Sarah Smarsh’s Heartland

Poverty and politics in Kansas

- DEGREE IN 3
- TAN MAN RETURNS
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Hard Stories

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By Steven Hill

Cover photograph by Paul Andrews

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Degree in 3

Partnerships between KU Edwards Campus and local community colleges and high schools help working students get a quick start on their careers.

By Heather Biele

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Tan Man Returns

Wescoe Beach’s iconic sun worshiper, John Schneider, aka Tan Man, came back to Lawrence, this time to bask in memories and celebrate a big birthday with old friends.

By Chris Lazzarino
Everything you need for a winning season.

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Central beauty

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK you for your wonderful article on KU’s Central District [“Front and Center,” issue No. 4].

I spent eight of my best years at KU earning three degrees. Back then, KU had a magnificent campus and Lawrence was one of the very best college towns. It was a pleasure just walking to class among the great beauty of Mount Oread and its great structures. And now, Lawrence is an even more exciting college town and the famous campus even more beautiful and functional.

As a longtime college professor, I have witnessed the results of both good planning and bad! Your article and great photos made it clear what can happen when universities employ great talent and intelligent planning.

It wasn’t that long ago that I drove through campus and pretty much ignored what appeared to be a big mess. Now I cannot wait to see the finished product when I visit in September. Thanks to your excellent reporting, I already know a great deal about the Central District and will be an educated visitor. I also intend to ask my friend and fellow 1967 graduate of Topeka West High School, Jim Modig, to direct my tour!

Carl McFarland Jr. c’71, g’73, PhD’75 Tucson, Arizona

Lifelong connection

IT WAS A DELIGHT to read of Don Smith’s reconnecting with Bill Tuttle in response to the 50th anniversary of Tuttle’s service to KU and 80th birthday [First Word, issue No. 4].

In the fall of 1968, my then-girlfriend Lauren and I had another fond and personal memory of Professor Tuttle, who was teaching an engaging class in black history during a tumultuous year with two assassinations and the Vietnam War ongoing. All of us in class marveled at Tuttle’s ability to help us understand current events in light of history and voices that we had not studied in our high school classes.

He was a welcoming presence in the classroom, and we became friends, so much so that Lauren and I began to babysit his daughter, Kate (now, among other things, a prominent book critic for The Boston Globe). On one occasion, Professor Tuttle invited us for dinner with his family, and when we returned to my apartment and talked about the Tuttle family and our own hopes for the future, I proposed marriage and Lauren accepted. We were married in August 1969, and to this day we feel connected to Professor Tuttle and his family.

Tim Averill, c’69 Beverly, Massachusetts

Tobacco ban

I READ WITH GREAT interest your article “Banned by popular demand” [Hilltopics] in the July issue of Kansas Alumni tracing the transition to a tobacco-free campus at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses.

As a student in the William Allen White School of Journalism, I wrote an editorial published in the University Daily Kansan in 1958 or 1959 informing students of the perils of smoking tobacco. The editorial was written as a tribute to my mother, Audrey, who had died of cancer the summer before my senior year in high school.

I wanted to raise the awareness of students to the health risks associated with nicotine and referred to several medical studies funded by the American Cancer Society. One study stood out. I reported that nicotine was applied to the skin of mice, which resulted in a high percentage of mice that were afflicted with skin cancer.

As an eager journalism student I had hoped my editorial would persuade some students to quit smoking and encourage other students to never start. I concluded with a plea to students to make the intelligent decision regarding tobacco.

The journey for a tobacco-free campus has indeed been long. Thanks for reporting on this welcome achievement.

Don Culp, j’60, l’65 Overland Park

Good sport

A FEW IN LAWRENCE will remember Chancellor Del Shankel as a utility infielder on the fast-pitch softball team All the King’s Men in the late ’70s and early ’80s. The team was a loosely based outfit of KU administrators and law school faculty who still had some serious game, along with a student or two to lower its average age.

Mike Davis, then dean of the law school, was the third baseman, Bill Westerbeke played a little first base and roamed the outfield, Bob Senecal was catcher and the late great Bob Walters pitched. If Del was available, as he frequently was, he played my
regular position at second base and I played shortstop.

My most memorable impression from those games was the sound of Del's leg snapping when a younger, overenthused opponent (Dean Davis called them "flatbellies") slid hard into second base, where our chancellor was fixing to apply a hard tag on him.

We played those games on the hard-packed dirt infields across from Summerfield Hall. During the dry season, cracks in the earth as wide as 6 to 8 inches created some anxieties and challenges as we tried to play defense, but they never bothered Dr. Shankel. To him, they just made the game more adventurous.

I also remember a self-inflicted strawberry about 4 inches in diameter I suffered on my hip when I forgot a fundamental rule of survival on those fields: DO NOT SLIDE INTO ANY BASE. That strawberry took at least 10 weeks to heal. Had the flatbelly remembered that rule, Del's season would not have been abruptly abbreviated on that hot summer day, and had we the presence of mind or sense of history to take a team picture, he would have been in it.

He was a delightful, self-effacing, and memorable teammate.

Anthony Gauthier, c'69, d'70, l'82
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Editor's Note: Del Shankel, longtime KU professor and chancellor emeritus, died July 12 at the age of 90. For more on his life and work on Mount Oread, see Hilltopics, p. 12.

Fab four

ISSUE NO. 4 IS A TRULY great edition of Kansas Alumni. Steven Hill's article on Capt. Liyue Huang-Sigle ["A Soldier in Freedom's Army"] tells a beautiful story in dramatic fashion. I think the article is timely as we discuss the role of immigrants in the history of the United States—the many who made unbelievable sacrifices to get here and thereafter helped make this country what it is today.

Bernadette Gray-Little ["Pivotal Leader," Association] is an outstanding recipient of the Fred Ellsworth Medallion.

Thank you, and keep up the good work!

Stephen Ellsworth, b'49
Rock Hill, South Carolina

Right on

MY WIFE, MARLENE, read "A Soldier in Freedom's Army" in Kansas Alumni [issue No. 4] and told me I would like it. Well, she was right! Wow, this young lady's story is an inspiration!

Thanks for the details of this story. Well done!

Bill Penny, e'72
Lawrence

Gift from teacher

IT TOOK ME A WHILE to connect the dots, but Lavon Brosseau, the "retired high school teacher from Concordia" [Hilltopics, issue no. 4] who left a $7.4 million estate gift for scholarships with the UKanTeach program, was better known to those of us who attended Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville during the 1960s as Miss Crawford.

For several years Miss Crawford taught junior English in a unique and slightly irreverent way. She was an amazing teacher who brought a sense of humor to her classes as she led us down the path of American literature. I loved her class and looked forward each day to see what in the world she might do or say that invariably made her class a highlight. Her approach to teaching was one I attempted to emulate during my years as a high school teacher.

She left Coffeyville shortly after I graduated from high school. I knew she had gone to Concordia and heard she had married, but until the reference in the recent Kansas Alumni, I was unaware of her death—let alone her generosity to the next generation of teachers in our state.

Thanks for the memories

I THOROUGHLY ENJOY reading Kansas Alumni. I almost always recognize a name, place or event that puts a smile on my face.

How wonderful it is to simply return and stroll the beloved KU campus. Like most Greeks, my fondest memories are of our chapter house and the bonds I share with other Pikes (who will be back on campus starting this fall), many of whom I stay in regular contact with. The Wheel, working at Mr. Guy and home KU football games. Oddly, I never went to one KU basketball game during my stay at KU!

I get especially sentimental around a crisp fall day and a first winter snow. Of falling asleep in the German language lab during Hell Week and getting a B- on my first English 101 paper! (A remarkable achievement given that I wrote exactly one paper in high school.) I still have that paper by the way. And Professor Richard DeGeorge, who was easily my favorite KU professor.

I could go on and on, but thanks to Kansas Alumni it’s not necessary! You guys do it for me.

Steven Dillman, c'81
Kansas City
The indomitable Jayhawk spirit is a beacon of hope in Kansas and beyond. Private support fuels KU’s success by transforming students into leaders and ideas into discoveries. Most gifts are $500 or less, but regardless of size, each one opens doors to new opportunities.

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Fond memories and heartfelt tributes, along with healthy doses of rousing laughter and gorgeous jazz, uplifted the Jayhawk family Aug. 18, during the memorial for Chancellor Emeritus Del Shankel, KU scientist, teacher, mentor and two-time chancellor, who died July 12 at 90.

Just when the celebration seemed complete, Ray Chao, ’96, made his way to the Woodruff Auditorium stage in the Kansas Union. Responding to an invitation for audience members to share their stories, Chao added an emotional postscript: “Hello, my name is Ray,” he said. “I met Dr. Shankel in 1981, and without him, I would not be here today. He helped me, and he helped my family. He hired my mom to teach at the University of Kansas.

“I experienced a lot of firsts in the United States, all because of Dr. Shankel. I had my first turkey leg at his house. I had my first bicycle—Jill or Kelley loaned it to me. ... The Shankels helped me every single way.”

—Ray Chao

explained that she and Del and a KU group visited China in 1980, and Ray’s mother, Qizhen, a professor at Nankai University in Tianjin, was their guide. The Shankels visited the family on return trips to China. Qizhen came to KU to teach Chinese, and eventually Robert, a surgeon, and Ray and his sister, Li, followed.

Their move to the United States, when Ray was 23, marked a new chapter for the family. For years they had suffered during China’s Cultural Revolution. The Red Guard terrorized them and jailed Qizhen and Robert. Later the family was banished to small, remote villages until Qizhen accepted a position at the university on the condition that the family could remain together.

Years later, Ray, ’96, and his wife, Beth Merrill Chao, s’91, still live in Lawrence. He is a consultant for Jacobs Engineering, and his parents now live in Carrollton, Texas.

Chao said he would always remember his mentor’s smile: “Dr. Shankel was such a well-known person, and yet he was willing to help me. It was remarkable. I know he helped many others like me.”

Indeed. In 2004, eight years into his retirement, Shankel came to the Alumni Association’s assistance as interim president. He provided the calm, reassuring presence that staff members craved. At first, I felt awkward addressing the former chancellor, who had signed my diploma in 1981, by his first name, but he insisted we call him Del. In only a few months, Del steadied the organization and prepared us to begin a new era. The University’s leader, scientist, teacher and mentor became our trusted friend and favorite Jayhawk.

His legacy continues ever onward.
On the Boulevard

Spencer Museum of Art exhibitions

“Passage,” through Nov. 25
“Soundings,” through Dec. 16
“Larry Schwarm: Kansas Farmers,” through Jan. 6
“The Ties that Bind: Haiti, the United States and the Art of Ulrick Jean-Pierre in Comparative Perspective,” through Jan. 7

Lied Center events

**SEPTEMBER**
22 Trevor Noah
24, 25 Tootie Heath Trio featuring Emmet Cohen
26 American Red Cross Blood Drive
27 KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Blake Pouliot, violin
30 Steve Martin and Martin Short: “An Evening You Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life”

**OCTOBER**
4 Joshua Bell, violin
8 KU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band
11 Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and World Premiere: 25th-Anniversary Commission Honoring 15 KU Basketball Luminaries
17 Loudon Wainwright III
24 Amirah Sackett
26 Phoebe Robinson
28 Purna Loka Ensemble

29 Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company

**NOVEMBER**
2 Jazz Ambassadors of U.S. Army Field Band
4 Monty Python’s “Spamalot”
7 Elf the Musical
9 KU Wind Ensemble
17 Dan Zanes and Claudia Eliaza
27 Jane Lynch: “A Swingin’ Little Christmas!”

**Dole Institute events**

**SEPTEMBER**
18 Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the 14th Amendment with Stephen McAllister and guests

**OCTOBER**
4 “Better Angels: Can We Depolarize America?” with Rob Robertson
30 “Unmasking the Spy: Intelligence Gathering” with Ron Marks

More than 500 students enjoyed free lunch, games and giveaways at the Adams Alumni Center Aug. 31 for Home Football Friday. Jessica Guardiola, president of the Student Alumni Leadership Board, helped students download the KU alumni app and join the Student Alumni Network at the event.

30 Elizabeth Dole Women in Leadership Lecture with with Meg Kabat, Robyn Loveland and Carolyn Tolliver-Lee
Humanities Lecture Series

**SEPTEMBER**
- **25** “Frontline: Latinos and Immigration from a Woman’s Perspective,” Maria Hinojosa, The Commons
- **26** A Conversation with Maria Hinojosa, Hall Center conference hall

**OCTOBER**
- **25** "Body Movements: Positioning Sudanese Women in an Age of Empire," Marie Grace Brown, Lied Center Pavilion

**NOVEMBER**
- **19** An Evening with Neil Gaiman, Lied Center

**Murphy Hall**

**SEPTEMBER**
- **21** Faculty Recital Series: Kip Haaheim, composition
- **25** KU Brass Ensemble

**OCTOBER**
- **1** Faculty Recital Series: Drei Bones, trombone ensemble
- **2** New Music Guild
- **4** KU Choirs: Concert Choir and Women’s Chorale
- **5** Visiting Artist Series: Craig Rutenberg, piano
- **8** Visiting Artist Series: George Speek, double bass
- **18** Visiting Artist Series: Ayano Kataoka
- **21** Double Reed Day Concert
- **22** Faculty Recital Series: Daniel Velasco, flute; Boris Vainer, viola; and Eric Wood, harp

**Performances**

**OCTOBER**
- **4** KU Jazz Ensembles I, II, III; Lawrence Arts Center
- **26** Visiting Artist Series: Emanuele Cardi, Bales Organ Recital Hall

**NOVEMBER**
- **11** KU Symphony Orchestra, Kauffman Center for the Arts
- **12** KU Jazz Ensembles, I, II, III; Lawrence Arts Center
- **14** KU Saxophone Quartets
- **17** Faculty Recital Series: Teng Fu, piano

**Academic Calendar**

**OCTOBER**
- **13-16** Fall break

**Kansas Honor Scholar Program**

**SEPTEMBER**
- **18** Pittsburg

**OCTOBER**
- **2** Great Bend
- **3** Salina
- **15** Topeka
- **17** Garden City
- **18** Hays
- **22** Colby
- **23** Manhattan
- **29** Wichita
- **30** Emporia

Alumni Events

**SEPTEMBER**
- **19** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- **20** Denver: Jayhawks & Java
- **22** KU at Baylor watch parties
- **25** Happy Hour, Phoenix

**OCTOBER**
- **2-4** Hawks and Highways events (for complete schedule, visit kualumni.org/highways)
- **3** North Denver networking breakfast
- **6** KU at West Virginia, member tailgate
- **17** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- **20** KU at Texas Tech, member tailgate
- **27** KU vs. TCU, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

**NOVEMBER**
- **1-30** KU Cares Month of Service (for complete schedule, visit kualumni.org/monthofservice)
- **3** KU vs. Iowa State, member tailgate
- **6** KU vs. Michigan State, Champions Classic pre-game activities, Indianapolis
- **10** KU at Kansas State, member tailgate
- **11** KU Vets Day 5K, Memorial Stadium
- **15** Denver: Jayhawks & Java
- **16** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- **17** KU at Oklahoma, member tailgate
- **23** KU vs. Texas, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

Events listed here are highlights from the Association’s busy calendar. For complete listings of all events, watch for emails about programs in your area, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.
Jayhawk Walk

La Pia’s summer sojourn

“Our lovely ‘La Pia’”—as “La Pia de’ Tolomei” was so aptly described in a June Facebook post by the Spencer Museum of Art—finally got a break from her lonely brooding with a trip to San Francisco. The 19th-century masterwork by Dante Gabriel Rossetti is on loan through September to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco for the exhibition “Truth and Beauty: The Pre-Raphaelites and the Old Masters.”

The forlorn beauty is frequently requested for worldwide Pre-Raphaelite and Victorian art exhibitions, but protective Spencer curators rarely let her travel; not only is the painting irreplaceable, but its frame, designed by Rossetti himself, also is notably rare and fragile.

The San Francisco exhibition, which also includes works from the Louvre Museum in Paris and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, proved momentous enough for the Spencer to let “La Pia” travel, which was celebrated on Facebook with a cheeky image of the fair lady—already full of “so much meaning and emotion and poetry,” in the estimation of curator Susan Earle—sporting her summer vacation sunglasses.

In her place, Earle and her colleagues chose to exhibit “Portrait du Concert,” a 1910 portrait of virtuoso pianist Emil von Sauer, whose widow, Angelica Morales von Sauer, herself a noted concert pianist, joined the KU music faculty in 1955, 13 years after her husband’s death.

He is no beauty, but von Sauer, considered a preeminent protégé of Franz Liszt, still projects a compelling presence. That

Trick or treatise

To study the humanities—literature, languages, philosophy, history, religion, the arts and more—is to ponder the big questions of the human condition. Why are we here? What is beauty? To beer or not to beer?

Believing such weighty debates should not be restricted to ivory towers, the Hall Center for the Humanities will host “Haunting Humanities” Oct. 24 at Abe & Jake’s Landing. The inventive showcase of spooky stories and ideas from the research of KU humanities faculty will demonstrate how humanities research benefits us all.

“This is part of a trend called public humanities,” says Sarah Bishop, associate director of the Hall Center. “It’s about engaging the public in new, exciting ways so they understand the work going on in humanities departments. It’s kind of a science fair for the humanities with a Halloween theme.”

Supported by a Humanities Kansas grant, the all-in-good-fun activities include an escape room inspired by a notorious Kansas murder, a literary lesson on witches (with an optional witch makeover), and “Shakespeare Possessed: To Beer or Not to Beer,” which invites partygoers to tap their inner Hamlet and act out a ghostly scene under direction of “Shakespeare coaches.”

And the beer? Bishop says Jonathan Lamb, the English professor in charge of the activity, might offer to reward really good performers with a brew. “Put that in, then he’ll have to,” she says. “Lock him in!”

Was that a cackle? That’s the spirit.
the rarely exhibited painting was a gift from a former faculty member and her alumnus son, Franz von Sauer, c'63, g'64, is all the more reason to—in the words of the Spencer’s Facebook page—“stop by and say hello!”

Rock Chalk, Spideyhawk

As Jeff Hawkins, c’06, lurched through the early stages of his 90-foot descent of a downtown Lawrence apartment building, his wife, Heather Plante Hawkins, j’06, the Alumni Association’s executive assistant to the president and coordinator of donor relations, looked on nervously—while 11-year-old Mavrick Hawkins made the most of a request for comment from Voice of the Jayhawks Brian Hanni, j’02.

“Stop being a scaredy-cat!” Mavrick shouted to his father over the loudspeaker.

Dangling seven stories above the sidewalk, Hawkins, a former KU basketball guard, paused his already halting descent, turned toward the crowd and, grinning, pointed at Mavrick.

“I heard my son talking some smack,” he said after rappelling down 888 Lofts. “So we’re going to have a talk after this.”

Hawkins joined other Kansas Athletics and community luminaries in the Aug. 25 “Over the Edge” fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence. Spectators delighted in needling the less-than-elegant rappellers who nonetheless showed their true grit in raising nearly $90,000.

Coach Bill Self was scheduled as the headliner but was forced to withdraw after undergoing a hernia repair: “The doctor says I need to wait a couple more weeks before jumping off any buildings.”

Hawkins, assistant coach Kurtis Townsend and video coordinator Jeremy Case, c’07, ’09, were roped into duty, and were cheered on by Self, assistant coach Norm Roberts and director of student-athlete development Fred Quartlebaum.

Yes, vertical jumps were taken to the extreme, but everyone went home safe and sound. Even Mavrick got a hug.

Sparkling life span

A mid military tributes and the adoration of family and KU friends, Richard Schiefelbusch, a World War II POW who returned home to become KU’s innovative leader of human development research, celebrated his 100th birthday July 28 at the Adams Alumni Center.

Schiefelbusch, g’47, founded the KU Speech Language Hearing Clinic and created the collaborations that led to the Institute for Life Span Studies; both entities are named for him. For more than 50 years, he guided researchers, including Steve Warren, c’74, g’75, PhD’77, University Distinguished Professor and former vice chancellor of research. “He’s an amazing guy,” Warren says. “He created a research model unlike any other, and it’s known around the nation.”

Schiefelbusch’s daughter Carol Schiefelbusch McMillin, ’79, chose King Arthur’s words to King Pellinore from “Camelot” to describe her father: “One of what we all are, Pelli! Less than a drop in the great blue motion of the sunlit sea. But, it seems, that some of the drops sparkle, Pelli! Some of them do sparkle!

“My father is one of those who sparkle, and he has attracted many sparklers.”

Bike share boom

What better way to celebrate the success of KU’s Bike Share program than to roll out more rides on campus? This semester the University doubled its existing fleet of 180 KU-branded bikes, which first arrived on the Lawrence campus in April, to 360.

“They’re very popular,” says Donna Connolly Hultine, c’80, director of KU Parking & Transit. “My office sits on Irving Hill Road, and it’s just really fun to see these bikes go by.”

Students, faculty and staff can rent the GPS-enabled bikes for as little as 50 cents for 15 minutes or purchase daily, month-long or yearlong passes, all with the touch of an app.

KU will continue its partnership with VeoRide, the bike share company, and plans to introduce 50 motorized e-bikes, much to the delight of those who pedal up calf-burning campus hills. The program also expanded this summer to include rental stations throughout the city.

“All you need is your helmet,” says Derek Rogers, c’88, an avid cyclist and director of Lawrence Parks & Recreation. “You can go somewhere, lock the bike and walk away. You don’t have to pay for a tune-up or worry about a flat tire.”

Hassle-free and fun to ride? Sign us up.
Farewell to Del

Two-time chancellor leaves legacy of selfless service

One of Chancellor Emeritus Del Shankel’s favorite sayings was, “If you want to get something done, give it to a busy person.” As a leader, scientist and professor for nearly 60 years on Mount Oread, Shankel himself proved the maxim true time and time again. The beloved Jayhawk, who twice guided the University as chancellor and answered KU’s call for trusted leadership in numerous other roles, including interim president of the Alumni Association, died July 12 at 90.

Simon Kuo, c’83, c’84, PhD’95, one of Shankel’s doctoral students in microbiology, shared his teacher’s favorite phrases and enduring lessons Aug. 18, as the KU family gathered in the Kansas Union’s Woodruff Auditorium to honor Shankel’s extraordinary life with memories—both reverent and irreverent—and soothing, soul-stirring jazz performed by virtuoso clarinetist Robert Walzel, dean of the School of Music, and the KU Jazz Combo.

Kuo recalled that Shankel “literally smiled 80 percent of the time,” a mark of the sunny demeanor that led doctoral students to presume their professor, whom they always addressed as Dr. Shankel, was Canadian. “Being nice is almost a pejorative in today’s hyperbolic world. It’s what you are when you aren’t something else—like dynamic,” Kuo said. “But Dr. Shankel wielded being nice like a weapon a Shaolin monk would use. He was nice in a way that involved hard decisions, selflessness and personal sacrifice and, above all, through being nice, he made everyone’s lives, indeed the University community’s lives, better and easier.”

Chancellor Doug Girod, like all of KU’s recent chancellors, relied on Shankel’s counsel in conversations and written notes that often harked back to earlier challenges “usually in the context of, ’We’ve seen this rodeo before; here’s what we did last time. Good luck. And, by the way, it didn’t turn out well last time.’” Girod told the crowd. “He always kept a great sense of humor and it was delightful to interact with him and have his perspective and guidance.” Shankel withstood many wild rides as KU’s most trusted, steady administrative wrangler through the years. Soon after he began his KU career in 1959 as an assistant professor of microbiology, he attained the rank of professor and became acting chair of his department, followed by stints as:

- acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- the first executive vice chancellor of the Lawrence campus
- acting chancellor between Archie Dykes and Gene Budig, 1980–’81
- acting athletics director (twice)
- acting vice chancellor for academic affairs
- acting executive vice chancellor and a second stint as executive vice chancellor
- faculty athletics representative to the Big Eight Conference and the NCAA
- interim chancellor between Gene Budig and Robert Hemenway, 1994–’95
- interim president of the Alumni Association, from May to November 2004, despite having “retired” in 1996.

“I suspect his name always came up because he was always willing to do the job, people knew he would do it well, and he would do it with passion,” Girod said. “He would do it with integrity, with that incredible trust and credibility he had built over the years.”

After Shankel’s second term as acting
chancellor, the Kansas Board of Regents in 1995 declared him the University’s 15th chancellor. In 2010, KU dedicated the Delbert M. Shankel Structural Biology Center on West Campus, affirmation of his international prominence as a research scholar, author or co-author of more than 50 papers in professional journals, and a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology.

Steve Benedict, professor of molecular biosciences and Shankel’s friend for nearly 30 years, explained that Shankel and his international colleagues broke new ground in the study of antimutagenesis, the processes through which repair systems within our normal cells—and certain elements in our food and environment—can counteract damage resulting from exposure to elements that cause mutations, including cancer. “For example, we know that vitamin C has antioxidants; it may help you prevent the mutations that cause cancer,” Benedict explained. “That’s what Del and his colleagues were looking at. ... They discovered ways to help us get through life a little better and watch out for things in the environment that may make us sick. These principles are still used in agriculture and medicine.”

Former KU athletics director Sheahon Zenger, PhD’96, shared his insights as the author of Shankel’s biography, which Zenger wrote as his doctoral dissertation. The two bonded over their shared bachelor’s degrees in English literature; Shankel earned his at Walla Walla College in Washington, where he also played hockey, followed by a brief stint playing semi-pro hockey. He earned his doctorate in bacteriology from the University of Texas in 1959. A lifelong scholar, he also remained a faithful sports fan, supporting all Jayhawks teams and advising many student-athletes. Zenger also shared a little-known fact: Shankel’s devotion to KU prompted him to turn down the chancellorship of the University of Maryland to remain on Mount Oread. The revelation prompted applause from the Woodruff Auditorium crowd.

“The Mount Rushmore of Mount Oread would no doubt feature Del Shankel’s smiling face among KU’s most loyal servants and leaders,” said Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, Alumni Association president, who recalled how Shankel remained close to the Association staff for years after serving as the organization’s interim president. He often stopped by to catch up with staff members and to drop off a Trader Joe’s Pound Plus Belgian dark chocolate on the kitchen counter as a mid-afternoon treat. “The greatest compliment I can think of for Del is that it was never about him,” Peterson said. “It was always about KU. Del focused on the growth of the people on this Hill and the well-being of the KU community. “And that, my friends, is the definition of servant leadership.”

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Seven students from the humanities-based colLAB: Bridging East Africa’s Digital Health Divide traveled to Tanzania in August for a field school taught by KU faculty in partnership with a nongovernmental organization, Mufindi Orphans, founded by two Jayhawk alumni.

Students learned how technology affects access to rural health care and improved their Kiswahili language skills, according to colLAB co-director Kathryn Rhine, associate professor of anthropology. They lived with village families, spent time in a clinic and school, and worked with NGO management.

“We see this as a first step for students,” Rhine says. “Maybe they will develop thesis projects and go into graduate programs. Several plan to work for governmental and nongovernmental agencies that promote global health and development. In these occupations, just like in business and medicine, foreign languages and field experience are critical.”

Mufindi Orphans is led by Geoff Knight, c’08, and Jenny Peck, c’05. The NGO provides social, educational and health care resources to vulnerable children in Mufindi, a village hundreds of miles inland from Tanzania’s largest city, Dar es Salaam.
PATENTLY IMPRESSIVE: With 30 patents granted in 2017, KU ranked 87th in the world last year among universities receiving patents, according to a report from the National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association. It’s the University’s highest ranking since 2014. KU now holds 240 U.S. patents and has 146 applications pending.

Culture change

Bystander intervention training aims to shift campus norms

Before incoming freshmen could take part in the festivities of Traditions Night on Aug. 18, they were required to attend “Jayhawks Give a Flock,” a 90-minute bystander education and prevention workshop developed by KU’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center (SAPEC).

Nearly 4,000 students participated in the event, which is based on the nationally recognized curriculum “Bringing in the Bystander.” Approximately 115 KU faculty, staff and graduate students volunteered as facilitators and conducted the training sessions, which ran from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Capitol Federal Hall, Wescoe Hall and LEEP2 in the engineering complex. Students were assigned to a location based on whether they live in a residence hall, a fraternity or in off-campus housing.

“We’ve been working really hard on this for the past couple years,” says Dustin Struble, a prevention educator at SAPEC and a doctoral student in higher education. “We’ve trained over 200 people to be facilitators. To have close to 120 give up a portion of their Saturday before school starts is significant. It shows that our community is really committed to helping reduce and prevent sexual violence.”

Struble points out that although bystander intervention training is common on college campuses across the country, this event was the largest of its kind—and unique in its design. Rather than lecturing to students on the importance of being active bystanders, KU facilitators worked in teams of two and led groups of approximately 40 freshmen through interactive discussions, asking students to think about their own experiences and equipping them with the skills to respond when they see behavior that puts others at risk for violence, victimization or perpetration.

Female students, or those who identify as female, could request in advance to be assigned to an all-female training session. “We know that some women prefer to go through the training with other women, because they just feel more comfortable,” Struble says.

In addition, SAPEC partnered with the Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center, a local nonprofit organization, and KU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which provided trained advocates at the event to offer support for students who have been directly or indirectly affected by sexual violence.

“Unfortunately, we know that some of our students have experienced sexual trauma prior to coming here, and we don’t want this training to be a hindrance,” Struble says. “If they don’t feel emotionally available to go through these workshops, we want them to be able to connect with someone.”

“Jayhawks Give a Flock” is one of six core programs created by SAPEC for students. Others include “Consent @KU” and “Sex, Drugs and Alcohol.”

SAPEC was established in fall 2015 and moved into its new home in Burge Union in April. The center was one of 27 recommendations presented in 2015 to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little by a task force created to examine how the University prevents and responds to sexual assault. SAPEC’s staff, which also includes Director Jennifer Brockman and Sony Heath, ’07, j’07, g’10, a prevention educator, conducts campuswide training sessions for all KU students. This fall, they’ll work with Kansas Athletics, which is requiring all of its student-athletes to participate in a mandatory, one-hour academic course on gender-based violence prevention.

“We want to change the culture on this campus,” Struble says. “This is tied into the values of what it means to be a Jayhawk.”

—Heather Biele
Recovery plan

New KU center targets research and treatment of addictions

Advancing the science of addiction treatment and making those improved services available to people who need them will be the main focus of a new research center at KU.

The Cofrin-Logan Center for Addiction Research and Treatment, established this summer with a $2 million gift from Daniel Logan, c’75, and his wife, Gladys Cofrin, will serve as an engine for addictions research, training and outreach. Plans call for programs focused on addictions that include alcohol and smoking—which are the subject of established research programs by KU faculty members—as well as drug, gambling and eating disorders and other addictions. The new programs are expected to be announced later this fall.

The center is built on shared interests between the couple and Carl Lejuez, interim provost and executive vice chancellor. Cofrin and Logan are both in recovery from addictions themselves and Lejuez founded and directed the University of Maryland’s successful addictions research and treatment center.

“KU is known for the rigor of the research conducted, but not just research for its own sake,” Lejuez says. “We want to show how it’s making the communities in Kansas a better place, and that’s by helping the people of our state. This gift allows us to do both research and treat the community without having to carve out new resources.”

The center will be part of the department of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; it is directed by Rich Yi, professor of psychology, who has worked at addiction centers at three other universities, including Maryland, where he took over the director’s role when Lejuez was hired as KU’s dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Yi began work at the Cofrin-Logan Center Aug. 20.

“One of my first responsibilities is to expand center membership to include the entire spectrum of scientists and investigators at KU who are going to help us address the issue of addiction,” Yi says. “The people are here. We want to get these folks together and have a centralized location where they can come together, share ideas, stretch out of their conventional research program and expand to incorporate the expertise of other people on campus.”

Services could include therapy, support groups and community outreach, but it will take time to develop the capacity to offer clinical services, Yi says. In the meantime, the center will likely refer people seeking treatment to expert providers at KU Medical Center or in the Lawrence community.

“Many of the research and clinical opportunities will be in collaboration with KUMC,” he says.

One promising project, according to Yi, is an art therapy program led by the center’s artist-in-residence, John Sebelius, g’12. Developed for combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, the art-based program worked well when implemented by the Veterans Administration in Topeka, Yi says. “We hope to implement that as one of our early flagship programs,” he says.

——Steven Hill

Milestones, money and other matters

A $2 million gift from Cloud L. “Bud” Cray Jr., chairman emeritus of MGP Ingredients in Atchison, and his wife, the late Sally Cray, will benefit the University of Kansas Health System’s heart program. The gift recognizes the exceptional care given the Cray family by cardiologist Charles Porter, m’77. The family’s Cray Foundation also provided funding to open the Cray Diabetes Center in 1979 and has supported it continuously since.

Angelo Andres, a doctoral student in medicinal chemistry, and Blake Peterson, Regents Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, were among 45 doctoral student-adviser pairs from across the country awarded 2018 Gil- liam Fellowships for Advanced Study. Designed to ensure that a diverse, highly trained workforce is prepared to assume leadership roles in science, the fellowship makes an annual award of $50,000 for up to three years that includes a stipend, a training allowance and an institutional allowance.

A $1 million gift from the estate of speech pathologists Donald Robinson and Mary Carpenter of Shawnee will establish the Carpenter and Robinson Epilogue (CARE) Fund at KU Medical Center to help patients who need care for communication disorders but cannot afford it. They both taught at the medical center, Carpenter for 35 years. She died in 2016 and Robinson died in 2017.
School of the Arts departments of theatre, dance merge

Dance gets a new partner and theatre welcomes a new co-star with the merger this fall of the two departments in the College of Liberal Arts & Science’s School of the Arts.

The merger—which was proposed by the departments and planned over the past year in conversations with students, alumni and members of the professional advisory board—emerged from existing collaborations, says Michelle Heffner Hayes, ’91, professor and chair of the new department of theatre and dance.

“We had very different infrastructures to support individual faculty projects, and we realized that if we were to combine, we would have an infrastructure that would make collaborations and interdisciplinary work by students more possible,” Hayes says. “We thought that was very exciting looking at the future of the disciplines in the various creative arts industries, where everything is going toward a more interdisciplinary feel.”

Auditions for University Theatre and the University Dance Company are attracting more student interest than before, Hayes says.

“We’re already seeing a lot more cross-enrollment between our students. It has widened their outlook on what is possible.”

Trio earns distinguished title

Three faculty members were appointed University Distinguished Professors beginning this fall: Nyla Branscombe, Michael Engel and Neal Kingston.

“These faculty have pushed and stretched the boundaries of their disciplines to contribute meaningfully to our understanding of the world around us and to make it a better place,” said Carl Lejuez, interim provost and executive vice chancellor, who made the appointments.

“The title of University Distinguished Professor is significant recognition of their advances in scholarship and also of their contributions to the University as educators and leaders.”

Branscombe, professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, joined the KU faculty in 1987. A social psychologist with expertise in group processes and intergroup relations, she has explored in her research the role group memberships play in shaping people’s emotions. She has received numerous research and teaching awards, including most recently the Balfour S. Jeffrey Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences, one

VISITOR

BOOK TALK

Haitian-American writer and MacArthur Fellow Edwidge Danticat discussed her essay collection, Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work, chosen by a committee of students, faculty and staff as this year’s KU Common Book.

WHEN: Sept. 6
WHERE: The Lied Center

SPONSOR: First-Year Experience and Undergraduate Studies

BACKGROUND: Danticat’s first book, Breath, Eyes, Memory, was an Oprah Book Club selection and her second, Krik? Krak!, was a National Book Award finalist. Her 2007 memoir, Brother, I’m Dying, was also a National Book Award finalist and won the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. Create Dangerously tells stories of artists who create despite (or because of) traumas that drove them from their homelands.

ANECDOTE: Danticat’s title comes from Albert Camus’ final lecture, in 1957, which dealt with what it meant to be an artist in his time. “To create today is to create dangerously; every publication is an act and that act exposes one to the passion of an age that forgives nothing. That could have been written yesterday, right? It could have been an op-ed in The Times.”

QUOTES: “I’ve always thought that this is such a wonderful thing when so many people get to read a book together. The experience of writing a book and the experience of reading a book is so personal and intimate, but when you get to do it in community, as Martin Luther King said, it becomes a beloved community around a book.”

—SH
Engel, c’93, c’93, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and senior curator for entomology at the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, joined the faculty in 2000. His research focuses on systematics, paleontology and the evolution of insects, and his breakthroughs include the discovery of giant fleas that likely fed on feathered dinosaurs, listed by Discover Magazine among the top 100 stories of 2012. He has earned numerous awards for scholarship and teaching and is a fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

Kingston, professor of educational psychology and research in the School of Education, joined the faculty in 2006. He directs the Achievement and Assessment Institute, and his research focuses on large-scale educational assessment, particularly on how assessments based on learning maps support student learning.

The program is part of IHAWKe, which oversees the School of Engineering’s diversity and women’s programs.

ENGINEERING

Boosting women and minorities goal of new recruitment effort

A NEW DIVERSITY INITIATIVE from the School of Engineering proposes to identify talented students as early as middle school and give them the support they need to succeed at KU and in their careers. KUEST (KU Engineering, Science and Technology) will start as a pilot program this fall at two Kansas City high schools and on the KU campus; the School of Engineering is seeking funding from companies and government agencies to expand the program, which aims to encourage and recruit young students in engineering, computer science and information technology.

“We’re targeting, as much as possible, low-income, first-generation students, because those students don’t always have the background knowledge about the college experience,” says Andrew Williams, e’88, PhD’00, associate dean for engineering diversity, equity and inclusion. “There’s a lot of untapped talent, if they can get over the barriers and obstacles to getting to KU, but also getting interested in these fields.”

The program is part of IHAWKe, which oversees the School of Engineering’s diversity and women’s programs.

Milestones, money and other matters

- Precious Porras, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, added assistant vice provost for diversity and equity to her title, and Jennifer Ng, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies, was named director of academic inclusion. The moves are part of the Office of Diversity and Equity’s commitment to develop and further a cultural shift that helps KU better reflect the social diversity and demographics of the country and to support students, faculty and staff in their efforts to successfully learn and work.

- KU Libraries are one of four libraries nationwide selected earlier this year to serve as a preservation steward for the U.S. Government Publishing Office. The libraries will be responsible for preserving government publications, specifically congressional materials, including hearings.

- Kansas Public Radio, the NPR affiliate located on the KU campus, won the 2018 Station of the Year award from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. It marks the 17th time KPR has won KAB’s top award, which is more than any other Kansas station.

- Andrew Godwin, a leader in the field of translational research and precision cancer medicine, and Charles Marsh, c’77, g’80, g’83, PhD’85, a longtime journalism professor and an expert on ethics in public relations, will be honored with 2018 Chancellors Club awards at a celebration in Lawrence Sept. 28. The annual awards recognize KU faculty members for significant scientific discoveries and commitment to teaching.

“Art is testimony; I believe that very strongly. I urge you to think, what do you want your dangerous creations to be? Where do you want your ideals to align with your destiny?”

—Edwidge Danticat
Fresh start

After first-game loss, football halts road losing streak

The fourth season of David Beaty’s tenure as football coach did not begin as hoped: The Jayhawks on Sept. 1 lost at home to Nicholls State, a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly known as Division I-AA) university in Louisiana.

The Colonels are a rising program within the FCS ranks—they were tied with Texas A&M in the fourth quarter before losing by 10 last season, and in 2016 lost to South Alabama by one point in overtime and by two points at Georgia—and Beaty, while praising Nicholls in his game-week news conference, insisted his Jayhawks were ready.

A frustrating, 26-23 overtime loss indicated otherwise.

“They came out ready and prepared,” said senior defensive tackle Daniel Wise. “They executed and we didn’t.”

Added senior linebacker Keith Loneker Jr., “They’re probably a little bit better than we anticipated. They came out and played better than us.”

Three days after the loss, which ran Beaty’s KU record to 3-34, Athletics Director Jeff Long, in a statement released by Kansas Athletics to area newspapers, said, “We all expected a different outcome Saturday but I continue to support our student-athletes and coaches and ask all Jayhawks to do the same. Our evaluation of the program is ongoing without a predetermined timeline.”

Long’s decision to support his football coaches proved prescient, as the Jayhawks on Sept. 8 won at Central Michigan, 31-7, finally crushing a 46-game road losing
streak and injecting much-needed enthusiasm into the postgame locker room, where senior linebacker Joe Dineen Jr. handed Beaty the game ball. Beaty, always known as a humble and friendly gentleman despite frustrating results, beamed as he cradled the precious memento of victory, and he joined his players, and Long, in a rousing rendition of the Rock Chalk Chant.

“For our program, for our fans, for our stakeholders, it was really important that we ended that,” Beaty said of the road losing streak. “Our fans deserve better. I’m glad it’s over.”

A week earlier, opening night’s announced attendance of 24,305 was perhaps higher than feared, and KU fans were hotly supportive of the Jayhawks when they took a brief three-point lead on a 15-yard touchdown pass from senior Peyton Bender to senior Kerr Johnson, followed by a two-point conversion.

When the Jayhawks fell in overtime, however, they left a stadium stunned into a deafening silence.

“The sun is going to come up tomorrow,” Beaty said afterward, “and this team is going to continue to work toward the goals that they have set.”

Opening day’s first disappointment arrived just moments before kickoff, with distribution of a news release announcing that freshman running back Anthony Pooka Williams—can we drop the last-name second reference and just go with Pooka?—rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns, both of which came in the third quarter. He rushed 20 yards into the end zone with 10:31 left in the quarter; less than 2 minutes later, he broke loose for a 41-yard touchdown, set up by senior linebacker Joe Dineen Sr.’s first career interception.

Pooka grabbed the headlines, but the defense’s improvement might be KU’s notable change in fortune. The Jayhawk defense created six turnovers, including four interceptions, and held the Chippe- was to 103 yards rushing. Dineen led the team with 14 tackles.

As Kansas Alumni went to press, the Jayhawks were preparing for a Sept. 15 home game against Rutgers before opening Big 12 play Sept. 22 at Baylor, followed by the Sept. 29 Homecoming matchup with Oklahoma State.

“Pooka” Williams, a star during August training camp, was “working through a non-disciplinary matter” and would be “unavailable for competition today.” Four days earlier, Dineen said of Williams, “I haven’t seen anybody like him since I’ve been here. He’s really a one-of-a-kind guy. He’s a rare talent.”

That rare talent was on full display at Central Michigan, where Williams—can we drop the last-name second reference and just go with Pooka?—rushed for 125 yards and two touchdowns, both of which came in the third quarter. He rushed 20 yards into the end zone with 10:31 left in the quarter; less than 2 minutes later, he broke loose for a 41-yard touchdown, set up by senior linebacker Joe Dineen Sr.’s first career interception.

Dedric Lawson and his brother, sopho- more guard K.J. Lawson; and a bountiful freshman class led by Quentin Grimes, Devonte’ Graham’s likely successor at point guard.

“Kansas is talented, deep and old,” one coach told CBS Sports. “They have to be the favorite to win it all. Dedric Lawson is going to dominate that league.”

Said another coach, “When Bill Self likes a season, including junior forward Dedric Lawson and his brother, sopho-

Dedric Lawson

“Hoops almost here

Sept. 28 Late Night in the Phog to launch anticipated season

The clock is ticking. By the time this issue of Kansas Alumni reaches members’ mailboxes, basketball season will be but a few short weeks from liftoff: Late Night in the Phog is Sept. 28, the evening before football’s Homecoming showdown with Oklahoma State.

Men’s basketball, ranked among the elite national contenders in every preseason poll, opens its nonconference schedule against Michigan State Nov. 6 in Indianapolis. After two Thanksgiving-week games in Brooklyn’s Barclays Center, against Marquette and either Louisville or Tennessee, the Jayhawks get a Dec. 15 Allen Field House rematch with Villanova, which beat KU in the semifinal game of last spring’s NCAA Tournament, and a Jan. 26
“Our conditioning is awful, which you’d anticipate it to be,” Self said Aug. 25, three weeks before the Sept. 17 start of his team’s “Boot Camp” conditioning program. “I’ve said it hundreds of times and I’ll say it some more: We’ve got a lot of really nice players. Unless we have a couple of guys emerge as knockdown shooters, nice players can be guarded pretty easily. We’ve got to find some guys who can consistently stretch it.”

After Late Night, men’s basketball’s field house debut is an Oct. 25 exhibition game against Emporia State.

Women’s basketball opens with seven consecutive home games before traveling to LSU Nov. 29, followed by a Dec. 5 trip to Nebraska. The Jayhawks open Big 12 play against Iowa State, Jan. 5 in Allen Field House.

KU’s 10 returners include senior guards Jessica Washington, last season’s Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, and Christalah Lyons, All-Big 12 honorable mention in 2017.

Kansas Memorial Stadium. Booth, c’68, g’69, helped launch the “Raise the Chant” stadium renovation campaign with a $50 million gift. ... Veteran Texas assistant Jennifer McFalls on Aug. 20 was named KU’s softball coach. McFalls, a four-year starter at shortstop for Texas A&M, scored the game-winning run in Team USA’s victory over Japan in the 2000 Olympics’ gold-medal game. ... Volleyball on Aug. 31 twice rallied from 2-1 deficits to win five-set matches at Kentucky’s Bluegrass Battle. Junior outside hitter Patricia Montero, who missed all of 2017 after injuring a knee in preseason practice, had a double-double in kills (12) and digs (11) when she exited the first Aug. 31 match with an unspecified injury. Coach Ray Bechard in July promoted former setter Maggie Anderson Bowen, b’17, from director of operations to assistant coach. Former defensive specialist Tori Miller, d’18, was named Bowen’s replacement as director of operations. ...

Rowing’s Carrie Cook-Callen, b’07, has been promoted from interim head coach entering her second season. ... Seniors Nina Khmelnitckaiia and Janet Koch in August won the Oracle ITA National doubles championship in Fort Worth, Texas. ... Sophomore Alexandra Emilianov, who won the Big 12 discus title as a freshman, in July won gold at the IAAF World U20 Championships in Finland. KU track and field signee Zach Bradford won pole-vault silver at the World U20 meet. ... Senior Hussain Al Hizam, NCAA indoor pole vault champion and back-to-back Big 12 outdoor champion, in August tied for fifth competing for Saudi Arabia at the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Hawks earn national ranking with five wins in first six matches

Junior forward Katie McClure on Sept. 4 was named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week for the second time in the young season. McClure scored twice in a 2-1 double-overtime victory over Utah Aug. 31 at Rock Chalk Park and recorded an assist on the game-winning goal Sept. 2 against Butler.

“She came out today and was dangerous,” 20th-year coach Mark Francis said of McClure after the Utah game. The lone goal in their 1-0 victory over 25th-ranked Butler was scored on an 85th-minute corner-kick set piece by junior Elise Reina.

“I don’t even remember the beginning of the play,” Reina said of her first career goal. “I just remember getting my head down and hitting it as hard as I could into the back of the net with the outside of my foot. I saw a gap and I took the shot.”

After opening the season 5-0-1, the Jayhawks were ranked 19th nationally and sure to move up. The Jayhawks open Big 12 play against Oklahoma Sept. 21 at Rock Chalk Park.

UPDATEs

Chris Thompson, b’99, a two-time men’s golf All-American, on Aug. 19 earned a PGA Tour card, 19 years after first turning pro. Ranked No. 60 on the Web.com Tour’s money list heading into the June Wichita Open, Thompson rode a hot summer to finish among the top 25 money earners on the minor-league tour, good for admission to the big leagues next year. He’ll join Jayhawks Gary Woodland, c’07, a PGA star, and Ryan Vermeer, ‘00, who is scheduled to play six events in 2019. ...

Dedicated in 1922 in honor of the 127 men and two women from the KU community who lost their lives in World War I, Memorial Stadium on Sept. 1 was renamed David Booth Memorial Stadium. Thompson is scheduled to play six events in 2019. ...
Tailgate with fellow Jayhawks at the Adams Alumni Center!

Join us for family-friendly activities before all KU home football games.

Enjoy
- A delicious meal
- Beverages for adults and kids
- Marching band
- Kids coloring and activity sheets
- TV broadcasts of other college football games
- New! Game Day Tap Room

Home Games | Kickoff times
Sept. 1   Nicholls State, 6 p.m.
Sept. 15  Rutgers, 11 a.m.
Sept. 29  Oklahoma State, TBA
          Homecoming
Oct. 27   TCU, TBA
Nov. 3    Iowa State, TBA
Nov. 23   Texas, 11 a.m.

Tailgates start 3 hours before kickoff. Kickoff times are subject to change and have not been determined for all home games. Visit kuathletics.com for KU football updates.

21 & older • $40 per person • includes food and drinks
Under 21 • $20 per person • includes food and nonalcoholic drinks
5 years and younger • Free

To sign up, visit kualumni.org/gameday, or call 800-584-2957.
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Chris Harris Jr., c’12 (above left), a freshman cornerback on KU’s 2008 Orange Bowl team and an All-Pro with the Denver Broncos’ victorious Super Bowl 50 squad, joined Memorial Stadium’s Ring of Honor after the first quarter of the Jayhawks’ season-opening game. At halftime, Chancellor Doug Girod and Athletics Director Jeff Long (above) thanked David Booth (red tie) for his $50 million renovation gift, at which time the war-memorial venue was officially renamed David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium.
Sarah Smarsh is out to demolish your stereotypes and assumptions. About Kansas. About the white working class. About so-called red state politics in general and the Trump Train in particular. About life in the vast American middle that she believes is too readily derided as flyover country.

In searing personal essays, pointed newspaper reportage and her first book, published Sept. 18, Smarsh challenges the flawed idea at the heart of our national identity: that America is a classless society, a meritocracy where anyone who works hard will be rewarded with a giant leap on the socio-economic ladder. By drawing on her own life growing up “below the poverty line” in southeastern Kansas, surrounded by family and friends who worked their bodies from first light to late night and still struggled to pay the bills, she has established herself as a champion of those on the losing side of the cultural divide that is economic inequality. Sarah Smarsh is, to put it plainly, calling bullshit on the American Dream.

The Wichita journalist is fond of plain talk. Describing how she arrived at the book’s title, Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth, she recalls bandying about ideas with her editors at Scribner. Nothing was sticking.

“I just said to hell with it, how about I just say what it is in my family’s language?” Smarsh, c’03, j’03, recalls. “And they were like, ‘That’s the one!’”

The book chronicles the cycle of intergenerational poverty and Smarsh’s determination to avoid its causes and effects—teen pregnancy, school dropouts, alcohol abuse—as she strives to escape her hometown and her family’s fate. At the same time, Heartland pushes back against the dominant portrait of rural America, one painted in the broadest brushstrokes to portray the heartland as monolithically conservative in culture and politics. It examines Smarsh’s awakening—starting at KU—to the larger factors that have a far greater effect than hard work and ambition on a person’s economic fortunes, even as it relays a personal story of hard-won triumph over professional rejection and Smarsh’s devotion to the place that shaped her.

The pre-publication buzz has been substantial: Publisher’s Weekly and Kirkus Reviews gave Heartland starred reviews, and Scribner is getting behind the book with a national advertising campaign and 12-city author tour that includes Wichita (Sept. 18), Lawrence (Sept. 25) and Kansas City (Oct. 3), as well as New York, St. Louis and Washington, D.C. The Wichita and Lawrence readings were moved to larger rooms (Abode Venue and Liberty Hall) to meet high demand.

In the run-up to publication, Smarsh has been busy. She spent five months as a fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She wrote several articles for national publications, including an op-ed piece for The New York Times—her first accepted submission in several attempts—that became the top trending story on nytimes.com, generated some 1,600 comments and prompted the paper to invite Smarsh to respond to readers in a second piece, “a dreamy, rare opportunity for a journalist in the comment era,” she tweeted. “Liberal Blind Spots Are Hiding the Truth About ‘Trump Country,’” published July 19, showcases Smarsh’s
pennant for equal opportunity call-outs: It takes to task college-educated white liberals, corporations, the Koch brothers’ political network, middle- and upper-class white conservatives who voted for Donald Trump in numbers rivaling his support among working-class whites, and the media—for its skewed portrayal, after decades of indifference, of the white working class.

There’s a fierceness to Smarsh’s journalism, which tends to flout the convention that every story has two sides, each to be presented with equal weight in the name of balance. In commentary and reporting her voice is that of the advocate, but the advocacy doesn’t come from a place of privilege: Pieces such as “Poor Teeth” and “Dangerous idiots: how the liberal media elite failed working-class Americans,” ring with the defiant authenticity of the underdog who doesn’t much care what you think of her (or her family, who often appear in her stories to debunk widely held stereotypes about the denizens of Trump Country) even as she systematically dismantles misconceptions about who she is. Stereotypes, she notes, are one result of a cultural divide caused by economic inequality, and they allow the powerful to make harmful decisions in public policy and politics. She is determined to set the record straight because she’s determined to bridge that divide.

In July, Smarsh reported a story for the English newspaper The Guardian on a Wichita visit by progressives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders, who headlined a campaign rally in support of congressional candidate James Thompson. Drawing parallels between Thompson’s hardscrabble Midwestern upbringing and penchant for equal opportunity call-outs, Smarsh noted that “a hard story often comes with hard language.”

The fighting spirit the two aspiring legislators share, she argued, is not mere bluster or political posturing, but “a knowing of one’s own strength” and a moral conviction that some things are worth fighting for.

“It is,” she wrote with a superbly turned phrase that could also describe her own back story, “the Statue of Liberty looking a bully in the eye in a barroom and saying to someone standing behind her: ‘Hold my torch.’”

Smarsh grew up in Kingman and Wichita, a fifth-generation farm girl who was both deeply rooted and peripatetic. As she proudly recounts in Heart-

“I RODE TRACTORS ON THE SAME LAND WHERE MY ANCESTORS RODE WAGONS.”

land, “I rode tractors on the same land where my ancestors rode wagons.” But her family’s constant struggles with money meant that she moved often, living at 21 different addresses before she finished high school, bouncing from school to school and between her parents’ homes and her grandparents’ farm.

She was the first in her family to attend college (the first in her farm household to even finish high school), and she got to KU on her own initiative, landing a scholarship and juggling multiple jobs, mostly in the food-service industry, while enrolled full time. It was on Mount Oread that she first became fully aware of the concept of class.
“When I was growing up, the United States had convinced itself that class didn’t exist here,” she writes in her book. “Class was not discussed, let alone understood. This meant that, for a child of my disposition—given to prodding every family secret, to sifting through old drawers for clues about the mysterious people I loved—every day had the quiet underpinning of frustration. The defining feeling of my childhood was that of being told there wasn’t a problem when I knew damn well there was.”

Coming to KU solidified a vague, but long-held feeling that her family was different.

“For me, KU was like the fanciest place that I could ever dream,” Smarsh recalls. “When I arrived on campus, it was probably by and large kids from pretty middle-class backgrounds, but juxtaposed with my experience it appeared to me as wealth. My friends might have jobs for beer money, but their parents were helping pay their tuition. Or they might be taking out a few loans, but they didn’t spend fifth grade without lunch, as I did.”

The culture shock set her apart from her family, too.

“It was the first time in my life that I had this experience of what felt like moving between two different worlds. I’d see Desmond Tutu speak at Allen Field House and then be on the phone with my grandparents when they were done with farm chores. It’s a different language that is used in those two different spaces, but it also felt like two different selves that I couldn’t figure out how to reconcile. It creates this sad kind of distance where it’s like, ‘Now in some ways I’m never gonna be the same as the very people who loved and raised me.’”

Smarsh had known since she was a kid that she would someday write a book about her family. As a senior in KU’s McNair Scholars Program she took advantage of a summer research institute to begin piecing together, “from the ill-documented chaos that poverty begets,” her tangled family history. She conducted in-depth interviews to nail down stories and timelines. It was the beginning of a book 16 years in the making.

That its publication comes at a time when the media have since the 2016 election been “fixated,” as Smarsh has written, “on this version of the aggrieved laborer: male, Caucasian, conservative, racist, sexist,” is perhaps fitting.

“There’s a Greek word, kairos, that means ‘right timing,’” she notes. She’s smiling, but it’s a rueful smile. She tried for 10 years to get an agent and a book deal, she explains. “So maybe it’s not so much kairos as I kept knocking on the door until it opened.”

“Even at 18 she was very tenacious and committed,” says Mary Klayder, associate director of undergraduate studies and University Honors lecturer in English, who taught Smarsh in her freshman honors seminar on creative writing. “She was committed to the people in her life and understanding them and having other people understand.”

Later, when Smarsh was a senior, Klayder asked Smarsh to be her assistant for the seminar. “I wanted these freshmen to see some of that tenacity and see how she’d made writing really important to her and really personal.”

Her experience in the McNair Scholars Program, which helps underrepresented minority and low-income, first-generation college students prepare for doctoral study, introduced Smarsh to other students from her socio-economic background. It also pushed her to consider graduate school: She went on to earn an MFA in nonfiction from Columbia University’s creative writing program. After returning from New York City, she worked as a grant writer for Kansas Legal Services in Topeka and as development director for Van Go, the arts-based social service agency for teens in Lawrence. She took a job teaching college journalism, followed by a tenure-track position as a nonfiction professor at a small university.

It was then, she writes in Heartland, that she realized she’d truly escaped poverty, that “that amorphous goal I’d set as a child—to break the painful cycles I’d been handed by my family before I had any child of my own—had been reached.”

All the while she’d been continuing her work on the book and as a freelance journalist, and she eventually left academia and now works full time as a freelance journalist and speaker focusing on issues of class.

“She takes risks that other people are not willing to take to tell the story and to get at the ideas that she is discovering and wants other people to discover,” Klayder says.

Klayder regularly leads her students on trips abroad, and she remembers Smarsh’s response to one such trip.

“The Western Civ program used to do a trip to Florence and Paris, and she went in the fall of 2001,” she recalls. “It was right after 9/11. People were dropping out, and she said, ‘I’m going.’ She waited until the planes would go, and then she went.

“That’s Sarah. No hesitation.”
Heartland is foremost a family history. It details the difficult path blazed by Smarsh’s mother and grandmother, both teen mothers who worked hard all their lives to secure a modicum of success in a tough job market that cut them no breaks. It’s the story of multigenerational family farmers who stuck it out on the farm and their sons and daughters, who, seeing a decline in prospects due to market forces and public policy decisions in agriculture, trade and banking, chose to try their luck elsewhere. And it’s a memoir of Smarsh’s own life, the one she lived as well as an alternate, what-if scenario that serves as a narrative device: She often tells her story to August, a spiritual presence that embodies the daughter she determined early on that she would not conceive, in order to break the cycle of poverty. Smarsh sees August as both a stand-in for the child within her and “the formless power that I rode out of a hard place.” It’s this ghost life—a continuation of generational poverty that probabilities and statistics suggest were Smarsh’s most likely outcome and that she both escapes and carries always—that haunts the book and lends it a more reflective, elegiac tone than her journalism.

“I’d like to honor you,” Smarsh says to August early in Heartland, “by trying to articulate what no one articulated for me: what it means to be a poor child in a rich country founded on the promise of equality.” Late in the book, Smarsh concludes that America has failed its children. Determined not to fail hers, she made not bringing another child into poverty her primary goal.

But Heartland is also a book about the American family, and the story it tells is one of deep dysfunction and division. By focusing on her relatives she dramatizes the effect that public policy decisions have on people. The budget cuts that hollow out schools, the profit-driven criminalization of poverty that turns parking tickets and late utility payments into a cascade of debt and escalating legal woes, the rise of for-profit health care and predatory lending, the ascendance of industrial agriculture to the detriment of family farming—all take their toll on the people she loves. In one powerful story, she recounts how her grandmother, forced to move repeatedly to protect her daughter from a violent ex-husband, loses a custody battle for her son because her frequent address changes convince a judge that she’s incapable of providing a stable home.

Smarsh is careful to note that such societal forces often hit nonwhites even harder. But she also insists that for the white working class “both racial privilege and economic disadvantage ... can exist simultaneously.” The struggle of her family and others like it, she argues, “forced a question about America that many were not willing to face: If a person could go to work every day and still not be able to pay the bills and the reason wasn’t racism, what less articulated problem was afoot?”

The answer, of course, is class. “That we could live on a patch of Kansas dirt with a tub of Crisco lard and a $1 rebate coupon in an envelope on the kitchen counter and call ourselves middle class was at once a triumph of contentedness and a sad comment on our country’s lack of awareness about its own economic structure,” Smarsh writes. “Class didn’t exist in a democracy like ours, as far as most Americans were concerned, at least not as a destiny or an excuse. You got what you worked for, we believed. There was some truth to that. But it was not the whole truth.”

A KU sociology course, during junior year, “dismantled my political views about fiscal policy,” Smarsh writes. She says now there was nothing remotely political about the course: “It wasn’t because the professor was on some sort of liberal crusade, which Fox News would love to take as the spin on that,” she says. “It was just that she was offering information that I had never had before.”

Study after study that Smarsh encountered in her course research, she writes, “plainly said in hard numbers that, if you are poor, you are likely to stay poor, no matter how hard you work.” Feeling she’d been sold a bill of goods, she bemoaned the fact that her family kin—who distrusted government programs and believed it was possible to bootstrap your way to living the American dream—were missing that information.

But, she notes, the liberal people she met in college were also missing information: “What it feels like to pee in a cup to qualify...
for public benefits to feed your children. A teenager’s frustration when a dilapidated textbook is missing a page and there’s no computer in the house for finding the lesson online. The impossibility of paying a citation for expired auto insurance, itself impossible to pay despite fifty hours a week holding metal frying baskets at KFC.”

*Heartland*’s great triumph is that it provides that missing information to both audiences: the disadvantaged who rarely see their story told, and the rest who rarely hear it.

“She listens,” says Mary Klayder. “In class she really made her points, but she also listened to other people, and I think that’s a big part of her journalism. One of her frustrations in her work I’ve read is that people just generalize and they don’t listen to what is really the issue.”

Indeed, one of Smarsh’s chief beefs with the national press is that coastal reporting on middle America too often sets out to confirm preconceived notions—that all working class voters in red states are conservative Republicans, for example, who deserve outsized credit (or blame, depending on your political stance) for Donald Trump’s election. Focusing on only one group renders vast swaths of any spectrum—be it the electorate or certain levels of the socio-economic strata—invisible. And that makes rapprochement nigh impossible.

“If something I’ve written can validate the group that feels unseen and open eyes in the group that has the privilege of often being seen,” Smarsh says, “that’s the sweet spot I’m going for.”

In a letter included in the advance reader’s copy sent to critics, booksellers and other opinionmakers, Smarsh says her book “is not an argument” but “an invitation to heal.”

There is personal healing, for sure, in confronting harrowing memories of growing up poor, and the physical and psychic dangers poverty exposed her to. (As reviewers have noted, Smarsh admits that some of the challenges the family faced were self-created, but many more resulted from systemic problems sparked by government policy and driven by stereotypes—either misunderstandings or cynical distortions for political gain—far beyond any family’s control.)

Beyond that, however, the healing Smarsh has in mind involves the extreme polarization and divisiveness that marks the post-2016 election period.

“That was definitely in my mind, writing that in early 2018,” Smarsh says. “But in a bigger way, that election and the fissures that have been revealed, it’s all just a manifestation of unresolved aspects of class structure in this country that have been there all along.”

“I guess in the bigger scheme of things I’m talking about validating people who have felt like their story wasn’t told—I hope not to be so presumptuous as to speak for anyone else, but if someone feels seen, then that’s a healing. If someone feels like they had a stereotype or false narrative dissolved or obliterated, that’s a healing.”

Near the end of *Heartland*, Smarsh tells August, “My life’s work was to be heard, and the poor young mother will have a hard row at that.”

**Videographer Dan Storey’s coverage of Sarah Smarsh can be seen at kualumni.org/extras.**
DEGREE IN 3

KU Edwards Campus’ accelerated program fast-tracks students for success

When Eric Fecteau turns 21 next year, he’ll have far more than a milestone birthday to celebrate. He’s on track to graduate from KU in December 2019 with a degree in business administration, thanks to Degree in 3, an accelerated undergraduate degree path at KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park that helps qualifying students earn a bachelor’s degree one year early. Fecteau, the first Jayhawk expected to graduate from the program, will earn his in two and a half—a hefty accomplishment for a student who already owns his own business.

Fecteau runs Cutting Edge Lawn & Landscape, a full-service lawn care and landscaping provider in Olathe. The enterprise began about five years ago, when he and a friend started mowing neighbors’ yards to bring in extra cash. Business quickly took off, and Fecteau now manages his own routes and has hired a part-time employee. For at least eight months of the year, Fecteau works 40 to 55 hours a week, seven days a week while earning his KU degree.

The 2017 Blue Valley West graduate signed up for Degree in 3 when he was a sophomore in high school. After watching his two older brothers move away from the Kansas City area and rack up the steep costs associated with traditional four-year college degrees, Fecteau knew he wanted to explore other options. KU’s accelerated program fit the bill.

“Degree in 3 allowed me to still be at home and take advantage of the business that I’ve got and keep that going, pay for school as much as I can, and keep costs down,” says Fecteau, who also saves money by living at home with his parents. “All the KU classes are in the evenings, so I’m still able to work and have a lot of freedom during the day.”

With the Federal Reserve reporting our nation’s outstanding student debt at an all-time high of more than $1.5 trillion, Degree in 3 is an especially appealing time- and cost-efficient option for students interested in pursuing high-demand careers. Rather than committing to a four-year college degree plan, students in Degree in 3 earn dual credits in high school, complete an associate’s degree one year after graduating and finish a bachelor’s degree at the Edwards Campus two years later.

The savings can be substantial: For a freshman pursuing a liberal arts and sciences degree on the Lawrence campus, in-state tuition, course fees and books exceed $12,000 for 30 credit hours; room and board can add as much as $14,500. By comparison, Kansas students registered in Degree in 3 can expect to spend an average of $4,100 on tuition, books and fees during their first year at one of the Kansas City-area community colleges before transferring to KU Edwards Campus to complete their last two years of study. By living in the metro area, students can save even more.

The program began about four years ago when the Edwards Campus teamed up with Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) in Overland Park to create an accelerated degree path that would take advantage of the dual credits students were already earning in high school, as well as address the immediate workforce needs in the greater Kansas City area and across the nation. The program’s first offering was
a bachelor’s degree in information technology.
Since then, Degree in 3 has expanded to include the following degrees:
- biotechnology
- business administration
- exercise science
- law and society
- literature, language and writing
- molecular biosciences
- public administration.
The program also has grown to include 10 educational partners in the Kansas City metro area:
- Blue Valley Schools
- Johnson County Community College
- Kansas City Public Schools
- Kansas City Kansas Community College
- KU Edwards Campus
- Metropolitan Community College
- Olathe Public Schools
- Raytown Quality Schools
- Shawnee Mission School District
- Summit Technology Academy.
Though Degree in 3 first started taking shape several years ago, the program was formalized in June with a signing event at the Edwards Campus.
“The fact that we had this event where the heads of community colleges were in the same room with a number of superintendents and leadership from all these different school districts, I think that was really unique,” says David Cook, g’96, PhD’99, vice chancellor at the Edwards Campus. “I would venture to say that hasn’t happened before where all of us were in the same room. And I think it speaks to what everybody thinks is the power or the potential of this program.”

Lauren Roberts McEnaney, Degree in 3 adviser and education program coordinator at the Edwards Campus, explains that the name “Degree in 3” is derived not only from the three diplomas students will earn in three years, but also from three core elements of the program: educational partners, student services and industry associates in Kansas City.
As soon as students register for Degree in 3, they work closely with McEnaney for guidance and academic counseling to ensure they’re completing the coursework needed to finish on time. “Students also work with their high school counselors and their community college counselors, once they reach that level,” she says. “I tell students we’re a three-person team.”

Dual credit courses or concurrent enrollment options for high school students vary from school to school, even within the same district, explains McEnaney, g’13. “They’re mostly what you might think of as traditional educations: English composition, college algebra or calculus, American history, biology,” she says. “When you’re looking at one of the career academies, those get a little more specific, which is great for students.”

At Blue Valley CAPS, students sign up for courses in a variety of disciplines, including biosciences, engineering, business, human services, and medicine and health care, all while learning real-world, project-based skills.
“We want them emulating whatever their future career choice may be,” says Chad Ralston, director of Blue Valley CAPS, which has been in Kansas City
since 2009 and is the first of 39 CAPS programs nationwide. “We’re giving them an opportunity to try it out, maybe rule it out. That way, before they even get to the university level, they’re able to articulate a little bit more clearly what kinds of careers might align to their strengths, their passion and their purpose.”

Ralston explains that all of the CAPS curriculum is built in partnership with industries, as well as high schools and postsecondary learning institutions. That means students work directly with local and global clients, which include small startup companies, large corporations, nonprofit organizations, and area medical centers and universities, including KU.

“At the very beginning we learned: Get the students out of here,” says Ralston, d’94, g’98. “Get them into industry; get them connected to what’s out there.”

Fecteau participated in CAPS his senior year in high school, taking courses in economics and global business and working on a team with two other students to organize a donation drive for Goodwill in Kansas City. “What was nice about CAPS is that they tie in the real-world experience,” he says. “I’ve seen a lot of material in my college courses that relates back to CAPS.”

Kelechi Ofodu, a 17-year-old Missouri resident who signed up for Degree in 3 two years ago, had a similar experience at Summit Technology Academy in Lee’s Summit, Missouri. The 2018 Lee’s Summit High School graduate, who starts classes at Metropolitan Community College this fall and plans to become a physical therapist, participated in the career academy’s yearlong allied health path, which allowed her to engage in valuable hands-on labs and health care courses. She finished her experience shadowing several local physical therapy professionals, all while earning credits toward her undergraduate degree at KU.

Summit Technology Academy (STA) joined KU Edwards Campus last year as a partner in Degree in 3. For the past 20 years, the STEM-based school has been preparing students from 30 area high schools for high-wage, high-demand careers in engineering, computer science, human services and finance, and arts and communications, but it hadn’t yet developed a health care path.

Jeremy Bonnesen, director and principal at STA, was eager to add another degree option to the academy’s portfolio. “With KU’s tremendous reputation for health care,” he says, “this provides a great opportunity for students. It was a great opportunity for us to grow.”

STA also participates in the Missouri Innovation Campus program, an intensive, two-year accelerated degree path that
requires students to take courses off-site at the local community college and participate in internships as seniors in high school. Bonnesen appreciates that KU offers a comparable, but less rigid, experience for students. “The nice thing about Degree in 3 is that it provides a little more flexibility,” he says. “Students can still go to their high school during their senior year.”

Students like Ofodu can also take advantage of Edwards Campus’ MetroRate, which offers in-state tuition costs for Missouri residents. “That drops my tuition even more,” she says.

With one older sister who just completed law school in California, another in medical school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a third earning Chad Ralston, director at Blue Valley CAPS in Overland Park, visits with high school students participating in a bioscience lab (above) and creating a “mockumentary” for a filmmaking class. Kelechi Ofodu (opposite), a 17-year-old Degree in 3 student from Lee’s Summit, Missouri, starts classes at Metropolitan Community College this fall. She’ll take advantage of KU Edwards Campus’ MetroRate to pay in-state tuition costs.
a degree in film from Georgia State University—not to mention twin brothers in high school—it’s important for Ofodu to reduce the cost of her education as much as possible and relieve some of her parents’ financial burden by working while pursuing her degree, something that taking classes at KU Edwards Campus will allow her to do.

“My parents do help,” she says. “They just don’t want us to break our backs doing anything; they’d rather break theirs. But that makes me want to say, ‘OK, I’ve got to save up and make my own money, so I can take a little bit of stress off of them.”

With more than 4,000 area high school students currently enrolled in dual credit courses through Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Joe Sopcich, president of the college, knows the value of getting a head start on postsecondary education. Though not all of these students will register for Degree in 3, he considers the program an excellent solution for students looking to reduce their college costs.

“It’s not for everybody, but there’s a lot of students who are focused on just getting their degree and moving on in the career world,” says Sopcich, PhD’05, who uses Fecteau, the first student to attend JCCC on the second leg of the Degree in 3 path, as an example. “Degree in 3 isn’t meant to cannibalize anything; it’s just meant to provide another opportunity for students.”

By creating degree paths for relevant, regionally high-demand careers, David Cook hopes that Kansas City students will want to stay in the metro area—for work or graduate school—after completing the program. “We’re identifying these smart, talented kids when they’re here and exposing them to opportunities locally,” he says. “Certainly, part of what we’re hoping for is keeping great talent close to home.”

The industry partners that students work with at professional secondary-learning centers like Blue Valley CAPS or Summit Technology Academy help strengthen those community ties.

“The trend that we’ve seen here is that when students engage with a business partner, be it through a project or a traditional internship, they are very likely to continue that relationship and eventually create a job opportunity or a future career with that same company,” Chad Ralston says.

Degree in 3 students are exposed to even more industry professionals once they arrive at KU Edwards Campus. “Most of our professors are professors of practice,” says Carolyn McKnight, director of community relations and business development at the Edwards Campus. “They’ve been out in the industry working, they come back, get their PhDs and start teaching here. They have great connections out in the workforce.”

For students like Eric Fecteau and Kelechi Ofodu, who will graduate from the program in just a few short years, those connections—and the Degree in 3 experience itself—could create the ultimate foundation for future success.
Tan Man
Returns

Campus icon renews friendships at Lawrence birthday bash

John Schneider chose his own birthday—June 21, the summer solstice—and for his 75th he returned to Lawrence to party with a bunch of his old pals. His birthday fell on a Thursday this year, so the celebration was set for Saturday, June 23, at Johnny’s Tavern. “Today is kind of a Tan Man day,” observed one of his friends. “It’s beautiful. It’s sunny.”

That’s right: Tan Man was back. A bit overdressed for the occasion, perhaps, wearing a Caribbean-blue tank top along with his trademark shorts, rather than going shirtless, but the matching blue lei was a nice touch, and Tan Man worked the room with the ease of a celebrity among adoring fans, accepting greetings with a beaming smile.

For Jayhawks of a certain generation, those of us who roamed campus in the 1970s and early 1980s, Tan Man was a constant presence on Wescoe Beach, always with his shirt off, even on frigid winter days. Rumors circulated as befuddled students tried to rationalize his odd but endearing insistence on wearing nothing but shorts and shoes; a popular explanation was that Tan Man had been in the Vietnam War and had somehow been exposed to a nerve agent, or was perhaps traumatized in combat, and had lost all sensitivity to extreme temperatures. “Yeah, I heard that,” Tan Man says with a chuckle. “Not so.”

Perhaps the real explanation was far simpler: Was it merely that Schneider was a free spirit, doing his own thing, groovin’ on the sun?
He smiles and replies, “Yeah.”

Schneider was so much of a fixture on campus then that he appeared in pizza-joint advertisements and was featured on the kitschy “Surf Kansas” postcards. He attended fraternity parties, sometimes invited, sometimes not, and during the day he could almost always be spotted on a Wescoe Beach bench, leaning back, face tilted toward his constant companion, the warm Kansas sun.

He came to Lawrence in 1968, from Augusta, his hometown. He stayed busy with a variety of jobs, first in restaurants, then as a custodian in the First National Bank Tower and Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where he worked for more than 40 years, with breaks along the way for an unsuccessful move to Corpus Christi, Texas, and a failed first attempt at retirement.

In 1973, he wandered up to campus. “To see the girls and guys go by,” he explains. “And, it was sunnier up there.”

Off came the shirt and on went the legend. John Schneider bicycled up the Hill; Tan Man rode back down.

“Johnny just wanted to be around people,” says longtime family friend Nancy McEwen, who drove in from Augusta for

by Chris Lazzarino
the party. “He loved the sun and Lawrence accepted him. He basically made friends everywhere he went.”

One of those friends in 1978 suggested that if Schneider loved the sun so much he should try Texas. Schneider agreed, and a job was arranged for him on the Gulf Coast. Schneider returned to Lawrence, and Wescoe Beach, in 1980.

“He said the cops hassled him and people weren’t nice, so he came back,” recalls Barney Hubert, c’77, g’88, who met Schneider while working an office job in the downtown bank tower.

Hubert laughs at the memory of how they became pals: When Schneider bumped into Hubert during his evening cleaning duties, he’d teasingly call Hubert a hippie and offer to vacuum his long hair.

He circulated around town then on an old red bicycle, which he later traded in for a spiffy 10-speed, met up with buddies for beers or outings to the movies, and, of course, sunned himself on campus.

“He was a competitive tanner,” says Lawrence mayor Stuart Boley. “He was the king.”

When college sweethearts Marc, b’78, and Celeste Carrier Jasperson, ’79, reconnected in recent years—and married this summer—they naturally reminisced about their KU days. Poring over party pics, they found one from Phi Gamma Delta’s 1975 Fiji Island party, with Tan Man smiling for the camera right alongside them. Tan Man kept coming up in conversation, so they decided to find out what became of the mysterious guy who seemed to occupy an outsized part in their—and others’—campus memories.

“We needed to go find him,” Carrier Jasperson recalls, “but we hit dead ends.”

When one of Tan Man’s former neighbors in the trailer park behind the hospital said Tan Man might have died, they feared the worst. That’s when they recalled that Jasperson’s fraternity brother David Jervis, c’77, had been close friends with Tan Man, so they reached out to Jervis in Wichita.

“I met Johnny at Harbour Lights tavern on Mass Street,” says Jervis, who also made the trip to Lawrence for his buddy’s birthday party. “It must have been ’75. We’d sit on the juke box every Saturday night, and I guess one night he was sitting there by himself. He looked like an interesting guy, I’d seen him on campus, so I thought, ’I’m going to chat him up and see what he’s all about.’

“That’s how we became friends, and it’s lasted a long time. John and I have written letters back and forth for 30 years.”

Jervis told the Jaspersons that Schneider now lives in Rose Hill, where he’d moved in 2011 after retiring from LMH for good, to live with his sister, Donna. She died two years ago, but Schneider still makes her house his home. After speaking with
OFF CAME THE SHIRT AND ON WENT THE LEGEND.
JOHN SCHNEIDER BICYCLED UP THE HILL;
TAN MAN RODE BACK DOWN.

Jervis, the Jaspers jumped in the car and road-tripped from Overland Park to Rose Hill, southeast of Wichita; they were delighted to find Schneider in good health and spirits and eager to receive visitors.

He shared with them a scrapbook of his KU days, and when they found out Schneider’s 75th birthday was soon approaching, party plans were hatched.

Johnny’s owner Rick Renfro, b’80, knew Schneider as a favored regular of the old bar, but he’d lost track of him over the years. When Renfro learned of the request to host a Tan Man party at Johnny’s, his first reaction—as was the case for others who knew Schneider back in the day—was, “You mean he’s still alive?” Then, Renfro says, he became “a little leery.” Was somebody playing a prank on Schneider?

“A lot of the locals knew John,” Renfro says. “They never called him Tan Man; it was always Johnny. He was always well liked here, and I was worried that it was maybe a hoax of some kind, making fun of him, as some people used to do.”

Assured by the Jaspers that their intentions were good, Renfro gave his OK, and on June 23 he joined a crowd of well-wishers at the island-themed bash.

Mike Boresow, d’81, saw the party announcement on Facebook. He’d never met Tan Man, but dashed over from Olathe anyway.

“We saw him so much on campus for all those years,” Boresow says, “so I called up a bunch of my friends and said, ‘We’ve got to go to this.’”

Boley, c’77, came to Lawrence from Lenexa in 1972. It wasn’t far in distance, but Lawrence of the 1970s was a different planet from what Boley knew in Johnson County. People here embraced that decade’s spirited lifestyle, none with more easygoing, sunny sincerity than the odd guy who biked up to Wescoe Beach and sat around with his shirt off.

Tan Man, Boley learned, was an integral element of campus culture. As mayor, Boley hopes John Schneider can remind us of important lessons in civics and civility.

“He was such a wonderful part of Lawrence, and for those of us who came from other places, it was really a good introduction to what Lawrence was,” Boley says. “Lawrence was so welcoming to him, and there are a lot of other places in this world where he wouldn’t have had the reception that he had here. That’s what we want to keep with Lawrence today. You have to be more accepting of things that maybe you’ve not experienced before.”

The truth, though, is that the campus scene wasn’t always entirely welcoming to John Schneider, and in 1984 he stopped coming to campus. His decade-long run on Wescoe Beach was done.

“People didn’t speak to me anymore,” he says. “That’s probably the reason.”

Schneider retreated into his quiet life far from Mount Oread, working at the hospital and visiting friends. The legend of Tan Man faded. He was gone from campus for good.

Any lingering hard feelings, though, had long ago dissipated by the time Schneider returned to celebrate his 75th birthday.

“The brilliant summer sun outside was beckoning, but so was the opportunity to greet friends old and new.”

“I like it when people want to talk about those days,” Schneider says. “I like to share my memories.”

Schneider talks softly, with a sweet lilt in his voice, but one question in particular perked him up and brought his most enthusiastic response.

Might he one day return to Wescoe Beach?

Beaming, Schneider replied, “I don’t know. Might. Never can tell!”

So maybe the legend of Tan Man isn’t done after all. Maybe one fine sunny day there he’ll be, shirtless, a bit paunchier but happy as ever, chatting with friendly college kids while soaking up the rays, a free spirit doing his thing.
A complete makeover initiated by the prospect of budget cuts that loomed over the Kansas Honors Program—as it had been known since 1971—happily resulted in five $1,000 scholarships for high-achieving freshmen from across Kansas.

Al Shank, b’77, a member of the Association’s national Board of Directors from Liberal, recalls that when it became clear that budget cuts facing all of higher education would imperil the popular KHP—which for decades had relied upon significant financial support from the University for ceremonies across the state that honored the top 10 percent of every senior class in Kansas—the board formed a task force to reconsider KHP’s future.

“I think it was a good thing, from the standpoint that it made us look at the current program, which had been in existence since the early 1970s,” says Shank, who led the board’s KHP task force. “So it was not only deciding how to do it without being a cost burden, but it also became about, how do we make it more relevant for today’s students and honor scholars?”

After nearly a year of work by the task force, the Association’s directors voted to rebrand the program as Kansas Honor Scholars, and in 2017 rolled out a revamped format of a dozen events (down from 36 in 2016).

The programs include prominent speakers from the University, an awards ceremony that recognizes each honoree by name and punch-and-cookie receptions, but no longer feature KU musicians who traveled to each event from Lawrence and elaborate meals prepared for students and their families. Also gone are the traditional dictionaries, replaced by custom Kansas Honor Scholar medallions, and students can attend any of the events that suit their schedules and family needs.

Significantly, KHP’s many longtime volunteers and alumni statewide, who for years gave generously of their time and money, were offered the opportunity to continue their financial contributions by supporting operating costs, a new scholarship program or both.

“Our goal was to preserve the best of the program while creating new scholarship opportunities for students pursuing their education at KU,” says Association president Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09. “I think we found the right balance to sustain the program long term.”

With reduced costs and strong support from volunteers who embraced the fresh format, the Association and KU’s Office of
Admissions and Scholarships this fall awarded $1,000 scholarships to Kansas Honor Scholars Ralph Dayacap, of Wichita; Erika Landes, of Mulvane; Laura Malagon-Palacios, of Garden City; Lindsay Nichols, of Augusta; and Alexis Villanueva, of Lyons.

“I wanted to attend a school that would not be such a struggle to pay for,” says Malagon-Palacios, “so this scholarship helped me choose KU. It was definitely a factor.”

Dayacap, too, says his scholarship sealed his decision to become a Jayhawk. “These scholarships make a big difference for some people,” Dayacap says.

The Association had committed to providing $5,000 in scholarships, regardless of alumni donations; support proved so strong, however, that the scholarships were fully funded without the Association needing to dip into the operating budget for Kansas Honor Scholars—which this year adds two sites to the calendar, for a total of 14 events (see calendar, p. 8).

“It’s exciting to see that $1,000 in financial support,” Landes says, “and it’s KU alumni who make it possible.”

Also honored this fall were freshmen Javier Mendoza, of Liberal, and Raylynn Wartman, of Ulysses, who were named the latest recipients of the Herbert Rucker Woodward Memorial Scholarship, which for more than 20 years has awarded $1,000 renewable four-year scholarships to Kansas Honor Scholars.

Network leaders

Alumni recognized for steadfast service to Association

Five dedicated Jayhawks are the recipients of the 2018 Dick Wintermote Volunteer of the Year Award. They are Paul Brickler, Mary Ann Porch Caram, Chris Longino, Andrew Nolan and Joyce Davis Pulley.

 Named for Dick Wintermote, c’51, who served as executive director of the Association from 1963 to 1983 and helped establish a dedicated network of Jayhawk volunteers, the annual award honors alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership of their network and the Association.

Paul Brickler, a’02, a St. Louis native and Jayhawk Society annual member, has participated with the St. Louis Network since 2006. In 2012, he became a member of the leadership team, and in 2014, he stepped into his current role as network leader. He’s a designer, 3D rendering specialist and Building Information Modeling (BIM) expert at Kuhlmann Design Group.

Mary Ann Porch Caram, c’04, j’04, has volunteered with the Oklahoma City Network since 2016 and has attended numerous network events. An annual Jayhawk Society member, she is the North American marketing and events senior manager for IWC Schaflhung and lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Joel, and their son, Jack.

Chris Longino, b’06, is a fourth-generation Jayhawk and Life Member. He lives in Tampa with wife, Kelley, and has participated in several local network events, including a holiday toy drive for foster children, a food drive to support victims of Hurricane Irma and a fundraising event to support a local elementary school. He has led the Tampa Network since 2016. Longino is a senior field information analyst at the National Insurance Crime Bureau and also volunteers as a YMCA basketball coach.

Andy Nolan, c’95, l’98, a longtime Wichita resident, is president of the Wichita Network and has attended the Jayhawk Roundup, the network’s largest fundraising event, for the past 10 years. He is a partner at Foulston Siefkin, where he leads the firm’s recruiting committee and the tax and business team. He also served on the KU School of Law Board of Governors and is a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education. Nolan and his wife, Sheryl, are Life Members and have two children, Charlie and James.

Joyce Davis Pulley, c’77, is a third-generation Jayhawk and Life Member. As a member of the Richmond Network in Virginia, she hosted several KU watch parties before moving to California with her husband, Glenn. She currently leads the Sacramento Network and has organized several watch parties and other alumni events for local Jayhawks. She is a travel consultant at the TravelStore.
The Alumni Association’s Jayhawk Career Network is one step closer to helping students and alumni make professional connections at every life stage. The new initiative, which includes an online mentoring platform, events that unite students with alumni experts in various fields, and opportunities for job shadowing, internships and employment with alumni, is on target for a campuswide launch during Homecoming, Sept. 22-29, says Kristi Durkin Laclé, c’99, who leads the program.

The Association collaborated with the University Career Center, the Schools of Business and Engineering and other campus units to launch the new initiative, and is currently inviting KU alumni, faculty and staff to join the networking platform and participate as mentors. During Homecoming week, students will be asked to join as well.

This summer, Laclé worked closely with several campus organizations, particularly those with strong alumni bases, to help spread the word about the new program. She hopes that with the University’s 106th Homecoming approaching, alumni will want to make a meaningful connection with their alma mater and give back by assisting students and fellow graduates.

“The great thing about the mentoring platform is anybody who’s not in Lawrence can still connect back to campus in a meaningful way” Laclé says.

To learn more about the Jayhawk Career Network and to sign up to be a mentor, visit mentoring.ku.edu.

Videographer Dan Storey’s video about the Jayhawk Career Network can be seen at kualumni.org/extras.

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- Read Kansas Alumni magazine
- Use your digital membership card

app

Visit the App Store or Google Play to download, or go to kualumni.org/app

The KU Alumni Association app puts KU in the palm of your hand!
The Kansas Honor Scholar Program, which recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of Kansas high school seniors, has been a University of Kansas tradition since 1971. Nearly 140,000 students—from all 105 Kansas counties and approximately 360 high schools—have been honored for ranking academically in the top 10 percent of their class.

Last year, more than 3,600 students were recognized at 12 regional ceremonies throughout the state. Two students received the Woodward Scholarship, and five students received a one-time, $1,000 Kansas Honor Scholar Scholarship, funded entirely by alumni donations. Since 1985, more than 17,000 Kansas Honor Scholars have attended KU.

The program is made possible by KU Endowment, alumni donations and proceeds from the Alumni Association’s Jayhawk license plate program, and allows the University and the Alumni Association to create more scholarship opportunities for students. To see how you can contribute, visit kualumni.org/khs.

A commemorative program that recognizes the 2018-’19 Kansas Honor Scholars will be available for students, parents and schools to order online at kualumni.org/khs. The keepsake program includes the names of the scholars, listed by high school, along with photos from several of the regional events celebrating their achievements.
'Hawks flock to KU Kickoffs

The Alumni Association and Kansas Athletics this summer held KU Kickoff events in Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City and Lawrence. Fun activities and the opportunity to mingle with players, coaches and University leaders brought out the festive crimson-and-blue flock.
Life Members

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

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  Adam J. Wray, ’93, Medina, Washington

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Walter, p’53, and Jacqueline Crews Rickel, c’52, c’54, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July. They live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and have four children and a grandson.

Kay Cronkite Barnes, d’60, former mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, was named senior director for university engagement at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. She has worked with the university since 2007, most recently serving as senior academic ambassador and liaison.

Bryan Shewmake, c’65, e’70, g’71, and his wife, Cheryl, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.

David Gaughan, b’70, is an attorney in Sugar Land, Texas. He and his wife, Kathy, live nearby in Missouri City.

Russell Leffel, c’70, f’73, an attorney and artist in Mission Hills, has displayed his photography at several art fairs this summer. He recently received the Best Show Award in Greenville, South Carolina, and the Best in Photography Award at the Prairie Village Art Show.

Diana McAbee Tyler, f’70, is an artist and illustrator in Silver Lake. She recently donated several pieces of art to the Spencer Research Library.

Betty Kagan, c’73, chairs the KU School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures advisory board. She also is board vice president of development for the National Council of Jewish Women in St. Louis, where she makes her home.

Edwin Roberts, g’73, who directed bands for the Harrisonville School District from 1983 to 2000, was inducted in the Missouri Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame. He retired in 2015 as a consultant for Meyer Music in Kansas City. Edwin and his wife, Gail Emrick Roberts, ’71, have been married for nearly 50 years.

James Guthrie, e’74, g’77, g’01, retired as a senior project civil engineer at Black & Veatch. He and Judy Lehman Guthrie, ’72, live in Prairie Village.

Jerome McColey, c’76, h’77, recently retired after 41 years as a registered respiratory therapist. He spent the past 28 years at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, where he specialized in neonatal ICU and assisted with neonatal transports throughout Kansas.

Steven Polard, b’76, is partner and managing attorney at Coleman & Horowitz in Los Angeles.

Toni Dixon, j’77, lives in Lawrence, where she coordinates communications and outreach for KU School of Engineering.

Michael Machen, c’77, m’83, was named Kansas Physician of the Year by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. He lives in Quinter, where he is partner at Bluestem Medical and also works at Gove County Medical Center.

John Yeh, c’78, is a quality assurance analyst at Scrubs & Beyond. He lives in Valley Park, Missouri.

Ann Ardis, c’79, makes her home in Fairfax, Virginia, where she’s dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at George Mason University.

Bernard McCoy, j’79, a professor of broadcasting at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, received this year’s national Sigma Delta Chi Award for the documentary, “Black Jack Pershing: Love and War,” which he produced.

Constance Shivers-Smith, c’79, is a polysomnographer at Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Merriam.

Leigh Card, c’81, is a senior recruiter at General Dynamics Mission Systems in Fairfax, Virginia.

Elizabeth Eakin Miller, b’81, g’83, g’07, PhD’10, is chief investment officer for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System in Topeka. She was named one of this year’s Top 30 Public Pension Chief Investment Officers by Trusted Insight. Liz and Lindy, b’78, g’80, g’88, PhD’97, live in Lawrence.

Rebecca Powell Clayton, c’82, is an event coordinator for KU School of Law. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Lawrence.

Linda Pettijohn Journeys, c’82, ’05, makes her home in Norman, Oklahoma, where she retired from Cerner.

Pam Winn Shaw, c’82, m’86, directs honors and enrichment ACE undergradu-
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at medical curriculum and serves as assistant dean for medical education at KU School of Medicine. She recently was named assistant vice chancellor of academic and student affairs at the school and will transition into that role in December.

Michael O’Connell, ’83, works at Mediware Information Systems Inc. in Lexexa. He and Sharon Puddington, ’80, vice president of finance at the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, live in Olathe.

Jean Fulghum Peat, ’85, directs communications at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Foundation. She makes her home in Olathe.

Scott Williams, b’85, has joined the board of directors of Duluth Trading Company. He recently served as president of Cabela’s.

Sharon Bodin Flood, j’86, c’87, g’87, is a payroll manager at Western National Group. She makes her home in Woodstock, Georgia, with Steve, j’83, a regional general manager for Hyundai Motor America.

David O’Brien, j’86, is a sports writer for The Athletic. For the past 16 years, he covered the Atlanta Braves for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Michael Blumenthal, c’89, l’92, was elected a fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and will be honored at an installation ceremony in November. He’s a partner at Seyferth Blumenthal & Harris in Kansas City.

Ted Burns, c’89, m’92, received the 2018 Distinguished Researcher Award from the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electriodiagnostic Medicine. He is the Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of Neurology at the University of Virginia.

Fred Massoomi, PharmD’90, is senior director of hospital and health system pharmacy at Visante Inc. Sarah Terrell, f’90, owns Piano Adventures in Beacon, New York, where she’s taught piano lessons for the past eight years.

Marguerite Fitch, PhD’92, a professor of psychology at Central College in Pella, Iowa, was recognized this spring for 25 years of service.

Elizabeth Arnold Swann, c’92, g’94, is assistant vice president of sales for Cricket Wireless and AT&T prepaid wireless brands. She and her husband, James, live in Marietta, Georgia, and have two children.

Scott Hinkle, g’93, is assistant principal and athletics director at Louisburg High School. He and his wife, Amy, have been married for 27 years, and have two children, Holly and Cade.

Kevin Sigourney, c’93, is vice president of brand integrity at Prosoco Inc. He and Julie Leyba Sigourney, a’94, ’97, live in Napa, California, with their three children, Teegan, Ethan and Hannah.

Rex Walters, d’93, assistant coach of the
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Detroit Pistons, is also a basketball trainer at RAW Talent Skill Development. He was a guard at KU from 1991 to ’93.

**94 Kevin Burke, g’94,** is director of public works for the city of Peoria, Arizona.

**Leslie Luehring Fields,** j’94, is a senior stylist at the Trunk Club in Culver City, California.

**Andrew Irwin,** b’94, c’94, is an engineer in NVIDIA. He and **Cindy Garrison Irwin,** d’94, a teaching assistant for Wake County public schools, live in Cary, North Carolina.

**Todd Saltzman,** l’94, is vice president and director of case administration and operations at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in New York City.

**Todd Seifert,** j’94, directs communications at the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence, where he lives with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Emily and Joshua.

**95 Charles “Chip” Wheelock,** c’95, is global chief technology officer at ImmunoPrecise Antibodies in Victoria, British Columbia.

**96 Nataliya Grekh Anon,** g’96, won the Female CEO of the Year Award at the 2018 CEO World Awards in July. She’s founder and CEO of Svitla Systems, a custom software development and testing provider in Corte Madera, California.

**Sheahon Zenger,** PhD’96, is the new linebackers coach for the Free State High School football team in Lawrence.

**97 William Dutton,** m’97, lives in Charleston, South Carolina, where he’s medical director of the trauma unit at Trident Medical Center.

**Drew Manica,** c’97, lives in Evansville, Indiana, with this wife, Chelsea, and their daughter, Annabelle, who turned 1 in August.

**Kim Kirk-Scarborough Polson,** g’97, works at Willow Domestic Violence Center in Lawrence, where she’s a grant support specialist. She’s also owner and lead facilitator at Polson Consulting Group.

**William Stelle,** j’97, ’03, is senior director of strategy at Balance Innovations in Lenexa, where he makes his home with **Amanda Meeker Stelle,** c’98.

**98 David Crynes,** PhD’98, is head coach of cross country and track at Menlo College in Atherton, California. He also owns Courage Running Inc., an online coaching service.

**Jill Farrell Preston,** j’98, lives in Longmont, Colorado, where she manages brand marketing at Left Hand Brewing Company.

**99 Elizabeth Townley Love,** c’99, is a manager at Readiness Rounds in Eudora. She works remotely from her home in Honolulu.

**Theodore “Clark” Moeller,** c’99, was named to the board of directors at Carlaw. He’s head of EQ Development, a private equity investment company.
Paul Pierce, ’99, will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony this fall in Wichita. He played basketball for three seasons at KU before being drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1998. He became a 10-time NBA All-Star and, in 2008, an NBA champion. Paul, who is popularly known as “The Truth,” retired from professional basketball in 2017.

Darrin Tangeman, c’99, g’18, is chief administrative officer at Pueblo West Metropolitan District in Pueblo, Colorado.

Aaron Swarts, b’00, c’00, g’01, is assistant director of career services at Houston Baptist University. He and his wife, Lacey, live in League City, Texas.

Emilie Hagen, a’02, lives in San Francisco, where she’s associate director at Atelier Ten. She leads the group’s daylight practice.

Rodney Hanley, PhD’01, is president of Lake Superior State University in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan.

James Krause, b’01, works at LoanDepot in Foothill Ranch, California, where he’s an underwriter.

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01

Profile by Julie Mettenburg

Architect’s eye led Frick to her dream adventure

As a student with a new driver’s license, Kate Frick set out on country roads outside Lawrence to see where they would take her. She was intrigued by the Kansas vernacular and architecture, as a young artist and future architect herself.

A small 1879 inn in Tonganoxie caught her imagination. Frick learned it had been operated by a woman, Mollie Myers, for its first 30 years. “I left for a while, and would come back for a drive to check on old buildings, and that was an old building that piqued my interest.”

After earning a master’s in architecture and working as a design-build contractor, Frick, g’09, bought the old inn with her partner, Stephanie Marchesi, c’05. They operate it as The Myers Hotel Bar.

“The building has had a lot of incarnations,” Frick says. “A hotel, a restaurant, a hair salon, a banquet hall: It’s played a lot of different roles.”

Now they’re shaping it into a business that serves the community and preserves a piece of the past while charting a future for the old building. They offer Airbnb rentals, cocktails with a weekend charcuterie board—serving local veggies, fruits, cheeses and baguettes—and daily coffee with pastries.

“During the day, we’re the local hangout, mostly regulars looking for a good cup of Joe,” Frick says. “At night, it’s wonderful: It’s a wide array of people,” including visitors on cross-country treks and Kansas Citians “looking for something off the beaten track.”

She and Marchesi live at the inn, to help ensure the business pencils out. Finding the right enterprises to operate in the historic building has been a challenge and a joy, for which Frick’s background in architecture is a guide.

“When you have a mindset with the intention of designing, you design everything around you, which for me looks like efficiency or creating beauty or presentation. I’m always creating something that challenges my perceptions. I think that’s what good design always does, regardless of the form it takes.”

Case in point: Frick has been getting noticed for, of all things, her cocktails—botanical creations informed by her experience interning on a Vermont organic farm. Whether morning coffee cocktails or more traditional fare, her mixology features produce from area farmers and from her on-site garden and plots in the Tonganoxie Public Library community garden.

“It felt right to me that you would approach cocktailing the same way as eating, which is to see what you have around you and what’s fresh, because that’s what’s going to taste best,” she says. “So having a sensitivity to what’s available in Kansas and working with farmers to create a different drinking culture is, I think, the future of drinking.”

—Mettenburg, j’91, is a Lawrence freelance writer.
Development. He and his wife, Diana, make their home in Andover.

03 **Adam Charlsen**, c’03, is an attorney at Husch Blackwell in Omaha. **Heather Gibbs**, g’03, an assistant professor of dietetics and nutrition at KU Medical Center, in May won the 2018 Stata Norton Distinguished Teaching Award.

04 **Katherine Crowe**, c’04, received the Robin Morgan Outstanding Woman Faculty Member Award for promoting and enhancing the concerns of women at the University of Denver, where she’s curator of special collections and archives in the university libraries. **Cody Wamsley**, b’04, l’08, is an associate attorney at Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

05 **Saida Bonifield**, c’05, g’10, is the new director of KU’s Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity. She has served as interim director of the center since last September. **Laura Clark**, j’05, is associate director of tutoring at ArborBridge, an SAT and ACT test-prep service in Los Angeles. She recently returned to the United States after teaching English in Madrid for the past five years. **Mark Ernst**, e’05, is an estimator at Merrill Steel. He lives in Olathe. **Nick Krizmanic**, c’05, directs gas sales at Mueller Company. He and **Kylee Welling Krizmanic**, f’05, creative director at Meredith Corp., make their home in Indianapolis, Iowa. **Andrew Walter**, d’05, g’18, teaches at Shawnee Mission East High School in Prairie Village. **J. Bret Winblad**, e’05, m’09, is a diagnostic and interventional radiologist at MidSouth Imaging in Germantown, Tennessee.

**BORN TO:**

**Megan Meyers Starbuck**, f’05, and her husband, Brett, son, Grayden, March 26 in Topeka. Megan is a senior graphic designer at Pennington & Company in Lawrence.

06 **Meghan Bahn**, g’06, lives in Lawrence, where she’s a talent acquisition recruiter at the Results Companies. **Jessica Fergen**, j’06, is modern-media director at Brown-Forman Corporation. She makes her home in Floyds Knobs, Indiana. **Reed Knobbe**, e’05, g’18, is a project engineer at MorningStar Partners in Fort Worth, Texas. **Kelcie Longaker**, c’06, l’09, works at Offit Kurman in Fulton, Maryland, where she’s principal attorney.

07 **Jessica Alexander Hartsaw**, c’07, lives in New Caney, Texas, with her husband, Kenneth, and their daughter, Sophia. Jessica is a psychotherapist in private practice. **Paola Galaviz Ponce**, PharmD’07, is a
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A SAMPLE RATES OF RETURN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>RATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7.8%</td>
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</table>

Go to kuendowment.planmygift.org and use our Charitable Gift Annuity Calculator to figure out what your rate would be.

Class Notes

clinical pharmacist at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

08 **John Comerford**, PhD’08, is president of Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

**Jaime Hornbaker Dupy**, j’08, directs investor and strategic development for the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. She and **Matt**, b’07, g’08, live in Wichita with their two children, Hailey and Adam.

**Jason McGlynn**, b’08, is vice president of strategic planning, investor relations and treasury at Midstates Petroleum. He and his wife, Ashley, make their home in Bixby, Oklahoma, with their two children, Ronan and Harper.

**Alexander Treaster**, f’08, g’18, directs communications at Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. He resides in Prairie Village.

09 **Lisa Chauvin Bollinger**, c’09, l’12, is a claims attorney at AmeriTrust in Overland Park.

**Chad Davis**, c’09, ’13, recently finished his radiology residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and has started an interventional radiology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

**Kevin Kalm**, d’09, is an athletic trainer at Pittsburg State University. He and his wife, Morgan, live in Pittsburg.

**Will Seitter**, e’09, works for PRIER Products in Grandview, Missouri, where he’s a research and development engineer.

**Benjamin Smith**, g’09, is an analyst at MAK Capital in New York City.

**Beth Zupec**, c’09, lives in Chicago, where she’s an assistant business representative at United Scenic Artists Local USA 829.

10 **Lauren Cunningham**, j’10, g’17, g’18, directs communications for KU School of Business. She and **Ryan Waggner**, a’11, creative services manager at the Spencer Museum of Art, live in Lawrence.

**Paul Ramseyer**, g’10, is the new athletics director at Friends University in Wichita. He previously served as athletics director and vice president of student development at Hesston College.

**Brian Schmid**, j’10, g’18, is a senior marketing manager at Cox Automotive. He lives in Mission.

11 **Ashley Montgomery Billam**, c’11, j’11, l’18, makes her home in Kansas City, where she’s an associate attorney at Shamberg Johnson & Bergman.

**Timothy Cooper**, c’11, is a cooling tower specialist at Data Power Technology Group in Omaha.

**Austin Falley**, j’11, g’16, manages development at the International City/County Management Association in Washington, D.C.

**Jade Freeman**, f’11, makes his home in Needham Heights, Massachusetts, where he’s an account executive at WLNE-TV/ABC 6.

**Brianne Pfannenstiel**, c’11, j’11, was promoted to chief politics reporter at the
Des Moines Register, where she has worked since 2015. She and Joe Preiner, c’10, j’10, live in Des Moines.

**Sarah Bubash Thomas, ’12,** teaches essential skills at Champaign Unit 4 Schools in Champaign, Illinois, where she lives with her husband, Eric.

**Janene Gier Wood, j’12, ’18,** manages digital sales at Great Plains Media in Lawrence.

**MARRIED**

Marissa Rittof, j’12, I’15, and Cory Bell, ’12, May 5 in Overland Park, where they make their home. Marissa is an assistant district attorney with the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office in Olathe.

April at the Great Plains Ecotourism Symposium in Kearney, Nebraska. He’s assistant professor of geography at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

**Kirin Arnold Dowden, j’12,** is a producer at Cosmo Street, a Kansas City firm that specializes in commercials and content for TV and web.

**Sarah Salazar Huxall, d’12,** a former KU soccer player, was inducted in the Athletic Hall of Fame at Broken Arrow High School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She resides in Tulsa.

Jonathan Ahrens, b’12, g’13, was promoted to manager in the business advisory services group at RubinBrown, a national accounting and consulting firm. He works in the St. Louis office.

**Brett Chloupek, PhD’12,** presented in April at the Great Plains Ecotourism Symposium in Kearney, Nebraska. He’s assistant professor of geography at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

He is proud of KU’s record of educating primary care physicians (95th percentile nationally), producing doctors working in rural settings 10 to 15 years after graduation (96th percentile) and family medicine physicians (98th percentile).

“If you look at primary care placement and the percentage of graduating students who are placed in rural areas, it’s huge. You don’t want to train the physicians and just have them leave the state, and we’re doing that. We’re successful in keeping them here.”

Michael Machen says he’s energized by medical students he hosts: “They’re bright-eyed, they’re excited, everything they see is incredible to them, and that kind of flakes off on you.”

Machen relishes rewards of small-town medicine

Michael Machen, in July honored as Kansas Family Physician of the Year by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, greets his work days with a clarity of purpose that results from forging the right career in the right place and never doubting a minute of it.

“I get up in the morning and look in the mirror and I have no idea what I’m going to do that day, from delivering babies and taking care of major trauma, to taking care of ear infections and runny noses,” says Machen, c’77, m’83. “But, I know I’m going to have good people to work with and I’m going to have people who really care helping me out. That makes a big difference.”

Machen and his wife, Susan Schirmer Machen, ’83, Alumni Association Presidents Club members, decided after he completed his family practice residency in Tulsa to accept an offer to join Quinter’s Gove County Medical Center. He owed four years of service in an underserved Kansas community in exchange for his School of Medicine scholarship, and the Machens figured Quinter was probably as good as anywhere to check that box before moving into the next phase of his career.

“We figured we could do this for four years,” he says. “And, 35 years later …”

Machen is a partner in Quinter’s Bluestem Medical along with physicians Doug, m’03, and Shelly Steeples Gruenbacher, c’95, m’99, and they’ll be joined next year by another pair of School of Medicine Salina graduates. The dynamic physicians’ group reflects the vigor of Gove County Medical Center, which draws employees from five counties to fill its 160 jobs.

Health care in Quinter—pop. 960—is so good, Machen says, that former residents who might have spent years working in distant states often move back for the ease of access to medical care.

“To have a vibrant medical community, it means everything,” Machen says. “That—and a good school system—means a town survives and thrives.”

Machen is a champion not just for Quinter and Gove County, but for all of Kansas—specifically, primary-care education that fills gaps in underserved areas across the state. He has served as a preceptor to more than 150 KU medical students and for 20 years has directed the preceptorship program for the School of Medicine’s Northwest Kansas Network.
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Kaston Anderson-Carpenter, g’13, PhD’15, is an assistant professor of psychology at Michigan State University in East Lansing, where he lives. Virginia Brown, f’13, is a senior consultant at Pennington & Company in Lawrence. She commutes from Roeland Park.

Maggie Fey Cardonell, m’13, is a pediatric ophthalmologist at University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia, where she makes her home with Bradford, c’09, m’13, and their daughter, Caroline. Aadish Gupta, e’13, is a field engineer at Halliburton in Alberta, Canada. Alex Hyster, e’13, resides in Christiansburg, Virginia, where she’s a research scientist and engineer at CytoRecovery Inc.

Zachary Logan, c’13, lives in Kansas City, where he’s a senior account manager at Lockton Companies. Doug Quinones, c’13, is a professional golfer. He makes his home in Medford, Oregon.

Lydia Young, c’14, f’14, was promoted to earned-media manager at MBB Agency, an advertising firm in Kansas City.

Callista Buchen, PhD’15, assistant professor of English and creative writing at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana, received the Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award at the college’s commencement ceremonies in May. Eryn Doran-McHenry, e’15, is a mechanical engineer at Arup in San Francisco. Amanda Gress, c’15, g’18, directs the early childhood team at the Kansas Department of Education in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence. Mary Hauder, a’15, lives in Dallas, where she’s art director at Sliquid.

Krista Haskins, h’16, g’18, who recently received her master’s degree in occupational therapy from KU, in May received the James P. Cooney Leadership Award. Bruce Hopkins, l’16, is an attorney and author in Kansas City. He has written more than 30 books on nonprofit law, including Starting and Managing a Nonprofit Organization: A Legal Guide, which was published last year.

Kylee Kennedy, b’16, lives in Topeka, where she’s a communication specialist at Westar Energy. Jacqueline LaBarge, d’16, g’18, coordinates events for the Kansas City Chiefs. She resides in Overland Park. Daniel Peterson, g’16, is an academic advisor at KU. He lives in Lawrence. Marcy Shadden, s’16, s’18, is team lead at Comprehensive Mental Health Services in Independence, Missouri. She has two sons, Tyree and Terrell. Megan Teahan, e’16, makes her home in Glendale, California, where she’s a software engineer at the Walt Disney Company. Elizabeth Weis, b’16, is a district service and parts manager at Toyota Motor North America in San Ramon, California.

MARRIED

Kinsey McKenrick, l’16, to David Lenehan, April 14 in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. They make their home in Wilmington, Delaware, where she’s an associate attorney at Richards, Layton & Finger.

Amy Bartle, g’17, is a learning-solution manager at Sprint. She lives in Lawrence. Maggie Anderson Bowen, b’17, was promoted from director of operations to assistant coach of Kansas volleyball. She was a setter for the Jayhawks from 2012 to ’16, and helped the team reach their first Final Four in 2015 and win the Big 12 title in 2016. Erin Lanigan, e’17, lives in Huntsville, Alabama, where she’s a materials engineer for NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center. Marc Nunes, t’17, works at Rose, Klein & Marias in Ontario, California, where he’s an associate attorney who specializes in workers’ compensation. Dominic Pitts, e’17, makes his home in New York City, where he’s a software engineer for Google. Roseann Piretti, g’17, is a visiting
assistant professor at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

18 Thomas Apuzzo, h’18, lives in Leawood, where he’s a consultant at Cerner.

Dua’a Alwawi, ’18, and Ahmad Bakeer, ’18, live in Kansas City with their son, Qutaibah, who turns 1 in September.

Sarah Bethel, e’18, is a product design engineer at Amazon. She makes her home in Bellevue, Washington.

Jesse Bunge, g’18, is a vocal-music teacher at Eagle County Schools in Gypsum, Colorado.

Judith Bunting, DNP’18, is a psychiatric mental health and family nurse practitioner at Katie’s Way in Manhattan.

Elizabeth Carroll, d’18, teaches at Douglass Elementary School in Kansas City.

Rebecca Cates, n’18, is an introductory staff nurse at Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City.

Rodney Chai, g’18, resides in Pacific Grove, California, where he’s a meteorologist for the U.S. Navy.

Matthew Chomicky, g’18, is a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist at Black & Veatch in Kansas City.

Ashley Coffman, ’18, is a vocal-music teacher at Topeka High School.

Cailin Coker, j’18, coordinates email marketing at MMGY Global in Kansas City.

Lonnie Colbert, g’18, is a cyber-operations officer in the U.S. Army. He lives in Grovetown, Georgia, with his wife, Montia.

Jared Coltharp, e’18, lives in Overland Park, where he’s an electrical engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies.

Jack Cozzi, e’18, is an engineer at MGA Research in Troy, Michigan.

Mackenzie Creemans, PhD’18, works at Geosyntec Consultants in Boca Raton, Florida, where she’s a senior staff geologist.

Kimberly Darrough-Hayden, s’18, is a counselor at Ulysses High School. She and her husband, Sam, live in Ulysses.

Brenton Del Chiaro, c’18, is a hitting coach for the Milwaukee Brewers. He and his wife, Lindsay, have a son, Beckett.

Abby Marsh Dillow, c’18, is a pathfinder scout at United Service Organizations Inc. in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. She lives in Alexandria with her husband, Justin, and their son, Christopher.

Megan Docherty, g’18, is an intensive-needs teacher at International School Basel in Reinach, Switzerland.

Jayce Donnelly, c’18, works at Shamrock Trading Corp. in Overland Park, where he’s a client operations specialist.

Tara Dunn, g’18, lives in Harrison, Nebraska, with her husband, Josh, and their two sons, Jesse and Seth. She’s a special-education coordinator for Sioux County Schools.

Janee Osborn Duran, c’18, is a case manager at Arrowhead West in Dodge City. She lives in Cimarron with her husband, Dallas, and their son, Easton.

Kaylee Edwards, s’18, works at Ameri-
can Century Investments in Kansas City, where she's a client services representative. She lives in Mission with her husband, Leon, and their son, Leon III, who just turned 1.

**Abigail Eisenhutt**, s’18, is a day-treatment specialist at Cornerstones of Care in Kansas City.

**Maria Ernst**, j’18, lives in Geneva, Illinois, where she’s a customer service coordinator at ShopperTrak.

**Garrett Farlow**, c’18, j’18, is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He’s based in Alabama.

**Chelsey Faulkner**, c’18, is a research assistant at a clinical and forensic neuropsychology firm in Brea, California.

**Gabrielle Finkelstein**, c’18, is a costume rental specialist at Kansas City Costume in Raytown.

**Haley Flickinger**, c’18, resides in Wichita, where she’s a research technician at Wichita State University.

**Rebecca Fowler**, b’18, makes her home in Overland Park, where she’s a management consulting associate at RSM US, an audit, tax and consulting firm.

**Martha Gabehart**, g’18, is executive director at the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns in Topeka.

**Shane Garrison**, g’18, is an audit associate at Grant Thornton in Overland Park.

**Nicholas Geidner**, b’18, lives in Antioch, Illinois, where he’s an accountant at Uline.

**David Goodman**, c’18, works in sales at Internet Brands in El Segundo, California.

**Jacob Hartley**, g’18, teaches in the North Kansas City School District. He makes his home in Gladstone.

**Joshua Herzog**, g’18, is a U.S. Army operations officer at Fort Bliss, Texas. He can Century Investments in Kansas City, where she’s a client services representative. She lives in Mission with her husband, Leon, and their son, Leon III, who just turned 1.

**Jeff Stevens** says he regularly hears from Wellbeing patrons who finally feel comfortable socializing: “All of sudden, there’s this idea of being able to connect over beers again.”

Working in partnership with O’Fallon Brewery, Wellbeing’s secret is to first brew “fully finished beer,” then “gently remove the alcohol in a vacuum at room temperature, so nothing is ever boiled, nothing is ever ruined.”

Now that he’s brewing his own, Stevens can finally experience the craft beer explosion that he’d previously missed.

“NA beers are afterthoughts for brewers that brew alcohol beer. All we focus on is this. That’s why we have a brand called Hellraiser, because we literally wanted everyone to know, ‘I’m here to raise as much hell as you; I’m just not going to drink.’”
and his wife, Lauren, live in El Paso.

Elizabeth Schraeger Hirt, c’18, teaches kindergarten at St. John Catholic School in Lawrence. She commutes from Olathe.

Robert Hisle, g’18, is a teacher in Topeka, where he lives with Kayleen Fleming Hisle, d’10, g’12.

Ashley Hocking, j’18, is a communications specialist at KU School of Law.

Megan Utter Hocking, c’18, is a design engineer at Saint Gobain in Ravenna, Ohio. She makes her home in Uniontown with her husband, Nicholas.

Sarah Hogan, e’18, works at Henderson Engineers in Overland Park, where she’s a mechanical designer.

Stephanie Paulsen Honn, g’18, is a media strategist at Meredith Corp. She and her husband, Jesse, live in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Kailey Horosz, d’18, teaches first grade at Madison Elementary School in Gardner.

Ryan Hunt, b’18, resides in Wichita, where he’s a business development analyst at Koch Industries.

Jason Hurd, s’18, is a recovery advocate at First Call in Kansas City.

Tanner Hyland, g’18, makes his home in New York City, where he’s a designer at Woods Bagot.

Kristin Considine Ianno, g’18, lives in Dubuque, Iowa, with her husband, Philip, and their son, Luke, who turns 1 in October.

Nicholas Jenia, e’18, works as a code consultant at FSC Inc. in Overland Park.

Dylan Jones, c’18, is a field director on the committee to elect Steve Watkins, who’s running for U.S. Congress.

Alex Kong, PharmD’18, lives in Lawrence, where he’s a researcher at the Access to Medicine Foundation.

Jaclyn Landis Hall LeMaster, g’18, teaches special education at OK Elementary School in Wichita, where she makes her home with her husband, Jeremy.

Jose Leon, c’18, directs public works for the city of Roeland Park.

Megan Lewis, g’18, is a club host for Sporting Kansas City.

Brandon Lombardino, c’18, b’18, is a business specialist at Cerner in Kansas City. He commutes from Lawrence.

Debabrata Majhi, g’18, is a research informatics developer. He resides in Overland Park.

Jennifer Manka, s’18, works for Johnson County in the department of human services. She and her husband, Keith, live in Shawnee and have two children, Caleb and Athena.

Quentin McClung, b’18, is a supply chain supervisor at JCPenney in Lenexa.

Joseph McConnell, c’18, is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Anne, live in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Kelley McQuillen, a’18, lives in Los Angeles, where she’s a presentation designer at MullenLowe.

Nolan Medley, b’18, is an analyst at American International Group. He makes his home in Topeka.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 27
Homecoming Parade, 6 p.m., Downtown Mass Street

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28
Hawks on Tap, 3-5 p.m., Adams Alumni Center – Toast the successful launch of KU Mentoring. Students, alumni and campus friends welcome. Specials on beer and wine for Jayhawks 21+.

Late Night in the Phog, Allen Field House

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29
KU Alumni Association Member Tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

KU Football vs. Oklahoma State, Memorial Stadium

Stomp the Hill Step Show, Presented by KU National Pan-Hellenic Council Inc., 7:30 p.m., Woodruff Auditorium

CONNECT FROM AFAR
Home on the Hill storytelling – Share your story! Where did you find your home on the Hill? Tell us on social media @KUAumni tag #KUHomecoming.

For a complete list of Homecoming events, visit homecoming.ku.edu.
Thank You
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These restaurant partners support the Association by providing food for student programs and alumni events. We appreciate and thank them for their support.
Alexandra Krzemian Mejia, g’18, produces and edits video for Sporting Kansas City. Rose-Bertine Mercier, d’18, is a research assistant at KU Medical Center. She resides in Kansas City. Kayla Moore, g’18, is an associate wealth advisor at Mariner Wealth Advisors in Overland Park. Joseph Muiller, g’18, is an administrative fellow with the University of Kansas Health System. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Lenexa with their daughter, Julia, who just turned 1.

Sarah Murphy, g’18, makes her home in Wichita, where she’s a senior accountant at Koch Industries. Tammy Nguyen, e’18, is a chemical engineer at Honeywell International in Kansas City. Edward Nixon, g’18, lives in Port Orchard, Washington, where he’s a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. Kyle Oglesbee, b’18, is an inside-sales adviser at Spring Venture Group in Kansas City. Kristin Grosche Pedersen, g’18, is a clinical associate professor of speech-language-hearing at KU. Rose Perkins, g’18, teaches at State Street Elementary School in Topeka. Laveda Peterlin, PhD’18, lives in Leavenworth, where she’s an assistant professor of digital communications at the University of Saint Mary. Amanda Sewell Prosser, g’18, coordinates special projects at Kansas Healthcare Collaborative in Topeka. Rebecca Reilly, e’18, is a civil engineer in training at Black & Veatch in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Brogan Reitz, e’18, resides in Houston.

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Alumna’s graduation is a family victory

When Shannon Pettersson was a young girl, the second oldest in a family of six children in Orem, Utah, she suffered from an undiagnosed vision disorder. But rather than let it hinder her ability to learn and participate in activities, she developed new skills to compensate.

“It didn’t get in the way of me being successful,” insists Pettersson, who finally got her first pair of glasses when she was 26. “It just meant that I had to adapt.”

Years later, Pettersson’s drive to succeed and overcome struggles continues to pay off. In May, the 30-year-old wife and mother of two earned her master’s degree in occupational therapy from KU and landed a job at Reach Pediatric Therapy in Houston, where she’ll work with children who suffer from a wide range of challenges and disorders, including autism.

It’s a job that seems handpicked for Pettersson. When her son, Danny, was 2 years old he was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome, a condition on the autism spectrum. “He struggled a lot,” says Pettersson, h’16, g’18. “He had a lot of meltdowns, a lot of tantrums. We had difficulty with feeding and dressing and riding in the car. I didn’t realize that so many things were uncomfortable for him.”

Pettersson and her husband, Jeremy, enlisted the help of an occupational therapist, who visited their home in Utah and showed them ways to meet their son’s special needs. Pettersson was intrigued by the interventional assistance they received and began researching options for a career in occupational therapy. KU’s graduate program topped the list.

“Everything seemed to point toward Kansas,” she says. “We just got in the car and drove, hoping that it would work out.”

After all, Pettersson didn’t think things could get worse. The family, which included newborn daughter Kylee, had been struggling to make ends meet after Danny was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition and needed surgery. Pettersson’s husband had been laid off after only a few months in a new job.

But while a move to the Midwest—and the hope of Pettersson’s acceptance into graduate school—seemed promising, the family’s difficulties continued. Her husband’s new sales job required long hours and barely paid the bills. Pettersson, who was still trying to finish her undergraduate degree online while taking care of two young children, took on a part-time job to help. Even then, they could only afford two modest meals a day.

“At that point I had to choose between finishing my degree so I could apply to KU, or working more hours and having more money for food,” Pettersson says.

The family pushed through, getting by on just two meals a day for the next eight months, until Pettersson was accepted into KU’s master of occupational therapy program. Her graduation this year was a celebration for the entire family.

“I would never say, ‘When I graduate,’’ says Pettersson, who’s saving for a down payment on a house and has promised her children a dog. “It would always be, ‘When we graduate,’ because it was a family effort. “We had to have a lot of faith and hope, even when things didn’t look like they were going to turn out. We just couldn’t fail. We had to keep trying.”

“It’s very fulfilling,” Shannon Pettersson says of her job as a pediatric occupational therapist. “I will be helping a lot of parents who are in the same place that I was six years ago.”

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<th>Destination</th>
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<tr>
<td>South African Explorer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astounding Antarctica</td>
<td>January 20–February 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costa Rica's Natural Heritage</td>
<td>January 21–31</td>
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<td>Sparkling South Pacific</td>
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<td>The Galapagos Islands</td>
<td>January 23–30</td>
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<td>Legends of the Nile</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Patagonian Frontiers</td>
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<td>Cruise the Heart of Europe*</td>
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<td>Springtime in Provence</td>
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<td>Baltic Sea</td>
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<td>Celtic Lands SOLD OUT</td>
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<td>Italy's Magnificent Lake District</td>
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<td>Great Journey Through Europe</td>
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<td>Ancient Empires</td>
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<td>Arctic Expedition</td>
<td>June 21–July 1</td>
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<td>Africa's Wildlife</td>
<td>July 24–August 6</td>
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<td>Canadian Maritimes</td>
<td>July 25–August 4</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>July 31–August 8</td>
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<td>Normandy* Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day</td>
<td>May 28–June 7</td>
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<td>Exploring Iceland</td>
<td>August 29–September 8</td>
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<td>Inspiring Italy</td>
<td>September 1-12</td>
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<td>Wonders of Peru</td>
<td>September 26–October 7</td>
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<td>Great Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>September 15–23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta</td>
<td>October 11-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passage Along the Danube River</td>
<td>October 12-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Majestic Vistas</td>
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<td>Cruising Coastal Vietnam</td>
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<td>Island Life - Ancient Greece</td>
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*No Single Supplement

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

Zach Butler, c’18, and his wife, Abbie, daughter, Saydie, March 17 in Artesia, New Mexico, where Zach directs human resources at J.S. Ward & Sons.

Ashton Lee Kendall, ’18, and her husband, Lee, daughter, Kenlee, April 26 in Pratt. Ashton is a physical therapist at Key Rehab.

Stephen Moll, m’18, and his wife, Hayley, son, Lincoln, Dec. 22, in Salina, where Stephen is a resident physician.

Melissa Gomez Mulich, PharmD’18, and her husband, Dustin, son, Cohen, April 8 in Kansas City, where he joins a sister, Isabella, 7.

Jake, c’18, and Megan Hessel Wenzel, c’18, son, Kobe, April 14 in Olathe.

ASSOCIATES

Shawn Jurgensen, assoc., is special counsel to the chief justice at the Kansas Judicial Branch in Topeka. He and Laura, assoc., make their home in Lawrence and have two sons, Owen and Lucas.

Aliana Souder, j’18, is a national stylist at Trunk Club in Chicago.

Deandre Steele, c’18, lives in Lawrence, where he’s a correctional officer at Douglas County Department of Criminal Justice Services. He has a son, Braylon, who turned 1 in May.

Stephanie Suppes, g’18, is an elementary school teacher in Hutchinson, where she lives with her husband, Ryan, and their children, Madison, Makenzie and Lincoln.

Benjamin Tschudy, d’18, works in partner services at Jayhawk IMG Sports Marketing in Lawrence.

Lauren Vaughan, g’18, lives in Wichita, where she’s a speech-language pathologist at HeartSpring.

Michaela Walker, g’18, coordinates clinical research at KU Medical Center.

Jeremy Willard, c’18, lives in Lawrence, where he’s an IT support technician at KU.

Katherine Wipfli, c’18, is a technology analyst at Accenture in Overland Park.

Whitney Wrestler, c’18, is a substitute teacher with Morgan Hunter in Overland Park. She lives in Lawrence.

Jeani Rice-Cranford, g’18, is a science lab technician at Nashville State Community College in Waverly, Tennessee, where she lives with her partner, Sandra.

Maria Richardson, ’18, teaches Spanish at Bonner Springs High School.

Laura Sadowski, s’18, lives in Dodge City, where she’s a therapist at Compass Behavioral Health.

Chanel Scott, c’18, is a human-rights assistant for the city of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ashley Shepherd, e’18, is an officer in the U.S. Navy. She resides in Stafford, Virginia.

Lauren Sherwood, e’18, lives in Chicago, where she’s a consultant engineer at FM Global.

Abigail Smith, c’18, is a lighting assistant at Two River Theatre Company in Red Bank, New Jersey.

Cozetta Smith, g’18, works for KMBC-TV in Kansas City, where she’s a news producer.

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In Memory

Kathryn Martin Aldis, n’45, 95, June 12 in Mission. She was president of her local P.E.O. Sisterhood chapter and a member for more than 50 years. Three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Geraldine Crago Allen, c’43, 95, April 1 in Overland Park. She lived in Houston for many years, where she was a social worker. Survivors include a son, David, c’73, g’75; and four grandchildren.

William Allen, c’44, m’46, 95, May 19 in Leavenworth, where he retired after 50 years as a radiologist. Surviving are three sons, William Jr., c’68, m’78, Timothy, m’76, and Mark, m’80; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert Bailey, c’48, 90, May 10 in Springboro, Ohio. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons, one of whom is Lorne, c’87; a daughter, Laura, ’90; a stepdaughter; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth “Joan” Schindling Cook, j’48, g’75, 91, March 6 in Lansing, where she was a teacher at Leavenworth public schools. Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Cook Farrar, d’75; three sons, one of whom is Charles, c’76; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Elizabeth Austin Hensley, c’44, 94, May 11 in Wichita, where she taught flute and performed internationally with the Kansas Arts Commission. She is survived by three sons, Doug, c’70, Bill, c’73, l’76, and Larry, d’77, b’81; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

William Miller, b’49, 95, June 15 in Fort Dodge. He was president of Hancock Real Estate in Dodge City and later founded Miller Appraisal Service. He is survived by two sons, a stepdaughter, a stepson, a sister, five grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Ruth Prentice Schroll, c’45, 94, March 2 in Hutchinson, where she was president of the local music club and a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She also taught Sunday school. She is survived by her husband, Jack, c’45, m’49; three daughters, Nancy Schroll Buda, d’68, g’69, Kathryn Schroll Graves, c’71, m’74, and Barbara Schroll Saathoff, b’76; a son, John, c’73, m’76; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Gordon Sondker, b’49, e’49, 91, May 13 in Longview, Washington, where he worked for the Longview Fiber Company. Surviving are a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

Marjory Stroup Walters, c’46, c’47, 93, June 19 in Bridgewater, New Jersey. She worked at Philip Levine Laboratories in Raritan. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Vera “Slats” Hodges Wilson, b’49, 92, April 26 in Fort Worth, Texas. She was a financial analyst at the Western Company of North America. Survivors include two daughters, three sons, a brother, 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Richard “Dean” Bauer, p’58, 82, July 2 in Coffeyville, Kansas, where he was a pharmacist and owned Layton-Bauer Drug and Cherryvale Pharmacy. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Brad, d’90, g’94; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Marcia Droegemueller Blumberg, d’59, 83, June 12 in Wichita, where she was a retired loan officer. Survivors include a daughter, two sons, a sister, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Robert Brownlee, g’51, 94, May 2 in Loveland, Colorado. He was a retired nuclear weapons scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. In 2015, an asteroid, 15970 RobertBrownlee, was named in his honor. Two sons, three daughters, 18 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren survive.

Carol Brumfield Chatelain, f’57, d’57, g’70, 83, June 9 in Prairie Village. She taught music at Tomahawk Elementary School for more than 30 years and was a longtime member of the Kansas City Civic Orchestra. She is survived by her husband, Richard, d’59; two daughters, Jeanne Chatelain Tseng, b’79, g’80, and Cherie Chatelain Fowler, ’83; a brother; a grandson; and a great-grandson.

Edith Evelyn Audas Crousseau, p’54, 87, May 29 in Basehor. She was a pharmacist at several locations in Kansas City. Survivors include a daughter, Amy, d’84, g’92; a son, Jeff, ’15; and two grandchildren.

Charles “Doc” Cunnick, c’51, g’53, 92, June 19 in McPherson, where he was a physician and served as the county coroner for more than 25 years. He also was a pharmaceutical sales representative. Surviving are his wife, Gloria Angotti Cunnick, c’52; five daughters, one of whom is Mary Cunnick Tinsley, d’83; three sons, one of whom is Paul, ’83; and six grandchildren.

Clarice Gertson Emig, c’57, 82, May 10 in Abilene, where she managed her husband’s optometric practice and was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is survived by her husband, Dale, ’56; a daughter, Cindy Emig Penzler, c’81, m’85; a son, Mark, c’84, m’88; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Joel Fitzgerald, c’52, 88, June 23 in Ness City, where he was a funeral director and owned Fitzgerald Funeral Home. Surviving are his wife, Ann; a son, Joel Jr., d’91; a daughter; a sister, Mary Fitzgerald McKee, n’68; and six grandchildren.

Emily Hartman, c’53, g’55, PhD’57, 85, April 4 in Grand Junction, Colorado. She was a professor of botany at the University of Colorado in Denver. Several nephews survive.

Wilbur Dale Hawley, ’51, 90, May 29 in Overland Park. He was a retired dentist. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a son, Dan, m’00; a daughter; a brother; and two granddaughters.

David Hill, c’56, 83, May 26 in Boulder, Colorado, where he was an attorney and...
co-founded the law firm Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti. Surviving are his wife, Joan Scholes Hill, C’56; a daughter; a son; two brothers, Stephen, C’59, and Justin, C’66; and three grandchildren.

Donald Hopkins, C’58, 81, April 22 in Emeryville, California. He was an attorney and served as district representative for Congressman Ronald Dellums from 1972 to ’94. Survivors include a daughter; two sisters, one of whom is Anita Hopkins Walker, G’76; two brothers; and a granddaughter.

Joan Sanders Jaimes, D’50, 89, May 12 in St. Louis. She lived in Overland Park for several years, where she was an elementary school teacher and directed the Shawnee Mission Women’s Chorale. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two sons and two grandchildren survive.

Robert Jones, A’53, 87, June 14 in Topeka, where he was an architect. Surviving are his wife, Norma; two daughters, Karen Jones Miller, ’81, and Shelley Jones Krane, g’93; a son, Martin, ’83; a brother; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

William Justus, M’55, 88, May 29 in Overland Park. He was a physician in Pleasanton for more than 50 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A daughter and a sister survive.

Eugene Keller, C’54, I’55, 90, May 26 in Phoenix. He had a long career as an attorney. Surviving are a son, a sister, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John Keller, B’52, 87, June 23 in Winter Haven, Florida. He was a business owner and active in several organizations in the Kansas City area. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two sons, one of whom is Gib, C’79; two stepdaughters; a stepson; four grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Harold Lee, E’50, 91, June 5 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he was a retired mechanical engineer. Surviving are a daughter, two sons, three stepdaughters, five stepsons and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Beverly Emerson Locke, C’50, 89, May 24 in Rapid City, South Dakota. She was a homemaker and longtime volunteer in her community. A daughter, two sons, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive.

William Lytle, ’51, 89, June 1 in Overland Park. He had a long career in broadcasting and negotiated the sale of several radio stations nationwide. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, assoc.; four sons, one of whom is Michael, C’78; three daughters, two of whom are Catherine Humphreys Spencer, C’83, and Christina Lytle Stephens, C’86, ’02; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Joseph McClelland, ’55, 85, March 2 in Independence. He received a Bronze Star Medal for his service in the Vietnam War. Several nieces and a nephew survive.

Steve Mills, C’51, 88, Feb. 27 in Los Angeles, where he was retired vice president of motion pictures for television and miniseries at CBS. Surviving is his wife, Barbara Nash Mills, D’51; four sons; a sister, Marian Mills Godfrey, D’50; and 11 grandchildren.

Harold Morgan, C’59, 81, June 8 in Blue Springs, Missouri. He worked in radio and television before becoming director of travel and tourism at the Iowa Development Commission. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Clark Morgan, ’58; three sons, one of whom is David, ’80; nine grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Ivy Conderman Powell, B’50, 88, March 11 in Santa Cruz, California. She was assistant to the president at Crown Prince Inc. A daughter and two sons survive.

Jack Roach, B’51, 88, May 10 in Leawood, where he was an employment specialist for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

Mary Flournoy Rotor Sailor, G’58, 90, June 14 in Davenport, Iowa. She was a special-education teacher. Surviving are her husband, Loren, two daughters, a son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Salome, C’52, 87, July 1 in Belle Aire. She was an office assistant at Wichita State University. Survivors include a daughter, Anne Rouse Maraccini, C’80, D’82; three sons, one of whom is John Rouse, C’85; a brother, William Salome, ’51; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marilyn McIntire Schulte, D’58, 82, May 22 in Pittsburgh, where she was a homemaker and active in several philanthropic organizations. She is survived by her husband, William, B’54, G’61; two daughters; a son; a brother, Mason McIntire, C’67, G’69; a sister; and nine grandchildren.

Philip Smith, C’50, 89, June 30 in St. Louis. He was a language professor at several universities and community colleges in the Midwest. A son, a daughter, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive.

Jim Stinson, E’50, 91, May 18 in Madisonville, Kentucky, where he retired after more than 40 years as a civil engineer. He is survived by two daughters, Julie Stinson Castor, B’78, and Janet Stinson Buie, C’86, B’01; a son, Jeff, C’82, G’85; a stepdaughter; a stepson; nine grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Nan Mosby Thompson, ’54, 86, June 16 in Greenwood Village, Colorado, where she was a homemaker and active in her community. Surviving are her husband, Clyde, B’52; three sons, two of whom are Mark, I’80, and Todd, B’85; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Serilda “Pete” Clapp Thompson, D’50, 88, June 19 in Wichita. She managed her husband’s medical practice and was a financial officer for the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Martha Thompson Stroot, n’72; and two sons.

Roy Wilbur, B’52, 87, May 8 in Salina, where he was a retired flight instructor and president of Wilbur Construction Inc. He is survived by two sons, Thomas, B’77, and Paul, B’80, G’82; two brothers, one of whom is Raymond, EdD’73; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

J. Robert Wilson, C’50, I’53, 90, May 21 in Centennial, Colorado. He was an attorney and retired as president and chairman of KN Energy in Lakewood. A memorial has been established with KU
In Memory

Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Marguerite, and a son.

Deanne Phillips Wright, c'59, 80, May 15 in Wellington, Colorado. She hosted a radio program on KSAC/KKSU, a division of K-State’s Cooperative Extension Service. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Earl; a daughter, Heather, c'90; a son; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

Sam Zuercher, c'58, 84, May 12 in San Diego, where he was a retired director of human resources at Fiatallis North America and the Hesston Corp. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Evelyn Hall Zuercher, j'58; a daughter; a son; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

60s

George Brenner, p'66, PhD'71, 74, May 11 in Richmond, Virginia. He was a professor and chaired the department of pharmacology and physiology at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Robinson Brenner, '67; a son, John, '05; a daughter; a sister, Brenda Brenner Grasmick, c'69; a brother, James, c'75; and four grandchildren.

Charles “Chuck” Elvin, '60, 80, June 20 in Olathe. He had a long career with TWA/American Airlines. He is survived by his partner, Sandy; three sons, two of whom are Brian, b'86, and Bill, '94; a brother; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Don Eversmeyer, e'65, 75, April 25 in Kansas City. He was a systems engineer at IBM and retired after 30 years with the company. A sister survives.

Dorothy Meyer Gerhardt, b'68, 74, May 27 in Topeka, where she was an executive secretary for the Kansas chapter of the Appraisal Institute. Survivors include her husband, Ed, EdD'71; two daughters; a son; two sisters, one of whom is Jean Meyer Barta, n'67; a brother, Warren Meyer, m'74; and two grandsons.

Howard Hoffman, a'67, 74, Aug. 12, 2017, in Manalapan, New Jersey. He was a retired architect who spent 35 years at SLCE Architects in New York City.

Joanne Morrison Howard, g'66, PhD'70, 77, Feb. 23 in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She is survived by her husband, Cleve, c'63, m'67; two sons; and three grandchildren.

Charla Jenkins, j'69, 70, July 25 in Lawrence, where she had directed public relations for KU’s theatre department. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A sister survives.

Richard Mattingly, c'60, 80, April 3 in Columbia, Missouri. He was professor of philosophy, dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs at Westminster College in Fulton. Survivors include his wife, Susan Shotliff Mattingly, c'63; a son; and a sister.

Joe Morris, b'61, 78, Aug. 5 in Leawood, where he was a retired chairman of Western Financial Corp. He served as national chair of the KU Alumni Association from 2007 to '08, and also served on the steering committee for KU Endowment's Far Above fundraising campaign. In 2006, he received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for his service to the University. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Susan, assoc.; three sons, Joe, b'88, David, a'91, and Scott, j'93; and six grandchildren.

Nels Royce Nelson, b'69, l'72, 70, May 21 in Salina. He was an attorney in estate planning and tax law at Hampton and Royce. Surviving are his wife, Linda Krell Nelson, c'69, g'71; three daughters, Polly Nelson Peters, c'97, g'99, Amy Nelson Friedel, c'98, and Carrie Nelson, c'00, 05; his mother; a sister, Dana Nelson Hale, n'71, g'95; a brother, Doug, b'72, g'74; and three grandsons.

Arthur Piculell, l'65, 82, April 28 in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was a residential property developer and owned the Piculell Group and Homesite Development. A daughter, a son and a sister survive.

James Ranson, c'60, 80, July 2 in Wichita, where he was a retired attorney with the IRS. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Jim Rising, c'64, PhD'68, 75, March 13 in Toronto. He was an ornithologist and had a 40-year career as professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Toronto. Surviving are his wife, Trudy Kite Rising, g'68; two sons; two brothers, Dean, c'62, m'66, and John, d'68; and three grandsons.

Frances Dunwell Kokrda Russell, d'66, g'75, 89, May 26 in Overland Park, where she taught at Shawnee Mission Health’s Britain Infant Development Center. She is survived by her husband, Gary, b'58; two sons; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Curran Warren, g'65, 90, May 10 in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin. She was an assistant professor of political science at Loyola University in Chicago. Survivors include four daughters, one of whom is Kathryn, c'72; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Garrett Wheaton, g'66, 85, June 11 in McPherson. He was a teacher and coach at several Kansas high schools, including Lyons High School, where he also served as athletics and activities director for nearly 30 years. Surviving are his wife, Patricia, assoc.; two sons, David, '80, and Sheldon, '80; a stepson, Corwin Lusk, c'92; a stepdaughter; a sister; two grandsons; and several step-grandchildren.

70s

L. Scott Banks, c'77, 62, June 13 in Wichita, where he founded Red Oak Energy and Banks Resources. He is survived by his wife, Michele; two daughters, Carly, j'11, '12, and Olivia, 13; a son; a stepson; his father; a brother; and a sister.

Melvin Barber, g'74, PhD'80, 77, June 27 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a professor of sociology at several universities, including Florida A&M University. Survivors include his wife, Rowena, three daughters and a sister.

Robert Fambrough, c'70, 70, May 30 in Lawrence. He worked for Diamond Everley Roofing. Surviving are three daughters, two of whom are Francesca, '02, and Veronica Fambrough Shallcross, '02; a son; a brother, Preston, c'68; and four grandchildren.

Dale Friessen, m'74, 71, June 26 in Lawrence, where he was an anesthesiologist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital for nearly 40 years. A memorial has been
established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Connie, '85; two sons, Jeff, b'94, and Ryan, c'96; and four grandchildren.

Betty Wigner Holste, '74, 65, June 13 in Union Township. She and her husband were farmers, and she also was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Her husband, Roger; and a brother, Harry Wigner, c'77, survive.

William Manning, c'73, 75, June 3 in Washington, D.C. He had been a city planner in New York, Washington, D.C. and Kansas. Survivors include a brother, Michael, c'66; and a sister, Nora, '60.

Donald Sneegas Jr., b'79, 60, June 10 in Dallas, where he was a senior estimator at Alpha Insulation. He is survived by his wife, Edye; his father, Donald, b'55; and two brothers, Randy, b'78, and Steve, f'83.

Neal Edward Hinton, g'81, 74, June 7 in Lawrence. He taught English and science fiction literature. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by three sons, one of whom is Joshua, c'12; a daughter; two brothers; a sister; and two grandchildren.

J. Mark King, b'88, 53, July 4 in Missouri. He was a former resident of Overland Park.

Jeanne Leonard, '85, 74, April 11 in Overland Park. She was a retired high school teacher. Her husband, William, '65; and two sisters survive.

Steven Miller, h'84, 62, June 22 in Kansas City. Surviving are his wife, Kathy; a daughter; his mother; a brother, James, c'87; and a sister.

Kate Brosnahan Spade, '86, 55, June 5 in New York City, where she was a fashion designer and founded two international brands, Kate Spade New York and Frances Valentine. Survivors include her husband, Andy; a daughter; four sisters; two of whom are Ann Brosnahan DiVita, '82, and Eve Brosnahan, '88; and a brother.

Bridget Harrison, m'10, 34, May 5 in Houston. She was an assistant professor of plastic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include her parents, Paul, m'74, and Carolyn Fitzpatrick Harrison, '74; and two sisters, one of whom is Alicia, m'04.

Joseph LeMark, c'18, 23, May 19 in Gravoids Mills, Missouri. Survivors include his parents, a brother, a sister and his grandmother.

MacKenzie Payne, c'17, 22, June 26 in Wichita. She recently had been accepted into the KU School of Medicine. Her parents, a brother, her grandparents and a great-grandmother survive.

Katie Pudas, c'18, j'18, 21, July 19 in Vietnam. She was a volunteer at the Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity. Survivors include her parents, two sisters and her grandparents.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Charles Hoag, 86, June 19 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the School of Music. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Mary Tuven, g'70; two daughters, one of whom is Andrea Hoag, c'95; a sister; and four grandchildren.

William Hogan, 75, May 15 in Minnetonka, Minnesota. He was professor of electrical engineering and assistant dean of minority affairs, now known as KU Engineering Diversity & Women's Programs. Survivors include his wife, Shadra, '84; a daughter, Shalaun Hogan Newton, b'91; a son, William III, c'01; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Richard Kay, assoc., 87, July 13 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of history. He is survived by his wife, Sherry Needham Kay, c'70, g'74; a son; a daughter; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Gail Thursz, '83; and a granddaughter.

Marlin Rein, g'63, 81, May 4 in Kansas City. He held several roles at KU, retiring in 2002 as director of budget and governmental affairs. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Mark, '87; a daughter; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Delbert "Del" Shankel, assoc., 90, July 12 in Lawrence. He began his career at KU in 1959 as an assistant professor of microbiology and was promoted to full professor, while also assuming interim roles as dean, athletics director, vice chancellor for academic affairs, executive vice chancellor and interim president of the Alumni Association. He twice served as interim chancellor from 1980 to '81 and 1994 to '95 before being named the University's 15th chancellor in 1995. In 2010, the Shankel Structural Biology Center on West Campus was named in his honor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Carol Mulford Shankel, '68; two daughters, Jill Shankel Lopez, '88, and Kelley Shankel Hahn, '93; two brothers; and two grandchildren.

Ange Butler Stalcup, d'57, h'81, 83, May 23 in Lawrence. She was an occupational therapist at KU Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Kirk, '82, and Scott, a'86; a sister, Barbara Butler Hazen, d'57; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Robert Weber, c'47, m'49, 91, May 11 in Kansas City. He was an internist in Salina and taught at KU School of Medicine-Salina after retiring from practice. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Strang Weber, c'49; a daughter, Carol Weber Linnens, d'72; three sons, one of whom is William, '76; a sister; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

James Adkins, assoc., 90, July 16 in Cottonwood Falls, where he was a retired major in the Kansas Highway Patrol. Surviving are his wife, Elaine, assoc.; two sons, David, c'83, l'86, and William, '85; a sister; and a granddaughter.

Clarence Boyer, assoc., 89, May 11 in Olathe. He is survived by a son, Michael, d'70, g'74; two daughters, one of whom is Kim Boyer Gordon, c'76; a sister; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Wilma Jean Vasquez, assoc., 84, May 2 in Olathe. She was a psychiatric aide at the Osawatomie State Hospital. Surviving are her husband, Joe, s'77, s'78; a son, Joseph, c'89; a daughter; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
Farmworks
Exhibition, book continue artist’s long focus on Kansas landscapes

Larry Schwarm, f’69, g’76, was in graduate school when he was assigned to photograph Kansas landscapes in 1974 for a documentary art project designed by James Enyeart and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Enyeart was curator of photography at what was then the University of Kansas Museum of Art, a precursor of the Spencer Museum of Art. A native of Washington state, he visited western Kansas to see in-laws who lived on a farm homesteaded by their ancestors. “It was that drive west,” Enyeart, g’72, told Kansas Alumni in 2016, “that began to form a very different view of what I thought Kansas was all about and that needed to be recorded for a much broader audience.”

Enyeart documented architecture for the project, “No Mountains in the Way,” and assigned Terry Evans, f’68, to focus on people and Schwarm, who grew up on a farm near Greensburg, to shoot the land. “Until then I’d been photographing people and trying to be an urban photographer, because that was the model I was emulating from the famous photographers at that particular moment,” Schwarm says. “When I was assigned to photograph Kansas landscapes, it was like this door opened up. Like, ‘My god, of course this is what I should be doing, because this is what I know best.’”

Schwarm’s newest project, “Kansas Farmers,” an exhibition of 50 photographs that depict farm life across the state, is a continuation of the work that has proved to be a constant in his career. The show runs through Jan. 6 at the Spencer.

“I think what keeps drawing me back is that on a very unconscious level it’s the reference that I was born into,” Schwarm says of his enduring fascination with a visual subject—Kansas’ wide open spaces—that, he admits, many people describe as boring. “As a kid, I knew nothing but a flat horizon line and anything that broke that horizon line was monumental. I think on an unconscious level it’s just embedded in my brain.”

The assignment this time was the result of a National Science Foundation funded research project, “Biofuels and Climate Change: Farmers’ Land Use Decisions,” that enlisted three Kansas universities—KU, Kansas State and Wichita State (where Schwarm is Distinguished Professor of Photography)—to study impacts of climate change and biofuels on farmers and farmland. Schwarm’s commission grew out of discussions between study director Dietrich Earnhart and Saralyn
Reece Hardy, c’76, g’94, the Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer, who urged Earnhart to include a visual artist in the interdisciplinary project, part of the museum’s focus on integrating art into campus research.

By photographing farms at all scales and locales—family farms and factory farms from Atchison to Elkhart—Schwarm followed his own research interests, according to Kate Meyer, g’04, PhD’11, curator of the exhibition and editor of the accompanying catalog, Kansas Farmers, published by University Press of Kansas. “He would reveal the faces of the kinds of farmers whose land-use decisions were being studied,” she writes. “He would capture the ways those decisions were and are made.”

“During the first meeting where I shared photographs with the group, I said, ‘I sort of see my mission as putting a face on your project,’” Schwarm says of his work with the research team. “Because what they were doing was creating a lot of data and scientific information that seems very abstract to most people. The lay person is not gonna get much information out of that; they need to see that there’s really human beings doing this and this is what they’re going through.”

In portraits of a farmer and his dog, a morning meeting on a 27,000-acre megafarm in Colby, three generations of farmers filling a stock tank, and a chain of workers tossing tires to weight a tarp covering a silage pile, Schwarm frames the human presence up front. In other photos people are merely glimpsed, silhouetted behind the sun-flared window of a tractor, hidden in the cockpit of a low-flying cropduster, or strolling down the main street of a desolate rural town. In others the hand of man is implied, deduced by its visible impact on the land: in the neat grids of stubble and looping windrows of cut alfalfa, in the bobbing pumpjacks, drizzling irrigation rigs and rusting graveyards of old equipment.

Above all, in these 50 photographs—every last one a horizontal—the wide Kansas sky dominates. Some of the loveliest of Schwarm’s many beautiful compositions are abstract studies that contrast the broad blue expanse with equally vast fields of wheat and cotton—two immense plains separated by a ribbon of train cars or green corn or that flat horizon line that has fascinated Schwarm since childhood. Now as then, what stands apart from that long, thin border between earth and sky is indeed monumental.

—Steven Hill

Digital asset
Black Book Interactive Project furthers work with ACLS grant

Thanks to a $150,000 digital extension grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the University’s Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) will soon be able to expand its efforts to build the first searchable digital collection of previously unavailable and understudied African-American novels. The database was originally developed to help bridge a “digital divide,” the gap that exists between technological advancement and the study of black-authored texts.

BBIP is the brainchild of the Project on the History of Black Writing, a research program brought to KU nearly 20 years ago by Maryemma Graham, University Distinguished Professor of English and lead investigator for BBIP.

“It was an idea I had started when I was a grad student,” she says. “We were just beginning to think about a whole field called African-American literary history or literary culture. I was just zeroing in on what I loved, and that was reading novels.”

Back in the early ’80s, Graham traveled across the country, working with a team of scholars to collect books from libraries and other sources and make photocopies that could be compiled into a usable collection.

“Years go by, and we realized that we had this precious cargo that nobody else had,” Graham says. “But nobody knew about it because we had it.”

Since its initial funding in 2014 by KU and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Black Book Interactive Project has scanned more than 1,250 books for its database. Another 415 have already been converted to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) text, a form of
searchable, machine-encoded text.

Graham is working closely with Arnab Chakraborty, a doctoral student in English and the project’s full-time manager, who explains that KU has partnered with the University of Chicago to transform the remaining scans into OCRs, something the ACLS grant will help fund.

The project has also partnered with the College Language Association, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Libraries Alliance, and KU’s Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities.

“Hopefully, this model is something that can grow and other people can emulate,” says Graham, “if not for this project, then adapt it to something else.”

—Heather Biele

Mystery solved

Spencer researchers reveal artist behind popular portrait

Following decades of speculation, researchers at the Spencer Museum of Art have finally determined that British portrait artist John Vanderbank likely painted one of the museum’s most beloved and intriguing works of art: “Mrs. Thomas Pelham,” a stunningly provocative and nearly life-size portrait of Annetta Pelham, the wife of a prestigious textile merchant in 1920s England.

The unsigned painting, which anchors the museum’s exhibition “The Empire of Things,” was acquired from a New York gallery in 1950 and had originally been attributed to William Hoare. Decades later, sometime before the 1980s, the portrait was reattributed to Joseph Highmore, though there had always been doubt about that as well. Susan Earle, Spencer’s curator of European and American art, has spent several years researching the painting’s origin.

“We’ve done work on and off for years,” she says, “trying to figure out the attribution of the painting, but also just trying to give it more context to understand how unusual this portrayal is.”

The eye-catching painting depicts Annetta Pelham suggestively posed in a revealing, richly embroidered Turkish gown, a subtle, knowing smile on her face. “She seems incredibly self-possessed and mysterious,” Earle says. “I just find that quite extraordinary for this time period.”

Over the years, Earle has enlisted the help of student interns to conduct some of the research. Tyler York, g’12, a doctoral student in art history and last year’s Spencer’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ Loo Family Intern for European and American Art, picked up where his predecessor, Chassica Kirchhoff, g’11, PhD’18, left off. By searching digitized records in British archives, the two determined that Annetta died just a few years after marrying Thomas, narrowing the time frame when the portrait could have been commissioned. In addition, they uncovered a business connection between the Vanderbanks and the Pelhams: John Vanderbank’s father was a leading tapestry maker in England, and Thomas Pelham was a prominent tapestry merchant. John Vanderbank’s brother also named one of his sons Moses Pelham Vanderbank.

York points out that stylistically, the painting matches other works by Vanderbank, which often included a uniquely rendered background, an emphasis on textiles and distinct facial details. “There are all these connective tissues,” he says. “There wasn’t one aha moment.”

Confident that years of research now reveal a strong enough link between John Vanderbank and the Pelhams, Earle and
Krishtalka uses detective fiction to explore badlands mysteries

Professor Leonard Krishtalka, director of the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, has devoted his career to exploring the earth’s eternal and futile effort to reach equilibrium. Plates on the planet’s crust shift and grind, mountains rise, wind and weather and water wear them down, and new geologic formations and lifeforms emerge from the chaos.

“The earth is always trying to stay in equilibrium, and failing,” Krishtalka says. “The earth is never in equilibrium. It’s always changing. It’s always subject to terrific topographic changes because of these forces. For me, it’s the same metaphor for humans on the earth.

“We’re always trying to stay in equilibrium with our situation, our condition, our relationships, and in some areas failing and in some areas succeeding, depending on our adaptations.”

In hopes of exploring that human condition, the fervent scientist 20 years ago began turning toward a private pursuit of creative writing. A lifelong fan of mystery and detective novels, Krishtalka turned to the genre to help him weave a story blending his passions for paleontology, North American badlands and human conflict.

In June, Krishtalka published The Bone Field, featuring paleontologist-turned-private-detective Harry Przewalski. The story opens with the Pittsburgh detective answering a call from an assistant to the director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who reports that one of the museum’s most-renowned field scientists, Peter Marchand, has gone missing in Wyoming and they’d like Przewalski’s help in finding him.

Przewalski had once worked with Marchand, “digging up the past, excavating the intrigues left by a vanished world imperfectly preserved.” The same can be said for the present world, the detective discovers as he thrusts himself into the midst of a chaotic field scene at the site of an important, and interrupted, dig in the Wyoming badlands.

“The rule of thumb is, you write what you know. And this is what I know and know best,” Krishtalka says. “I know science, I know paleontology, I know field work, I know museums. I know the characters who are involved, I know what their personalities are like, what drives them.”

Many amateur fans of detective fiction have tried and failed to mimic their favorites. Krishtalka’s novel, though, succeeds. He does not allow his passion for the genre to devolve into fan fiction, instead cooking up an intriguing detective story that adds fascinating science to the typical ingredients of sexual intrigue, greed and betrayal.

Krishtalka began work on The Bone Field about the time he left his field work at the Carnegie Museum to become director of KU’s Museum of Natural History. Two more volumes in the Iron City Mysteries series—one of which will bring Przewalski to KU—are already completed and await a publisher.

His fascination with paleontology began, Krishtalka says, when he was “instantly seduced” by the “raw, primeval” badlands he first encountered in Alberta, Canada: “I always wanted to get that seduction across, how beautiful that landscape is, how awesome.”

The second thing that attracted Krishtalka to paleontology is “that it asked ultimate questions. How do you explain the diversity of life on earth and how it changed from 3 billion years ago to the present? How do you explain the extinction of dinosaurs, the rise of mammals, and hundreds of thousands of other questions. So that combination of seductive landscape and ultimate questions, that was it. I needed to be a paleontologist. And, in many ways, it’s the same motivation for writing the book.”

A side benefit, Krishtalka adds, is that a novel allows him to explore “wild thinking” about earth’s natural forces that would never have a chance of being published in scientific literature.

“I can put the science that I write about in the novel into the much larger context of humankind and society and the human condition, and why it matters. Why does the science we do matter? How does it integrate itself into, one would hope, the common good, or improving society? What are the lessons learned?”

—Chris Lazzarino

York wrote a proposal this summer for the reattribution of the painting and created a new object label, which now hangs on the wall next to the portrait.

“I’m happy to have the new attribution out there,” Earle says, “because even if someone proves it wrong, it’s much more likely that someone will find it.”

—Heather Biele

The Bone Field
by Leonard Krishtalka
Gatekeeper Press, $11.98

Krishtalka
Unfurled early on the morning of Aug. 31 by Adams Alumni Center director Ben Shepley and the Association’s facility associates, Super Jay made its fall semester debut for the Student Alumni Network’s Home Football Friday tailgate lunch buffet and the Sept. 1 Game Day at the Adams pregame tailgate celebration.
For decades, Kenneth Spencer Research Library has stood as a pillar of knowledge throughout the state of Kansas and beyond. Researchers, students, and community members alike have gathered in the hallowed spaces of the library to surround themselves with world-class collections and resources.

Dedicated on November 8, 1968, Spencer Research Library will celebrate 50 years this fall. Join us to celebrate the semicentennial — exactly fifty years to the day — on November 8, 2018. With an exhibition featuring treasured items from the collections, selected by patrons, friends, and KU colleagues, the celebration will be one to remember.

Visit lib.ku.edu/ksrl-50 to learn about all of the events and programming surrounding the 50th anniversary.
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