize:** $100 Visa® Gift Card
  
  **William Nye**, c’70
  
  Falls Church, Virginia

**Top honors**

*Kansas Alumni*, programs recognized with regional awards

Alumni Association programs and *Kansas Alumni* magazine earned five awards in the eight-state District VI 2016 competition of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The fall competition preceded the district’s annual conference in January. The following list describes the awards, categories, projects and staff members who contributed.

- **Silver, Alumni Programs for Special Constituencies, Home for the Holidays.**
  
  The project included Joy Maxwell, c’03, j’03, director of legacy relations, and Brad Eland, b’09, g’11, vice president of alumni programs.

- **Gold, Diversity Programs, KU Black Alumni Network Leaders and Innovators.**
  
  Jacey Krehbiel, d’12, g’16, assistant director of alumni programs, and Eland worked with network volunteers.

- **Silver, Best Articles of the Year, “Mission: Relief,” Kansas Alumni, issue No. 2, 2016.**
  
  William McNulty, c’01, founder of Team Rubicon, a disaster relief organization led by military veterans and emergency first responders. It now advances to compete in the Best Articles of the Year category of CASE’s international competition this spring.

- **Gold, Periodical Staff Writing, Kansas Alumni writers and editors.**
  
  Contributors include Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j’81, editor; Chris Lazzarino, j’86, associate editor; Hill; and Heather Biele, staff writer.

—Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09

*KU Alumni Association President*
The KU Black Alumni Network is proud to honor African-American alumni who have distinguished themselves and made a difference through demonstrated leadership and/or innovation to the University, their profession or society at large. The project acknowledges the contributions of individuals who have made their mark in varied ways and highlights in photographs and text the accomplishments of our honorees.

Recipients are selected from nominations submitted to the KU Black Alumni Network Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award Committee.

The committee will accept nominations for the 2017 awards through Feb. 17, 2017.

To nominate an individual, please complete the nomination form online at kualumni.org/kublackalumni.

Life Members

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

Andrew L. Allen
Robert H. & Marcia Eubank Altomare
Nathan F. Anderson
Michael L. Aurbach
Alexa R. Backman
Maurice W. & Diana K. Baker
John D. Blankenship
Gregory L. Blaske
Spencer L. Brackman
Austin P. Brane
Thomas A. Brigham
C. Gilberto & Prudence Hearst Brito
LuAnn Ellis Butterfield
Gregory J. Cameron
David M. Charles
David A. Christ
Scott D. & Paige Ruby Conklin
Drew T. Darrah
Susan Saner Davenport
Justin T. & Jennie Lei Sichter Davis
Shannon I. Daze
Gary W. & Amy M. Decker
Lucas J. Steinbeck & Davina F. Dell-Steinbeck
Grayson D. & Kaylin Carter Dillon
Merilyn K. Douglass
Whitlee A. Douthitt
Courtney Driscoll
Brian S. Duerksen
Amanda Kerley Dulaney

Gerald T. Elliott
Tyler J. Emerson
Brian L. Filinger
Peggy M. Flood
Timothy B. & Jennifer Carter Fortin
Jannene Foust-Welchons
Melissa Thomas Furman
Andrew K. Gaddis
Susan Glatter Gallagher
Michael B. George
James N. Gilbert
William L. Goodell
Deborah S. Grimes
Michael W. Goodwin
Lauren Pollmiller Harms
Jennifer S. Harrington
William & Kirsten Oschwald Hastings
Stephen T. Hetro
Seanna L. Higley
Patrick A. Hildebrandt
Don A. Hill
Gordon R. Hoffman
Rodney J. & Barbara Nelson Hoffman
Sarah A. Hutton
Le M. Huynh
Molly E. Iler
Renee E. Jones
Zachary C. Jones
Emily Enright Johnson

—Continued on p.42

Presidents Club members enjoyed the pregame tailgate reception Dec. 3 in the Adams Alumni Center before the KU vs. Stanford game.
Board of Directors

- **CHAIR**
  Scott R. Seyfarth, b’83, Hinsdale, Illinois

- **CHAIR-ELECT**
  Kevin E. Carroll, assoc., Atlanta, Georgia

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  John W. Ballard III, b’73, Overland Park, Kansas
  Kevin E. Carroll, assoc., Atlanta, Georgia
  Marci K. Deuth, e’05, Washington, D.C.
  Cory L. Lagerstrom, c’94, g’98, i’98, Prairie Village, Kansas
  Jill Simpson Miller, d’01, Webb City, Missouri
  Richard E. Putnam, c’77, i’80, Omaha, Nebraska
  Scott R. Seyfarth, b’83, Hinsdale, Illinois

- **DIRECTORS TO 2017**
  Donald R. Brada, b’61, m’65, Lawrence, Kansas
  Luke B. Bobo, e’82, Shawnee, Kansas
  Kevin E. Carroll, assoc., Atlanta, Georgia
  Marci K. Deuth, e’05, Chicago, Illinois
  Gregory E. El, b’76, Wichita, Kansas

- **DIRECTORS TO 2018**
  John W. Ballard III, b’73, Overland Park, Kansas
  Aaron R. Brinkman, j’80, Hinsdale, Illinois
  Texas Debi Dennis Duckworth, d’80, Houston, Texas
  Jill Simpson Miller, d’01, Webb City, Missouri
  Jerry D. Skillett, b’81, New York, New York

- **DIRECTORS TO 2019**
  Carrie W. Coulson, b’02, i’05, New York, New York
  Cory L. Lagerstrom, c’94, g’98, i’98, Prairie Village, Kansas
  Cindy Emig Pensler, c’81, m’85, Lawrence, Kansas
  Timothy T. Trump, b’80, i’83, Tulsa, Oklahoma
  Albert I. Shank Jr., b’77, Liberal, Kansas

- **DIRECTORS TO 2020**
  Missy Hodge McCarthy, c’86, s’88, Rancho Mirage, California
  Ellen O. Remsing, c’00, Manhattan, Kansas
  Dave B. Roland, e’80, Excelsior, Minnesota

- **DIRECTORS TO 2021**
  Ryan Colaianni, c’07, j’07, Arlington, Virginia
  Jay Kerutis, c’82, Mesa, Arizona
  Janet Lusk Murfin, d’75, Wichita, Kansas
  Portia Kibble Smith, c’78, Overland Park, Kansas

Senior Staff Members

- **PRESIDENT**
  Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09

- **ADMINISTRATION**
  Heather Hawkins, j’06, Executive Assistant & Coordinator, Donor Relations

- **ALUMNI & STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**
  Brad Eland, b’09, g’11, Vice President, Alumni & Student Programs

- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  Jennifer Sanner, j’81, Senior Vice President, Strategic Communications & Advocacy; Secretary

- **DEVELOPMENT**
  Calvin McConnell, j’11, Associate Development Director

- **DONOR RELATIONS**
  Angela Storey, b’04, g’07, Vice President

- **FINANCE**
  Dwight Parman, Senior Vice President, Finance and Human Resources; Treasurer

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

- **MARKETING & DIGITAL MEDIA**
  David Johnston, j’94, g’06, Vice President, Marketing & Digital Media

- **MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**
  Teri Harris, Vice President, Membership & Business Development

- **RECORDS**
  Bill Green, Senior Vice President, Information Services
  Stefanie Shackelford, Vice President, Alumni Records

Life Members

—Continued from p.41

Eric Johnson
Joshua L. & Emily T. Johnson
Brian M. Johnston
Barbara Kaatman Kalist
Sean Kelly
John H. Killen
Cindy Lewis Kindsvater
Victoria B. Kirk
Michael P. Koehler
Peter R. Laund
Karen J. Lenzen
Kristen Dawson Lewis
Janet M. Lipke
Mitchell A. & Marcialete A. Love
Cathrine Moore MacFarlane
Kimberly S. Manche
Thomas J. Manning
Teresa A. Markowitz
Deanna Marks
Thomas A. Matches
Nathaniel R. Mayhew
Scott E. & Barbie Hyatt
McAfee
Lynda K. McGinnis
Nicole McGrew
Yussry R. Mendoza
Craig A. Merrick
Marla K. Michaels
David H. Michener
Nicolas S. & Stephanie Greer Miller
Frederick N. & Jeanne M. Mills
Morgan J. Minnis
John B. Mitchell
Megan E. Murray
Michael F. Neilson
Brett K. Nickisch
Jan M. Noffsinger
Brett K. Nickisch
Matthew A. & Marcialete A. Putman
Barbara Long Quirk-Rizzo
Eric A. & Kathleen Moore Radowski
Alexander R. Raines
Adam B. & Jessica Kalender Rich
Kyle N. Roberts
Randall W. Rock
Weston B. Rockers
Aarson R. Rogers
Dennis R. & Merrill Harris Schapker
Nicholas R. Schulte
Mark O. & Cynthia E. Scott
Judith Ryan Sears
Laura A. Serrano
Eric & Rebecca Shultz
Michael T. & Alicia Oswald
Simon Preeti Singh
Nancy L. Smith
Neha Sood
Stephen T. Southern
Timothy R. Sparks
Molly E. Maxwell & Ryan M. Sprott
Hugh Stanfield
Craig D. Stewart
William H. Stiles
Richard A. Stones
Julie A. Stover
John R. Swift
Rebecca Streeter Tast
Matthew R. & Jennifer Poecker Thompson
Rachel P. Tindall
Kevin S. Tuttle
Bruce C. Underwood
Duane W. & Brenda J. Vann
Jessica Spohn Wade
Mayo C. Walcott
Patrick M. & Camey Beaupre Walker
Stephanie L. White-Neuhold
Camden L. Wittenauer
Sarah E. Wittenauer
Cayla J. Witty
Steve P. Wright
Clifford B. Young
Greg D. Younger
Kyle J. Zerr
Taylor J. Zimmerman
Nominate
an Association member
to serve on the board

We need your assistance in nominating future members of the KU Alumni Association’s National Board of Directors.

To nominate a fellow Jayhawk, please complete the form at kualumni.org/board or call 800-584-2957 and materials will be mailed or faxed to you. All nominations should be sent to the Association by March 1.

With your help, the Association will continue to recruit directors who represent the diversity of the KU family and the dedication that has been a hallmark of KU alumni service through the years.

For any additional questions, contact the Association at 800-584-2957 or visit kualumni.org
Class Notes by Heather Biele

55 Stan Hamilton, f’55, an author and retired journalist who lives in Lawrence, contributed an essay titled “Wanderlust Satisfied (Temporarily)” to the book Drive-In Movies and General Stores: Tales from the Good Old Days in Northeastern Kansas, which was published by Hometown Memories of Hickory, North Carolina.

56 Carl Blair, f’56, an artist and former instructor at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, will be honored this spring by 55 artists at an exhibition at the Metropolitan Arts Council, where he also will showcase his own work.

58 Jan van Sant, g’58, PhD’63, is on the board of directors of Senior Quality Lifestyles Corporation in Houston. He is retired from a 34-year career in the oil industry.

61 Nancy Topham Chadwick, c’61, is trustee emeritus at Palomar College in San Marcos, California. She is retired from the University of California and resides in Oceanside.

63 Luther Fry, c’63, m’67, owns Fry Eye Associates in Garden City. He has performed more than 42,000 cataract surgeries during his 40-year career as an ophthalmologist.

64 Janice Wheaton, c’64, lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where she retired as assistant dean of students at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

67 Daniel Leonard, d’67, owns Wallowa Lake Lodge in Joseph, Oregon, and is facilities chairman of the board of managers for the property. He and his wife, Joyce, were recently honored by AARP as finalists for the Washington State Volunteers of the Year Award.

68 Rick Geary, f’68, g’70, is a cartoonist and illustrator who lives in Carrizozo, New Mexico, with his wife, Deborah.

70 Kenneth Lee Washington, j’70, wrote Joe’s Tap: The Story of Maurine and Tales of the Other Cape May, which was published in August by iUniverse.

71 Dee Wallace Stone, d’71, stars in “Just Add Magic,” a new series on Amazon. She is an author and actress in Woodland Hills, California.

72 Clifford Otto, b’72, is CEO of Saddle Creek Logistics Services and serves on the board of trustees of Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland, Florida, where he makes his home.

73 Everett “Kit” Moulton III, c’73, m’80, an ophthalmologist in Fort Smith, Arkansas, wrote Annabella, which was published in January 2016.

74 Mary Anne Modrcin, n’74, is dean of nursing and vice president for extended learning sites at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee.

75 Lewis Armstrong, g’75, is retired and lives in Fayetteville, Georgia. He is working on a cookbook and an autobiography and continues to be involved in local veterans’ programs.

PharmD School of Pharmacy
s School of Social Welfare
u School of Music

AUD Doctor of Audiology
DE Doctor of Engineering
DMA Doctor of Musical Arts
DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD Doctor of Education
OTD Doctor of Occupational Therapy
PhD Doctor of Philosophy
SJD Doctor of Juridical Science

School Codes Letters that follow names indicate the school from which alumni earned degrees. Numbers show their class years.

a School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b School of Business
c College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d School of Education
e School of Engineering
f School of Fine Arts
g Master’s Degree
h School of Health Professions
i School of Journalism
l School of Law
m School of Medicine
n School of Nursing
p School of Pharmacy
PharmD School of Pharmacy
s School of Social Welfare
u School of Music

AUD Doctor of Audiology
DE Doctor of Engineering
DMA Doctor of Musical Arts
DNP Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD Doctor of Education
OTD Doctor of Occupational Therapy
PhD Doctor of Philosophy
SJD Doctor of Juridical Science

(no letter) Former student
assoc Associate member of the Alumni Association
76 U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, c’76, l’82, in November was elected to another six-year term in the U.S. Senate. He and his wife, Robba, live in Manhattan.

Ridley Pearson, ’76, an author who lives in St. Louis, wrote Lock and Key: The Initiation, which was published in September by HarperCollins. It’s his first book in the Lock and Key trilogy for young adults.

Paul White, b’76, g’79, is vice president of real estate at Kiewit Corporation in Omaha, Nebraska. He and Kristine Howard White, b’76, live in Papillion.

77 Steve Bump, c’77, manages corporate health and safety at NV5 in Richland, Washington, where he resides.

78 Mark Huber, c’78, lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he coordinates safety at Pennoni Associates Inc.

Richard Kramer, d’78, g’87, directs student activities and athletics for the Shawnee Mission school district. He makes his home in Lenexa.

Craig Sherwood, f’78, lives in Kirkland, Washington, where he’s president of Craig Sherwood and Associates.

79 Lee Green, b’79, l’86, is an attorney and semi-retired professor of business and economics at Baker University.

Diane Bergquist Lindeman, d’79, g’83, g’06, directs student financial aid for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka.

James McCarten, b’79, was named Atlanta’s 2017 Lawyer of the Year in litigation and controversy-tax by Best Lawyers of America. He’s a partner at Burr & Forman.

80 Mark Burlingame, ’80, is a manager at Just Energy. He makes his home in Houston.

Linda Zarda Cook, c’80, joined the board of directors of Bank of New York Mellon. She’s a managing director and member of the executive committee at EIG Global Energy Partners and CEO of Harbour Energy.

Rolfe Mandel, g’80, Ph.D’91, a distinguished professor of anthropology at KU, has been named interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey. He’s also a senior scientist and executive director of the Odyssey Geoarcheology Research Program at KGS.

Monte Vines, I’81, is an attorney at Adams Jones Law Firm in Wichita, where he lives with Kimberly Gee Vines, /’83.

Lynette Woodard, c’81, a former KU All-American and Olympic gold medalist, is assistant coach of women’s basketball at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She recently received a scholarship from the National Basketball Retired Players Association and plans to pursue a master’s degree in business administration at Kaplan University.

82 Steven Koppes, g’82, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he directs research communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Julene Tedlock Miller, c’82, l’85, is general counsel for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

David Schoech, p’82, a pharmacist at Mercy Hospital Columbus, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Kansas Pharmacists Association for his commitment to community service. He lives in Columbus.

Desmond Williams, g’82, Ph.D’83, directs programs in pharmaceutical science at the University of South Australia in Adelaide, South Australia.

83 Craig Adams, c’83, g’88, Ph.D’91, is Oliver L. Parks Chair and professor in the department of civil engineering at Saint Louis University in St. Louis.

Deepak Ahuja, c’83, m’87, is regional medical director at UnityPoint Health-Trinity. He lives in Rock Island, Illinois.

Christopher Peters, c’83, m’89, owns Corridor Surgery and Vein Center in Coralville, Iowa, where he makes his home.
Connecting a World of Jayhawks with KU Tradition

All Jayhawks know the feeling of the Rock Chalk spirit on campus. At KU Libraries, we know that feeling, too. We continue to pursue digitization of original resources that document the KU legacy, so alumni can reconnect to campus from anywhere in the world. Digitization is more than simply scanning documents, though; it requires a robust collaboration among librarians and archivists to conserve original documents while ensuring high-quality digital surrogates are discoverable online. Friends of KU Libraries play a crucial role in guaranteeing the expansion of these complex efforts — ensuring current and future Jayhawks access to KU’s rich history at their fingertips.

Become a friend of the libraries: lib.ku.edu/friend

Guests viewing original documents related to Forrest “Phog” Allen in KU University Archives. Thanks to support of KU Libraries friends, more than 66,000 materials related to Phog will soon be available online.
David Robinett, c’83, is chief marketing officer at #250. He and Pilar Jacobson, ’93, a clinical psychologist, live in Overland Park with their daughter, Carly. Their son, Luc, is a junior at KU.

Ronald Ragan, p’84, g’97, PhD’98, makes his home in High Point, North Carolina, where he’s dean and professor at the School of Pharmacy at High Point University.

Brett Reber, c’84, is on the national board of directors of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. He’s an attorney at Wise & Reber in McPherson.

Fritz Edmunds Jr., j’85, l’95, is executive managing director at Frontier Investment Banking in Leawood. He resides in Overland Park.

Kathy Greenlee, b’85, l’88, is vice president of aging and health policy at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City. She makes her home in Lenexa.

James Traylor, c’85, m’86, manages radiology IT and quality at the University and Quail Forever. He’s an attorney at Wise & Reber in McPherson.

Robin Rusconi, b’85, l’88, is executive director of Midwest Biomedical Research Foundation in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

James Thornton, p’85, is a contract pharmacist for the Department of Veterans Affairs Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy in Leavenworth. He lives in Shawnee.

James Traylor, c’85, m’86, manages radiology IT and quality at the University

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PROFILE by Heather Biele

Artists in Philly thrive with boost from alumna

Erica Hawthorne-Manon’s 2006 album, “Spoke Inward,” almost didn’t happen. The spoken word artist, who goes by the stage name RhapsodE, had spent hours in a Philadelphia studio perfecting her creative debut—a soulful blend of poetry with hip-hop and jazz beats—only to find she would need an additional $1,000 to complete the project.

“I had to put the release on hold and make some more money,” she recalls.

Hawthorne-Manon, j’02, was able to gather the funds she needed, but the experience left her wondering how many of her creative peers struggled financially.

For the next three years, Hawthorne-Manon managed her career as a performance artist while juggling a full-time gig as a college prep counselor at Swarthmore College. Heeding a friend’s suggestion, she applied for a challenge grant through the Knight Foundation, an organization that offers funds to artists, entrepreneurs, educators and other innovators who strive to bring positive change to their communities.

“My idea was really simple,” Hawthorne-Manon says. “They give me money and I’ll give it out in smaller increments. Huge grants are great, but what artists really need are small funds to keep their projects going.”

Her proposal was accepted, and in 2012 she received $60,000 to launch Small but Mighty Arts, a volunteer-run nonprofit that awards micro-grants from $50 to $1,000 to local artists to help them finance their projects and reach their creative goals.

Since receiving the Knight Foundation grant, Small but Mighty Arts has evolved to provide more than just monetary solutions for struggling artists. The nonprofit works with other community organizations to create new programs and resources, including networking events and other professional opportunities.

“We do every program with a community partner, which is really important,” Hawthorne-Manon says. “We match them with artists they want to work with. Many artists who participate are then tapped to do other projects.”

Also important, she says, is that these community partners provide artists with a fair wage for their work.

Small but Mighty Arts recently partnered with a community development group to help revitalize the 52nd Street commercial corridor in West Philadelphia.

“They wanted to paint meters that couldn’t be replaced,” she explains. “So we identified artists to paint and design those meters. The artists talked to community members and got their ideas. They turned out beautifully.”

Showing no signs of slowing down, Small but Mighty Arts distributed 11 micro-grants to artists this year and added seven new community partners. “I want to continue to grow,” Hawthorne-Manon says. “The more partners we have, the more artist connections we’re making.”
of Kansas Hospital. He and his wife, Tina, live in Kansas City.

Karen Mayberry, j'86, is an appellate military judge for the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in Maryland. She resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Frank “Wes” Naylor III, '86, lives in Winter Park, Florida, where he’s president and managing partner at Coe & Naylor Group. He’s a retired captain in the U.S. Navy.

Gary Amble, c'87, is a meteorologist at KCTV5 in Fairway. He and his wife, Lori, assoc., live in Shawnee.

Robert Fee, c'87, is president and chief operating officer at Fee Insurance Group in Hutchinson. He also serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents. Bob and Annie Burger Fee, b'89, have four children and live in Hutchinson.

Danielle Morlock Fournier, c'87, is a human resources generalist at Alan Plummer Associates in Fort Worth, Texas.

Timothy Summers, j'87, is president of Aegis Specialty Insurance Services in Sunnyvale, California. He resides in Redwood City.

Martin Upchurch, e'87, is an industrial hygienist at S-E-A in St. Louis. He lives in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

Bryan Becker, m'88, is vice president of integrated care at DaVita Kidney Care in Vernon Hills, Illinois. He lives in Hinsdale.

Sally Streff Buzbee, j'88, is senior vice president of integrated care at DaVita Kidney Care in Vernon Hills, Illinois. He lives in Hinsdale.

Ervin Cash, e'88, is president and CEO of SloanLED in Ventura, California. He lives in Santa Barbara.

Kurt Caywood, c'88, is vice president of audience at Morris Publishing Group in Augusta, Georgia.

Donna Hines Rayson, a'88, is an architect at Schwerdt Design Group in Topeka. She and her husband, Paul, live in Ottawa and have four children.

Matthew Tidwell, j'88, directs the integrated marketing communications master’s program at KU’s Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Daniel Crossman, '89, is special teams coordinator for the Buffalo Bills football team in Orchard Park, New York.

Mark Heinrich, g'89, manages strategic sourcing and supply chain at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. He makes his home in Bellevue.

Neil Labute, g'89, is a playwright and film director. His latest play, “Fat Pig,” was featured at the Center for Performing Arts in University Park, Illinois, in October.

Craig Likhite, '89, is on the board of directors of Foundation 65, an educational foundation for the Evanston-Skokie school district in Illinois. He’s vice president and
Three NEW Senior Living options — and they’re all part of Monterey Village.

Monterey Village, senior living by Americare, has opened its doors in Lawrence. Featuring a wellness gym, movie theater, beauty shop, outdoor living spaces and walking trails – all are nestled on our intimate campus. And our all-inclusive monthly rates with no buy-in mean financial peace of mind for you.

- **Independent Living** – a neighborhood of one and two-bedroom Cottages with weekly housekeeping, covered parking, emergency response and a Clubhouse with dining and concierge services.

- **Assisted Living** – offers personal assistance, restaurant-style dining and health & wellness programs. A choice of floor plans are available in our one-story, 30-room residence.

- **Memory Care Assisted Living** – embraces The Best Friends™ Approach to Memory Care in our specially-designed 16-room residence.

Visit us to explore Monterey Village. Call today to learn more about exceptional senior living with Americare.

When experience matters, Americare.
Wendy Bantam, f'92, is a traveling artist and created the Outlook Program, which connects artists to local nonprofit organizations. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

John Priest Cabrera, h'92, is an occupational therapist in Loveland, Colorado, where she makes her home with Anthony, e'90, m'94.

Steven Hattamer, m'92, is chief of anesthesia at North American Partners in Anesthesia in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Kimberly Hays, l'93, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she's an attorney and practices family law.

Elizabeth Miller, b'93, l'97, g'97, is an attorney at Spencer Fane in Overland Park. She's part of the employee benefits practice group.

Jeffrey Johnson, c'94, received the 2016 Outstanding Publication of the Year Award by the Journal of Organic Chemistry. He's a chemistry creative manager/recruiter at Cramer Krasselt in Chicago.

Molly Brooks Seitz, f'89, is on the sales and marketing team at nuyu in New York City.

Stewart Bailey, j'90, in October was inducted in the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame. He lives in Valley Village, California, where he's an executive producer for the NBC show “Last Call with Carson Daly.”

Gregory Rockers, p'90, '94, is president of JCB Laboratories in Wichita. He lives in Augusta.

Eric Stasen, j'90, manages industrial sales at BlueInGreen in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Jon Trevisani, m'90, is a plastic surgeon and founder and medical director of the Aesthetic Surgery Centre in Maitland, Florida.

Marti West, 90, lives in Minburn, Iowa, where she's a business systems consultant at Wells Fargo.

Joel Zeff, j'90, is a public speaker and improvisational comedian in Coppell, Texas. He recently performed with the Almost Legendary Improv Jam in McKinney.

Lorien Foote, c’91, wrote The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy, which was published in November by the University of North Carolina Press. She's a professor of history at Texas A&M University.

Jean Redeker, j'91, PhD’08, is vice president of academic affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

Andrew Strayer, PharmD’91, makes his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he's vice president of clinical programs at Cempra Inc.

Tiffany Torgler Wingo, c'91, g'95, l'95, is an attorney at Berger Estate and Elder Law in Leawood, where she makes her home with Douglas, l’94.

Wendy Bantam, f’92, is a traveling artist and created the Outlook Program, which connects artists to local nonprofit organizations. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Johna Priest Cabrera, h’92, is an occupational therapist in Loveland, Colorado, where she makes her home with Anthony, e’90, m’94.

Steven Hattamer, m’92, is chief of anesthesia at North American Partners in Anesthesia in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Kimberly Hays, l’93, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she’s an attorney and practices family law.

Elizabeth Miller, b’93, l’97, g’97, is an attorney at Spencer Fane in Overland Park. She’s part of the employee benefits practice group.

Jeffrey Johnson, c’94, received the 2016 Outstanding Publication of the Year Award by the Journal of Organic Chemistry. He’s a chemistry creative manager/recruiter at Cramer Krasselt in Chicago.

Molly Brooks Seitz, f’89, is on the sales and marketing team at nuyu in New York City.

Stewart Bailey, j’90, in October was inducted in the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame. He lives in Valley Village, California, where he’s an executive producer for the NBC show “Last Call with Carson Daly.”

Gregory Rockers, p’90, '94, is president of JCB Laboratories in Wichita. He lives in Augusta.

Eric Stasen, j’90, manages industrial sales at BlueInGreen in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Jon Trevisani, m’90, is a plastic surgeon and founder and medical director of the Aesthetic Surgery Centre in Maitland, Florida.

Marti West, 90, lives in Minburn, Iowa, where she’s a business systems consultant at Wells Fargo.
In the early 1980s, when Nadine Mathis Basha began working to bolster child care regulations in Arizona, one of the state's giants in the field was Martha K. Rothman. Smart, well-prepared and tireless, Rothman was both inspirational and intimidating.

“She was always so together and so on point, and I was such a novice,” recalls Basha, d’71, of the crusader who became her colleague and friend. “If you want to be an advocate for kids, you just can’t ever give up—and she never did.”

Three decades into her own “journey of endless advocacy,” Basha in December received the Martha K. Rothman Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the Champion for Children & Families honors given by Child & Family Resources of Tucson. It recognizes Basha’s career helping children, from early successes such as the 1988 founding of Children’s Action Alliance (an advocacy group that works as a “power broker for children”) to leading the charge on Proposition 203, a 2006 Arizona ballot initiative that created a cigarette sales tax to fund quality childhood development and health programs for kids from birth to age 5. In fiscal 2016, the tax generated $124 million, distributed by the First Things First board—which Basha chairs—to early childhood programs statewide.

The ballot initiative passed, she believes, because the campaign focused on fairness.

“We like to think life is like a Monopoly board and all kids get to start at Go with $200 in their pocket,” Basha says. “But the reality is there are many children who are never on the board and never have $200 to see what they can accomplish. My goal is fairness and opportunity for all children. That’s where I get my energy.”

Basha has served on many state and local boards and started a business, Summa Associates, a consulting and management firm that helps employers promote work-life balance with child care and other family-friendly employee programs.

Overlapping her career and volunteer work is a passion for education.

“At Nadine’s core, I think, is this real genuine belief that as a society we will be judged over the span of history on how we support our most vulnerable in our children,” says Sam Leyvas, CEO of First Things First. “When you come to this work with that core belief, I don’t think you have a choice. I think this is a calling for Nadine.”

The Rothman honor is one of many Basha has received, including the Experience Matters Changemaker Award earlier in 2016. Both cite her prescient focus on early childhood programs before research proved the link between a child’s early years and long-term success.

“In my own journey, the more I learned, the more I knew how important a child’s early years are,” she says. “Every child deserves the opportunity to start school ready to succeed.”

## PROFILE by Steven Hill

**Children’s champion earns lifetime advocacy award**

Frustration with her state legislature’s infrequent attention to the needs of children pushed Basha into advocacy. “I really believed Arizonans felt differently about children and children’s issues.”

Basha has served on many state and local boards and started a business, Summa Associates, a consulting and management firm that helps employers promote work-life balance with child care and other family-friendly employee programs.

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**Mitch Germann, c’96, leads global communications for Nike’s Jordan brand in Beaverton, Oregon.**

**Jacqueline Osland, m’96, is a general surgeon at Jefferson Healthcare Surgical Associates in Port Townsend, Washington, where she makes her home.**

**Blake Vande Garde, c’96, l’01, ’04, is a patent attorney at Erickson Kernell**
in Leawood. He and Nicole Copple Vande Garde, n'96, live in Overland Park.

**MARRIED**

Kevin Olson, c’96, to Rebecca Fromer, Oct. 30 in Washington, D.C. He’s a senior attorney at IBM in Somers, New York. They live in New York City.

**BORN TO:**

Alayna Miller Hoenig, b’96, ’97, and her husband, John, son, Landon, July 14 in Plano, Texas.

David Eagan, b’97, is global director of customer success and service delivery at Gresham Computing in London.

Jerod Haase, b’97, g’01, is head coach of men’s basketball at Stanford University in Stanford, California, where he lives with Mindy Meidinger Haase, c’97, ’98. Jerod played basketball at KU from 1994 to ’97.

**1998**

Kathleen Gunja Nelson, c’98, b’98, l’01, is assistant general counsel at American Century Investments in Kansas City. She lives in Leawood.

Bret Rhodus, b’98, is managing partner at CCP Strategies in Overland Park. He resides in Lenexa.

Kristin R.B. White, c’98, was named one of 2016-’17 Who’s Who in Energy by the Denver Business Journal. She’s an attorney and manager of Jackson Kelly in Denver.

**1999**

Erika Nutt Donner, s’99, s’03, l’03, is an associate attorney at M. Sue Wilson Law Office in Minneapolis. She lives in Champlin, Minnesota.

Douglas Holtzman, b’99, is CEO of ONtrac Sports & Entertainment in Norcross, Georgia. He makes his home in Brookhaven with his wife, Christina, and their two daughters.

Angus Mugford, g’99, PhD’05, is president of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology. He lives in Bradenton, Florida, where he’s director of high performance for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

David Roumanie, g’99, is a plant controller at Federal-Mogul in Saint-Jean-de-la-Ruelle, France.

Michael Stevenson, m’99, resides in Oklahoma City, where he’s associate medical director at the Oklahoma Blood Institute.

U.S. Rep Kevin Yoder, c’99, l’02, in November was elected to another term in Kansas’ 3rd Congressional District. He and Brooke Robinson Yoder, l’05, live in Overland Park with their two daughters.

**2000**

Sridevi Donepudi, m’00, is assistant chief medical information officer at Christiana Care Health System. She lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

**BORN TO:**

Brad Westerbeck, d’00, and his wife, Mandy, daughter, Quinn, June 24 in Folkston, Georgia, where she joins a brother, Greyson, 6.
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Doctoral degree affirms coach’s education values

Dallas Baptist University’s men’s basketball team last season led the Heartland Conference in points (87.5), three-point field goals (9.9) and assists per game (17.3), and the Patriots qualified for the NCAA Div. II Tournament for the second time in program history. And yet a statistic more meaningful for 12th-year coach Blake Flickner is his program’s graduation rate: 100 percent for players who complete their eligibility at DBU.

Impressive, but players are not Dallas Baptist’s only academic achievers: Flickner, b’98, in December earned a doctorate in education degree in an accelerated program offered by the southwestern Dallas school.

“The way it was almost entirely online, it fit well,” he says. “I was able to do it from hotel rooms while I was out recruiting or on the road with our team. I got a lot of reading done on the bus and I was doing homework right alongside our players at study hall. It worked out great.”

In keeping with his university’s mission of encouraging “servant leadership,” or the concept of leaders putting the well-being of others ahead of themselves, Flickner used his dissertation research to examine academic opportunities available to athletes at NCAA Div. II schools. Flickner says his research indicates that while most coaches think they are living up to their profession’s ideals, they might not be as successful as they, their schools or the NCAA claim.

“There’s a lot of data that shows it’s not as much about education as it should be, or at least the players aren’t benefitting from the educational side of it as much as they should be,” he says. “The NCAA puts out statistics that show student athletes have higher graduation rates than their peers, but if you dig a little deeper, there’s a lot of questions about that.

“We didn’t solve the world’s problems, but we started to ask some of the questions that I think are good to be asked.”

Flickner played two seasons at Mesquite’s Eastfield College for his father, Bob, g’74 [Profile, issue No. 6], who spent two years as a graduate assistant for coach Ted Owens. When it came time to complete his undergraduate degree, Blake came to KU and spent two seasons as a team manager, then returned to Eastfield as a volunteer assistant coach while earning a master’s degree in Christian education.

After stints at Colorado State and Navy, Flickner jumped at the opportunity to help DBU relaunch a men’s basketball program.

“It’s just ideal for me,” Flickner says. “I knew early on that as much as I admired the coaches I had been around, it was not for me to spend the next 20 or 30 years trying to be a high-major head coach.

“I wanted to find a smaller school where I can pour into guys who love this game, help them grow spiritually, help them grow as a basketball team, and then this opened up, and it’s amazing. I feel like I’m living a dream. I feel very blessed.”

Dallas Baptist basketball coach Blake Flickner advises his players, “Don’t be fooled into thinking a bachelor’s is enough. Let’s start thinking bigger than that.”

_PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Dallas Baptist University’s men’s basketball team last season led the Heartland Conference in points (87.5), three-point field goals (9.9) and assists per game (17.3), and the Patriots qualified for the NCAA Div. II Tournament for the second time in program history. And yet a statistic more meaningful for 12th-year coach Blake Flickner is his program’s graduation rate: 100 percent for players who complete their eligibility at DBU.

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Bob Fuladi, PharmD’06, is vice president and chief operating officer at Mission Health Care Pharmacy Corporation in Oxnard, California. He lives in Montecito.

Jennifer Thomas Gomez, g’06, is assistant director of development services for the City of Missouri City in Texas.

Allison Johnson, a’06, is a project architect at HOK in St. Louis. She lives in Wildwood, Missouri.

Quinton McElhaney, l’06, is a project manager at Advanced Discovery in Lenexa.

Andrew Rebar IV, c’06, is a line shift leader at Procter & Gamble in Kansas City. He and his wife, Amber, live in Shawnee with their two sons.

Erinn Roos-Brown, c’06, lives in Kansas City, where she is a humanities curator at Mid-America Arts Alliance.

David Rowe, l’06, is a program manager of Smart Cities at ECCO Select in Kansas City, where he resides.

Emily Huffhines Webster, j’06, and Mark, c’06, live in Leawood with their two children, Caroline, 3, and Andrew, who’s nearly 1. Mark is an attorney at Lathrop & Gage, and Emily is a brand manager at Sullivan Higdon & Sink.

BORN TO:

William Salyers, m’03, g’09, and his wife, Vanessa, daughter, Harlow, Sept. 6 in Wichita, where she joins a brother, Jacobi, 7, and two sisters, Camden, 5, and Emory, 2. William is an assistant professor at KU’s School of Medicine in Wichita.

Kyle Bins, b’04, l’07, is an attorney and member at Lewis Rice in Kansas City. He makes his home in Overland Park.

Clay Britton, c’04, l’09, is assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice in Kansas City.

Holly Cranston, m’04, received the 2016 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award during Pittsburg State University’s homecoming celebrations in October. She’s a physician in Weir.

Kristin Keeney Forbes, c’04, j’04, is a graphic designer and owns Kristin Forbes Creative in Oceanside, California, where she lives with Jefferson, c’05, g’10.

Adam Graff, m’04, is a psychiatrist and department chair at Flagstaff Medical Center in Flagstaff, Arizona. He was recently named 2016 Nathan Avery Physician of the Year.

Jennifer Gunby, b’04, c’04, was named one of “40 Under 40” by Midwest Energy News. She’s the senior city adviser and community energy program manager for the Institute for Market Transformation in Kansas City.

Michael Allen, l’05, is senior deputy district attorney for the 4th Judicial District in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He and his wife, Heidi, live in Monument.

Dereck Totton, c’05, m’13, g’16, is a physician at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, where he resides with Kysha Nichols Totton, m’13.

Sarah Moon, j’05, to Richard Powers, Oct. 1 in Overland Park, where they make their home.

Jesse Brinson, c’06, is a youth minister at Call to Greatness Ministries in Lawrence.

BORN TO:

Laura Wolowicz Crook, d’06, g’08, and Jeret, d’06, son, Henry, Sept. 26 in Dallas, where he joins a sister, Caroline, who’s nearly 2.

Steven Adkins, c’07, is a provisioning manager at TollFreeForwarding.com in Los Angeles. He lives in Culver City, California, with his wife, Amy.

Kimberly Karfonta Carnley, j’07, is assistant city attorney in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Chris Jameson, b’07, makes his home in Atlanta, where he’s regional vice president at SmartTrust.

James Lowery, ‘07, is a winemaker and owns KC Wineworks in downtown Kansas City.

Lauren Marino, c’07, l’10, is an attorney at Ogletree Deakins in Washington, D.C. She lives in Arlington, Virginia.
Bradley Montgomery-Anderson, g’09, PhD’09, received the 2017 Leonard Bloomfield Book Award in January. He wrote Cherokee Reference Grammar, which was published in March 2016 by University of Oklahoma Press. Brad is an associate professor at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Nick Oldfather, d’09, g’12, lives in Chicago, where he’s a senior manager at Genesco Sports Enterprises. Arturo Ramos, e’09, is lead solution architect at OpenLink Financial in Houston. He resides in League City, Texas.

Damian Green, g’10, is a G-4 staff officer in the U.S. Army.

Ashlynn Haynes, a’10, is creative director of design and owner of Paper Laundry in Denver.

Kingsley Okonkwo, m’10, is a pediatrician at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he lives.

Damian Green, g’10, is a G-4 staff officer in the U.S. Army.

Elizabeth Austin, c’08, manages digital marketing at StorAmerica Management in Irvine, California. She and her husband, Dylan, make their home in Laguna Niguel.

Lizzie Greco, f’08, owns Craftbelly Paper & Pattern in Denver, where she lives.

Kyle Kitson, c’08, l’13, is an attorney at Littler Mendelson in Kansas City. He resides in Mission.

Jane Rozelle, c’08, lives in Dallas, where she’s the social editor at PaperCity Magazine.

Richard Nathan Rytting, g’08, to Tuyen Kim Thi Vo, Oct. 15 in Kansas City. He’s a speech-language pathologist at Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative in Emporia.

Leah Spare, d’08, ’09, to Joel Burzinski, June 24 in Lawrence. She teaches science at Turner Middle School in Kansas City, where they make their home.
Class Notes

Seminary in Pasadena, California. He and his wife, Michelle, make their home in Valencia.

**Rachelle Pauly**, d’10, g’13, works for Kansas Athletics, where she is assistant coach of rowing. She was a member of the team as a student from 2007 to ’11.

**Dagoberto Rodriguez**, l’10, is an attorney at Rodriguez & Sanabria in Manassas, Virginia.


**BORN TO:**

Elizabeth Robb Lang, d’10, g’12, and her husband, Isaiah, son, Cameron, Nov. 6 in Wichita, where Elizabeth teaches sixth-grade mathematics.

Katherine Courtney, c’11, is a software engineer at IBM in Littleton, Massachusetts.

Kevin Neslage, c’11, is an associate attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Coral Gables, Florida, where he resides.

Grace Peterson, c’11, coordinates visual arts for Salina Arts and Humanities. Her exhibition “Material Communion” was displayed last fall at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina.

Sonia Schwartz Rubens, g’11, PhD’15, is assistant professor of psychology and director of the Child and Adolescent Resilience Lab at the University of New Orleans.

Austin Smith, b’11, is an associate attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Dallas. He’s part of the firm’s complex commercial litigation team.

Kristie Stremel, c’11, is a singer and songwriter. She has released more than 75 songs and tours regularly throughout the United States.

Matthew Thiessen, j’11, is a videographer, editor and producer at Kroenke Sports & Entertainment in Denver. He and Kelsey Smith Thiessen, c’11, make their home in Castle Rock, Colorado.

**MARRIED**

Tyler Metzger, d’10, g’13, and Tatyana Fastovski, c’15, Nov. 5 in Kansas City. They live in Overland Park with their daughter, Katerina, who’s nearly 2.

**Stephanie Waugh**, j’11, and **Philip Bennett**, g’13, Sept. 17 in Kansas City, where they make their home.

**Paige Blevins**, c’12, l’15, is a law clerk for Chief Justice Lawton Nuss at the Kansas Supreme Court. She lives in Topeka.

**Joseph Boothe**, c’12, is a writer and producer. His short film, “The Morning After,” is part of a group project shot this winter in Texas.

**Jarred Harrington**, c’12, lives in Washington, D.C., where he’s an economist in international pricing at the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Andy Kriech**, c’12, g’14, is operations lead at Brio Partners. He lives in Lawrence.

**Jacqueline Mocnik-Boyd**, c’12, is an executive administrative assistant at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy in Lenexa. She commutes from Lawrence, where she lives with her husband, Ryan.

**Kassie Altegott Murphy**, c’12, manages property for Newmark Grubb Zimmer in Kansas City. She and her husband, Brice, live in Overland Park.

**MARRIED**

Garrett Lent, j’12, to Sarah Doyle, Sept. 24 in York, Pennsylvania. He’s an attorney at Post & Schell in Harrisburg. They make their home in Manchester.

Ashley Haden-Peaches, s’13, is lead community health worker at Rodgers Health in Kansas City, where she and **Lacy Haden-Peaches**, assoc., live.

Lauren Gaylor Hughes, c’13, l’16, lives in McPherson, where she’s an associate attorney at Wise & Reber.

Amy McAfee, d’13, is a physical therapist at Mid-America Orthopedics. She resides in Council Grove.

Andrew Tate, PharmD’13, is project manager of field operations at ScriptPro in Mission. He and **Sarah Luby**, PharmD’13, a clinical pharmacist at the University of Kansas Hospital, live in Prairie Village.

**MARRIED**

Dana Wilinsky, b’13, to Ryan Katz, Nov. 5 in Minneapolis. She is a certified public accountant in Kansas City, where they live.

**Sean Tapia**, a’14, j’14, g’16, makes his home in Chicago, where he’s an associate planner at Houseal Lavigne Associates.

**Victoria Whitehead**, l’14, is a public defender for the 10th Judicial District in Johnson County. She lives in Lawrence.

**MARRIED**

Lauren Brown, d’14, and **Zachary Korte**, c’14, June 4 in Lawrence. She teaches first grade at Heatherstone Elementary School in Olathe, and he works for Aero Transportation Products in Independence, Missouri.

Amanda Angell, l’15, lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where she’s an associate attorney at Koley Jessen.

Jiwon Choi, DMA’15, is a staff accompanist at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

Austin Lear, b’15, g’16, is an assurance associate at RSM US in San Francisco. He makes his home in Walnut Creek, California.

Colby Soden, e’15, lives in Englewood, Colorado, where he’s a software engineer at S&P Global.

Samuel Storrs, l’15, is counsel at Unite Private Networks in Kansas City. He resides in Mission.

**MARRIED**


Lauren Pipkin, PharmD’15, to Nathan Dick, Oct. 15 in Lawrence, where they make their home.

**Stephen Duerst**, l’16, is a lobbyist and attorney at Federico Consulting in Topeka.

Matthew Fieser, c’16, is an aerospace systems engineer at Vencore Inc. in Chantilly, Virginia. He lives in Reston.

Ashlynn Hazard, b’16, lives in Kansas City, where she’s a marketing analyst at Quest Diagnostics.

Ashlie Koehn, c’16, was named a Schwarzman Scholar and will receive a year of graduate study in China. She is an
Micah Roman Schloegel, PhD’16, is a reading specialist in the Shawnee Mission school district.

MARRIED

Haley Bainbridge, PharmD’16, and Colton Christensen, PharmD’16, June 12 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They make their home in Bloomington, Illinois.

Droste Milledge III, ’16, lives in Dallas, where he’s a financial analyst at BDO.

Sage Morander, ’16, is an account executive for the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey club in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Autrin Naderi, j’16, coordinates accounts at MMGY Global in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

Nathaniel Lohmann, c’16, teaches science in the Douglas County school district in Colorado. He lives in Parker.

Kinsey McKenrick, l’16, is an associate attorney at Richards, Layton & Finger in Wilmington, Delaware. She resides in Bear.


Artist finds creative calling through friend’s illness

During a particularly rough time in her childhood, when bullying had gotten the best of her, Stacey Leslie Lamb told her mother she wasn’t going to school anymore. She retreated to her bedroom, where her collection of Charlie Brown comic books awaited, and she began sketching her favorite character, Snoopy.

“I don’t know what happened, because I had never really been that interested in drawing,” Lamb, f’82, recalls. “I always say something magical happened.”

When she returned to school with her Snoopy sketches in hand, the young boy who had ridiculed her took notice and praised her drawings. “From then on I was no longer Stacey the fat kid,” Lamb says. “I was Stacey the artist.”

Lamb continued drawing and eventually landed her dream job as an artist and designer at Hallmark in Kansas City. She worked for the greeting card company for 31 years before an unexpected layoff three years ago shook her to the core.

“It was bad,” Lamb says. “I’m a pretty upbeat person, and for the first time in my life I felt a lot of really weird emotions that I had never felt, like betrayal.”

Months later, as Lamb was still reeling from the shock of losing her job, one of her longtime friends, Cheryl Wonnell, assoc., was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Determined to get out of her funk, Lamb offered to drive her friend to her doctor’s appointments. When Wonnell’s treatment plan called for a bone marrow transplant and 100 days in a germ-free environment, Lamb knew she had to do something special.

She illustrated 100 index cards with inspirational messages for each day of Wonnell’s treatment and gave them to her with clothesline and several clothespins to display the cards. “I gave her the cards as a gift to decorate her room,” Lamb explains. “But as her clothesline became fuller and fuller, it became apparent that she was going to go home soon. So it became this countdown.”

The uplifting creations cheered Wonnell and also caught the attention of her doctor, whose research supported the power of positivity on patient recovery. He encouraged Lamb to market her cards.

Lamb immediately went to work and sold her first batch of Happy Countdown Cards to Wonnell’s doctor, who placed them on his patients’ beds when they started treatment. She also made a deck with 25 “do good, feel good” cards for the holidays. “I made 120 boxes, and I sold out in four days,” she says. “I thought, ‘OK, we’re on to something.’”

Today, Lamb’s cards can be found in seven hospitals across the country and in the hands of those counting the days to a wedding, birth, retirement, vacation or graduation. She also sells decks with jokes and tips for healthy living. All of her cards can be purchased at happycountdown-cards.com, the website her husband, Brent, c’84, created.

“These cards were meant to cheer up Cheryl, and they cheered me up, too,” Stacey Lamb says. “They totally changed me and helped me move forward.”

“Also, we’re spreading happy,” Lamb says. “It started out as a gift from one friend to another. Now it’s just blossomed, and people are loving it.”
In Memory

Dorothy Caldwell Varnum, c’38, 99, Oct. 15 in Collingswood, New Jersey. She taught English and journalism. Surviving are a son, Robert, m’69; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Edward Beeson, c’48, l’50, 89, Sept. 27 in Overland Park. He had a 44-year career with Lawrence-Leiter & Company. Survivors include two sons, John, b’72, and Michael, d’75; two daughters, Sally Beeson Hoag, c’80, and Margaret Elaine Beeson Blaise, b’82; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Earl Clark, c’42, m’45, 95, April 11 in Wichita, where he was a pediatrician. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Howard, c’75, d’79; a daughter, Ann Clark Patton, c’79; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Winifred Hill Gallup, f’41, 95, Sept. 19 in Lawrence, where she was an organist and member of the Lawrence Civic Choir. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, Nancy Gallup Penland, c’67, m’79, and Cynthia Gallup Pine, ’71; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

James Good, c’42, m’62, 95, Sept. 4 in Republic, Missouri. He was a retired pathologist. Surviving are four sons, three of whom are James Jr., c’68, m’72, Michael, ’70, and Stephen, ’73; a daughter; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Muriel Stember Hannig, c’46, 91, Sept. 17 in Sedona, Arizona. She was a researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and also volunteered in her community. Survivors include two daughters; a sister, Beverly Stember West, d’49; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Roy Harmon, c’43, g’48, 95, Nov. 5 in Wichita, where he taught at Wichita North High School for 30 years. Surviving are three daughters, Mary Harmon Richards, d’70, Jeannie Harmon Miller, d’71, g’76, and Carol Harmon Winters, c’80; a sister; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

Kenneth Lewis, c’41, 97, Nov. 7 in Des Moines, Iowa, where he managed Master Builders of Iowa. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Peter, ’74; and three great-grandchildren.

Albert Cornwell Mahoney, c’47, c’49, 90, Oct. 22 in Kansas City. She was a homemaker. Surviving are four daughters, Anne, g’75, Colleen Mahoney Martin, l’79, Maureen, l’84, and Molly, ’85; a son, Bill, l’89; a brother, Charles, d’65; and 10 grandchildren.

James Mitchell, b’40, 98, Oct. 18 in Overland Park, where he was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He also raised cattle on his family’s ranch. Survivors include a stepson, John Lester, m’70; a stepdaughter; a brother, Wiley, b’43; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Anita Stewart Roland, n’41, 96, Oct. 13 in Rapid City, Michigan, where she was a homemaker. She is survived by three sons, David, d’65, Stewart, c’68, and Scott, c’71, g’74; a daughter, Anita Martin Uden, s’72; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Robert Stoffer, m’48, 90, Oct. 16 in Topeka. He was a physician. Survivors include a son, Robert Jr., m’75; a daughter; a sister; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Lucy Hunter Thomas, c’46, 91, Oct. 3 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where she taught business at Los Alamos High School. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Jerry, c’69, g’70; three daughters; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

David Whyte, c’45, 91, Oct. 12 in Roseville, California, where he was a retired civil engineer. His wife, Carol, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a stepson and a sister survive.

Richard Beach, a’50, 92, Oct. 17 in Georgetown, Texas. He had a longtime career in architecture and construction management. Surviving are two sons, Christopher, c’71, and Douglas, c’72; a daughter; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

David Burgett, b’56, 81, May 25 in Medford, Oregon. He retired after 38 years as a CPA and partner at Coopers & Lybrand. Survivors include his wife, Betsy, and two sons.

Robert Cebula, c’51, 87, Oct. 2 in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. He was a funeral director and later became an insurance agent. His wife, Eleanor, three sons, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a sister, a granddaughter, two step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren survive.

Warren Chinn, e’58, 79, Sept. 12 in Palo Alto, California, where he had a 34-year career at Booz Allen Hamilton as a management consultant. His wife, Carol, a son, two daughters and six grandchildren survive.

Ervin Colton, g’52, 89, Oct. 30 in Milwaukee, where he owned Cerac Inc. He is survived by two sons, Michael, b’78, and Mitchell, c’80; two daughters; three stepsons; a stepdaughter; two brothers; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Gary Davis, c’54, l’57, 85, Sept. 27 in Oklahoma City. He had a longtime career as an attorney in the oil and gas industry. Survivors include his wife, Sara “Sally” Bunger Davis, ’54; a son, Gary Jr., c’77; two daughters; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

James De Coursey Jr., l’59, 84, Oct. 17 in Topeka, where he served as lieutenant governor of Kansas in 1968. He later had a career in banking. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, assoc.; three sons, one of whom is Timothy, ’83; a daughter; and eight grandchildren.

Judd Durner, b’58, 80, Oct. 31 in Wichita. He was president of the State Bank of Burrton and also served as mayor of the City of Burrton. Survivors include
his wife, Rosie; a son, Josh, ’98; a sister, Gay, d’65; and a grandson.

**Thomas Emery, c’57, 80, Nov. 7 in Cameron, Missouri. He had a 45-year career as a dentist. Surviving are his wife, Deborah; three sons, one of whom is Derek, c’06; two daughters; a brother, Dennis, ’61; several grandchildren; and a great-grandson.**

**Gretchen Anderson Ferrell, c’52, 86, Sept. 12 in Topeka, where she owned an antique store. Two sons, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.**

**Walter Scott Hayden, e’56, 82, Oct. 2 in North Hollywood, California. He was a business management analyst at Lockheed Martin. A daughter, a son and three grandchildren survive.**

**Robert Kraus, c’58, 81, July 19 in Bella Vista, Arkansas. He played football at KU and was co-captain of the team for three years. Surviving are his wife, Conneey; two sons, Korbin, j’81, and Paul, ’87; a daughter, Stephanie Kraus Wuthrich, f ’90; a stepson; two stepdaughters; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.**

**Marian Rippeteau Klise, c’50, 87, Oct. 21 in Salt Lake City, where she owned Rock Tools Inc. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, a son, a daughter, two stepdaughters and 10 grandchildren.**

**Donald Lumpkin, b’57, 81, April 21 in Phillipsburg, where he was a grocer and ran his family’s business, Lumpkin’s IGA. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.**

**Jack Moore, b’55, 84, Aug. 16 in Lawrence, where he owned General Appliance and later worked at a bank. Surviving are his wife, Mary Jane Conklin Moore, ’57; two daughters, Julia Moore McDonald, c’79, and Joanne Moore Renfro, f ’82; a son; a brother, Sam, b’52; and six grandchildren.**

**Paul Pfortmiller, b’51, 90, Nov. 1 in Bel Aire. He managed a medical office. A son, two daughters and four grandchildren survive.**

**Ronald Rentz, e’59, 84, Sept. 30 in Garland, Texas. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a retired programmer. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Nitcher Rentz, ’59; three daughters; a son; and seven grandchildren.**

**Irving Ringdahl, m’57, 92, Oct. 24 in Loveland, Colorado. He was a child psychiatrist and founded the child psychiatry residency program and inpatient child psychiatry department at the University of Arkansas Medical Center. Surviving are his wife, Almina, two sons, two daughters, two brothers, three sisters, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.**

**Evan “Dave” Ritchie, b’50, 90, Oct. 27 in Wichita, where he worked in construction and real estate with Ritchie Corporation and Ritchie Development. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Thompson Ritchie, ’52; two daughters, Julie Ritchie Gladden, j’77, and Jan Ritchie Dorian, ’79; two sons, one of whom is Jack, b’81; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.**

**Rev. Margaret Foster Ruth, f’52, 88, Oct. 3 in Kansas City, where she was an Episcopal deacon. Surviving are two daughters, Rebecca Ruth Hart, ’78, and Alice Ruth Alvarez, ’85; a son; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.**

**Lila Hyten Stites, d’50, 88, Sept. 22 in Manhattan, where she was a homemaker and also co-owned Creative Travel. She is survived by her husband, John, b’50, f’56; two sons, Tim, ’80, and Jerry, ’94; and three grandchildren.**

**Jay Warner, b’55, 83, Oct. 5 in Kansas City, where he was a retired insurance broker. He is survived by a daughter, Ann Warner Alexander, f’86; four sons, two of whom are Sydney, c’92, and Peter, j’93; and eight grandchildren.**

**Carol Helmers Winslow, c’50, 88, Sept. 24 in Mission. She was a financial administrator at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. Survivors include three sons, Jeff, c’77, Jay, ’77, and John, ’82; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.**

**Mary Lu Valk Winters, d’55, 83, Oct. 27 in Kansas City. She worked at Hallmark for several years and also was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Joe, a’56; a son; a daughter; two granddaughters; and a great-grandson.**

**Ray Wyatt, f’58, 80, Oct. 6 in Wichita, where he was a service group manager at the Boeing Company. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.**

**Royce Angell, a’67, 80, Oct. 13 in Liberal, where he was an architect. He is survived by his wife, Judith Black Angell, d’67; a son, Kevin, ’96; a daughter; a brother, Wayne, g’53, PhD’57; a sister, Lynda Angell Williams, c’62; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.**

**Ronald Boyd, ’64, 75, Oct. 19 in Merriam. He managed sales at IBM and owned Boyd and Associates.**

**Gary Burnidge, ’61, 76, Oct. 27 in Grove, Oklahoma. He was an oral surgeon. Surviving are his wife, Joy; four daughters, three of whom are Kirsten, c’88, Keri, ’92, and Briana, ’13; two stepsons; a stepdaughter; a brother; two sisters; and 10 great-grandchildren.**

**Mathew Cabot Jr., b’63, 78, Oct. 13 in Los Altos Hills, California, where he was an information technology consultant at Allin Consulting and also designed sets for children’s theatre. He is survived by his wife, Christine, assoc.; two daughters; three sons; two sisters; and 14 great-grandchildren.**

**Sondra Youle Cole, d’61, 77, April 30 in Arlington, Texas. She was a psychotherapist. Survivors include a son, a daughter, two sisters and two grandsons.**

**Brian Conner, c’68, m’72, 70, Oct. 27 in Salina, where he was an ophthalmologist. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Cushing Conner, d’68, g’72; and a son, David, e’01, ’02.**

**Robert Davis, b’66, 72, Sept. 29 in Overland Park, where he was associate chief of appeals at the Internal Revenue Service. Surviving are his wife, Margaret Bybee Davis, c’66, ’98; a daughter, Kimberly Davis Hoffman, s’90, s’96; a brother; and two grandchildren.**

**Bruce Eggert, b’68, 70, Oct. 16 in Hinsdale, Illinois. He was regional director of customer service at Unisys Corporation for more than 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Stein Eggert, c’70; a daughter; a son; a sister; two brothers; and a great-grandchild.**

**David Folkerts, b’61, g’63, 78, Oct. 12 in Great Bend, where he was an accountant.**
and partner at Maneth and Folkerts. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Cecile Samson Folkerts, '62; a son, Bryan, c'91; two daughters; three brothers, one of whom is Larry Keenan, c'52, l'54; two sisters; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Hawkins Hall, g'66, EdD'75, 86, Sept. 13 in Hays. She was a special-education teacher before becoming a marital counselor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are her husband, Vance; two daughters, Debra Clark Goodman, '78, and Julie Clark Adams, '84; a son, Douglas Clark, c'77, g'85; three stepdaughters, one of whom is Laurel Hall Stitzhal, '87; a sister, Fran Hawkins Rast-Nelson, d'60; 18 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

James Henry, d'69, g'70, EdD'76, 82, Oct. 11 in Lawrence, where he was retired director of placement at KU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He later became a city commissioner and served a one-year term as mayor of Lawrence. Survivors include his wife, Kay, assoc.; two daughters, Barbara, c'83, and Jennifer Henry McWilliams, '83; two sisters; and two grandsons.

Charles Hobbs, PhD'60, 81, Sept. 11 in St. Louis, where he retired after a 35-year career as an organic research chemist at Monsanto. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Vi; a son, Douglas, c'83, l'86; a daughter, Deborah Hobbs Tremain, '86; and three grandchildren.

Sherry Kay McCanles Holmes, c'61, 77, Sept. 14 in Prairie Village. She worked at KU Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A son and a grandson survive.

Daryl Hughes, e'68, 71, Oct. 18 in Brevard, North Carolina. He was a senior staff engineer at Shell Oil Company for more than 28 years. Surviving are his wife, Elma; six brothers, three of whom are Harold, '80, Michael, c'84, and Daniel, '87; and a sister.

Nancy Chambers Jones, d'68, 70, June 21 in Branford, Connecticut, where she is survived after a long career in teaching. She is survived by two sons; a brother, Bill, c'65, l'68; and four grandchildren.

Charles LaPage, b'60, 82, Aug. 20 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was a certified public accountant and also served the City of Valdez, Alaska, as a councilman and mayor. A daughter, a son, a brother, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Gloria Mays McCord, d'63, 75, Sept. 15 in Sierra Madre, California, where she was an actress, playwright and filmmaker. She is survived by her husband, Berry, c'62, m'66; two sons; two sisters, one of whom is Kala Mays Stroup, c'59, g'64, PhD'74; and a brother, John, c'65.

Daniel McCue, p'67, 73, Oct. 8 in Blue Springs, where he was a pharmacist. Surviving are his wife, Emily, three sons, daughters, a sister, a brother and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Stuart Moore, c'66, 73, Sept. 12 in Raytown, where he sold antiques and collectibles. He is survived by two sisters, one of whom is Elaine Moore McGinn, n'68; and a brother.

Donald Moreland, m'63, 80, Sept. 21 in Tyler, Texas, where he was a family practitioner. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include two daughters, two sons, a sister, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Darrell Nelson, b'68, 78, Sept. 16 in Topeka. Surviving are a daughter, Darla Nelson-Metzger, d'96; three brothers, one of whom is Larry, g'72; six sisters; and five grandchildren.

Rudolph Oberzan, g'67, 74, Oct. 4 in Lawrence. He managed sales for several prefabricated-home companies. Survivors include two sons; a daughter; three brothers, Joseph, '65, John, j'70, and Thomas, s'73, s'75; a sister, Ann Oberzan Look, '78; and two grandchildren.

Patricia Brady Raney, b'64, 74, Oct. 8 in Overland Park, where she was the purchasing administrator at Johnson County Community College. A son, a daughter and five grandchildren survive.

Betty Thoman Roberts, d'67, 94, Oct. 25 in Kansas City, where she was an elementary school teacher. A daughter and granddaughter survive.

Jane Barricklow Rousser, g'67, 74, Oct. 28 in Riverside, California, where she taught elementary and middle school for 30 years. Her husband, Wesley, and a daughter survive.

Jerry Salisbury, e'64, 78, Sept. 22 in San Antonio, where he was a petroleum engineer. His wife, Judy, a son and three grandchildren survive.

Victor Zuecher Jr., d'63, 75, April 16 in Honolulu, where he was a dentist. A son, a sister and three grandchildren survive.

Deborah Kruskop Brodbeck, c'77, 61, Sept. 28 in Derby, where she retired after 30 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She is survived by a son, Nicholas Menefee, c'06; two sisters, one of whom is Karen Kruskop Selig, d'75; and a brother.

Edward Dosh, l'77, 67, Sept. 27 in Joplin, Missouri. He had a law office in Parsons and also served as the city attorney of Chetopa. Survivors include two brothers.

David Gentry, b'74, g'76, 64, Oct. 7 in Pontiac, Michigan. He was retired from a career in accounting and finance. Surviving are his wife, Debra; his father, Kale, c'56, m'60; two daughters; his stepmother; a stepsister; a stepbrother; and four grandchildren.

Rev. Leslie Burtner Gregory, c'70, 67, Sept. 24 in Dalhart, Texas, where she was an Episcopal priest and served in several churches and prisons. She is survived by her husband, Alan, '85; a daughter, Alexandra Gregory Parker, u'12; and two brothers, Dale Jr., c'64, g'66, and Charles, c'65.

Linda Gail Johnson, j'75, 63, Oct. 31 in Cottonwood, Arizona. She was an advertising copywriter at Nestlé Purina PetCare Company in St. Louis. Surviving are her mother; two sisters, Jean Johnson Rose, a'78, and Terri, c'80; a brother, Mark, c'82; her stepfather; a stepsister; and a stepbrother.

Joseph King, a'70, 68, Aug. 19 in Lawrence, where he was an architect. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Resnik King, c'70, a'87; a son, Zachary, c'07; a daughter,
Alison, c'11; and two sisters, Sarah King Couch, d'67, and Christine, c'73.

Becky Kunz Lovett, f'75, 63, Sept. 12 in Ewing, New Jersey, where she was an occupational therapist. Surviving are her husband, Donald; a son; two daughters; her mother, Nadine Kunz, c'42; and two brothers, William, b'72, g'75, and Stephen, m'74.

Michael Riedel, c'77, 62, Sept. 27 in Liberal, where he was an environmental specialist at Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company. His father and a brother survive.

Rev. Eugene Schmidt, '75, 87, Sept. 22 in Topeka. He was a Lutheran pastor and served in several churches and schools. Surviving are a son, Stephen, '79; two daughters, Sheryl Schmidt Speelman, d'80, and Suzanne Schmidt Peterson, c'88; a brother; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Phyllis Lamb Smith, d'72, 67, Oct. 9 in Wichita. She is survived by two daughters, Dana Wilkinson Palmer, d'93, and Stephanie Wilkinson Hargett, c'04; a son; a stepson; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Kirk Starks, c'78, 62, Aug. 9 in Corinth, Texas, where he worked in residential and commercial real estate. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son; a stepson; a stepdaughter; his mother; two brothers, Gregory, b'73, and Jon, c'80; and a granddaughter.

Mark Chaney, '85, 53, Oct. 11 in Lawrence. He worked in account sales at Sports Radio 810 WHB in Kansas City. Survivors include two daughters, Emily Chaney Elliott, '06, and Sarah Chaney-Lundquist, '06; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

Kevin Koch, l'80, 61, Oct. 2 in Oro Valley, Arizona, where he was an attorney. His wife, Beth Morton Koch, c'80; two sons; a brother; and a sister survive.

J. Darrell Preston, c'83, j'83, 55, Oct. 24 in Dallas, where he was a business journalist at Bloomberg News. He is survived by a daughter and two brothers, Glenn, c'86, g'89, and Steven, '87.

Cynthia Kobett Richey, c'85, 78, Sept. 28 in Overland Park. She was a librarian and a member of a community orchestra. Surviving are her husband, William, c'51; four daughters, one of whom is Suzanne Sinderson Hendee, c'85; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Alison Richey Pearse, d'77; and 10 grandchildren.

Slade Adams, d'97, 42, Oct. 10 in Wichita, where he was a professional golfer. He played golf for KU and was the Big Eight champion in 1995. In 1997, he competed in the U.S. Open. Surviving are his wife, Gina, three daughters, his parents and a brother.

Matthew Lewellen, '11, 27, Nov. 4 in Jordan. He was a Green Beret in the U.S. Army and received numerous awards for his service, including the Bronze Star Medal. Surviving are his parents, a brother and a sister.

Surendra Bhana, g'68, PhD'71, 77, Sept. 24 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the department of history. He is survived by his wife, Kastoor Jeena Bhana, PhD'70; two daughters, Hershini, c'92, and Palvih, j'02; a son, Hemant, '97; and three grandchildren.

Roy Creek, 98, Oct. 10 in Lawrence. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army and spent 15 years as a hospital administrator at KU Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Florine; a daughter, Cynthia Creek Maude, j'71; three sons, one of whom is Condy, d'77; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Margaret Schutz Gordon, assoc., 95, Oct. 3 in Kirkwood, Missouri. She was professor emerita in the School of Social Welfare, and in 1983 she was inducted in the KW Women's Hall of Fame. Three stepsons, a stepdaughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

Stuart Levine, assoc., 84, Oct. 29 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of American Studies and authored and edited several publications, including the American Studies journal, which he founded. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Susan Fleming Matthews Levine, PhD'80; two sons, Aaron, c'87, and Allen, c'89; a daughter; a sister; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Jack Riegel, '61, 82, Aug. 15 in Lawrence, where he had a 38-year career as a civil engineer with KU Campus Operations. He later became a technical director and set designer for Theatre Lawrence. Surviving are his wife, Ines; two sons, one of whom is Steven, '95; two brothers, one of whom is Robert, a'49; two sisters; two granddaughters; two step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Robert Primo Sherman, m'63, 82, Aug. 3 in Kansas City. He was an internist and pulmonologist and an associate professor of clinical medicine at KU’s School of Medicine from 1970 to '80. Surviving are three sons, one of whom is Paul, '88; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

George Worth, assoc., 87, Oct. 7 in Lawrence, where he was an English professor and chaired the department from 1964 to '79. In 1994, he received the Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award. He is survived by a daughter, Theresa Worth Wilkinson, '78; a son, Paul, j'80, g'86; four granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Marlene Boster, assoc., 84, Nov. 6 in Wichita. She is survived by her husband, D. Wayne, e'61; a daughter; a sister; and a granddaughter.

Sarah “Sally” Whitcomb Lieurance, assoc., 97, Sept. 6 in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was a registered nurse and a flight attendant. Surviving are two sons, Newton Jr., c'66, and John, e'70; a daughter, Darline Lieurance Rowe, d'71; a brother; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Gwendolyn White Mitchell, assoc., 93, Sept. 24 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker and community volunteer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Wiley, b'43, g'47; two daughters, one of whom is Nancy Mitchell Moore, '70; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.
In the sweet spot
Book explores Radiohead’s balance of artistic success with popular commercial appeal

Shortly after Oxford University Press’ November publication of Everything In Its Right Place: Analyzing Radiohead, Brad Osborn, assistant professor of music theory, was asked to discuss his book at a Kansas City advertising agency. His speech, “Radiohead is my favorite brand,” explored the English rock band’s blend of artistic and commercial success as an inspiration for other long-running creative endeavors.

“It was all about how Radiohead keeps some core principles the same but evolves the sound from record to record. That’s how they remain relevant,” Osborn says. “They keep a core Radiohead-ness, if you will, but constantly try something new, and slowly, glacially, evolve their sound.”

Osborn came to KU in 2013 from the University of Washington, where he completed a dissertation on experimental rock music after 1990. He now teaches music theory to all freshman music majors, and enlivens the difficult course, “kind of mathematical in nature,” with pop-music elements that are easily relatable to 18-year-olds.

“My goal,” Osborn says, “is to teach them how Beethoven and popular music really aren’t that different if you’re looking at structural principles of the music.”

When he arrived at KU, Osborn learned that he had six years to complete one of two tenure requirements: six major articles or one book. He decided immediately to devote himself to a book on Radiohead, whose music he briefly explored in his dissertation.

Osborn says that the deeper he immersed himself in Radiohead’s extensive catalog of music during his research and writing, the more he respected artistry that hits what he views as “that sweet spot between convention and experimentation.” Radiohead, Osborn contends, does that better than any band since the late-era Beatles.

“I did not go into this thinking that Radiohead was necessarily as historically significant as I found them to be, ultimately.”

After completing one last Radiohead article, three years in the making, Osborn plans to focus his research on a particular “melodic motive” that for decades has been used in film music to signify melancholy, longing, nostalgia or remembrance.

The musical figure is a two-note passage that hangs on a dissonant leading tone before finally falling down. It was heard, for instance, at the end of “Laura Palmer’s Theme” from “Twin Peaks,” and is commonly heard when a two-syllable name is included in “Happy Birthday to You.”

Osborn says he has analyzed the emotive passage in about 100 films, from 1930s classics to, most recently, a weekend viewing of “Selma.”

“It’s a heart-wrenching movie, so of course I’m waiting for the composer to use that motive,” Osborn says. “And just near the end of the film, Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act; cut to a shot of Martin Luther King’s face and there it is, the motive.”
"If you think you need to be something by the time you graduate, tell yourself you want to be enlightened." —Robert Day

“I know that might ruin it, when you’re waiting for something to appear, but it’s also kind of gratifying, to have this theory—Will it happen in this movie?—and, sure enough, it does.”

Everything in its right place, musically and otherwise.

—Chris Lazzarino

Old school

Memoir explores writer’s life on both sides of the classroom

Robert Day’s literary tributes to the professors he encountered at KU during the 1960s are among the most popular pieces Kansas Alumni has published over the past decade. Affection is not quite adequate to describe the feeling that Day, c’64, g’66, expresses for mentors like Ed Ruhe, Ed Wolfe, Carroll Edwards and Charlton Hinman in essays that artfully move between the innocence of the student and the wisdom of the elder looking back on his callow youth. Appreciation—a deep, abiding gratefulness—marks those well-crafted remembrances, which don’t simply extol the example these master teachers set, but suggest how their influence rippled across his own teaching and writing career.

The ABCs of Enlightenment: A Memoir of Learning and Teaching closes the circle by collecting six of these stellar essays on learning (five of which originally appeared in Kansas Alumni) with seven pieces on teaching. The title essay, framed as a first-day-of-class lecture to freshmen, urges students to embrace learning for the sake of learning rather than career advancement. "If you think you need to be something by the time you graduate," he advises, "tell yourself you want to be enlightened."

"Tales Out of School," "The Myth of Good College Teaching" and "Famous Education" take a more critical look at academia, but the pointed criticism plays well with Day’s pointed humor. Writing about the rich undergraduate prize awarded by Washington College, where he taught for many years before retiring, Day recounts the media circus that ensued each spring.

“My college keeps the winner secret, but that year we had to tell the television people, so they could point the cameras in the right direction to catch (a la ‘The Price Is Right’) screams, gasps, jumping up and down, whoopie, whatever. As it turned out, we did not make the evening news. The woman who won was not animated enough for the camera. For my part, when they pointed the camera my way, I said the prize was larger than my salary that year. I was quite animated.”

In putting together The ABCs of Enlightenment, Day was struck to discover how much his learning shaped his teaching. “I learned because I was included in the learning: My best teachers brought me into their intellectual lives,” he writes. “It seemed natural to do the same for my students, and in so doing, like my teachers, I joined what Borges called el salon de estudiantes instead of el salon de profesores.”

As more than one writer notes in the introductions and afterwords salted throughout this delightful collection, Day’s high esteem for his teachers has been returned to him many times over by those he taught. No wonder: Even as a professor, Bob Day is a student at heart.

—Steven Hill

The ABCs of Enlightenment: A Memoir of Learning and Teaching
By Robert Day
Serving House Books, $10

Robert Day
**Family ties**

*Legacy of corruption and control at core of author’s latest novel*

In *The Roanoke Girls*, author Amy Vickery Engel spins a troublesome tale of family dysfunction and secrecy as told by Lane Roanoke, a young girl who uncovers the truth about her family and flees, only to return years later after the disappearance of her cousin.

Engel has published young adult novels, but this is her first for the adult fiction market. The story begins as 15-year-old Lane is sent to Osage Flats, a small, rural town in Kansas, to live with her maternal grandparents and her cousin, Allegra, after her mother’s suicide. Although Lane knows little about her family—her mother had broken ties as a teenager and never spoke about them—she quickly adjusts and becomes entrenched in small-town life, forming a sisterly bond with Allegra and developing a tumultuous relationship with a young man named Cooper.

For Lane, life on the Roanoke farm has its perks, but she soon discovers that the sprawling estate harbors secrets that span generations. She escapes before she, too, becomes one of its victims.

Eleven years later, while Lane is living in Los Angeles, she’s contacted by her grandmother, who pleads with her to come back to Osage Flats after Allegra disappears. Overcome with guilt about Allegra—a difficult task in a small town so adept at keeping secrets.

Engel, c’93, aptly takes readers on Lane’s journey by shifting seamlessly between the young girl’s summer at the farm to present day, which finds Lane broken, seemingly beyond repair, struggling to come to grips with her family’s history and her place in it. Interspersing chapters told from the perspective of relatives who came before Lane, *The Roanoke Girls* carefully reveals the casualties of love and loyalty and provides an uncomfortable glimpse into one family’s heartbreaking dysfunction.

—Heather Biele

**First-year edge**

*New program offers students early start to conduct research*

Students in the University’s new Emerging Scholars Program work approximately seven hours a week with their research mentors. “It’s not overbearing,” says John Augusto. “They can still balance it with their coursework and their commitments to other student organizations.”

Students now have the opportunity to conduct research during their first year at the University, thanks to a new, federally funded work-study program at the Center for Undergraduate Research. The Emerging Scholars Program, which launched in August, pairs first-year students with faculty mentors who need assistance on research and creative projects. More than 100 students initially applied for the program, and 50 were selected to participate.

“We had a lot of programs and efforts for students who were already doing research,” says John Augusto, g’95, PhD’09, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, “but we didn’t have a whole lot of programming and a whole lot of efforts for students who are just getting started in research.”

Augusto explains that the program was also driven by a need to include more first-generation and low-income students in research, a challenge he sees not only at KU, but also at other universities nationwide. “If you have to choose between volunteering and doing research or working a part-time job, you have to choose working the part-time job,” he says. “We understand that.”

As participants, students work approximately seven hours a week for an hourly wage. In addition to duties assigned by faculty mentors, students also must attend monthly professional development workshops with other Emerging Scholars and staff from the Center for Undergraduate Research.
Augusto and his team took cues from several universities that offered similar work-study programs for students, including the University of Michigan, which has operated the successful Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program for 20 years. When KU launched its program, an overwhelming number of faculty members answered the call to participate.

“We had over 80 applications from faculty,” says Augusto. “We had to turn faculty away.”

Faculty create job descriptions for their research positions and are paired with students based on their interests.

“A number of faculty have said that the reason they are in this program is because they got this experience when they were an undergraduate,” Augusto explains. “So 10, 15, 20 years ago, somebody saw them as a freshman and said, ‘Hey, you'd be good in research,’ pulled them in, got them excited about studying chemistry or doing research in sociology, and that really shaped their experience going forward.”

Cecelia Menjívar, Foundation Distinguished Professor in the department of sociology, works closely with Kansas City freshman Giselle Almodovar, who assists in creating a database of articles that examine immigrants and immigration laws in the media.

“I think it is a great opportunity to involve undergraduates in research very early in their academic careers so that they learn important research skills through hands-on projects,” Menjívar says. “These experiences complement nicely what they are learning in the classroom.”

In the future, Augusto would like to see the Emerging Scholars Program expand if funding allows. He also hopes to offer a credit-only option for all students, in addition to the work-study option for first-year students.

“Students come to KU for great reasons,” he says, “like we have their major, or they meet a professor and they get excited about studying a particular subject matter, or maybe because of our great volleyball team or great basketball team.

“I want them to come to KU because they can do research. We talk a lot about that in the admissions process. This gives us a way to walk our talk, which is saying ‘Yeah, we talk about the importance of undergraduate research and for students who want to do that, you can do that as early as your first year.’”

—Heather Biele

What about Bob?

Novel’s dark humor overcomes suburbia-gone-bad conventions

Bob Patterson has it all: a wonderful wife, two good kids, a sprawling home in Kansas City’s suburban countryside, loads of dough. Most delightfully for Bob, the one thing he doesn't have is an urge to upset the smooth currents of his satisfyingly unchallenging life.

“Even though I’m not that smart or successful, everyone thinks I am,” Bob explains in The Coaster, the debut novel by Kansas Citian Erich Wurster, b’85, l’88. “My entire life feels like a lie. Not a big, interesting, book-worthy lie, as if I’ve got a secret family locked in the dungeon under my house. Just a series of small, meaningless deceptions to hide my true self from others. Maybe ‘lie’ is a little strong. Let’s say people only know the me I pretend to be.”

Bob’s smarmy fraternity brother, Dave “Corny” Cornwallis, explains a few rounds into a momentous night of debauchery that Bob is a “coaster.” CEOs who swing big deals are “the engines,” and, one level down, their lieutenants are the “propellers,” Corny continues. Because those alpha males need subservient buddies, pleasant and ever-helpful “coasters” like Bob occupy the next rung down on the ladder.

But Bob won't be a coaster much longer. When patriarch and civic pillar Samuel Bennett dies of a heart attack, the reading of his will reveals a shocking turn: Of Sam passed over his talented daughter Sarah, president of The Bennett Company, and instead named son-in-law Bob as trustee of his immense wealth. Sarah holds no grudge. She wants more for her man than he apparently wants for himself, and she is glad to see heavy responsibility thrust upon his sloping shoulders.

But the unpaying trustee gig isn't easy, as Bob had hoped. Investment proposals being considered at the time of Sam Bennett’s death must begin anew, and the coaster finds himself stuck in a ceaseless eddy of PowerPoints and pitchmen.

Enter Sanitol Solutions, a freakishly good cleaning system, and toothy frontman Tom Swanson, both seemingly too good to be true. The coaster’s dormant business instinct slowly sheds its slothish shroud, prodding Bob to look closer, and closer still. Industrial espionage, personal betrayals, blackmail, a handy quiver of tranquilizer darts, kidnapping, murder, another murder, gruesome gory stuff and a dash of high-tech gadgetry, all methodically stirred in a chilled shaker of wise-cracks and observational humor, finally reveal Bob Patterson to be a coaster only to his own—and his wife's—engine and propeller.

As is common with crime thrillers built on humor, The Coaster is more about people than plot. Structural defects, though, are forgiven for Wurster’s dark comedic talent, memorable for its delicious doses of immaturity: a wise guy vs. wiseguys. Like its namesake, there lurks within The Coaster more than suspected, especially the unexpected reward of a suburban crime spree story in which husband and wife fight through to salvation by trusting, rather than murdering, one another.

Tom Swanson never comprehended what Sarah Patterson knew all along: The coaster is not what he pretends to be—

—Chris Lazzarino

The Coaster
by Erich Wurster
Poisoned Pen Press, $15.95
Glorious to View  

The bronze likeness of legendary law dean “Uncle Jimmy” Green and a student, crafted by sculptor Daniel Chester French and dedicated to the University in 1924, weathered blustery winds and a fine dusting of December snow.
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