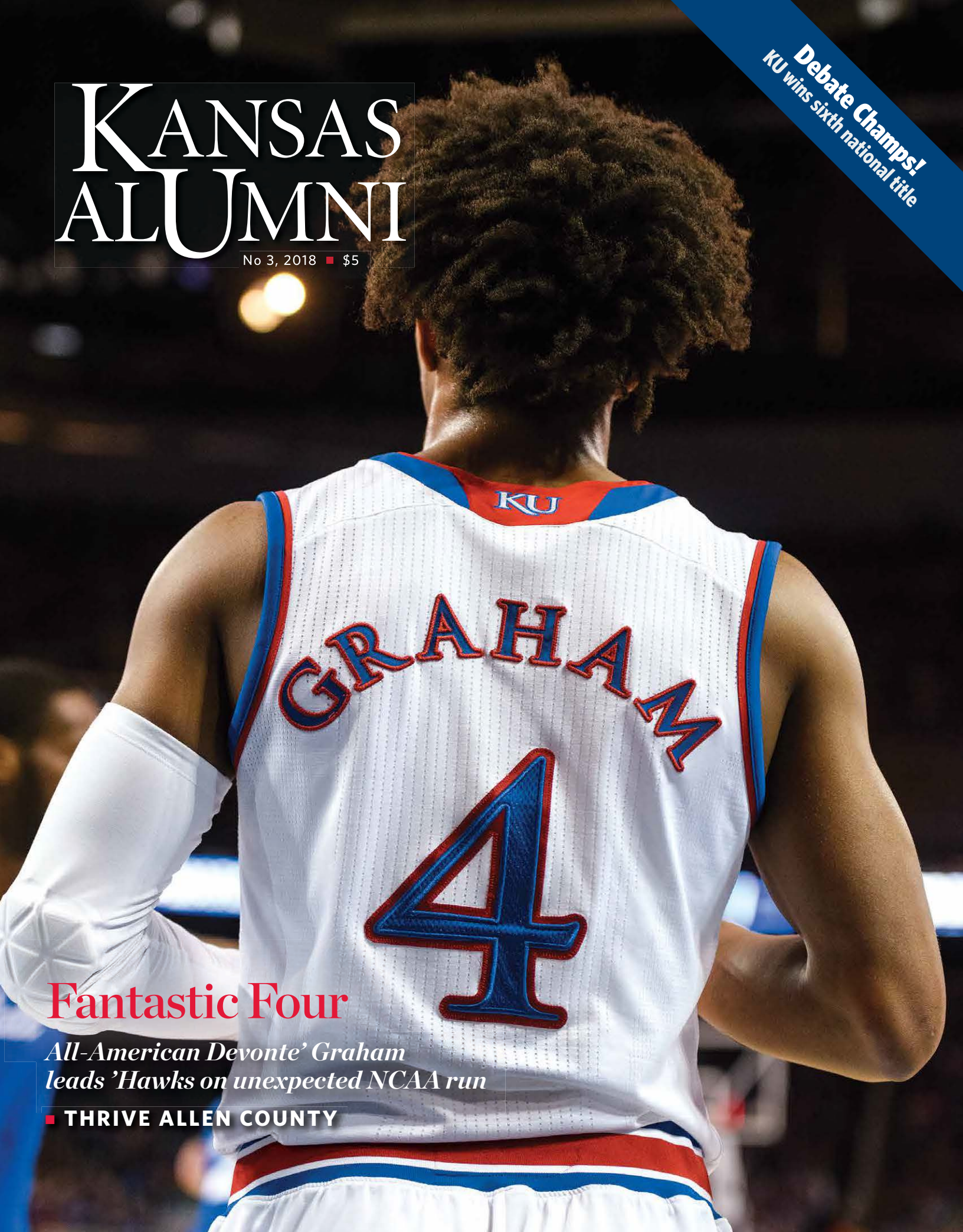


KANSAS ALUMNI

No 3, 2018 ■ \$5

Debate Champs!
KU wins sixth national title



Fantastic Four

*All-American Devonte' Graham
leads 'Hawks on unexpected NCAA run*

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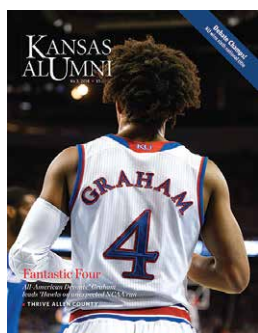
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Enjoy the Moment

Men's basketball was unable to reproduce its San Antonio Final Four success of 2008, yet the Jayhawks' NCAA Tournament will be long remembered for an epic Elite Eight victory over Duke.

By Chris Lazzarino

*Cover photograph
by Steve Puppe*

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Simply the Best

No KU team has won more national titles than the debate squad, and championship No. 6—captured in March after a record-setting season—may be the most impressive of all.

By Heather Biele

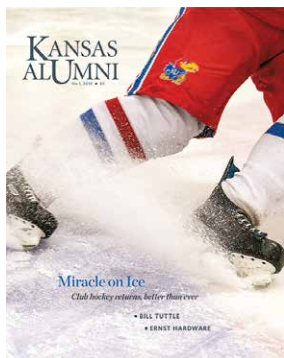
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Thrive Where You're Sown

Led by native son David Toland, Allen County is on a mission to become the healthiest rural county in Kansas.

By Steven Hill

Lift the Chorus



Ernst Jayhawks

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your recent article about Rod Ernst and Ernst & Son Hardware ["He's Got It If He Can Find It," issue No. 1].

Steven Hill's writing cheerfully conveys the mood of the store and its owner, and Steve Puppe's photographs convey the store's atmosphere perfectly. You created a very fitting tribute to Rod, whose personality contributed to the character of downtown Lawrence for years.

As the story mentions, Rod had a history of employing KU students. I photographed this group of Ernst/KU alumni, who were in town for Rod's funeral service. It was a strong turnout, and there are probably again as many former employees who couldn't be in town.

Thanks again for featuring our friend, Rod!

Jon Blumb, g'81
Lawrence

Editor's Note: As mentioned in issue No. 2, Rod Ernst, c'57, longtime proprietor of Ernst & Son Hardware, staunch Jayhawk and subject of a feature story in issue No. 1, died Jan. 23. Ernst's family announced on Facebook in April that the store will soon close, ending its 113-year run. As Kansas Alumni went to press the family announced that the History Channel's "American Pickers" would film an episode at the Mass Street landmark.



L-R: James Beyer, junior in architecture; Mike Sutton, e'89; Alan Brandsted, c'10; Matt Falkenstien, c'11; Eddie Wilson, senior in film; Bryan Anderson, c'02; Jake Elder, c'13; Scott Pohlenz, a'92; Gregg Anderson, '81; Aaron Lamer, junior in architecture; Bryant Lamer, c'97; Blaine Harris, senior in engineering; Gabe Anderson, e'04; Garrett Sullivan, c'98, m'05; and Paul Foutz, c'93.

Longtime fan

I AM QUITE LOYAL TO KU basketball. My only athletic claim to fame is that in 1952, in a boxing class, I sometimes boxed some of the basketball players who went on to play in the Helsinki Olympics. They said I "wore them out." They got the backache bending over trying to reach me.

This year for the Elite Eight and Final Four, I got a lot of attention at a local sports bar for being about 15 years older than anyone else there. I had a reserved seat in the crowded place, and many wanted their pictures taken with me.

I enjoy my alumni magazine.

Lyle Hampton, c'52
La Jolla, California

Greek gratitude

AS A FELLOW KU GREEK and Hodgkin lymphoma patient, I send my personal thanks to Steve Sears and to *Kansas Alumni* for highlighting Sears' lifesaving work with Be The Match and the National Bone Marrow Program ["KU Greeks launch marrow match program," Hilltopics, issue No. 2].

Stephanie Petersen
Kucera, c'11, g'14
Overland Park

A blot on his plate

I AM A RESIDENT of Oregon, where automobile license plates have three numbers and three big letters. I purchased a new car last month and my



Your opinion counts

Please email us a note at kualumni@kualumni.org to tell us what you think of your alumni magazine.

license plates have arrived. Much to my chagrin, the three letters on my plate are "KSU."

I am aghast! How can I possibly drive my car with those letters emblazoned on both the front and back of my ride?

I seriously suspect that there may be an alumnus of that other Kansas university working in the Oregon license bureau who has a warped sense of humor and has decided to play a cruel joke on me.

Imagine the agony I will go through when asked for auto identification on all kinds of forms—even when checking in to an (unnamed) cheap motel! And what will I do when a driver passes me and waves with enthusiasm?

Please, does the KU Alumni Association have a department to help victims such as myself?

Brooke Collison, d'56, g'62
Corvallis, Oregon

Editor's Note: A KU Alumni Association Member window cling sounds like just the ticket. Put your KU pride on your ride, and leave no doubt where your loyalties lie.

As for other drivers mistaking you for a Wildcat, we endorse the sage advice of Skipper, the scheming penguin of "Madagascar" fame. "Just smile and wave, boys. Smile and wave."

May 2018

KANSAS ALUMNI

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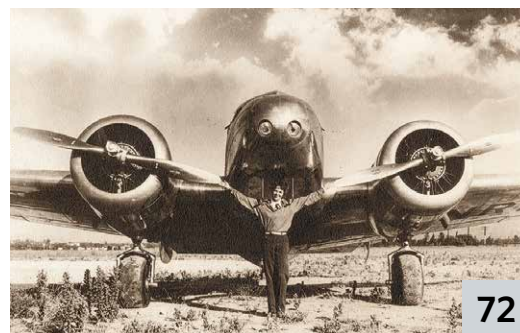
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Deaths in the KU family

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Jantz chases Earhart mystery; Averill finds drama in history; professor makes battery breakthrough.

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Scene on campus



IGNITE POTENTIAL

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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Carol Swanson Ritchie, d'54, always knew where to find her sweetheart on campus. "Scott practically lived in Lindley Hall," she says of her husband, A. Scott Ritchie, c'54, then an ardent student of geology. "He would say, 'Just come on over to Lindley and meet me.'"

"I'll never forget the first time I walked in the side door. It was so dark—just awful. Other students were working there, too, and I didn't know how any of them could see a thing they were doing."

She grimaces at the memory, then flashes a mischievous grin. "I guess you could say we started thinking way back then that the geology students needed a new place."

The University dedicated the new place for geology and much more April 25, when the Ritchie family, the family of Donald Slawson, c'55, fellow donors, students, faculty and KU leaders celebrated the majestic new Earth, Energy & Environment Center (EEEC), which comprises Ritchie and Slawson halls. The two structures crown the western corner of Jayhawk Boulevard and cascade down Naismith Drive to the corner of 15th Street. Elegant striations of terra cotta and rugged limestone accents echo the Kansas landscape and its geology, along with the heritage of Mount Oread. Visible through massive glass walls on the west, suspended fossils of a mosasaur and sea turtle, predator and prey, recall the ancient past.

The halls are home to geology classrooms and offices as well as laboratories for the geosciences, chemical and petroleum engineering and the Tertiary Oil Recovery Program. They connect to each other and to Lindley and Learned Hall (the historic heart of the School of Engineering complex) via bridge, tunnel and a dramatic skywalk above Naismith Drive. To the east, the G-Hawk Courtyard features native prairie grasses and signage that shares

the history of KU geology studies and invites visitors to explore 30 boulders and smaller rock specimens from every continent.

Long before they joined forces on the project, the Ritchie and Slawson families, both of Wichita, shared a friendship through multigenerational KU legacies and loyalty as well as their respective businesses in oil exploration. Scott and Carol Ritchie and Don Slawson each received the Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion for their extensive volunteer service to KU. Don led the Association as national president from 1983 to '84; Carol led as national chair from 1999 to 2000. In addition, Don chaired the Kansas Board of Regents from 1987 to 1993.

At the dedication, Robert Goldstein, Haas Distinguished Professor of Geology, traced the origins of the EEEEC, explaining that the refrain, "We need to do something about Lindley Hall," first surfaced among faculty and alumni leaders in 1971. The project gained momentum in 2004, when "Scott and Carol Ritchie and their family stepped forward and proved that a truly transformative building project was feasible," said Goldstein, who also serves as the provost's special advisor on campus development and was a driving force behind the EEEEC.

A few years after the Ritchies made their gift, R. Todd Slawson, e'84, was searching for a way to honor his father, Don, who was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Ultimately, Todd and his mother, Judy Garver Slawson, '57, and his brothers, Craig, c'80, and Steve, resolved to help build a companion to Ritchie Hall. With commitments from other donors, including Robert Beren (the petroleum center inside Slawson Hall bears his name), and the state of Kansas, KU completed "phase two" of a comprehensive project years earlier than anyone had hoped. The EEEEC—already nicknamed "Earth, Wind & Fire"—opened in January.

As plans took shape, Todd showed his father early designs of the project he would not live to see; Don died in 2014. "It was just the perfect honor for him because he loved geology so much," Todd said. "He loved Kansas and the oil business, and it's the perfect fit to have the energy building joining Lindley and Learned together."

Todd's mother warned him that a prominent campus corner demanded a beautiful landmark. "She said, 'I'm going to have your butt if you build an ugly building on the corner of Broadway and Main on that campus.' So I did the only thing I could: I put her in charge of the design." Todd traveled often from his home in Denver and picked up his mom in Wichita for meetings in Lawrence. "Carol and Judy have their fingerprints all over the building," he said. "They worked with the architects at Gould Evans on the outside aesthetics."

Outside and in, the results are stunning. Atop two busy corners, the EEEEC evokes the splendor and serenity of the Flint Hills and honors the singular Hill, an enduring home so treasured by the Ritchies and the Slawsons—and the entire Jayhawk family.

On the Boulevard

COURTESY LIED CENTER (7)



Something Rotten!

The Lied Center will celebrate its silver anniversary with captivating performances that include (clockwise from right) Kodo One Earth Tour, Parsons Dance, violinist Joshua Bell, Elf the Musical, comedy legends Steve Martin and Martin Short, the Vincent Herring Duo, and the Broadway hit "Something Rotten!"

Exhibitions

"Big Botany: Conversations with the Plant World," Spencer Museum of Art, through July 15

"Pledges of Allegiance," The Commons, through July 31

"Paying Homage: Celebrating the Diversity of Men in Quilts," Spencer Museum of Art, June 2 through Aug. 26.



Vincent Herring Duo

Lied Center 25th-Anniversary 2018-'19 Season

AUGUST

12 Michael McDonald

SEPTEMBER

24, 25 Tootie Heath Trio featuring Emmet Cohen

27 KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Blake Pouliot, violin

30 Steve Martin & Martin Short: "An Evening You Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life"

OCTOBER

4 Joshua Bell, violin

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

28 Purna Loka Ensemble

29 Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company

NOVEMBER

4 Monty Python's "Spamalot"

7 Elf the Musical

17 Dan Zanes & Claudia Eliaza

27 Jane Lynch: "A Swingin' Little Christmas!"

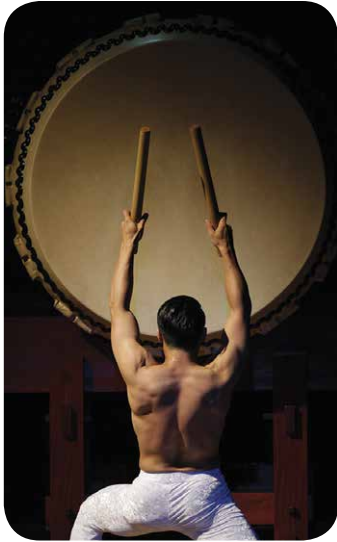
DECEMBER

3, 4 Vincent Herring Duo

9 Canadian Brass Christmas

Steve Martin and Martin Short





Kodo

- 10** David Wilcox
- 19** Kodo One Earth Tour 2019: "Evolution"

MARCH

- 3** Cirque Éloize: "Saloon"
- 18, 19** Sara Gazarek Duo
- 24** Zlatomir Fung, cello

APRIL

- 4** KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Renee Rosnes, piano
- 5** Nataanii Means
- 7** Lucy Kaplansky
- 10** Kenny Broberg, Van



Elf the Musical

Cliburn International Piano Competition

- 12** "Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure"
- 14** WindSync
- 21** "Finding Neverland"
- 26** Parsons Dance

MAY

- 3** "Something Rotten!"
- 6** New York Philharmonic String Quartet

Academic Calendar

JUNE

- 5** Summer classes begin

JULY

- 27** Summer classes end

AUGUST

- 20** Fall classes begin

Alumni Events

MAY

- 26** 5th-Annual Bikes and Breweries, WestFax Brewing Co., Denver
- 26** Texas Rangers vs. Kansas City Royals, Globe Life Park, Arlington, Texas

JUNE

- 20** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- 25** KU Alumni Invitational at Prairie Dunes, Hutchinson
- 30** Seattle Mariners vs. Kansas City Royals, Safeco Field, Seattle

JULY

- 19** Denver: Jayhawks & Java
- 26** KU Night with the Yankees, Yankee Stadium, New York City



Parsons Dance

AUGUST

- 17** KU Kickoff, Corinth Square, Prairie Village
- 17** KU Night with the White Sox, Chicago
- 22** Seattle Jayhawks Golf Tournament, Redmond, Washington



Joshua Bell

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.

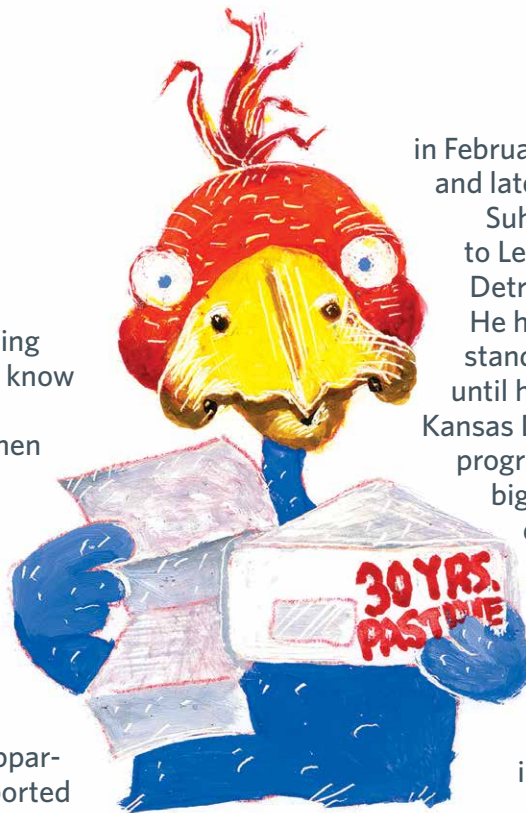
Jayhawk Walk

Past due

The past has a funny way of catching up with us—even when we don't know it's on our trail.

Jim Suhr, j'88, learned as much when he received his 2017 Kansas income tax refund and found it \$88.24 light. The reason: a delinquent utility bill from the town of Chanute from 1987.

Suhr lived there the summer after his junior year, while an intern for the Chanute Tribune. After he returned to KU that fall, the utility apparently lost track of him, the paper reported



in February, and he never got his final bill and late notices.

Suhr's journalism career took him to Leavenworth; Joplin, Missouri; Detroit; St. Louis; and, in 2017, Lenexa. He had no idea that he had an outstanding bill dating to the Reagan years until his state tax return triggered a Kansas Department of Revenue setoff program that collects old debts—and a big laugh from the accidental desperado.

"My only reaction was, 'OK, Chanute, congratulations. You finally found me. You got me,'" Suhr told the Tribune.

"And I thanked the Lord the overdue bill didn't have interest compounded on it."

LARRY LEROY PEARSON

Angels in running shoes

A YEAR AFTER HE NEARLY DIED while running a Kansas City 5K, Dave Houchin returned for a victory lap with three KU medical students who helped save his life.

On March 11, 2017, Houchin and his son set off on the 5-kilometer downtown loop of Kansas City's Big 12 Run. Two and a half miles in, the 58-year-old collapsed with a heart attack.

Moments later, second-year medical students Sebastian Schoneich, c'15, c'15, '19; Kelly Lembke, c'13, '19; and Dakota Bunch, c'14, '19, ran by and saw people huddled around Houchin. Schoneich felt for a pulse and, finding none, started chest compressions. With the help of a doctor, the three friends (who had recently recertified in CPR) kept compressions going until emergency personnel arrived and transported Houchin to a hospital, where surgeons put a stent in his heart.

A year later, Houchin, fully recovered, decided to again try the Big 12 Run—this time with his family and the students he calls his angels.

"They're not just good friends; they're good people, which shows in the way they stopped for a perfect stranger," Houchin says. "They're great kids, and they're going to be great doctors."

"I had done CPR a few times in the emergency

room," says Lembke, a former EMT, "but that was the first time outside the hospital. And it's the first time the patient lived, so that was really cool."

"We're thrilled beyond belief with the outcome," Schoneich says. "But we just feel that we were in the right place at the right time, and that any of our classmates would have jumped in and done the same thing."

'Permanent' collection? Check back in a century

THE SPRING SPENCER MUSEUM of Art exhibition "Big Botany: Conversations with the Plant World" includes a beautiful and intriguing print titled "Future Library (certificate)," created in 2014 by Scottish artist Katie Paterson and acquired by the Spencer in 2017.

Paterson's image depicts a century of cross-sectioned tree rings extending from "2014" at the center to "2114" on the edge, in reference to her ongoing public art project (futurelibrary.no) dedicated to planting 1,000 trees in Norway for a 22nd-century harvest that will be used to



Schoneich, Houchin, Bunch and Lembke

COURTESY KU MEDICAL CENTER

produce an anthology of 100 books currently being commissioned from authors worldwide.

Proceeds from sales of prints support the project over the next century, but it must also be noted that the prints are not only beautiful art; they are also “certificates” that guarantee the holder a set of the books—which poses an intriguing question: Will the Spencer have to hand over its print to acquire the books? Would it? *Could* it?

Curator Kate Meyer, g’04, PhD’11, says

the more interesting aspect of the Spencer acquisition of “Future Library (certificate)” is that KU’s purchase supports a laudable project that “anticipates and prepares for the literary needs of the future by growing trees now.” As for the prospect of KU one day redeeming its print for books, Meyer says that’s for another distant day.

“Since I’ll be dead by then,” she says, “I’m looking forward to not having to worry about whether we have to surrender the art to get the books or not.”

Hiking heroes

MOTHER NATURE WAS NO MATCH for student veterans from KU, Kansas State, Wichita State, Emporia State and Johnson County Community College, who on April 6 battled blustery winds and bitter temps for a team-building hike and food drive to benefit KU’s Campus Cupboard, a food pantry for students in need.

The event was organized by Jonathan Ehrlich, a third-year law student and president of KU’s Student Veterans of America chapter, who conceived the idea after attending the SVA national conference. Inspired by the work done by veterans on a national level, he wanted to create a consortium of local student veteran organizations that could support one another and advocate for statewide veteran services. The hike was the first

leg of a two-part weekend event.

“We’re going to be working together on Saturday, so I thought, ‘Let’s suffer together on Friday,’” Ehrlich says. “Because when you suffer together, you understand each other better.”

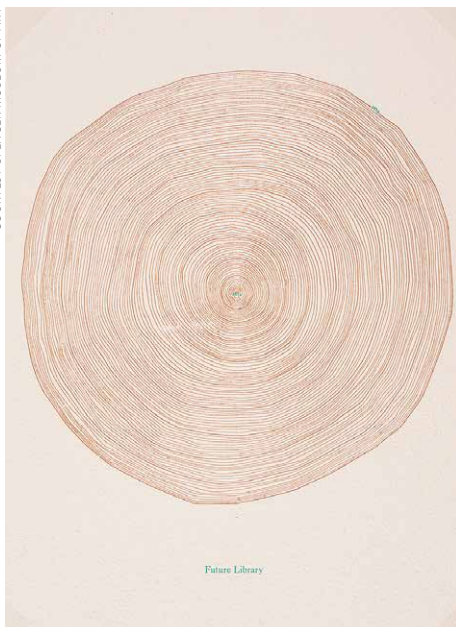
The 13.3-mile trek, from north of Lawrence through downtown and campus, included stops at the local VFW Post 852 and KU’s Korean and Vietnam war memorials, where the student veterans honored our nation’s fallen soldiers. After several hours, the hikers arrived at the food pantry and dropped off nearly 400 non-perishable items that they collected in their rucksacks along the way.

“We want to make sure that as a student organization, as a veteran organization, we are serving the community outside of us,” says Ehrlich. “Part of our mission as a student veterans association is to transition into the community—and the best way to do that is to be involved in it.”



DAN STOREY

COURTESY SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART



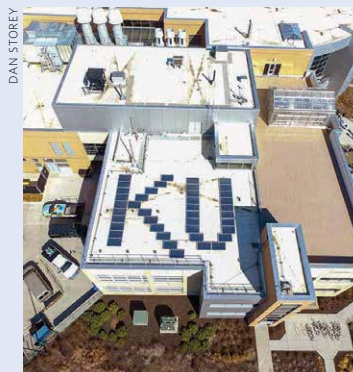
“Future Library (certificate),” Katie Paterson

‘KU,’ from on high. Really high

Architects and construction planners invariably account for how their buildings will appear to visitors from various approaches, but Paul Graves, then deputy director of Facilities Planning & Development, reached for a sky-high perspective when he envisioned a solar-panel array for Learned Hall’s Measurement, Materials Sustainability and Environment Center.

Graves’ idea was to take advantage of aerial views available worldwide on Google Earth—co-created by Research Professor Brian McClendon, e’86—and align solar panels to form a rooftop “KU.”

After securing a grant from Westar for installation, Graves pitched his plan to Jim Modig, a’73, facilities planning director. With Modig’s blessing, and approval from



DAN STOREY

other KU leaders and Westar, the rooftop branding became a reality.

Graves’ handiwork is easily seen from space, thanks to the powerful satellites delivering images to Google Earth’s public library: “KU,” spelled out in solar panels delivering both clean energy and masterful marketing.

Says Modig: “How cool is that?”

Very. In fact, we’re inspired to dream big: How about an “RCJH” to energize Mount Oread?



‘Greater heights’

University community celebrates beginning of Girod era

With trumpet fanfares, tributes and well-wishes from fellow scholars at KU and across the country, Doug Girod was formally installed as the University’s 18th chancellor April 20 at the Lied Center. The ceremony was part of two weeks of inauguration events that included community service, social activities, music concerts, building dedications, a formal ball, and a TED Talk-style research symposium.

Board of Regents Chairman Dave Murfin, e’75, b’75, placed on Girod’s shoulders the ceremonial silver collar, which bears the University seal surrounded by rubies and sapphires, officially recognizing the role Girod has been serving since July, when he succeeded Bernadette Gray-Little as chancellor.

Noting that the highly respected surgeon and former executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center is the third physician to serve as KU chancellor, Murfin expressed the Regents’ “complete

confidence” that the prognosis for Girod’s tenure is “even greater heights” for the University.

“After all, anyone who could successfully deal with over 700 medical doctors and their unique personalities at the KU Med Center and successfully help guide the merger of 23 distinct medical practices and corporations into one group,” Murfin said, “should have no problem adding the Lawrence campus to his portfolio.”

Gov. Jeff Colyer, m’86, recalled meeting Girod in 1994 when they treated the same patient. “There was just something different about this guy,” Colyer said of his fellow physician. “He was just right on top of things.”

Over the years, the two kept in touch, meeting now and then to share a beer and strategize about the role and direction of the medical center. “There was another day when we sat down at a table and there was a map,” Colyer recalled. They drew circles in Minnesota, Texas, New York and

Chancellor Doug Girod received from Board of Regents Chairman Dave Murfin (right) the silver collar worn by every chancellor since 1964. In his inaugural address Girod said, “Like many of you, I am a Jayhawk to the core. I believe deeply in our responsibility to serve the state and society.”

California to designate the territories of the country’s foremost medical centers. “And then we drew a circle around Kansas City, and that was our space, that was the heartland,” Colyer said. “That’s what Doug Girod believes, that KU is essential to the heartland. And I think that’s why he’s going to be a great chancellor for us.”

In his inauguration address, Girod said his vision for KU is straightforward.

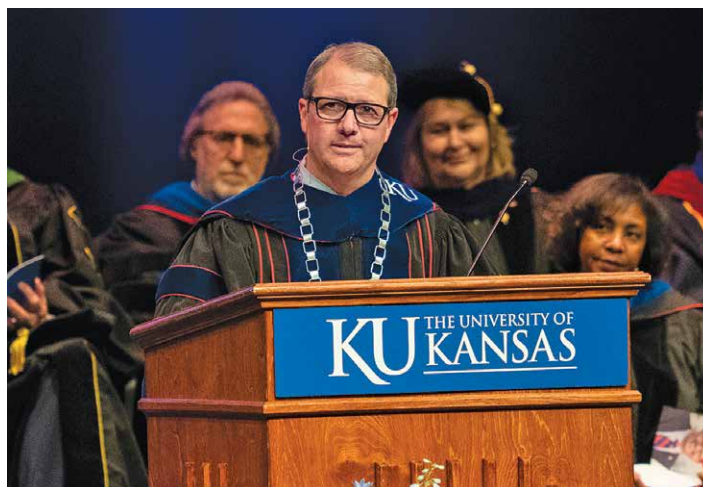
“The University of Kansas will be the destination for the best students and scholars from the region, the nation and the globe. They will come here because they recognize KU as a place where they can transform themselves and the world around them.”

The chancellor vowed to focus on three areas: improving the student experience, expanding outreach to the state, and growing the research enterprise.

Likening the student experience to the patient experience in health care, Girod promised to “put the student at the center of every task, every conversation and every decision,” calling for a broad reassessment of University operations much like the redesign of health care delivery from provider-centered to patient-centered that he championed at the medical center.

“From the residence hall to the classroom, from orientation to graduation, let us re-examine the way we do business, every day,” Girod said. “Let us ask ourselves, ‘What is the right thing to do for the student?’”

Among the signs of progress in the past few months, he said, were increased tuition waivers for out-of-state students



STEVE PUPPE (2)

and need-based scholarships for Kansas students, plans to develop the Jayhawk Career Network by the Alumni Association and the University Career Center, and the launch of Jayhawk Student One Stop to help students navigate the many KU services available.

Girod noted KU's contributions to Kansas, starting with how the medical center touches every county in the state, and extending to the training of law enforcement officers and firefighters, the placement of pharmacists and business graduates in rural communities and the overall benefit that KU provides as an economic engine for Kansas. Noting that

the University's researchers bring \$230 million a year in research funding to the state, Girod also reaffirmed the value of research in the University's educational mission and its regional and national standing, promising, "We will be more strategic in investing our resources, finding new collaborators and expanding research between disciplines and campuses."

School of Music students and faculty brightened the ceremony with musical accompaniment, including a stunning choral rendition of "Home On the Range." Amid the pomp of splendid celebration, however, there was also frank

admission of reduced circumstances.

Declines in state support, stagnation of federal research funding, nationwide drops in enrollment, the disruption of revolutionary technology transformation, and a cultural shift in public attitudes about higher education have combined, Girod argued, to create a "full-blown crisis" in higher education in America.

"Despite these challenges," he said, "I am confident KU will persevere amid this crisis—because, remember, our University was born out of crisis. A century and a half ago, this city was burned to the ground. But the commitment to create our University survived."



STEVE PUPPE

Left to right: Loomis, Davis, Boyd and Wood

Three juniors won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships and a fourth received honorable mention from the Barry Goldwater

Scholarship & Excellence in Education Foundation. Emily Boyd, Moran; Cara Davis, Wichita; and Joseph Loomis, Pratt, won up to \$7,500

to pay for tuition, fees, books and room and board. Zachary Wood, of Eureka, Missouri, earned honorable mention.

The four chemistry majors are good friends who have spent a lot of time studying together and are familiar with one another's research.

"The process for applying for national awards is very intense," says Anne Wallen, c'03,

program director for the Office of Fellowships at KU. "With this year's candidates being such good friends, it made it that much easier for them to look at the intangible benefits of the process."

Schools can nominate a maximum of four students. To have all four recognized is rare, Wallen says, and "demonstrates KU's excel-

lence in undergraduate research."

Since the Goldwater was first awarded, in 1989, 65 KU students have received one. The scholarship is open to sophomores and juniors with outstanding academic records, significant research experience and high potential for careers in mathematics, natural sciences or engineering.

CLASS CREDIT

Hilltopics



Go-to grads: The School of Law ranks 18th among public law schools for the percentage of new graduates hired by the 100 largest law firms, according to the National Law Journal's annual report on "Go-To Law Schools." KU's tuition was the

lowest among schools in the report—\$46,000 less per year than the most expensive school on the list.

Save Our Semester

Jayhawk SOS serves students who need helping hand

The acronym in Jayhawk SOS stands for Student One Stop, but the familiar letters also evoke the classic call of distress.

The echo is intentional, says Mauricio Gomez Montoya, director of Jayhawk Student One Stop (Jayhawk SOS), a new office that hopes to make it a little easier for students to get help navigating KU services, policies and procedures, especially during times of crisis.

"The concept is really to give students the message that this is the first place to come for help when they don't know where to turn," Gomez Montoya says. "This is a central location for help, and whether or not we are the people leading that help, we are going to put you in the room with those people who can help you."

Launched this spring to provide all students with an equal opportunity to be successful at KU, Jayhawk SOS supports students who might be facing a wide range of challenges, including academic, financial and personal. The goal is to improve retention and graduation rates while also helping create a more welcoming, inclusive environment on campus for students from varied backgrounds.

In the first seven weeks the new office has been open, Gomez Montoya has seen a wide range of both people and problems.

"I've seen students who are here because they have a parking ticket or a hold on their account and can't enroll, students who have health issues ranging from a toothache to more serious situations, students who are at risk of homelessness or who have stress or anxiety because of class or finances.

"I've helped undergraduate and graduate students, traditional and nontraditional, those who live on campus and off, and students across different identities, race, ethnicities and gender."

Jayhawk SOS is located in the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center and is overseen by the Office of Diversity &

Equity. Gomez Montoya is currently the sole member of the office, but he plans to add a graduate student employee over the summer. He previously worked at KU in several roles as a mentor and advocate for students—with the Hawk Link program and as a cultural programming adviser for Student Union Activities. But some of his best preparation for Jayhawk SOS, he says, goes back to his undergraduate days, when he was the student who needed help.

"There were several times, as an undergraduate, when I knew something wasn't going right, and I waited until it snowballed into a crisis. I learned a lot about what not to do, which I think qualified me pretty well to understand and help students be more preventive."

Convincing students that it's OK to reach out is a chief goal of the office.

"It's really important for students to see asking for help as a normal behavior," Gomez Montoya says. "A lot of students have this stigma around help, because they think it's shameful to need help, because they feel weak or inadequate. Actually it's a mature behavior, not a sign of weakness. It's a sign of maturity and understanding that the situation you're up against may be transcending what you can do and maybe somebody else can help you solve it."

Students can reach out to Jayhawk SOS at studentonestop@ku.edu; 785-864-0803.



Gomez Montoya

Greek strife

Efforts to reform fraternity life draw pushback, calls for change

Citing “systemic behavioral issues,” KU’s Interfraternity Council announced March 12 that it would immediately institute a temporary freeze on social activities at all 24 KU fraternities the IFC governs.

Four days later, the student-led council had ousted its president and three other executives, organized an ad hoc committee of interim leaders and voted to rescind the freeze, labeling it “unconstitutional.”

The short-lived ban came less than a week after the national headquarters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon announced that it would close its KU chapter because of “multiple health and safety violations and an inability to adhere to the national organization’s standards and guidelines.” The chapter will remain closed until all current members have left KU.

SAE was one of four fraternities to be sanctioned by KU or their national organizations since January. The Kansas City Star reported in March that the suspensions of SAE, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Delta Upsilon were for hazing allegations.

IFC’s decision to suspend social activities, allowing only chapter meetings, philanthropic events and service events was “self-imposed,” according to an announcement released by KU’s Office of Public Affairs.

“It has become clear there are significant and systemic conduct problems in the IFC community that we must address, and we must address them now,” IFC president Daniel Lee said in the release. “This freeze is a way for us to pause and do some honest introspection about who we are and how we can live up to our standards of fraternal excellence.” He called on IFC leaders, fraternities, national organizations and alumni to work together to create “real change.”

But at a private meeting March 13, as reported in the Lawrence Journal-World, representatives of the 24 IFC chapters elected interim leaders to replace Lee and other IFC executive officers and ordered

the former officers to undergo a review by the IFC’s judicial board, which is made up of fraternity members.

At another closed meeting March 15, IFC interim leaders voted unanimously to nullify the social ban immediately.

“The ‘freeze’ policy invoked Monday violated the IFC bylaws as it was not voted on by the General Assembly, but was decided to be published without a proper vote, and the support of only two of the four of the Executive Board Members,” the IFC said in a news release on March 16.

Later that day Chancellor Doug Girod pledged to work with IFC despite the reversal.

“The University recognizes IFC’s role as a representative government and respects its decisions,” he wrote in a statement on the chancellor’s web page. “However, the current environment that has precipitated these recent events remains an area of significant concern to the health and safety of our students.”

Girod went on to say that the University “stands ready to participate” in IFC’s initiatives to address misconduct in the IFC-governed fraternities.

Urging collaboration, he called on the council to work with the “University and fellow IFC stakeholders—students, fraternities, national organizations and alumni—to develop higher standards for health, safety, wellness and self-governance ... and do some honest introspection about how we can meet the expectations we have for ourselves, our IFC community and our University.”

While KU has declined comment on specific cases, in late April denying an open records request from the Journal-World regarding the SAE shutdown, Girod told the paper in early April that the “systemic issues” of concern included alcohol violations and “hazing-related events of various degrees and severity.”

“To their credit, [IFC] formed a group and are actually developing a whole set of proposals to bring forward,” Girod said. “We look forward to working with them to help them initiate those and support those and continue to work on making the greek system a sustainable part of our University.”

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Neeli Bendapudi**, PhD’95, who joined KU as dean of the School of Business in 2011 and has served as provost and executive vice chancellor since 2016, became president of the University of Louisville in May. Carl Lejuez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, will serve as the interim provost and executive vice chancellor as a national search gets underway for Bendapudi’s successor. Lejuez named Clarence Lang, professor and chair of the department of African & African-American studies, to serve as interim dean of the College.

■ **Michael Branicky**, dean of the School of Engineering since 2013, announced that he will return to the faculty in June. In a message to the school in March, Branicky noted progress in “advancing active learning, promoting cybersecurity and industrial research, elevating diversity and increasing the school’s reach” as highlights of his tenure. He will teach in the department of electrical engineering and computer science. Arvin Agah, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, will serve as interim dean.



Branicky

■ **A \$2 million** gift from Cray Medical Research Foundation of Atchison will establish a professorship in diabetes management at KU Medical Center. David Robbins, professor of medicine and director of the KU Diabetes Institute, will be the first recipient of the professorship, which is intended to support the education of internal medicine students. The gift follows more than 30 years of support for diabetes research and care from the family of Bud and Sally Cray. In 1979 the Cray Foundation helped open what is now called the Cray Diabetes Self-Management Center, which provides care and education to diabetes patients and their families.



Souza

JOURNALISM

School of Journalism celebrates the 'Sage of Emporia'

THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE School of Journalism and Mass Communications celebrated the 150th anniversary of its namesake's birth with a series of campus events April 23-26. All activities were free and open to the public.

The commemorative celebration began

with a lecture and presentation by Pete Souza, chief official White House photographer for President Barack Obama and President Ronald Reagan. Hundreds of KU and Lawrence community members packed the Lied Center to hear Souza discuss a selection of images from his New York Times bestseller, *Obama: An Intimate Portrait*, which features more than 300 photos captured during the president's eight years in office, whittled down from

nearly 2 million Souza took during that time.

Souza delivered an engaging narrative on some of Obama's most endearing and humorous encounters with his family, White House staffers, world leaders and the public. Souza also showcased some of the most significant moments of Obama's presidency, including the Osama bin Laden raid in 2011 and the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012.

The school also held a "Politics and the Media" panel discussion with Pulitzer Prize winners Alberto Araujo, a master's student and investigative journalist for the Panama Papers; J.B. Forbes, j'73, chief photographer at The St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Patricia Gaston, j'81, an editor at The Washington Post; Kevin Helliker, c'82, editor of the Brunswick Group and former senior editor and writer at The Wall Street Journal; and Colleen McCain Nelson, j'97, vice president and editorial page editor at The Kansas City Star.

Rounding out the week's events were a film premiere of Kevin Willmott's documentary "William Allen White, What's the Matter with Kansas?" and a panel discussion, "The Future of Journalism," featuring past William Allen White Foundation National Award winners Bob Dotson, j'68,

VISITOR

NATURE NURTURER

Writer Andrea Wulf closed out the 2017-'18 Humanities Lecture Series with a talk on her New York Times bestseller *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World*.

WHEN: April 19

WHERE: The Commons

SPONSOR: The Hall Center for the Humanities

BACKGROUND: Trained as a design historian at the Royal College of Art in London, Wulf has written five acclaimed books, four about gardening and science. *The Invention of Nature*, her latest, won more than 10 awards, including the 2016 L.A. Times Book Prize.

ANECDOTE: Despite Alexander Von Humboldt's worldwide fame in his era—the explorer and scientist was described by Thomas Jefferson as "one of the greatest ornaments of the age" and was

called the Shakespeare of the Sciences—he's now largely unknown. "Whenever I told people over the years that I'm writing a book about Alexander Von Humboldt the most common reaction I got was a blank face," Wulf says. "But there are in fact, more plants, animals and places named after him than any other person." In America alone, three counties and 14 towns honor him—including Humboldt, Kansas.

QUOTE: Why celebrate Humboldt now? "He invented a



STEVE PUPPE

concept of nature that still very much shapes our thinking today," Wulf said. "Humboldt came up with the idea that nature is a web of life; he described it as a living organism, where everything is connected from the smallest insect to the tallest tree."

a former NBC national correspondent; Gerald Seib, j'78, executive Washington editor at The Wall Street Journal; and Paul Steiger, former managing editor of The Wall Street Journal.

—Heather Biele

HONORS

Women's hall of fame inducts new class of 'trailblazers'

THE EMILY TAYLOR CENTER for Women & Gender Equity inducted six women into the KU Women's Hall of Fame during its spring recognition program April 12 at the Burge Union.

"These women we are honoring this year are leaders and trailblazers in their respective fields who have made substantial contributions through their vision, innovation, creativity and willingness to challenge the status quo," said Kathy Rose-Mockry, d'78, g'85, PhD'15, director of the center. "They remind us of the importance of women's voices, contributions and courage in advancing gender equity. They have opened doors—holding them open for young women and people of all genders to follow."

The center, named for the late KU dean of women Emily Taylor, who created it in 1970 as the Women's Resource and Career Center, has inducted 241 women into the hall of fame. Inductees for 2018 are:

Lydia Beebe, j'74, l'77, a business leader and expert on corporate governance, who is corporate director of the Kansas City Southern and Aemetis boards and was the first woman officer at Chevron.

Jannette Berkley-Patton, c'88, g'97, PhD'04, associate professor and director of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Medical Center Community Health



Research Group, a researcher who focuses on health disparities in African-American churches.

Mary Klayder, c'72, d'75, g'82, PhD'09, associate director of undergraduate studies and University Honors lecturer, who has hosted yearly study abroad trips to Costa Rica and serves as a mentor, guide, adviser and role model for students.

Sandy Praeger, d'66, former Kansas Insurance Commissioner, state legislator and Lawrence mayor, an advocate for underserved communities, accessible health care and government accountability.

Julie Johnson Staples, j'78, currently the executive director of Intersections International, who has promoted social justice in a varied career in journalism, public relations and ministry.

Lynette Woodard, c'81, the leading scorer in KU basketball history and a two-time Olympian who played professionally (including a historic stint as the first female Harlem Globetrotter) before becoming a head coach.

The ceremony also recognized Shirley Gilham Domer, g'68, PhD'75, as the 2018 Pioneer Woman. Domer was the first director of two offices that were pivotal in the civil rights efforts of the 1970s: the KU Affirmative Action Center and the KU Information Center.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Tracey Funk**, a Topeka junior in ecology, evolution and organismal biology, won a Udall Scholarship. Funk is one of 50 students nationwide to receive the prestigious scholarship, which provides up to \$7,000 to students who demonstrate leadership, public service and commitment in the fields of tribal public policy, Native health care or the environment. Rachel Heitmann, a Nebraska junior in environmental studies, earned honorable mention.

■ **The Center for Montessori Research**, the nation's first university-based center dedicated to research on Montessori education, has opened at KU, the University announced in March. Led by Angela Murray, g'06, PhD'08, assistant research professor, the center will carry out studies specific to Montessori environments and examine the potential influence of Montessori principles on education and human development.

■ **Distinguished Alumni Awards** from the School of Law recognized three graduates in April: Kansas Appeals Court Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, c'79, l'82; Houston energy lawyer John Bowman, c'74, l'80; and retired NIC Inc. founder William Bradley, c'77, l'80.



■ **Noah Ries** was elected president and **Charles Jetty** vice president in student government elections this spring. Part of the Crimson and Blue coalition, they were elected on a platform that calls for increasing KU bus services, offering "pop-up" services from Watkins Health Center at residence halls and starting a mentoring program for women in STEM fields at KU. Ries is a Kansas City junior in economics and Jetty is a Wisconsin junior in political science and sociology.

"The great thing about writing a book about an explorer is that you get to travel the world, all in the name of research. The hardship—just terrible."

—Andrea Wulf

Hammer time

Dudarev soars to Relays title with Olympic-caliber throw

Anybody who has spent time around Andy Kokhanovsky, now in his 13th season as KU track and field's throws coach, has a good idea of what to expect. Along with his country gentleman outfit of jeans, boots and a fine felt hat—and on unseasonably cool days, perhaps even a sharply tailored leather vest—coach Andy, as he is known around Kansas Athletics, can be counted on to be pleasant, courteous and helpful.

What he won't be is excitable, or even expressive. He throws around superlatives like manhole covers—OK, bad example; the former discus Olympian for his native Ukraine could probably still toss around manhole covers pretty handily—but the point stands: If coach Andy, soft-spoken and stone-faced in the old-school mold, so much as cracks half a smile, you can bet a fair day's wages that he just saw something really good happen.

When Gleb Dudarev exited the Kansas Relays hammer throw competition with a winning mark of 256 feet—78.04 meters for those of you who follow international standings, and in this case, all Jayhawk sports fans should, at least for the foreseeable future—Dudarev's wasn't the only stoic visage lightened by a beaming smile.

"This is probably the biggest meet for the rest of his life," Kokhanovsky said of Dudarev's electrifying

performance at Rock Chalk Park.

Dudarev, a sophomore from Belarus, won the Big 12 Outdoor hammer throw and indoor weight throw and placed third in the NCAA hammer throw as a freshman, and has spent his two seasons as a Jayhawk rewriting the KU record books. Clearly he's destined for big things, so how can his second Kansas Relays victory be the biggest meet for the rest of his life?

Because, as Kokhanovsky explains it, all the good stuff yet to come will flow from the events of April 20.

All six of Dudarev's throws entered KU's all-time top 10 list (the other four marks are also Dudarev's), and he set NCAA-best season marks with consecutive throws. His third was a low-flying screamer that flew more than 246 feet, 10 feet longer than the

first two, and Dudarev launched No. 4 on a dead-center flight of more than 251 feet.

Dudarev's fifth attempt proved to be the throw of his life: 256 feet, fifth-best in the world this season and the fifth-best in U.S. collegiate history.

It also would have won silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze at last year's World Championships, and stamps Dudarev's ticket for the August European championships in Berlin—all of which legitimizes his difficult decision to defy pressure from his home country's track and field officials to remain in Belarus.

First up, though, will be Big 12 Outdoor Championships, May 11-13 in Waco, Texas (shortly after *Kansas Alumni* went to press), and the NCAA Outdoor, June 6-9 in Eugene, Oregon, both of which now appear entirely winnable for the big Belarusian. Dudarev seemingly sensed his growing status, as well, because as he left the ring to loud applause from a growing crowd of spectators, the shy strongman

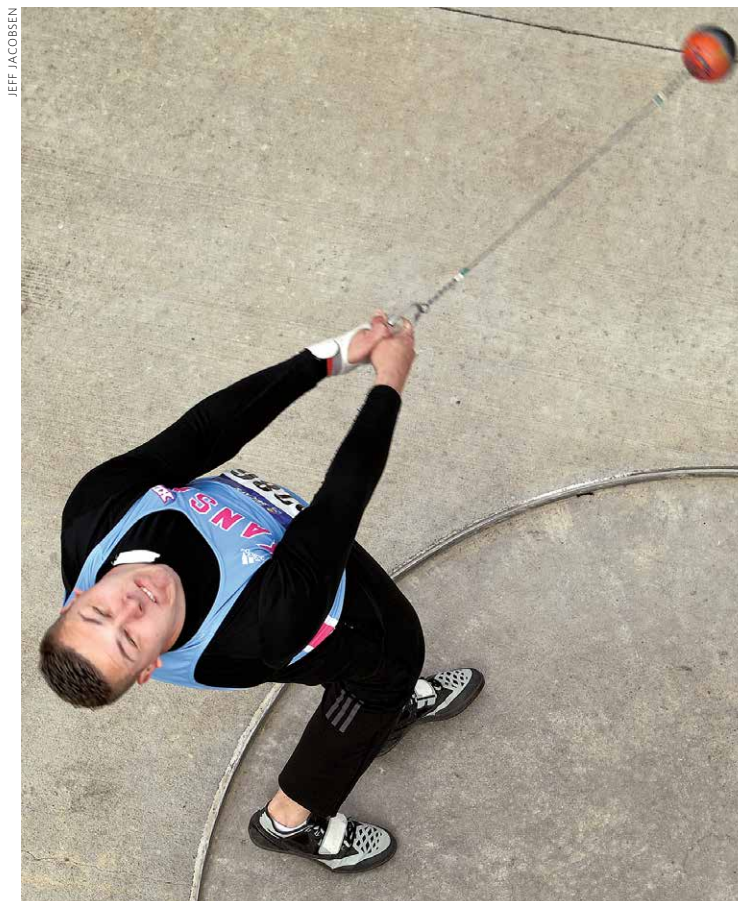
smiled and, in a playful performance unthinkable for him a year ago, bowed.

"I feel so good!" Dudarev exclaimed, with limited yet much improved English. "My personal best was 74 meters. But now, 78. It's really big. I really feel amazing."

And on his big day, Dudarev wasn't even at his best: He'd been nursing a cold, and even coughed a few times shortly before some of his throws. "He's not feeling great, but he'll be OK," Kokhanovsky said before the competition began.

Dudarev, who stands 6-foot-5, looked to have grown even taller since his freshman season, but it was an optical illusion. Instead, he had shed body fat and added lean muscle, changing his body composition from that of a naturally strong big kid into the imposing frame of rare athlete.

"No, not taller," Dudarev said when asked if he'd grown



JEFF JACOBSEN

Dudarev



Kokhanovsky and Dudarev

since the 2017 Kansas Relays. “Just muscle. I grow muscles! Stronger. Power.”

Dudarev’s power, though, isn’t always a benefit. Strength, agility and natural talent for the event can make for good throws, even school records, but they won’t win championships. When Kokhanovsky saw Dudarev’s two longest throws leave his grasp with blistering exit velocity and sail high and dead-center down the long green expanse, he understood that Dudarev had just taken an important step in his development as a world-class athlete.

“Perfect technique!” exclaimed Kokhanovsky. “He had a headache today, he is a little bit sick, but he figured out the timing and started to really roll.

“Hammer is all about radius. Finally he started letting go instead of muscling it.”

Asked whether Dudarev is the best athlete he’s ever coached, Kokhanovsky said that honor still belongs to Mason Finley, ’14, who won discus bronze at last year’s World Championships in London. Finley, though, struggled as a collegian after early success, eventually leaving KU to finish his career at Wyoming before returning to Lawrence to train with Kokhanovsky and the Jayhawk throwers.

“College-wise, Gleb is probably the best,” Kokhanovsky said, “but they’re both very special. They have that thing that not every person has. I didn’t have it. They are really special. They need to concentrate,

“This is probably the biggest meet for the rest of his life.” —throws coach Andy Kokhanovsky, on Gleb Dudarev

not question themselves, and keep doing the same stuff: Work, work, work.”

Just as Dudarev’s hammer throws were exponentially superior to the competition, even to the untrained eye, so were Hussain Al Hizam’s jumps in the men’s pole vault.

Forced indoors to Anschutz Pavilion when rain settled in at Rock Chalk Park on the track carnival’s final day, Al Hizam, the reigning NCAA and Big 12 indoor pole vault champion, had little trouble adjusting.

Challenged in the competition only by teammate Nick Meyer, a Kingman senior who was the 2016 Big 12 outdoor runner-up, and former KU standout Jake Albright, c’17, who competed unattached, Al Hizam, a junior from Saudi Arabia, soared over his first two bars—17 feet, 3 inches, and 17-9—with seemingly effortless moonshots.

Meyer, who has been fighting to return to form after suffering a hamstring injury during the indoor season, exited at 17-9, followed by Albright at 18-2 1/2—which Al Hizam cleared on his first attempt.

With the event victory secured, Al Hizam took one shot at 18-6 1/2, in an

attempt to break Albright’s Anschutz record of 18-3 1/4, but he nicked the bar and, after safely landing in the pit, jumped to his feet and waved to the crowd.

“As soon as I noticed that we were going to move indoors, the first thing that came into my mind was the facility record that Jake broke in December at 18-3 and change,” Al Hizam said. “I was looking forward to that record, but I still have my senior year.”

Al Hizam’s mere presence—let alone excellence—in the pole vault is testament to his courage. An age-group world-record holder at 14 and 15, Al Hizam broke his back when he missed the mat during warm-ups for a 2014 competition in Germany, then endured grueling rehabilitation with a Los Angeles doctor recommended to him by a Saudi track official.

He was 17 years old and living on his own in California, and, despite his training, began to put on weight as he indulged in comfort food. A UCLA coach contacted KU vertical jumps coach Tom Hays, d’91, and Al Hizam finally began to return to form as a member of KU’s tight-knit pole-vault team.



LAURA JACOBSEN

Al Hizam

Sports

"I moved to Kansas," Al Hizam said, "and found friends I could communicate with, and that helped."

He gained strength in his muscular shoulders, arms and chest, which, combined with dazzling runway speed, powered him to victory in last year's Big 12 Outdoor championship and third place at the NCAA meet. Al Hizam's NCAA Indoor victory in March solidified his status as the latest in KU's long history of elite vaulters.

"A lot of people would have been done," Hays said of Al Hizam's return to form after suffering a devastating injury. "It takes a special kind of guy to get back into it again. He's a special kid. I don't know what can hold him back."

Al Hizam, who flashes winning smiles and a friendly personality, confirmed that he never wavered.

"If you want to do this sport," he said

after his Relays victory, "you've got to have a little bit of insanity in you. And I think I have it ... at least a little."

The KU women's squad won the Relays' quadrangular competition with nine event victories, and sophomore Jedah Caldwell was the meet's leading scorer with victories in the 200-meter dash and 4x100-meter relay and a third-place run in the 100-meter dash.

Other winners included senior Sharon Lokedi, who set school and meet records by winning the 5,000-meter run in 15 minutes, 42.76 seconds; senior Courtney Copping in the 1,500; junior Shaylyn Stallbaumer in the javelin; freshman Alexandra Emilianov in the discus; and senior Laura Taylor in the pole vault.

Men's winners included senior Barden Adams, who won the long jump and triple jump, and sophomore Bryce Hoppel in the 800.

Football construction



CHRIS LAZZARINO

Heavy equipment arrived in April to begin construction of a \$26 million indoor football practice facility west of Memorial Stadium. The first phase of the "Raise a Chant" campaign is expected to be completed by late fall.

UPDATES



JEFF JACOBSEN

Zeferjahn

Backed by a combined two home runs, 10 RBIs and seven runs scored by junior left fielder **Devin Foyle**, sophomore designated hitter **Brett Vosik** and sophomore right fielder **Brendt Citta**, sophomore right-hander **Ryan Zeferjahn** ran his record to 7-3 with eight strikeouts in seven innings in KU's 13-3 victory over West Virginia May 5 at Hoglund

and put them on his back today." Zeferjahn and junior closer **Zack Leban** were named to the Pitcher of the Year Award watch list, and Zeban was named to the the Stopper of the Year watch list. ... Senior **Sarah Miller** threw a complete-game victory as softball closed out its season with a 4-1 victory over Iowa State May 6 at Arrocha Ballpark. ... Junior **Anastasia**

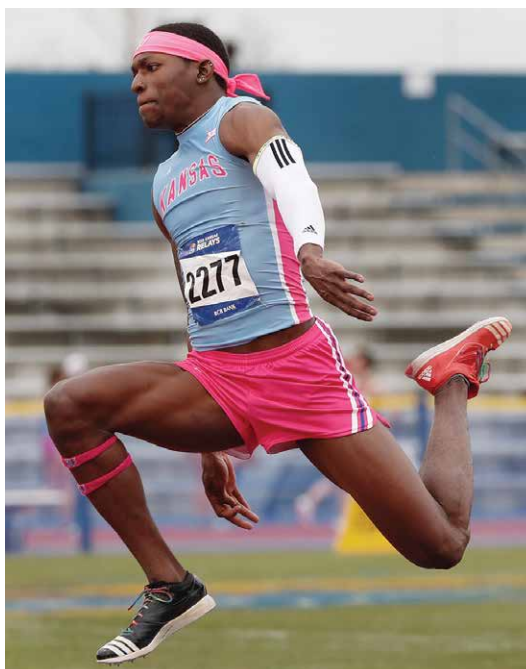
Ballpark. "For Zeferjahn to walk out there and be as dominant as he was for seven innings was really special," said coach **Ritch Price**. "He picked up the entire team

Rychagova is the No. 8 singles seed for the NCAA tennis championship May 23-28 at Wake Forest University. Rychagova and **Nina Khmelnitckaia** were chosen for the doubles tourney, and senior **Despoina Vogasari** was named an alternate. ... 2012 Olympic gold-medalist sprinters **Diamond Dixon**, '15, and **Kyle Clemons**, '15; Olympian and three-time NCAA triple jump champion **Andrea Geubelle**, d'14; and NCAA pole vault champ **Natalia Bartnovskaya**, c'16, on April 21 were inducted into the Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame, during the Kansas Relays. ... Rowing's first varsity eight—crewed by junior **McKayla Ross**, sophomore **Morgan Kottas**, senior **Kaelyn Thierolf**, junior **Lilly Stewart**, junior **Peyton Anderson**, senior

Margret Winter, sophomore **Isabel Horosz**, junior **Meghan Karoly** and senior coxwain **Bailey Coolidge**—was named Big 12 Boat of the Week after winning the April 22 George Mason Invite by eight seconds. ... Senior All-American pole vaulter **Laura Taylor** was honored by the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity as the year's Outstanding Woman Student-Athlete. Taylor also won the Big 12's highest academic honor, the Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award. ...

The Dallas Cowboys chose defensive end **Dorance Armstrong Jr.**, '19, in the fourth round, 116th overall, of the NFL Draft. "You've got a chance to be a hell of a pass rusher in the NFL," team owner **Jerry Jones** told Armstrong.

Sports Photographs by Jeff and Laura Jacobsen



Highlights of the 91st Kansas Relays, April 18-21 at Rock Chalk Park, included Hall of Fame induction of Jayhawk greats (top, l-r) Diamond Dixon, Andrea Geubelle, Natalia Bartnovskaya and Kyle Clemons, and event victories by (clockwise from top left) Jedah Caldwell, Gleb Dudarev, Barden Adams, Alexandra Emilianov, Bryce Hoppel and Megan Linder.

Simply the

At the beginning of the fall semester,

University of Kansas debater Quaram Robinson refused to set her sights on winning the National Debate Tournament, the annual four-day showdown of the best competitors in college debate. She feared she would only set herself up to fail.

But here she was, eight months later, in the championship round of the NDT in Wichita. Robinson and her teammate, Will Katz, had just delivered their final rebuttals late in the evening of March 26, the last day of the tournament. Countless hours of research and laborious study were behind them, dozens of hard-fought battles in their wake.

The two sat together in silence, laptops still open, half-empty bottles of energy drinks littering the table, anxiously awaiting the most important announcement of their college debate careers.

"The winner," one of the judges began, "on a 4-3 decision ..."

And just like that, KU debate won its sixth national title.

For the past 51 years, Jayhawks have qualified for the NDT, advancing to the Final Four 16 times and winning the national title in 1954, 1970, 1976, 1983 and 2009.

"KU is one of the most successful programs in the history of college debate," says Scott Harris, head coach and David B. Pittaway Director of Debate, who has led the program for the past 27 years. "You need talented, hardworking, committed students in order to succeed, and we have been incredibly lucky for a long period of time that we have had very bright students in the program."

With three teams of Jayhawks advancing to the NDT this year and several more making their marks in other postseason tournaments, one could argue that KU was indeed lucky to have such an outstanding roster of debaters. But as the season unfolded, it became clear that luck had very little to do with the Jayhawks' run to a sixth national title.





Best

**Seniors cap record-setting season
with a national title**

by Heather Biele

Photograph by Steve Puppe



“KU is one of the most successful programs in the history of college debate. You need talented, hardworking, committed students in order to succeed, and we have been incredibly lucky for a long period of time that we have had very bright students in the program.” —Scott Harris

Each summer, Harris and Brett Bricker, assistant director of debate and a member of the University’s 2009 national championship team, meet to discuss how students will be matched for the upcoming season. They consider several factors, including compatibility and debate styles, as well as students’ preferences for partners. As the only two seniors on this year’s 30-person squad, Katz and Robinson seemed a natural pair.

Their chemistry was evident from the get-go. “It happened at the very first tournament they won,” Harris says with a chuckle. “It exploded immediately. They are very different personalities, but they are both incredibly brilliant individuals.”

Katz, an economics major from Topeka, and Robinson, an African-American studies major from Round Rock, Texas, competed in five major national tournaments this season and took home top honors at Wake Forest University, Georgia State University and the University of

Kentucky. They finished second at the University of Texas, the last regular-season tournament of the year, where they won 10 debates and advanced to the championship round before losing to second-ranked Harvard, a formidable force in debate and one of the Jayhawks’ longtime rivals.

In 2016, Robinson, the first KU debater to reach the NDT elimination rounds in each of her four years with the program, advanced to the finals with a different partner before losing to Harvard. Last year, also with a different partner, she lost to the Harvard team in the Sweet 16.

Harris makes a comparison to KU’s men’s basketball program when he examines the toughness of his team’s tournament rivals. “Imagine that KU was playing Villanova eight times over the course of the season,” he says. “We go to national-level tournaments around the

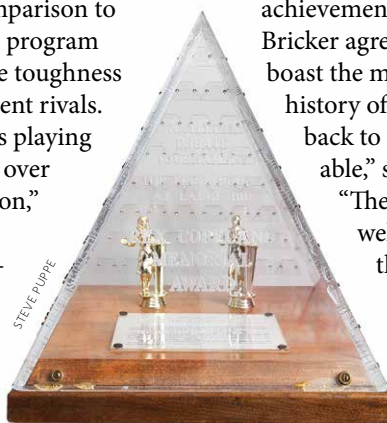
country and all of the top teams are at each of those tournaments.”

Despite facing a relentless barrage of powerhouse programs, Robinson and Katz emerged from the regular season with a staggering 21 wins and just two losses in elimination rounds of the tournaments, boasting an overall record of 55 wins and eight losses.

Their accomplishments made them the clear favorites to receive the Rex Copeland Award, given to the No. 1 team with the best regular-season performance. No other KU team has attained that level of success in a single season.

In 1982, Mark Gidley, c’83, and Zac Grant, c’83, received a No. 1 ranking going into the tournament, eight years before the Copeland Award was established, but they were knocked out in the Sweet 16. Gidley went on to win the national championship with Rodger Payne, c’83, the following year.

Despite the University’s longstanding achievements in debate, both Harris and Bricker agree that Robinson and Katz boast the most successful season in the history of the program, which dates back to 1885. “Their feat was remarkable,” says Bricker, c’09, g’11, PhD’13. “The thing that made them work well together was that as a team they successfully covered up each other’s weaknesses.





If one student had a weakness in one or two areas, that was an area that the other student would excel.”

Katz discovered his passion for debate as a high school freshman. “I wasn’t great at sports, but I was pretty competitive,” he says. “I really liked mind games and intellectual curiosity.”

Despite his love of the sport, Katz didn’t dominate in high school debate and didn’t consider continuing to compete in college. But shortly after high school, he realized

he missed debate and decided he would join the program at KU.

Similarly, Robinson, who first started debating in eighth grade thanks to her mother’s prompts, thought she was finished with the sport after high school, but she elected to continue her career at KU after attending a debate camp at Dartmouth College, where KU assistant coach Sean Kennedy, c’12, g’17, taught.

Like many other Jayhawk debaters, Katz and Robinson joined the program because they loved debate, not because they were granted scholarships. Harris notes that



Senior debaters Will Katz and Quaram Robinson, who sported KU basketball jerseys for the elimination rounds of the National Debate Tournament, were the first Jayhawks to win the coveted Copeland Award (p. 22) and the national title trophy in a single season.

historically it has been easier to recruit in-state students, like Katz, mostly because KU doesn’t offer full-ride scholarships, unlike rival programs at the University of Southern California and Baylor. But, Harris says, there are certain advantages to not enticing prospective students with scholarships.

“The benefit of not having full-ride scholarships is you know that [students] are debating because they *want* to debate and not because they *have* to debate,” he says. “We primarily use the scholarship funds less as a recruitment instrument and more as a reward for students who are committed to the program and work hard.”

Katz estimates that last fall he devoted as many as 40 hours a week to debate; this spring, because of a lightened course load,



STEVE PUPPE

he spent nearly 60 hours a week preparing for tournaments, poring over coverage of current events, studying topics such as economics and philosophy, and practicing both affirmative and negative arguments on this year's topic—national health care. "For people who are really committed to debate," he says, "it's like a full-time job."

For Robinson, who's also a McNair Scholar at KU, devoting 40 hours a week to debate was plenty. "I was thinking about debate constantly," she says, "but I was trying to find a balance."

As a former KU debater, Bricker believes the sport is even more rigorous now than nearly a decade ago, when he won the national title with Nate Johnson, c'09. "The expansion of the internet in the past 15 years has really changed the way students are required to prepare," he says. "The expectation for our students is that they understand everything that is being written and said about their arguments."

Debaters not only scour the internet for

information to back their cases, but they also take inspiration from their classes and fields of study. As a student in African-American studies, Robinson incorporates elements of race and gender studies into her arguments, complementing Katz's focus on public policy.

"We both have different skill sets that aren't always seen together in debate," says Katz. "I think that combining those approaches made us effective against all sorts of teams."

Robinson echoes that sentiment. "We have different backgrounds," she says, "not only in terms of our upbringing, but also our upbringing in debate. That ended up helping us a lot because we could both bring different perspectives and benefit from each other's experience with different models of debate."

In addition to her success as a Jayhawk, Robinson, one of only five out-of-state students on the KU squad, has been a trailblazer among women and African-

Debate coaches Scott Harris and Brett Bricker led the Jayhawks on a triumphant run this season, securing a new set of trophies and banners for display at Bailey Hall.

Americans in the debate community as well. She was the first black woman to reach the NDT finals in 2016 and the first black woman to win the Copeland Award, a goal she set for herself at the beginning of her senior year.

"A lot of it for me was wanting to be the first black woman to set that standard," says Robinson. "It sucks that it had taken that long to do that."

In setting that standard, Harris believes, Robinson has cemented her role as a historically significant figure in more ways than one.

"Q has embraced the mantle as a role model to other African-American debaters

on the squad, to other women on the squad, to other women in the community and to high school students who look to her as a role model,” he says.

Katz and Robinson

had prepared all season for the National Debate Tournament, fine-tuning and revising their arguments through 21 tournaments in eight months. They traveled to Wichita with 77 of the top teams in the country and emerged from the preliminary debates with a 6-2 record, advancing to the final elimination rounds with 28 other teams, including heavyweights Harvard, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and Wake Forest.

The duo was a No. 5 seed going into the elimination rounds and swiftly defeated Georgia in the first round to advance to the Sweet 16. Northwestern University and UNLV loomed in the next two rounds, but Katz and Robinson took down both teams before toppling archrival Harvard in the Final Four, a victory that had escaped Robinson in recent years. “I was so elated,” she says. “I was incredibly nervous as the decision was coming out, but when it came out in our favor, I was very, very excited.”

With their fourth win in hand, the only team left to overcome was Georgetown, which had defeated the University of Michigan in the other semifinal. Although Katz and Robinson had emerged from the preliminary debates with a victory over the Hoyas, facing them again in the championship round would be no easy task. Both teams performed nearly flawlessly, and the KU team finished the final round feeling uncertain.

“I thought that we debated really well in the final round, but I also thought that the team from Georgetown was doing a really phenomenal job,” Katz recalls. “I knew it was going to be a close debate either way.”

Indeed it was. The judges ruled the Jayhawks the winners on a narrow 4-3 decision, sending a crowd of KU debaters, coaches, alumni and spectators—even supporters from opposing teams—into a frenzy of enthusiastic high-fives and emotional embraces.

“One of the cool parts about it,” says Bricker, “was the fact that we had people who were not affiliated with KU genuinely excited about the success of this team and thought that it was a well-deserved award.”

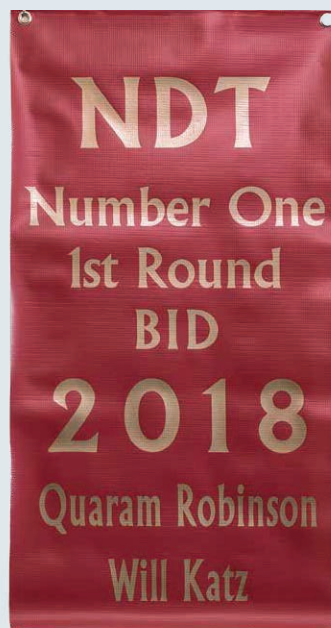
Amid the excitement, Harris was overcome with an unfamiliar feeling as he watched his team celebrate. “As soon as the judges started talking about why they voted, my immediate thoughts turned to next year,” he says. “What will these debaters do and what can we do to get ready for the next season?”

Despite losing his most accomplished

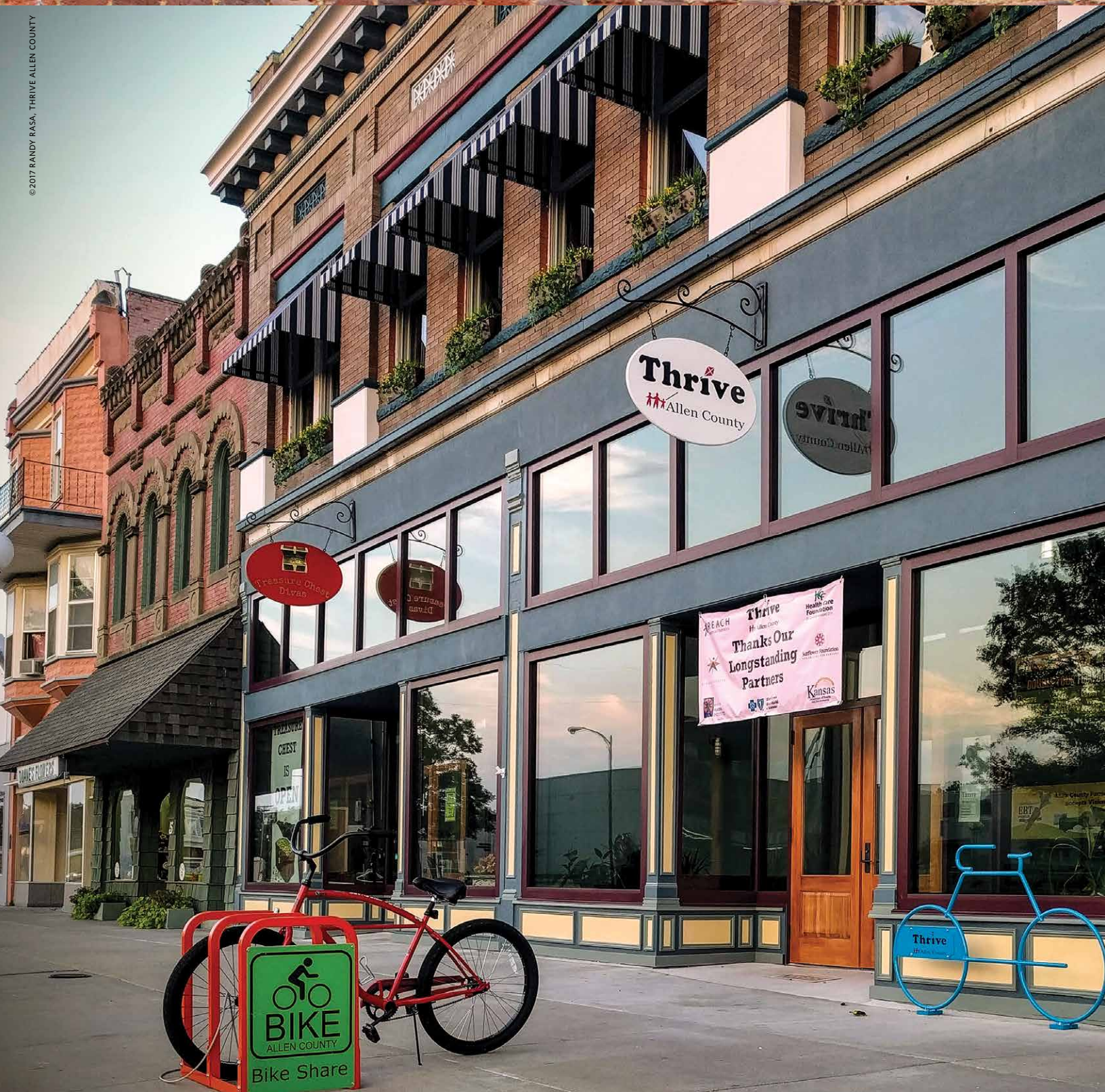
seniors, Harris is eager to see what lies ahead. Of this year’s 30-person squad, he anticipates that 28 debaters will return in the fall, including two Kansas freshmen, Nate Martin and Nick Massa, who advanced to the NDT with Katz and Robinson.

“It’s not a cupboard-empty kind of feeling,” says Harris. “There’s not an expectation that we’re going to replicate this success immediately, but getting the chance to watch this next group of students grow and get better is exciting.”

STEVE PUPPE (3)



Video coverage of Katz and Robinson winning the national title can be seen at kualumni.org/extras.





THRIVE WHERE YOU'RE SOWN

*An Iola native is helping
his hometown save itself*

"I feel like riding," David Toland says. "Should we take the bikes?" Trim and bespectacled in a blazer, slacks and tie, the 40-year-old CEO of Thrive Allen County is sipping a chai tea latte outside the Jefferson Street office of the nonprofit community group he has led since 2008. After a long run of dreary days, spring has finally come to Iola, the southeastern Kansas town of 6,000 that is the Allen County seat. The sun is shining, the grass in the courthouse park across the street is greening up, and on the sidewalk a rack of brightly colored bicycles—part of Thrive's new bike share program—stand ready to roll. Founded in 2006 as a volunteer group, Thrive Allen County has grown into a full-time staff of eight who work to build the physical and fiscal well-being of the community by promoting economic development, improving health care access and encouraging and facilitating healthy lifestyles. Their goal is to transform Allen County into the healthiest rural county in the state.

Toland, c'99, g'01, kicked off the morning by showing a visitor around the downtown square, stopping occasionally to pick up bits of litter blowing along the sidewalk as he touted the new businesses that are filling in once-abandoned storefronts. Some projects are personal: A corner building that houses a dress store and a coffee shop is owned by Toland and his wife, Elizabeth Huddleston Toland, d'00, g'02; an upstairs office that looks out on the square holds the desk used by his grandfather, the late Stanley Toland, c'30, l'32. Other signs of progress are the result of Thrive's efforts to attract new businesses such as Velo+, a Lenexa bike store that opened a branch in Iola last year and recently moved to a larger space on the square, and to generally boost pride in Iola's iconic downtown by painting hydrants, planting flowers and installing bike racks.

BY STEVEN HILL

Now he's ready to show off Thrive's latest project: a new complex of hiking and biking trails carved out of industrial wasteland once home to a long-defunct cement factory.

"You're going to bike like that?" asks a neighboring shopkeeper, casting a dubious look at Toland's attire.

"Sure! Why not?" he shoots back. "There's no dress code!"

As he pedals across the square, tie and coattails flapping in the wind, Toland admits that some were skeptical of bike sharing. Doubters said the bikes would get stolen, but that hasn't happened; one went missing for a week or three, but was eventually returned. They said buying bikes was a waste of money because no one would use them, but the free rides have been so popular that Thrive is expanding the program to cover four towns. In addition to supporting the group's mission to get people moving, the bikes are a boon to blue collar workers—waitresses, laborers, "the fry cook at Sonic," Toland says. Allen County is in the southeast corner of Kansas, a region dubbed the Appalachia of the Midwest, and of the 26 counties that rank in the lowest quartile of the annual County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 13 are here. In an area where poverty is widespread and not everyone has a car, where rates of obesity, physical inactivity and preventable hospital stays are well above the state average, bicycles can be lifesavers. Sometimes quite literally.

One day a man walked into Thrive and asked for a bike. "We checked him out a bike," Toland says, "and he promptly rode that bike 2 1/2 miles to Allen County Regional Hospital, where he was admitted for what turned out to be a heart attack.

"He was worried about the cost of an ambulance ride," Toland explains. "While he was lying on the gurney he had the nurses call Thrive so we'd know he left the bike there. We were a form of emergency transportation without knowing it."

Since 2008, when Toland signed on, Thrive has helped launch exercise and weight-loss programs, build bike trails and playgrounds and a dog park, organize a farmer's market and a community garden,

IN AN AREA WHERE POVERTY IS WIDESPREAD AND NOT EVERYONE HAS A CAR, WHERE RATES OF OBESITY, PHYSICAL INACTIVITY AND PREVENTABLE HOSPITAL STAYS ARE WELL ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE, BICYCLES CAN BE LIFESAVERS.



and bring fitness centers to remote communities. Toland and his team have hired and trained navigators to help Allen Countians apply for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act—reducing the uninsured rate from 21 percent in 2013 to 9 percent in 2017—and spearheaded a successful effort to build a new hospital, redeveloping the old hospital site with a badly needed grocery store and new apartments.

Their progress has drawn state and

national support. In 2014 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment made Thrive the Kansas Organizational Health Champion and bestowed a four-year, \$600,000 grant on the group. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas awarded a \$75,000 Trailblazer for a Healthy Kansas Grant, and the Kansas Health Foundation added a \$100,000 Healthy Living Grant for trail construction. Most high-profile of all, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation last year named Thrive Allen County one of eight groups nationwide to receive its Culture of Health Prize, a \$25,000 award.

For some projects, Thrive is responding to what Allen Countians say they want or need. For others, the organization is out front, trying to bring along a sometimes skeptical community one step at a time. It can be a tough sell.

"People here have seen a lot of change, but most of it has not been change for good," Toland says as he rolls past blighted homes just blocks from downtown. In the past decade, wages have fallen, the population declined and two major employers—Herff Jones and Haldex Corporation—closed, throwing 300 Allen Countians out of work.

"When people are accustomed to associating change with loss, they resist it," Toland says. "We're trying to transform our culture and make people believe that change can be good."

Toland grew up near downtown Iola, a seventh-generation Allen Countian and a fourth-generation Jayhawk. After earning a political science degree, he completed KU's top-ranked master of public administration program. He worked for city managers in Bonner



Springs and Reno, Nevada, before serving for six years in Washington, D.C., as an appointee of mayor Anthony Williams.

After a stint as deputy chief operating officer in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Toland was appointed chief of staff in the Office of Planning, where he led the legislative effort to win approval from the D.C. council for a 2006 overhaul of the district's controversial Comprehensive Plan. Among the council members he lobbied was former D.C. mayor Marion Barry, '61. They got along well enough. "He had some demons, but he was a natural politician and he could talk to anybody," says Toland, whose boyish features and thatch of neatly parted red hair inspired a nickname from his fellow Jayhawk. "He always called me Opie."

Although his roots in Iola run as deep as anyone's in town, moving back was never Toland's plan.

"I've always loved Iola and Allen County," he says, "but I never assumed it would be possible for me to make a living here."

Then came a call from Brian Wolfe, an Iola family physician whom Toland has known since childhood. Wolfe, m'79, has served as chairman of Thrive's board since the volunteer group was founded in 2006.

"He gave the worst sales pitch I'd ever heard," Toland says, laughing. "He told me all the things I wouldn't like up front, and finally, I said, 'Brian, what is it?'"

What it was, was a windfall. The nonprofit health care organization Health Midwest, which leased and operated the county's hospital, had been bought by for-profit Hospital Corporation of America; sale proceeds helped establish the REACH Health Care Foundation and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. Both were funding health-related activities in the Kansas City metro and Allen County, and one of those efforts—a local health advisory committee that was assessing the county's health care needs and resources—had morphed into a volunteer group, Thrive Allen County. Its members were

Toland says his fellow Allen Countians pride themselves on "working with what we've got," turning industrial ruins like an abandoned Lehigh Portland Cement plant into a complex of hiking-biking trails.

.....
determined to do something about the huge gap they'd discovered between what was needed and what was available.

Data collected with the help of a work group from KU's Life Span Institute showed that 48 percent of residents had no dental insurance, 27 percent had not visited a dentist in at least two years, and 66 percent were overweight or obese. Allen County's population was also declining, part of a long trend that has seen the county's numbers drop from a peak of 27,000 in 1910 to 13,000 in 2010.

"Being part of southeast Kansas means we have more than our share of poverty," Wolfe says, "and that creates all kinds of disparities." Shortfalls in health, dental and mental health care; high rates of substance abuse; and challenges with affordable



housing and transportation were not unexpected, he says, but the intensity of the problems was. Things in Allen County, many agreed, were headed in the wrong direction.

Thrive Allen County was ready to take on those problems, but first it needed to move from volunteer to full-time status, Wolfe told Toland, and find a CEO to lead the way.

“One thing I vividly recall from talking with the people at REACH,” Wolfe says, “is that you need to hire somebody you won’t have to push along. You want somebody who has so many ideas that you may have to rein them in a little bit.”

The first round of interviews had turned up prospects with adequate credentials, “but they didn’t know our community,” he recalls, “and they probably didn’t have a very big vision.

“The difference with David, having grown up here, he had a sense of the community; and because of his experience away from here he had some ideas and visions of what could be. You could see he had investment: This was his hometown, and that was important.”

A “slow-motion decline” is how Toland characterizes the climate he found after he and Beth moved with their 1-year-old child to Iola.

“It wasn’t dramatic. With the exception

of the flood in 2007, we hadn’t had a terrible crisis that shocked everyone into paying attention. What we had was a month-by-month, year-by-year deterioration in economic conditions, in population, in health conditions. We were steadily getting worse. So part of how I spent the first couple of years was trying to bring the data to people’s attention and help them understand that the path we’re on is not sustainable.”

The first County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, published in 2010, bolstered Thrive’s argument. The measurement of vital health factors such as high school graduation rates, smoking, obesity, unemployment, teen births, access to healthy foods, and air and water quality in almost every county in America, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, ranked Allen County 94th in Kansas. Thrive set a goal of improving the county’s ranking to 85th by 2015. (In the 2018 report, released in March, Allen ranked 84th.) It struck up partnerships with the county hospital, the health department, the Federally Qualified Health Center in Pittsburg and private medical practices.

“We planted a flag in the sand,” Toland says. “I think people need a goal that’s visible up ahead, and somebody needs to

articulate that goal. Using the county health rankings, Thrive was able to do that and get people fired up to take action.”

The stakes, Toland believes, are nothing less than the survival of Allen County:

“We’re doing this so that Iola, so that Humboldt, so that all our cities across the county—unlike so many other rural communities in Kansas and across the United States—don’t become ghost towns.”

In the parking lot of G&W Foods, Iola’s new grocery store, Toland stops 30 yards from the front door and points at the asphalt.

“I was born right about here,” he says, grinning.

He has ditched the bicycle to continue the tour in his Volkswagen, a concession to the geographic reality of Allen County—nine cities spread across 505 square miles—that makes transportation a challenge for many.

He hit Chancy’s Grill & Shake in Moran for a regular lunch group that includes two former mayors—his eighth-grade history teacher, Bill Shirley, and John McRae, president of Iola Industries—a local banker, Tom Strickler; and the superintendent of Iola public schools, Stacey Fager. On the way out of town he stopped by Stub’s Market, a mom and pop grocery



whose owners are looking to retire. With no one interested in taking over the business, Moran's 500 citizens face the prospect of becoming a food desert.

"There's nothing glamorous about it; there's no sushi aisle," Toland says of the store, which Thrive is helping residents convert to a co-op. "But it's vitally important to this part of the county. You've got public housing over here, so these folks are able to walk—most don't have cars. It serves four or five towns in Allen County and two or three in surrounding counties, so keeping it alive is very important. We've put a lot of energy into it."

The same goes for the new G&W.

The site was once home to the county's critical access hospital—which explains Toland's origin story. In 1977, when he was born, the spot he's standing on now was the hospital's maternity ward. By 2010, the building was crumbling and Thrive organized a ballot initiative to raise a quarter-cent sales tax to build a new hospital. It passed with 72 percent of the vote—the first successful countywide referendum since 1969. The new 25-bed hospital opened in 2013.

"It's just a small community hospital, but it means a world of difference for us," Toland says. "They employ 160 people, so it's not only an important part of the health care safety net, but of the economy."

Allen County has added 27 miles of trails and improved recreation facilities, helping double the percentage of people with access to exercise opportunities from 40 to 77 percent since 2014. MARV (Meals and Reading Vehicle) delivers healthy food and books in summer.

With the hospital relocated, Thrive led efforts to recruit a new occupant for the old hospital building. Finding no takers, the town razed the building and started from scratch.

Across the lot stands a cheery row of new apartments, Eastgate Lofts, part of a redevelopment project undertaken to sweeten the pot for G&W, a regional grocery chain that needed some persuading to build in a city that has seen its population drop in every census but one in the last century. To build the 12-unit complex Thrive enlisted Iola Industries, an industrial development organization founded in 1955.

"Thrive's mission and Iola Industries' mission are somewhat similar," says McRae, who has led the group since 2007. "We're catalysts. We provide direction and get it started and then let people pick it up and go with it. David's been really good with Thrive: They don't want to run a grocery or a hospital, but they do help get things off the ground."

The new grocery, which opened in January, is also on the small side at 18,000

square feet, but it has an outsized impact on the community, Toland believes.

"This isn't the Merc; I get that. You're not going to have the selection you do at the Dillons on Mass," he says. "But it's probably the most exciting thing that's happened here in the last decade, and it's got the feel of the community it serves." The building facade is done up attractively in red brick, with a patio full of wooden tables for cooking demonstrations or picnicking, and it's within walking distance of a working-class neighborhood that had been a food desert.

When Toland worked in the deputy mayor's office in Washington, D.C., he says the biggest priority was bringing baseball back to the nation's capital.

"Mayor Williams wanted baseball, so we worked really hard to make that happen. There are good economic reasons to have baseball, but it wasn't really about that. It was about the feeling of being a big league city."

Looking around at the gleaming floors and well-stocked produce section, Toland says, "OK, so the Allen County version of



Support for a community garden, a farmer's market and a bond issue to build a new full-service hospital reflect a growing culture of health in Allen County.

that is that when Super Walmart opened here, it put our local grocery store out of business. Iola became a town that didn't have a grocery store. So getting something like this built, and opened and having it be nice—it's a big deal."

Toland's Washington experience has influenced his work in rural Kansas to a surprising degree.

"The district had not started its renaissance when I went to work for Mayor Williams," he says. "But through a focused, resident-led effort, things turned around. I feel like through a focused, resident-led effort things are turning around here. There we lived in a lower-income, working-class neighborhood that was predominantly African-American. It was very similar in feel to growing up in Iola except that it was an African-American neighborhood."

The battles are different in Allen County, Toland says, and so are the tactics. Clashes that would take place in public meetings in the district are waged in private in rural Kansas, and not always face-to-face.

"I needed to dial it down a little bit, I think, coming here. I was used to the rough-and-tumble, but here the rules of

rough-and-tumble are entirely different than back East."

In the midst of the campaign to bring G&W to Iola, fliers began turning up around town attacking Toland personally.

"It wasn't the same as someone standing up in an open meeting and saying, 'I don't like this and here's why.' It was an anonymous attack that came out of nowhere and there was no way to confront it," Toland says. "I'd be lying if I said that wasn't difficult."

Says McRae, "There are an awful lot of folks in small towns that want things to just stay the same. The problem is, you don't stay the same. You're either moving forward or you're moving backwards. The projects Thrive has been a catalyst on are little steps in moving in the right direction."

A campaign to raise the age for tobacco purchase from 18 to 21 encountered opposition from convenience store owners but still passed. A proposal to add fluoride to the drinking water in Humboldt was soundly defeated. Other efforts succeeded despite initial objections, only to see the objections change.

"What we heard over and over again with project after project was, 'Nobody will ever use that,'" Toland says. "But what

actually happened is that people used these trails and parks and grocery stores and medical facilities in droves. Now I get a call from somebody who says, 'I moved into the country so I could get away from people, and I'm tired of sitting on my back deck and having all these folks wave at me while I'm drinking my morning coffee.' So you're never going to make everybody happy. That's community work."

Wolfe praises Toland's ability to network and create relationships. "At the same time, he's got a pretty thick skin," he says. "Sometimes when you make decisions that may affect somebody in a way they don't like, you hear about it. In rural America, you can't be anonymous."

Medicaid expansion for Kansas, which Thrive advocates, is an issue that generates resistance in the county, Wolfe says.

"There's some challenges there, but he is politically very attuned to the climate in the county, the region and the state, and that's been very useful to try to work together with the different people we need to work together with."

In April, Toland delivered a rousing speech at a KanCare expansion rally at the statehouse, excoriating the executive and legislative branches of state government for "taking rural Kansas apart piece by

piece,” calling the failure to expand Medicaid “a huge part of that dismantling.”

Brandishing a big pickle jar, he said, “There are hundreds of these spread across our diners and our cafes and our convenience stores all across rural Kansas. These are here because when our neighbors are in crisis we raise money by putting in our spare change ... This is how we’re paying for health care.”

Back in Allen County he points out the Department of Children and Families office that was closed, forcing low-income clients to go to Chanute, out of reach for those with no car. The Department of Transportation office was shut down, depriving the county of good, middle-class jobs. Refusal to expand Medicaid costs the county hospital about \$1 million a year.

“That’s three examples of where state policy has had a direct impact on Allen County, so we have been outspoken on these policy issues,” Toland says. “The last decade has been a disaster for rural Kansas, and I lay that at the feet of Topeka and the Legislature and the governor.

“Maybe we should play it safe, and not speak out, but I don’t think that’s in our DNA as an organization. We still believe that we can have an impact and influence policymakers if we can just have that opportunity to state our case.”

Yes, there are headwinds. There have been setbacks. Allen County’s position in the County Health Rankings in the past five years has bounced around, from a high of 79 to a low of 92. Some measures of health (obesity, excessive drinking, physical inactivity) have actually increased, although access to exercise opportunities has nearly doubled.

But the people of Allen County have voted with their feet—and their time and work ethic—to support many Thrive programs.

Even midweek, the Lehigh Portland trails are busy with families, retired couples, kids. The trails were carved out of scrub thickets by armies of volunteers, who still turn out on workdays to keep the brush at bay. A repurposed highway bridge

"WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, BUT WE DO HAVE PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO DO THINGS WITH THEIR HANDS AND GET THINGS DONE. WE MAY BE LITTLE, BUT WE'RE SCRAPPY."

that spans a creek is a monument to community spirit: The county sold it for \$1, a local company painted it and donated old conveyor belts to resurface the deck, a Kansas Health Foundation grant paid to have it moved, and another local company poured the concrete footings. It spans only a short section of trail but symbolizes a light-years leap in attitude.

“People are more active now,” says Brian Wolfe, who sold his private practice to join the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, bringing to Allen County a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides care to all regardless of income or insurance status. “I always tell people the key to longevity and living well is moving. Now we see there’s more of a cultural expectation that riding a bike or walking or running is just what you do.”

Toland knows there’s much work still to be done. “We’re not healthy, and I won’t tell people we are,” he says, but he’s bullish on his county’s ability to fend for itself.

“We don’t have a lot of money, but we do have people who know how to do things with their hands and get things done,” he says. “We may be little, but we’re scrappy.”

Back at the Thrive office, a concrete truck is pouring the sidewalk for a new pocket park next door that will include a fountain, a stage and edible plants. A man raps on the window of Toland’s car.

“Are you the owner of Thrive?” he asks when Toland rolls down his window. The man is wearing a T-shirt and cupping a cigarette in his hand. He’s not wearing shoes.

“I work there,” Toland tells him.

“I like what you’re doing,” he says, pointing to the park, “but do you think you could put in some barbecue grills? My buddy lives next door, and in summer we like to grill out. I think barbecue grills would be good.”

Toland likes the idea and tells him he’ll

check into it. There’s no money for grills in the budget, but he knows somebody who knows somebody. He gets the man’s name, shakes his hand and promises to follow up.

Earlier, at the Elm Creek Community Garden, where neighborhood activists have turned flood-prone bottomland into community plots for Iola vegetable growers, Toland had pointed out a row of container gardens intended to ease access for seniors and people with disabilities. The big plastic bins—used to ship sugar—were donated by Russell Stover, which makes candy in Allen County.

“Kind of like swords into plowshares,” he muses. “Taking vessels for sugar and turning them into gardening plots for growing healthy food.”

Like so many Thrive projects, the garden started with the people of the community and is sustained by them still. Thrive lent encouragement and grant know-how and got out of the way. “Thrive is a convener, an engine,” Toland says. “We don’t do the work. The people do the work.”

As the shoeless man pads off down the street, Toland says, “It’s funny, we get so much of that. People see a need or an opportunity, and they come to Thrive.” Sometimes it’s a banker and sometimes it’s a barefoot dude who looks like he might have just woken up.

“Whether it’s the guy with no shoes or the guy with \$300 shoes, that’s heartening,” Toland says. “That makes me feel like people have faith that we can get something done.”





ENJOY

THE MOMENT'

KU'S NCAA DREAMS FALL ONE GAME SHORT, BUT FINAL FOUR WAS ITS OWN UNLIKELY VICTORY

It was an Alamodome moment that became KU legend: Closely guarded by Memphis' Derrick Rose, Mario Chalmers drained an urgent yet elegant three-pointer in the closing seconds of regulation to push the 2008 NCAA Tournament championship game into overtime. A few fast-paced minutes later, KU owned its first NCAA title since 1988.

The Jayhawks' next trip to San Antonio produced no miraculous jump shot, no celebration, no championship. Instead, as time expired in a 95-79 loss to Villanova—an outcome never in doubt after the Wildcats pounced to a 22-4 lead seven minutes into the game—coach Bill Self draped his right arm around Devonte' Graham's shoulder, pulling his consensus All-American point guard in for a fatherly embrace.

KU's latest iconic San Antonio image was one of consolation, not jubilation, yet the 2018 Jayhawks still departed, in Graham's words, with "our heads up. We had an unbelievable season."

In the immediate aftermath of the March 31 NCAA semifinal game, Self was subdued, as expected, but still saw through the teary haze of his team's painful loss to remind reporters, fans and even his players that the journey, though one game

short of its goal, was better than could have been expected.

"We did not have the perfect roster, in many ways, to win 31 games and win a great league and the conference tournament and get to the Final Four," Self said. "To be honest with you, it felt like today it kind of just caught up with us."

But at least their shortcomings caught up with the Jayhawks in the Final Four, in Texas, and not a weekend earlier, in Nebraska.

After consecutive Elite Eight losses—to Villanova in 2016 and last year to Oregon—the Jayhawks finally pushed through with a dramatic, 85-81 victory over Duke, March 25 in Omaha. The victory was so sweet, so hard-earned, and, given the totality of the season's circumstances, so unexpected, that KU's 2018 season might best be remembered as the Road to Omaha.

The thrilling, overtime victory over Duke was certainly the highlight of KU's NCAA Tournament, yet, at a subtler level, it might not have been the emotional apex.

Two days earlier, following KU's 80-76 Sweet 16 victory over Clemson, Self finally unshouldered a burden that seemed even weightier than memories of the previous seasons' Elite Eight losses. Win or lose,

this year's KU team had fought its way into position to play for a *chance* to make the Final Four, and, whatever else awaited, an unlikely achievement had already been unlocked.

Referencing the upcoming Elite Eight matchup with Duke, Self said, "Of all the teams that we've had here, this would be the team that everyone would have thought would not be in this game. And hey, we're in this game. We've got a legitimate shot to go to San Antonio."

The story of the 2017-'18 men's basketball team began, unfortunately, shortly before the start of what should have been—and otherwise was—a forgettable season opener Nov. 10 against Tennessee State.

Apparently tipped earlier in the day that freshman forward Billy Preston, a McDonald's All-American, had missed curfew the night before and a class that morning, Self explained after the game that he had asked Preston about the reports during on-court warm-ups. When Preston said both were true, Self held the superstar recruit out of what would have been his collegiate debut.

"It wasn't much of a decision," Self said at the time.



By Chris Lazzarino

Photographs by Steve Puppe



It got worse from there. The next day, according to Self, Preston was involved in a single-car accident that led Kansas Athletics administrators into an investigation not about the incident itself, but rather the “financial picture specific to the vehicle.” Self told Preston during the team meal before the Nov. 14 game against Kentucky, in Chicago, that he would be held out; ultimately, Preston never returned, ending his KU career with a total of 21 points in two exhibition games.

Without the muscular, 6-foot-10 Preston, the Jayhawks were unexpectedly forced to rely on 7-foot sophomore center Udoka Azubuike to absorb the great majority of big-man minutes, with 6-8 whippet Mitch Lightfoot his only backup. As with the previous season, when senior Landen Lucas was the only reliable post presence due to a wrist injury that limited Azubuike to 11 games and off-court issues that stunted Carlton Bragg’s on-court development, Self was forced to abandon his beloved high-low offense in favor of four guards rotating around one center.

The difference this season, though, was that Self did not have multidimensional 6-8 freshman forward Josh Jackson, who played longer than his height.

“This is so different from any team Bill

has coached,” former coach Larry Brown, a friend and mentor to Self, observed while visiting the Jayhawks in their San Antonio locker room. “He’s always been the way I was taught: inside-out, two big guys. It’s a different style now, but I also think that, at the end of the day, experience helps.”

Brown was referencing increased responsibilities foisted upon KU’s four primary guards: 6-2 Graham, the team’s unquestioned leader; 6-3 redshirt sophomore Malik Newman, who overcame a slow start to become the team’s primary playmaker late in the season, being named Most Outstanding Player of both the Big 12 Tournament and the NCAA’s Midwest Region; supernaturally athletic 6-5 junior Lagerald Vick; and 6-8 senior shooter Svi

★ **“What we try to emphasize is, ‘This is the reward.’ Just go out and have fun and let’s enjoy the moment. Let’s play with joy and passion and play with a free mind.”**

—Bill Self

Mykhailiuk, whose improved all-around game became a formidable force.

Interior help for Azubuike arrived Dec. 26 when 6-9 freshman Silvio De Sousa reported for duty on a frigid winter morning after completing his final semester at Florida’s IMG Academy. De Sousa appeared lost early, as expected, but Self’s hope that he could be a reliable contributor by February was delayed a month. (Although he was a crucial performer in two of KU’s biggest wins of the season, against West Virginia in the Big 12 Tournament and Duke in the Elite Eight, De Sousa had played a total of 39 minutes until he began regularly logging double-digit minutes in early March.)

Roster uncertainties at times led to uncharacteristic on-court waffling, including back-to-back nonconference December losses, to Washington in Sprint Center and Arizona State in Allen Field House, and Big 12 losses at home to Texas Tech on Jan. 2 and Feb. 3 in a nationally televised game against Oklahoma State.

KU closed the regular season with an 18-point drubbing March 3 in Stillwater, giving OSU the first season sweep by a conference opponent in Bill Self’s 15 seasons.

“Stating the obvious, I don’t think, is

really calling anybody out,” Self said in San Antonio, when asked for the umpteenth time about the atypical criticisms he lobbed at his team during the season’s ebbs. “Everybody could see what I saw.”

Including, first and foremost, the players, who were stung by being labeled “soft” when Self at times questioned their intensity.

“We definitely listened, and I think it definitely helped, especially after the second loss to Oklahoma State,” Mykhailiuk said. “It definitely changed our routine, how we work, how we work in practices and just how we’re acting overall, in life, off the court, on the court.”

And through it all, almost everything else went right for KU.

The Jayhawks beat Kentucky and Syracuse in neutral-court made-for-TV games. They swept NCAA Tournament qualifiers West Virginia, Kansas State and Texas, and added victories over KSU (which advanced to the Elite Eight) and West Virginia (Sweet 16) in the Big 12 Tournament. They won a share of their record-setting 14th-consecutive Big 12 title with a revenge victory at Texas Tech, with two games remaining in the regular season, and won the title outright two days later to cap a jubilant Senior Night.

For Self, though, the big wins merely masked what he viewed as a fundamentally flawed squad with a short bench and too few options inside.

“I didn’t think we were a very good team even though we were winning,” Self said after KU’s Elite Eight victory, more than a month after the Jayhawks won the Big 12. “Sometimes when you win, that camouflages what you don’t do well. When we got exposed, visually and by losses, I think that helped us in the long run



Underclassmen Udoka Azubuike (35, against Seton Hall’s vaunted frontline in Wichita, where a young fan, below, cheered on her ‘Hawks) and Lagerald Vick (2, navigating Clemson defenders in Omaha) both made themselves eligible for the NBA Draft without hiring an agent, leaving open the option to return by May 30. Both KU and Vick indicated he would not return, regardless of NBA draft status; not so for the 7-foot center. “I’m not saying goodbye,” Azubuike said of exploring his NBA prospects. “I’m saying I want to find out.”

and changed our mindset.”

As accolades began piling up for Graham, Big 12 Player of the Year and a Naismith Trophy finalist, the Jayhawks closed out their 15th league tournament title with a 25-7 scoring run for an 81-70 victory over the Mountaineers. Led by Newman’s 20 points, Graham’s 18 and

Mykhailiuk’s 16, the Jayhawks shot 69.2 percent from beyond the arc in the second half and 55.6 percent for the game.

“If they can do that for three weeks,” observed West Virginia coach Bob Huggins, “they could win a national championship.”

Asked to reflect on what awaited, Self instead chose to look back on the exhaust-

ing trek down a rocky conference trail that thoroughly tested every team in the Big 12.

“I do feel it’s time for everybody to go play somebody else,” Self said wearily. “We’re tired of each other.”

Less than 24 hours after winning the Big 12 Tournament title, KU was named a No. 1 NCAA Tournament seed for the third time in three years. Atop the rugged Midwest Region, considered by many commentators the toughest in the tournament, especially after overall No. 1 Virginia exited in the first round, the Jayhawks were finally free of the Big 12—and headed to Wichita, where a surprise awaited.

No tournament tradition is more lifeless than “open practices” generally required of each team at each site. They are a welcome opportunity for fans to cheer their favorite players up close, but what might sound like a fun way to burn through some nervous energy while





Mykhailiuk

awaiting the next day's tournament action is, in truth, kinda boring. Fans are usually seated and quiet as soon as they discover that watching practice—let alone a fake practice—isn't much of a hoot.

Seems nobody mentioned that to the good people of Wichita, who were, in every possible way, over-the-top excited to host NCAA Tournament games at the sparkling Intrust Bank Arena in the heart of downtown. When KU's team buses arrived at the arena to deliver players and coaches to media obligations and their open practice, streets and parking lots bordering the arena were, oddly, awash in rivers of yellow school buses.

Inside, thousands and thousands of school kids screamed madly. The arena was amped, supercharged, and when KU players ran from the tunnel, their faces lit up as cheers cascaded down to the court.

A half-hour before the delightful open-practice surprise, when Self and players sat down for the first of what would turn into a seemingly endless stream of media-room interview sessions, Self was asked by an East Coast sports-writer to explain how he keeps the postseason experience fresh. KU wins the league every year, advances to the NCAA Tournament every year, so, "How do you make it *not normal*, if that makes sense?"

Self smiled. It felt possible in the



Newman

moment, and perhaps turned out to be true, that the best inquiry Self would field over the next three weeks was the first.

"You know," he said, after a pause, "I think that's a good question."

While acknowledging the premise, Self questioned the specifics: Azubuike and De Sousa would make their first tournament appearance the following day, and Lightfoot and Vick couldn't brag much, either. Of the six or seven players expected to see significant time, only two—Graham and Mykhailiuk—could be considered true tournament veterans.

For this year, for *this* team, the tournament was as much an unknown as it would be for many others in the field.

"What we try to emphasize is, 'This is the reward,'" Self explained. "Just go out and have fun and let's enjoy the moment. Let's play with joy and passion and play with a free mind."

The following day, Self's Jayhawks did exactly that. Led by Graham's 29 points and buoyed by a brief but encouraging appearance by Azubuike, who had been sidelined since spraining a knee in practice before the Big 12 Tournament, KU opened with a 76-60 victory over Penn.

Up next was Seton Hall, a physically imposing veteran squad featuring 6-10 senior Angel Delgado, widely regarded as college basketball's best rebounder. He

pulled down 23 against the Jayhawks, the third-most in NCAA Tournament play in 35 years, and scored 24 points for a Chamberlain-esque double-double, but Azubuike pulled down seven boards in his 22 minutes, and, with timely three-point shooting by Mykhailiuk and Vick, KU gutted out an unglamorous victory, 83-79.

"In the NCAA Tournament, you don't worry as much about whether you played well or your played poorly," Self said. "You worry about, did we advance? And I think all we did this weekend is, we advanced."

On to Omaha.

Owniing a 54-34 lead five minutes into the second half of their Sweet 16 game against No. 5 seed Clemson in the CenturyLink Center, KU seemed on the verge of advancing not only with ease, but with style. Nope. The 20-point lead was a distant memory when the Tigers dropped two free throws to pull within four, 78-74, with 14 seconds remaining. KU held on, but narrowly, 80-76.

It was exactly the sort of late-game reversal that irritates Self to no end. Praise his guys for surviving and advancing, sure, but emphasize the mistakes, the lack of focus, a recurring inability to keep an opponent down. That would be Bill Self's usual postgame tactic.

But not this time.



Self



A highlight of the tournament, destined to go down in both KU and Duke basketball lore, was the relentless defense by Malik Newman (14) on Duke's Grayson Allen (shooting) that sent the March 25 Elite Eight classic in Omaha into overtime. Newman took over from there, scoring all 13 KU points en route to an 85-81 victory that sent the Jayhawks to the Final Four in San Antonio.

Sure, he pointed out the obvious—"We were playing not to lose down the stretch as opposed to playing to close them out, but we did enough"—yet Self was positively buoyant, grinning, glowing, after his team nearly blew a 20-point lead with a trip to the Elite Eight on the line.

"I never played four little guards around one big. It just goes against the grain from the teams that we've had in the past, but these guys have figured it out," Self explained. "They've learned how to play through it. There's less margin for error, but these guys have rallied around that."

The reward for beating Clemson was an Elite Eight date with No. 2 seed Duke, the most anticipated game of the entire tournament to that point.

"It's two blue bloods," Graham said. "Two great, historic programs. Two hall of fame coaches. It's a pride thing, and something for the fans to brag about. And, of course, getting to the Final Four is on all of our minds."

"Duke-Kansas is a huge matchup."

Celebrations abounded in March.

Rallies co-hosted by the Alumni Association and Kansas Athletics in Wichita filled the Brick and Mortar Event

★ **"Everything we've been through, we do it for moments like this. It's special, especially getting here to this same game the last two years and losing. It's getting over that hump and it feels unbelievable."**

—Devonte' Graham

Venue to capacity and even spilled into lines that stretched around the block. Omaha pregame events at CenturyLink were in an airplane-hangar-sized room that made even Ginormous Jay appear merely XL, and in San Antonio, festive fans worked on their tans in sun-drenched Tower of the Americas park, adjacent to the Alamodome.

Of course, fans and students in Lawrence brought their A-games to Mass Street, filling downtown after victories and lingering in an eerie ghost town when Lawrence police closed Mass Street to all traffic long before tipoff of the KU-Villanova Final Four game.

The biggest crimson-and-blue party,

though, was on-court in Omaha, after KU toppled Duke.

"It's Kansas and Duke," Self said afterward. "We didn't even talk about going to the Final Four."

Trailing by three in the final half-minute, Mykhailiuk secured a wizardly pass from Graham on the right wing, dribbled, stepped, and shot, lofting a cold-blooded three-pointer from directly in front of the Kansas bench to tie the game, 72-72. Duke guard Grayson Allen then tried to win it for his Blue Devils, using five precious seconds in a futile attempt to navigate around Newman, and his off-balance jumper from just outside the lane bounced twice around the rim before falling to the floor as time expired.

"Malik defended it perfectly," Self said. "That stop gave us some confidence, no question, going into overtime."

Newman took command from there, scoring all 13 of KU's overtime points en route to his career high 32, securing a trip to the Final Four out of a game that featured 18 lead changes and 11 ties.

Perhaps most remarkable of all, KU out-rebounded Duke, 47-32.

"I don't think I could be, or we could be, more excited or more proud than we are right now," Self said. "Not only going to



San Antonio, but the way we did it, beating a historic program, maybe the greatest college basketball coach of all time and such a talented roster.

"And to do it in a way that we haven't done all year long. We haven't beat anybody on the glass all year, and we win the rebounding battle by 15 today. That was an epic game, one of the best, if not *the* best, I've ever been a part of."

An utterly deflated Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Newman, "He made a lot of tough shots and a lot of timely shots for them. Right when we felt like we were about to get a run, he hit one. He's been their hottest player, but their four perimeter players, it's very difficult to concentrate on stopping one. That's why they're as good as they are."

After consecutive failures in the Elite Eight, Devonte' Graham finally earned his trip to the Final Four. And he and his teammates did so against Duke.

"Everything we've been through, we do it for moments like this," Graham said. "It's special, especially getting here to this same game the last two years and losing. It's getting over that hump and it feels unbelievable."

San Antonio, as always, was memorable. The Riverwalk, the Alamo, warm weather, Rita's margaritas, Tex-Mex in tucked away treasures like Pete's Tako House that pepper neighborhoods all over town.

On the court, though, the party wasn't so hot.

Villanova, which won all six of its tournament games by double digits en route to a second title in three years, made three-pointers look like layups, and Self said afterward that he felt the game getting away from KU less than three minutes in, when Villanova led 9-2. The Jayhawks might not have been in the game for long, but at least they were *in the game*.

A mismatched bunch fought its way to the Final Four. Victory.

"I'm not going to think sour about this at all," Self said. "We've been in enough Elite Eight games and lost them, so getting here was obviously special."

Yes, it came up a game short, but the last loss hurt so much only because it came so late. A deep tournament run by a gutty team that played with joy and passion will forever be far more about jubilation than consolation, no matter the final score.

Students celebrated victory over Duke in grand style (clockwise from above), with Lawrence Police reporting no arrests or citations related to Mass Street festivities; fans soaked up the South Texas sun at the March 31 pregame rally; Udoka Azubuike's mother, Florence Azuonuwu (red shirt), posed for a photo taken by LaLa Vick after traveling from Nigeria to visit her son for the first time in six years; players huddled after a rocky start that saw the game all but lost in the opening minutes; and coach Bill Self consoled consensus All-American Devonte' Graham in the final seconds of a KU career that will one day land his jersey in the Allen Field House rafters.





KU named as victim in recruiting-fraud indictment

Charges filed April 10 in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York against former Adidas executive James Gatto and two associates allege that Gatto, then head of global basketball marketing for Adidas, schemed to funnel illegal payments to the mother and a guardian of two prospective KU men's basketball players, but the indictment alleges no wrongdoing by the University and lists KU as a victim in the case.

"The payments described herein," federal prosecutors wrote in their indictment, "were designed to be concealed, including from the NCAA and officials at the University of Kansas, in order for the scheme to succeed and for the student-athletes to receive athletic scholarships from the University of Kansas."

The federal grand jury charged the defendants with wire fraud against KU and the University of Louisville, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud against KU, Louisville, North Carolina State University and the University of Miami.

No players were named in the indictment. Reported speculation about the identities of KU players include one who is no longer with the team and another whose guardian strongly denied the allegations in statements to the Lawrence Journal-World and Kansas City Star.

KU's only official statement was issued by Joe Monaco, director of strategic communications: "Earlier today, we learned that the University of Kansas is named as a victim in a federal indictment. The indictment does not suggest any wrongdoing by the University, its coaches or its staff. We will cooperate fully with investigators in this matter. Because this is an active investigation, it is not appropriate for us to comment further at this time."

News of the indictment broke shortly before the postseason basketball banquet, after which coach Bill Self met briefly with reporters.

"I did not see anywhere, nor do I believe, that we were thought to be anything but a victim in the situation," Self said.

—C.L.

Association



The Class of 1968 and Gold Medal Club reunions included tours of the new Earth, Energy and Environment Center and Allen Field House, where several Jayhawks compared their wingspans to those of KU basketball legends.

of Gold Medal Club leaders and volunteers and reading the names of its newest members. “Your lifelong connection and relationship with the University of Kansas is one of the reasons being a Jayhawk is such a special thing,” he said.

Gold Medal Club

Jayhawks celebrate 50-year milestone on Mount Oread

Despite unseasonably brisk temperatures, more than 120 Jayhawks and guests were in good spirits as they returned to the Hill April 6-7 for the Class of 1968 and Gold Medal Club reunions. The festivities began Friday with a guided tour of Quantrill’s Raid through Lawrence, a campus bus tour, and a lunch and presentation with KU student leaders. Later in the day, participants also toured Allen Field House.

“It’s as awesome as it ever was,” said Ellie Green Lasater, d’67, a retired teacher who traveled from Alexandria, Virginia, and took photos of several trophies and exhibits in the Booth Family Hall of Athletics for her grandchildren. “It’s been 50 years, but it still feels like I’m back at home.”

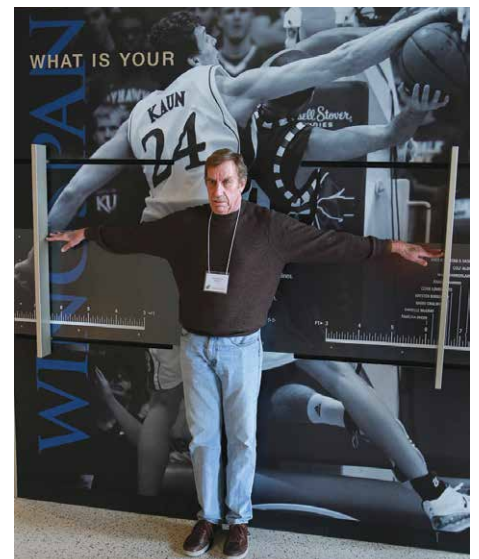
On Saturday, alumni and their guests gathered for a luncheon and program at the Adams Alumni Center, a far cry from the last reunion for Gladstone resident

Fred Hack, c’68. “At our 25th reunion, we spent most of our time at The Wheel,” he said with a chuckle.

Don Johnston, b’56, l’66, president of the Gold Medal Club, welcomed the Class of 1968, quipping, “It’s a nice organization. You’ll learn quickly that there is no more emphasis placed on what you want to be when you grow up and there’s no point in trying to lie about your age.”

Chancellor Doug Girod praised Gold Medal Club members for their unwavering support and dedication to the University, and invited them to explore campus’ ever-changing landscape, which now includes the newly opened Burge Union and the Earth, Energy & Environment Center. “This is probably the first time in three or four years that we haven’t had a crane on campus,” he joked.

Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, president of the Alumni Association, closed the program by applauding the contributions



Fantasy and fun

Renaissance-themed Roundup draws revelers in Wichita

This year's Jayhawk Roundup was a rousing success, with nearly 500 KU alumni and friends flocking to Murfin Stables April 13 for the Wichita Network's largest fundraising event, which was presented this year in partnership with Kansas Athletics and Williams Education Fund. The Roundup, typically held in the fall, moved to spring this year for the first time in its 15-year history.

The theme for the festivities was "Game of Hawks," a playful spin on the popular fantasy epic "Game of Thrones." Bleached-white trees with crimson leaves lined the stables, and centerpieces of swords and shields adorned each table, echoes of medieval times.

The event featured silent and live auctions, with top dollars going for a trip to the 2018 Champions Classic in Indianapolis, and the KU Libraries exhibit "Commemorate the Gr8s," which celebrates the 1988 and 2008 men's basketball national championship teams. Guests were

also treated to a feast of food and drink and live music from the band Annie Up, as well as a live carving of a 5-foot Jayhawk from Kansaw Carvings artist Dan Besco, who also donated smaller birds for the silent auction.

Alumni Association President Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, thanked event chairs Dave, e'75, b'75, and Janet Lusk Murfin, d'75, for hosting the Roundup and honored longtime Wichita volunteer and 2017 Wintermote Award winner Camille Briebesca Nyberg, c'96, g'98, along with Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award winners Jerry, p'69, and Lucy Burtnett.

Chancellor Doug Girod attended his first roundup as KU's leader, and Kansas Athletics staff members included head football coach David Beaty, men's basketball assistant coach Kurtis Townsend and Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger, PhD'96.

"We had more guests in attendance than we have had in years," says Danielle Lafferty Hoover, c'07, director of donor relations and Wichita programs. "The fans love having University partners and KU guests in the stables—it's like bringing a part of Lawrence to Wichita."



DAN STOREY (5)



Roundup participants included (l-r) Melanie Davies; head football coach David Beaty; Dale Seuferling, KU Endowment president; Dave Murfin; Susan Girod; and Marianne Seuferling. KU Libraries staff members LeAnn Meyer and Leah Hallstrom took their turn on the throne created by the Roundup's longtime wizard of set design, Jim Burgess. Brian Hanni, the play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks, emceed the festivities.

Association



Rock Chalk Ball

Kansas City Jayhawks tout traditions, new chancellor

Chancellor Doug Girod began his KU career 24 years ago in Kansas City, so it made perfect sense that the 18th chancellor's inauguration calendar included the Rock Chalk Ball, the annual rite of spring in the nation's largest KU community. The Association's Greater Kansas City Network hosted the 2018 edition April 28 at the Kansas City Convention Center.

More than 750 alumni and friends honored "Crimson and Blue, Forever KU" and the tradition of Jayhawks helping Jayhawks at the 23rd-annual event. Proceeds will benefit the Association's Jayhawk Career Network, which the chancellor highlighted as one of the important ways KU will improve students' experience. The program's first phase, the KU Alumni Mentoring digital platform, will launch this fall, uniting academic schools across KU to match students with alumni based on their career interests.

Ball co-chair Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, says mentoring and other career programs are vital to students. "As a first-generation college graduate, I know the importance of making those

connections to help bridge the gap between college and career."

Also leading the ball were co-chair Billy Marshall, c'00, and Kansas City network president Jessica Nelson Palm, j'11, who worked with Association staff, including Kelsey Hill, c'12, assistant director of Kansas City programs.

Title sponsor Tickets For Less and presenting sponsors Boulevard Brewing Co., Charlie Hustle Clothing Co. and Gohagan & Co. supported the event.

Emcee Curtis Marsh, j'92, director of KU Info and the DeBruce Center, deftly steered the program, sharing his knowledge of KU history and trivia. Auctioneer Trisha Brauer and her festive team fired confetti cannons to tout winning bids on auction items that included several exotic trips, a concert by Grammy-winning singer Ed Sheeran, and a dinner or private basketball lesson provided by Frank Mason III, c'17.

Hill summed up the evening: "The funds raised will ensure that KU values and the tradition of helping one another will continue through the Jayhawk Career Network. I couldn't have been prouder to be a Jayhawk!"



Parties included (l-r) Liz Cohen Levy, Debbi Cohen, Katelyn Girod, Susan Girod, Baby Jay, Chancellor Doug Girod and Howard Cohen. Emcee Curtis Marsh shared fun facts (Did you know that 6.4 trillion Allen Field Houses could fit into the world's oceans?). Baby Jay fondly recalled vintage footwear in KU Libraries' display and, following dinner and the live auction, the Patrick Lentz Band beckoned dancers. To see more photos from the ball, visit kualumni.org/rcb2018.

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- Merchandise discount at KU Bookstores (in store and online)
- And much more! Visit kualumni.org/benefits for a complete menu of benefits.

Association

STEVE PUPPE (3)



Following the silent auction and dinner, the program and live auction featured confetti cannons for winning bidders, courtesy of Scott Jones, a member of auctioneer Trisha Brauer's team. Amid a cascade of confetti, Stefani and David Voorhees kissed to celebrate their purchase of suite seats at Kauffman Stadium for a Kansas City Royals game.

Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships March 1 through April 30. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

Christina Aangeenbrug	Daniel L. Cross
Chad E. Aberle	Neil M. Croxton
Ronald E. & Joan M. Adams	Laura C. Cummings
Melissa Stewart Ahlers	Marco Davis & Goldie M. Carr-Davis
Ronald C. & Neva Bender Allison	Paula Dwyer Davis
Abby L. Anderson	Richard L. Davis
Benjamin A. Anderson	Debra J. DeBiasse
Rhonda Frazier Anderson	Michelle L. Degiusti
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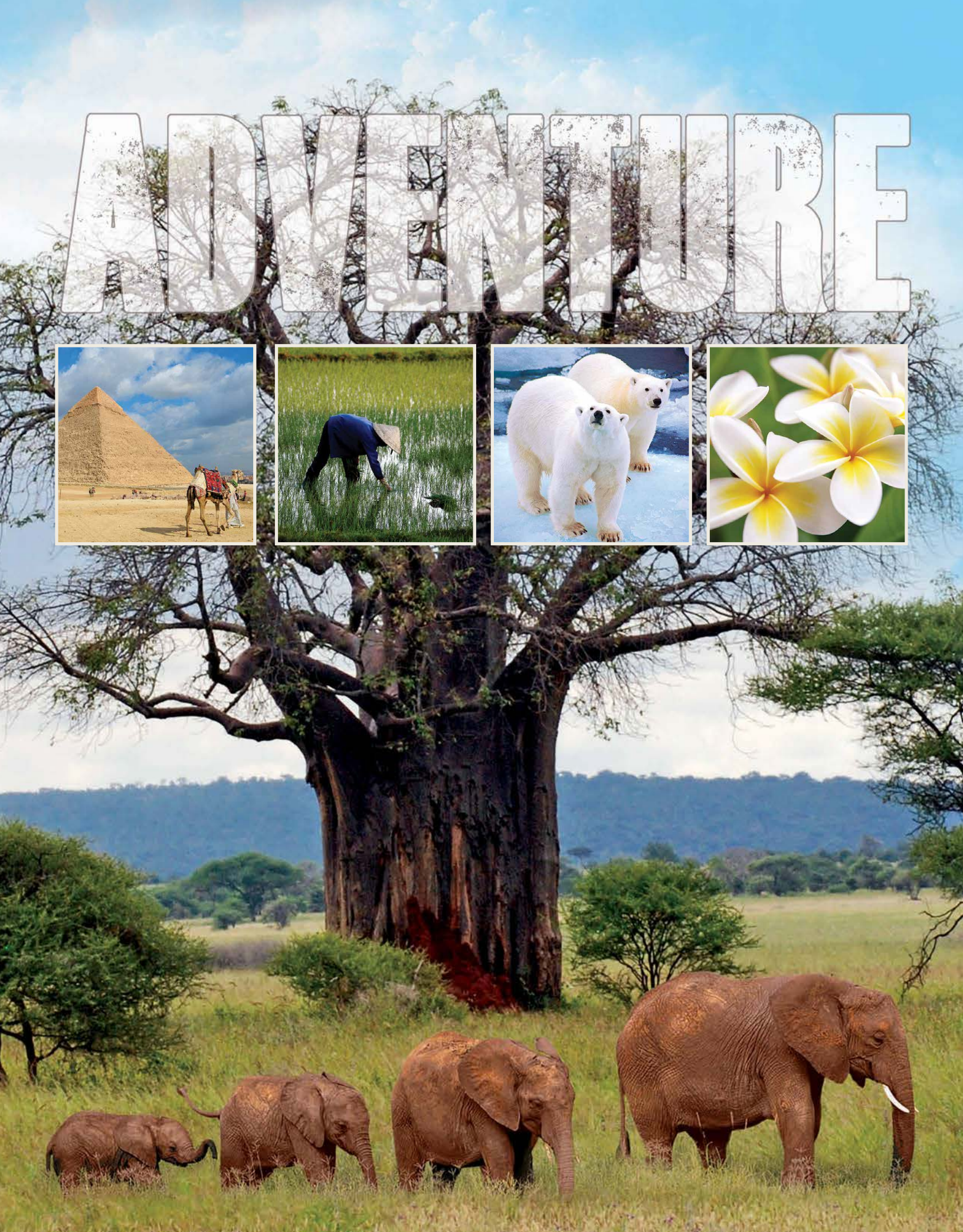
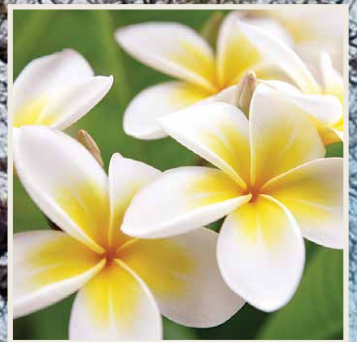
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ADVENTURE





Flying Jayhawks Travel 2019

South African Explorer
January 4-20

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January 20-February 1

Costa Rica's Natural Heritage
January 21-31

Sparkling South Pacific
January 21-31

The Galapagos Islands
January 23-30

Legends of the Nile
January 29-February 9

New Zealand
February 20-March 7

Patagonian Frontiers
March 17-April 2

Tanzania
March 20-31

Atlantic Encounters
April 5-19

Dutch Waterways*
April 17-25

Cruise the Heart of Europe*
May 2-17

Legendary Europe
May 7-15

Springtime in Provence
May 8-16

Baltic Sea
May 23-June 1

Celtic Lands
May 28-June 7

Italy's Magnificent Lake District
June 4-12

Great Journey Through Europe
June 7-17

Ancient Empires
June 20-28

Arctic Expedition
June 21-July 1

Africa's Wildlife
July 24-August 6

Canadian Maritimes
July 25-August 4

Switzerland
July 31-August 8

Normandy*
August 17-25

Exploring Iceland
August 29-September 8

Inspiring Italy
September 1-12

Wonders of Peru
September 26-October 7

Great Pacific Northwest
September 15-23

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
October 11-14

Passage Along the Danube River
October 12-24

Majestic Vistas
October 28-November 4

Cruising Coastal Vietnam
November 5-19

Island Life - Ancient Greece
November 7-15

*No Single Supplement



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

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

Class Notes by Heather Biele

at Eastern Michigan University. He makes his home in Ann Arbor.

70 Rick Eichor, l'70, lives in Honolulu, where he retired in 2011 as an attorney.

Richard LeClaire, '70, retired as chief technical adviser at SPX Cooling Technologies. He makes his home in Overland Park with **Susan Bick LeClaire**, c'71, who retired after a long career with the Shawnee Mission School District.

Joe Vaughan, j'70, is an author and journalist in Prairie Village. He wrote *Colonel Wilkinson's Diary: A Kansas Doctor in World War I France*, which was published this year by Mennonite Press.

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

a	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b	School of Business
c	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d	School of Education
e	School of Engineering
f	School of Fine Arts
g	Master's Degree
h	School of Health Professions
j	School of Journalism
l	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing
p	School of Pharmacy
PharmD	School of Pharmacy
s	School of Social Welfare
u	School of Music
AUD	Doctor of Audiology
DE	Doctor of Engineering
DMA	Doctor of Musical Arts
DNAP	Doctor of Nursing Anesthesia Practice
DNP	Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT	Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD	Doctor of Education
OTD	Doctor of Occupational Therapy
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SJD	Doctor of Juridical Science
(no letter)	Former student
assoc	Associate member of the Alumni Association

48 Robert Sparling, d'48, g'51, retired after 35 years with the CIA. He lives in Topeka with **Helen Russell Sparling**, c'47.

49 Anne Alexander, d'49, g'80, is a retired art teacher in Gladstone, Missouri. She turned 90 on Aug. 22, 2017, and was honored by the city's mayor, who declared it Anne Alexander Day in appreciation of her work in the community.

Maxine Alburty Madden Spencer, f'49, d'51, lives in Fresno, California, where she teaches music and performs with the Friday Philharmonic Orchestra and the Tulare County Symphony. She has played the violin for more than eight decades.

52 Mary Gilles Johnson, c'52, makes her home in Olathe. She has three sons, **David**, c'77, b'77, g'79, **William**, c'80, and **Tim**, b'86, and five grandchildren, four of whom graduated from KU.

55 Dean Glasco, a'55, lives in Phoenix, where he retired after a 40-year career as an architect. He was a longtime volunteer at the Phoenix Rescue Mission, and he currently serves as a chaplain in prison and retirement facilities.

58 Richard Ohmart, c'58, m'62, and **Carol Socolofsky Ohmart**, '82, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April. They make their home in Oakley, where Dick is a retired physician.

61 The Rev. John "Ken" Kimberlin, c'61, volunteers as assistant pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Branson, Missouri, and chairs the church's medical response team. He and **Alicia Harris Kimberlin**, '64, live in Hollister.

62 Marilyn Zarter Wallace, d'62, is a real estate agent at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty in Wichita.

63 Russell Crane, c'63, retired vice president of human resources at PPG Industries, was recently inducted as a fellow in the National Academy of Human Resources. Russ and his wife, **Ann Brownfield Crane**, d'63, live in Kiawah Island, South Carolina, where for the past six years they have hosted the KU women's golf team at their home in March for the Briar's Creek Invitational.

Daniel Marshall, j'63, lives in Sterling, where he's retired president of Marshall Publishing.

66 Sheila Olsen Martinez, d'66, g'68, EdD'75, is CEO at A-S-K Associates in Lawrence, where she lives with **Kenneth**, d'60, g'66, EdD'71, who co-founded the company.

John Tulloch, c'66, retired as associate professor of neurology at the University of Minnesota. He lives in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota.

68 Alan Lavery, b'68, is retired senior vice president of Wells Fargo. He makes his home in San Diego with his wife, Nina.

James Merrill, j'68, g'76, PhD'82, is retired president of Applied Marketing Research Inc. He lives in Olathe with **Ellen Cohn Merrill**, d'76.

Tim Weeks, d'68, retired from a 47-year career with Power Equipment Sales, where he served as president for the past 20 years. He makes his home in Kansas City.

69 Robert Cowles, c'69, is a computer security consultant at BrightLite Information Security in Redwood City, California.

Richard Hellman, m'69, in March was honored with Kansas City Medical Society's 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award. He's a physician at Hellman & Rosen Endocrine Associates.

Stewart Tubbs, PhD'69, retired as Darrell H. Cooper Professor of Leadership and former dean of the College of Business



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71 David Polson, '71, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he directs marketing at the Independence House, an assisted living and memory care facility for Alzheimer's patients.

72 Gwynne Elder Bonifield, g'72, lives in Wichita, where she writes educational and children's books, including *Teach Your Children to Read Using a Proven Strategy* and *Doodlebugs* by Gwynnie.

Paul Conderman, c'72, l'75, was recently awarded the French National Defense Medal in gold for his support of French forces in Germany. Since 2009, he has served as attorney-adviser and special adviser to the judge advocate at U.S. Army Europe.

Bill McMurray, d'72, g'77, is the mayor of St. Joseph, Missouri. He has served Buchanan County as a public administrator for the past 10 years.

Tom Throne, j'72, who has held leadership roles at six different newspapers in three states, was recently inducted into the

Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame by the Kansas Press Association. He and his wife, **Pam**, assoc., are retired and live in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Lewis Wall, c'72, m'83, is a professor in the department of anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. He founded the Worldwide Fistula Fund and wrote *Tears for My Sisters: The Tragedy of the Obstetric Fistula*, which was published in January by Johns Hopkins University Press.

73 Dennis O'Rourke, c'73, g'76, g'77, PhD'80, is a Foundation Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at KU. He also directs the University's ancient DNA laboratory and is associate director of the laboratory of biological anthropology.

Jerome Vokracka, j'73, lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he's regional manager at Akkase, a home health care company.

74 Mandy Patinkin, '74, in February received a star on the Hollywood

Walk of Fame. He won a Tony Award in 1980 for his Broadway performance as Che Guevara in "Evita" and has appeared in numerous films and television shows, including Showtime's "Homeland," for which he has received Golden Globe and Emmy nominations.

75 Gregg Barner, b'75, e'75, lives in Overland Park, where he's a retired principal engineer at Honeywell Aerospace.

Ann Gardner, j'75, in February received the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award from the Kansas Press Association. She was the Lawrence Journal-World editorial page editor from 1992 to 2017.

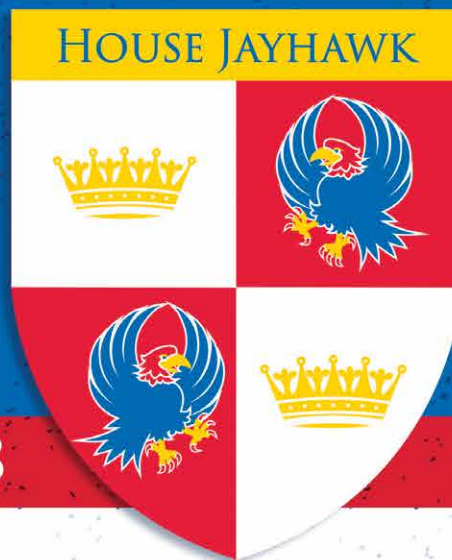
Pat Galinski Kuester, c'75, g'06, directs the Education, Social, & Behavioral Shared Service Center at KU.

Robert MacKenzie, b'75, retired as a business systems analyst at Boston Scientific Corporation. He makes his home in San Jose, California.

Ronald Rarick, c'75, g'80, g'84, PhD'87, retired after 22 years as associate professor

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of art at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

76 Randall Benson, c'76, recently retired after 36 years with 3M, where he directed global key accounts for the company's drug delivery division. He makes his home in Peoria, Arizona.

Jerry Stephens, l'76, resides in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he retired in 2012 as staff counsel on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

77 Bill French, j'77, was elected first vice president of the Tulsa Men's Club, which was established in 1949.

Barton Goering, d'77, g'80, is a real estate agent in Olathe, where he makes his home with his wife, **Cynthia**, assoc.

Warner Lewis, c'77, lives in Lawrence, where he's a senior training specialist at NBH Bank.

78 Robert Kraft, b'78, is retired and lives in Fresno, California.

Stephen Paddock, j'78, directs sales for Nokia and lives in Lenexa with his wife, Alison, to whom he's been married for 35 years. They have two children, Brandon and Mallory, who live in Los Angeles.

79 Mark Gurtler, c'79, works in technology support for Bainbridge Island School District in Washington.

John Hill, b'79, g'80, president of Lester Building Systems in Lester Prairie, Minnesota, in March received the Bernon G. Perkins Award from the National Frame Building Association.

Ivan Mefford, PhD'79, is a family practitioner at Fort Bend Premier Care in Richmond, Texas.

Steve South, j'79, is president and general manager of KSNW-TV in Wichita, where he makes his home with his wife, **Linda**, assoc.

Sarah Thomas, j'79, lives in Leawood, where she directs communications for the American Academy of Family Physicians.

80 Mary Jo Howard Dively, c'80, j'80, is vice president and general counsel at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In January, she was elected to

the board of directors of F.N.B. Corporation and First National Bank of Pennsylvania.

Barbara Kinney, j'80, is a photographer and photo editor at Emerson Collective in Palo Alto, California. She lives in Larkspur.

Donald Peach, b'80, is a geotechnical project manager at RMG Engineers in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

81 Sueanna Miranda Budde, b'81, g'83, is a private client manager at U.S. Trust in Wichita.

Jeff Curtis, m'81, directs cardiology services at HaysMed, part of the University of Kansas Health System, where he has worked since 2002.

Jan Anne Dubin, j'81, CEO and founder of Jan Anne Dubin Consulting, was named a 2018 Woman of Influence by the Chicago Business Journal.

Kelly Lyne Irvin, j'81, is the author of more than a dozen Amish books, including *Upon a Spring Breeze*, which was published last year by Zondervan/



HarperCollins. It's the first book in her *Every Amish Season* series.

Keith Maib, b'81, received the 2018 M&A Advisor Leadership Award. He's senior managing director at Mackinac Partners in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

David Wilmoth, e'81, is a dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) design manager at Micron Technology in Allen, Texas. He and **Julie Neal Wilmoth**, j'81, live in McKinney.

82 Janet Murguia, c'82, j'82, l'85, lives in Washington, D.C., where she's president and CEO of UnidosUS. In June, she will travel to Williamstown, Massachusetts, to receive an honorary degree from Williams College.

MARRIED

Margaret Kremers, c'82, to Phillip Swank, Jan. 14 in Englewood, Colorado, where they make their home.

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Class Notes



83 Andrea "Andy" Cohen Woodward, c'83, is an executive assistant at BOK Financial in Overland Park.

84 Robert Lathrop, b'84, is senior director of sales for Schwans Company. He makes his home in Gold Canyon, Arizona, with **Kelly Pennington Lathrop,** '86, a medical coder and owner of ASC Coding.

Cheryl Waldron, j'84, l'88, lives in San Antonio, where she's a senior attorney editor at Practical Law, a Thomson Reuters company.

85 Shon Barenklau, j'85, is publisher of the Kearney Hub in Kearney, Nebraska.

Tina Barta Cassella, n'85, g'98, is a nurse practitioner at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth.

Diane Duffy, l'85, directs business services at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus.

Jerry Manweiler, c'85, g'87, PhD'98, owns Fundamental Technologies in

Lawrence. He also serves as the company's senior scientist.

Arthur Murphy, c'85, lives in Sierra Vista, Arizona, where he works in quality control at Northrop Grumman.

Joseph Shields, c'85, was named interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio University in Athens. He currently serves as vice president for research and creative activity and dean of the graduate college.

86 James Baker, m'86, is a physician and medical director at Cherokee Nation Three Rivers Health Center and Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center in Oklahoma. He recently was awarded a mastership through the American College of Physicians for his contributions to the profession.



John Conrad, e'86, g'95, directs specialty operations at Mississippi Lime Company in Kansas City.

Lisa Olson Stump, b'86, is president of St. Louis law firm Lashly & Baer. She also chairs the firm's governmental and education practice group.

Tammy Wiard, j'86, manages retail programs for the National Mango Board in Orlando, Florida. She previously worked for the state's Department of Citrus.

87 Sarah Hart, b'87, is a psychologist in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she lives with her partner, Marcus.

Michelle Johnson, j'87, reports on race, identity and culture issues for KCUR in Kansas City.

Ellen Piekalkiewicz, g'87, directs the Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children at Florida State University College of Social Work.

88 Angela Windsor Curran, c'88, g'90, is a research services assistant at Rockhurst University in Kansas City.

Tim Greenwell, s'88, in February

Objects on these pages are from the archives of the Adams Alumni Center.



received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Parent Teacher Association. He is the principal at Liberty Elementary School in Flower Mound, Texas, and has worked in public education for 25 years.

Nancy Rehfeld, c'88, is a purchasing administrator at Cole Haan in Greenland, New Hampshire. She and her husband, **Bruce Kelley**, assoc., a field service engineer at Astronics AeroSat, make their home in Exeter.

Erin Sitterley, g'88, is deputy mayor of the City of SeaTac, a suburb of Seattle. She's also a speech-language pathologist at Providence Health & Services.

89 Herb Llewellyn Jr., c'89, g'92, retired as city manager of El Dorado, where he lives with his wife, Lori.

K. Scott Matthews, j'89, is vice president of UMB Bank in Kansas City. He lives in Mission Hills.

Kathleen Demmitt Robert, f'89, is a senior graphic designer at PGAV

Destinations in St. Louis.

Andrew Sonderfan, PhD'89, is vice president of toxicology and early development at Lysosomal Therapeutics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He and **Kim Lawrence Sonderfan**, g'95, live in Sudbury and have a son, Ethan.

Rick Stricker, c'89, is a senior software engineer at MobileUp Software in Overland Park. He commutes from De Soto.

90 Hugh Lester, c'90, a'01, is a senior justice planner at Urbahn Architects in New York City.

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Theatre's siren song calls alumna to director's chair

As associate director of the new Broadway musical "Escape to Margaritaville," Amy Osburn Corcoran is helping shape one of the season's most eagerly awaited new shows with a Tony-winning director, Chris Ashley, and a pop music legend, Jimmy Buffett.

It's a "supercool" denouement for an enthusiastic theatre booster who became entranced by Broadway growing up in Topeka, where she wrote and directed backyard shows and recruited neighborhood kids to perform while asking her parents "at least once a month" if she could move to New York City.

Though Broadway has long been the destination, the route was circuitous.

Corcoran, c'98, performed in Topeka Civic Theatre's Bath House Players, at Helen Hocker Theatre summer camps and in middle school and high school plays before becoming a music major focusing on voice performance and musical theatre at KU. She switched to psychology after two and a half years and started work on a master's degree in marriage and family therapy before realizing the lure of the stage was too strong to ignore.

She found some success as a performer,

landing enough roles to earn a union card. Then one day she learned she'd missed out on a big job.

"I remember exactly where I was standing in New York when I found out," Corcoran recalls. "I was happy I didn't get it, not sad. So I thought, 'OK, that's a sign. I have to figure this out.'"

Directing—especially working with writers on new work—proved to be her niche.

"It's where my heart found its happy place," she says. "Once I started directing, I thought, 'Yeah, this is it; this is definitely what I want to be doing.'"

She stopped taking jobs in regional theatre and summer stock to concentrate on new work, reading nearly 300 scripts in one year.

"I decided new musicals and new plays, that's what I want to do because that's how I can help our genre," Corcoran says. Rather than mount yet another production of a Broadway classic, she chose to take risks on undiscovered talent and untold stories. "That gamble has paid off," she says, "and that's what's cool."

This spring Corcoran is directing "Unexpected Joy," a new play by fellow KU Theatre Advisory Board member Bill Russell, '71, at the York Theatre. Unlike "Margaritaville," it won't have a huge



COURTESY AMY CORCORAN

"There is a place on Broadway for a show like this," says Amy Corcoran, with husband Scott, c'98, m'02, at the March opening of "Escape to Margaritaville."

ready-made audience (the legions of Parrotheads who flock to Buffett concerts), but Corcoran sees only upside.

"It just proves that if you want something and you're committed, you can make it happen. To say, 'Hey, I'm doing this brand new musical you haven't heard of, but we're getting a full production and cast recording and in three years someone may be doing it in Lawrence'—how cool is that?"

Supercool. 

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Stephen Wade, j'90, is publisher of the Topeka Capital-Journal. He's the former president and general manager of the Augusta Chronicle.

91 Sarah Sneed Malone, j'91, manages media accounts at Walz Tetrick Advertising in Mission. She and **Deryck**, b'91, live in Shawnee.

Patrick Miller, c'91, is an attorney and in-house counsel for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

92 Sandee Buller Astrachan, j'92, is lead product manager of digital tax at H&R Block in Kansas City.

Angelique Kelly-Lara, b'92, is vice president of global talent acquisition at Choice Hotels International in Rockville, Maryland.

93 Matt All, c'93, is president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. He joined the company in 2006 and most

recently served as executive vice president. Matt and **Ashley Anstaett All**, c'04, j'04, have five children and make their home in Lawrence.

Rhonda Frazier Anderson, '93, is an administrative assistant at CHS Refinery in McPherson. She lives in Hutchinson.

John McNulty, j'93, is executive vice president of marketing at Thin Film Electronics in San Jose, California.

David Shirk, c'93, g'97, '99, is a consultant and contractor in Estes Park, Colorado, where he lives with his wife, Elsa. He previously worked as a city planner in Topeka.

Amy Schwartz Walker, b'93, was promoted to program director for the senior vice president of U.S. retail at H&R Block in Kansas City.

94 Peter Fulmer, j'94, is a real estate appraiser at Fulmer Appraisal in Oklahoma City.

Sondra Rathman Hatcher, b'94, g'96, is

controller at RyMed Technologies in Austin, Texas. She and **Nathan**, c'94, live in Buda.

Marisa Kelly, PhD'94, in March was named president of Suffolk University in Boston, after serving as acting president for nearly two years. She previously was the university's provost.

Alica Thomas, d'94, g'00, is an elementary school teacher for the Baldwin City School District. She commutes from Lawrence.

95 Le-Thu Erasmus Campbell, d'95, g'01, is office manager for the department of anthropology at KU.

LaRisa Chambers, c'95, is senior development director for the Alumni Association at KU Endowment.

Nicole Rials, c'95, s'00, directs urgent care programs at the Bert Nash Center in Lawrence.

96 Todd Edgar, g'96, is senior vice president of specialty services at Precision for Value in Baltimore.

Rebecca Noland Shaw, s'96, a trauma and orthopedic nurse at the University of North Carolina Hospitals, was honored as 2017 Surgery Service Nurse of the Year. She lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, David.

Denise Broadrick Staples, f'96, g'14, is an interior designer at Bell/Knott & Associates in Leawood.

97 Amy Woodling George, j'97, is director of direct marketing strategy for the American Cancer Society in Atlanta.

Jason Klein, c'97, l'02, is an attorney and partner at Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman in Tampa, Florida.

Michael Siefkes, g'97, l'97, is an attorney and mayor of the City of SeaTac, just south of Seattle.

Jehyun Sung, g'97, is vice president of KT, an internet access provider in South Korea.

98 Rod Barleen, d'98, is executive vice president at Pennington & Company in Lawrence, where he makes his home with **Angela Arnold Barleen**, j'98.



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1. Retrieved on January 8, 2018, from newscenter.gmac.com/news-center/the-value-of-the-mba

2. Retrieved on January 8, 2018, from gmac.com/-/media/Files/gmac/Research/curriculum-insight/gmegs-2013-stats-brief.pdf

Class Notes

Grant Moise, j'98, in March was promoted to president and publisher of the Dallas Morning News. He has been with the company since 2004 and most recently served as general manager.

Carrie Mulligan, j'98, directs corporate development and events marketing at Standard Beverage Corporation in Lawrence.

Clint Rogers, b'98, is president of Cashco Inc., a manufacturing company in Ellsworth.

99 Allen Chaffee, b'99, is market president of Cornhusker Bank in Lincoln, Nebraska.

David Noyce, c'99, l'02, is an attorney and managing partner at Marinosci Law Group in Leawood and Grandview, Missouri.

Paul Pierce, '99, a former KU basketball player who went on to play 15 seasons and earn Finals MVP and All-Star honors with the Boston Celtics, had his jersey retired in February during a ceremony at TD Garden. He retired from the NBA in 2017.

00 Jason Hohman, d'00, g'04, manages projects at LUMEDX Corporation. He lives in Lawrence with **Jenny Schierbaum Hohman**, c'04.

Michael Smith, l'00, is an attorney at Martindell Swearer Shaffer Ridenour in Hutchinson.

Shawn Stone, PhD'00, is professor of physics and computer science at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. He has been invited to participate in a three-year data analytics project involving NASA's Galileo spacecraft.

BORN TO:

James, c'00, and **Ann Stueve Lloyd**, PharmD'03, son, Declan, Aug. 14 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he joins two sisters, Claire, 11, and Adrielle, 9, and a brother, Dashiell, 5.

01 Matt Gardner, j'01, was promoted to vice president of digital media and emerging technology for the St. Louis Blues hockey team. He previously served the organization as senior director of promotions and digital strategy.



Jason Royer, c'01, '03, is a portfolio manager at Bank Midwest in Overland Park.

BORN TO:

David Mitchell, c'01, g'03, and his wife, Amy, daughter, Piper, Nov. 21 in Orlando, Florida. David is assistant professor of public administration at the University of Central Florida.

Michael Walters Young, c'01, g'03, and his wife, **Laine**, assoc., son, Theodore, Feb. 9 in Nashville, Tennessee. Michael manages budget and analytics for the City of Franklin.

02 Haley Estes Roberto, c'02, manages key accounts at LinkedIn. She and her husband, Victor, live in Westminster, Colorado, with their son, Fitz.

Igor Taber, e'02, is managing director at Intel Capital in Santa Clara, California. He



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03 Momo Yamamuro Hirai, j'03, is a TV journalist at NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting organization. She and her husband, Masataka, live in Tokyo with their two children, Mako and Kei.

Leslie Catron Manthei, c'03, manages public relations for the Sam M. Walton

College of Business at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She lives in Rogers, Arkansas, with her husband, Mike, and their daughter, Katie.

Justin Mennen, b'03, is chief digital officer and chief information officer at CompuCom. He makes his home in Marvin, North Carolina, with his wife and their two children.

Shane Pomeroy, g'03, is vice president of planning and analysis at Genting

Americas Inc. in Jamaica, New York.

Kathryn Lang Smock, c'03, m'07, is chair of the department of anesthesiology and medical director at Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Shahira Bishara Stafford, j'03, lives in Topeka, where she's vice president of government affairs for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association. She previously served as the organization's vice president of communications.

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Alumna soars as extreme sports enthusiast

During the summer of 2007, between her freshman and sophomore years at KU, Emily Reimer Royal made a life-changing decision—she tried skydiving.

"A friend was just like, 'Hey, want to go do a skydive?'" Royal, e'09, g'12, recalls. "I never thought about it, but sure. I don't really say no to things."

The Wichita native was immediately hooked. She threw herself into the sport with gusto, amassing 25 jumps and earning her first skydiving license in just six weeks. When Royal returned to KU in the fall, she spent her weekends at Skydive Kansas in Osage City, where she was coached by the drop zone's female owner and lead instructor, who quickly became her role model in a sport largely dominated by men.

"I gained a lot of confidence learning to be a skydiver," says Royal, who averaged up to 200 jumps a year as a student. "I was the quietest, most introverted person—skydiving gave me confidence."

More than a decade later, Royal is a part-time skydiving instructor with 1,870 jumps under her belt. She has jumped in three countries and 15 states and has participated in group skydiving formations that have set two world records and dozens of state records. She also is a full-time electrical engineer and project manager at BG Buildingworks in Denver

and is on track to earn her PhD in 2020 from the Colorado School of Mines.

To say Royal runs on adrenaline is an understatement.

On weekends when she's not traveling to training camps to prepare for record-breaking formations—or participating in an actual attempt—she's clocking 14-hour days coaching others, which, Royal explains, provides a rush similar to the one she experienced during her first jump.

"When you're teaching somebody and you're taking them on their first skydive, you're getting that same feeling through them," she says. "You're kind of living vicariously through your student."

Still, Royal continues to find satisfaction in extreme sports on her own. In addition to training for skydiving formations—she plans to be part of a 200-person record-breaking attempt in August—she also trains for ultramarathons and has completed several 100-mile trail races.

"It's what keeps me functional," she admits. "I don't want to go to a beach and have a vacation sitting in the sand. My




STEVE RUPPE

In 2016, Emily Royal was part of a 65-woman, "head-down" formation that set a world record. "It's a team sport in a very precise way," she says of working with fellow skydivers.

.....

vacation is I sign up for a race in a state that I've never seen before, go see trails I've never seen before, go climb mountains I've never been to or go skydive in a new place. It's all about new experiences."

Despite boasting a mind-boggling résumé of extreme sports accomplishments, Royal is not an indiscriminate thrill-seeker. She focuses only on opportunities that allow her to strengthen her skills and sustain that coveted surge of adrenaline that keeps her motivated.

"It's just the way I'm wired," she says. "The end goal is something that's never been done before or something I've never done before. If I'm not moving toward something, I feel stagnant." 



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05

BORN TO:

Jennifer Ziskal Williams, d'05, g'08, and her husband, Jess, daughter, Tayley, Jan. 3 in Lawrence, where she joins a brother, Emmett, 8, and a sister, Kinley, who's nearly 6.

06

Ryan Bauer, c'06, is a senior account manager at Complete Legal in Kansas City.

Linda McDaniel Bonebrake, c'06, is executive assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at KU. She and her husband, Tim, make their home in Eudora.

Juliann Lind Harvey, a'06, owns Studio X Designed in Casper, Wyoming, where she resides with her husband, Matthew.

Katherine Jones, c'06, manages internal communications and public relations marketing at Foley Equipment Company in Kansas City.

John Smithhisler, '06, is an IT coordinator at Highland Community College.

Hayes Thompson, c'06, lives in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, where he's a senior client executive in enterprise health care and life sciences at SAP Concur.

07

Brenton Cheeks, c'07, lives in Phoenix, where he is a communications professor and coordinates success programs at Phoenix Community College.

Aaron Johnstun, l'07, is an attorney in Orem, Utah. He and his wife, Amber, live in Highland.

Courtney Marlin, s'07, is a social worker for the University of Kansas Health System. She and her husband, David, live in Kansas City.

Christina Johnson Mowe, c'07, manages marketing and communications for the Sprint Center in Kansas City. She and **Seth**, c'10, make their home in Olathe.

Adam Sipe, b'07, g'09, is a tax manager at JMW & Associates in Overland Park. He lives in Olathe with **Courtney Pedersen Sipe**, g'10, l'11, a tax manager at Mize Houser & Company.

Meghan Kinley Spreer, c'07, manages corporate communications and giving at Payless ShoeSource in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

08

Kristin Hoppa, c'08, j'09, makes her home in Waco, Texas, where she reports on breaking news and public safety at the Tribune-Herald.

Holly Perkins, l'08, directs human resources at Black & Veatch. She lives in Leawood.

Scott Stephenson, PhD'08, is professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

09

Maxx Hickey, c'09, is a trust officer at Sterling Trustees in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he lives with his wife, Amanda.

Elizabeth Cattell Kanost, c'09, j'09, g'14, manages communications at the Spencer Museum of Art at KU.

10

Christopher Cahill, b'10, g'10, is chief financial officer at ETAN Industries in Dallas, where he makes his home with his wife, Amanda.

Caroline Goehausen Curzon, j'10, is an executive assistant at Russell Reynolds Associates. She resides in San Francisco with **Peter**, b'08, c'08, and their son, Brody, who just turned 1.

Elsa Fraire, c'10, l'13, lives in Liberal, where she's an attorney.

Anne Werner Lampton, c'10, is senior creative designer at Integral Care in Austin, Texas.

Jaclyn Miller, s'10, s'16, makes her home in Wichita, where she's a senior social worker at COMCARE.

Chris Wolfe, b'10, directs national sales for WinCraft's college division. He and his wife, Alicia, live in St. Louis.

11

Aimee Fogel Miller, n'11, DNP'18, is an advanced practice registered nurse at Swope Health Services. She lives in Overland Park with her husband, Julian, and their two children, Julian Jr. and Carolena.

Marissa Piltz Moehring, e'11, is a materials and process engineer at the



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Spaceship Company in Tehachapi, California, where she makes her home with **Brian**, c'07, g'11, and their twin daughters, Emma and Gwendolyn.

Aric Toler, c'11, g'13, is an analyst for Bellingcat, where he leads Eurasian and Eastern European research.

12 Artem Bagiev, g'12, recently produced a commercial for Burger King Russia. The ad runs in every Burger King restaurant in the country.

Matt Franzblau, g'12, directs communications at the Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton, Florida. He lives in Coral Springs, where he also volunteers as marketing and social media chair for the Jewish National Fund of Broward County.

Brandon Hill, c'12, is senior media production manager at AT&T in Dallas. He makes his home in Plano with **Madeline Webbe Hill**, c'12.

Alicia Stum Pohl, c'12, is a registered dental hygienist at Larry Hargreaves DDS & Associates in Topeka.

Caroline Robb, c'12, recently earned her

PhD in cancer research from the University of Nebraska. She's a postdoctoral fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Erica Taylor, c'12, g'15, manages operations for the health department in Kansas City, Missouri.

MARRIED

Erin Robinson, b'12, to Destin Whitehurst, Nov. 18 in Dripping Springs, Texas. They make their home in Austin, where she's a senior consultant at Deloitte.

BORN TO:

Kirk, c'12, '17, and **Lisa Curran Duen-sing**, c'12, j'12, son, Louis, Feb. 14, in Blue Rapids. Lisa is a test development specialist at PSI Services.



Lindsay Moffitt Naughton, d'12, and her husband, Rob, daughter, Nina, Feb. 15 in Denver. Lindsay owns Patterns & Pops.

13 Meredith Burton, j'13, manages direct marketing at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City. She lives in Leawood.

Alex Hyler, e'13, was selected as 2018 Graduate Student of the Year at Virginia Tech. She's a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering.

Brian Mathias, DMA'13, lives in Provo, Utah, where he teaches applied organ and carillon at Brigham Young University. He also performs as an organist with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Daniel McCarville, g'13, is a quantitative auditor for the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence.

Douglas Mowery, s'13, works for Teen Living Programs in Chicago, where he's a case manager at the Belfort House.

Sara Wenzel Riley, g'13, is a supervisor at Marin Hood. She lives in Savoy, Illinois.

14 Brett Dick, b'14, g'15, is a tax analyst at CVR Energy. He makes his home in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Brian Grover, b'14, lives in Naples, Florida, where he's a professional services consultant at Aspira.

Morgan Kilgore, c'14, f'17, is an associate attorney at Simpson Logback Lynch Norris in Overland Park.

Erin Sommer, c'14, is a pharmacy solutions consultant at ScriptPro in Mission.

Nikki Wentling, j'14, a reporter for Stars & Stripes in Washington, D.C., was named

to the HillVets 100 list for her reporting on the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran experience. She was honored in March at a gala at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

15 Chance Dibben, c'15, is a writer, photographer and performer in Lawrence. His story "Magic Arrow," which was published in the online literary journal matchbook, will be included in the Best Small Fictions 2018 anthology, due out this fall.

Jennifer Glen, DNP'15, is vice president

of clinical services at Point of Care Decision Support in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Frank Perez, DMA'15, director of bands at Baker University in Baldwin City, was promoted to associate professor of music.

Charlie Weis Jr., c'15, is the offensive coordinator for Florida Atlantic University's football team.

16 Alexander Kuhn, c'16, lives in Washington, D.C., where he's the humanitarian policy program management coordinator for the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Taylor tabbed to lead USA Today news teams

USA Today's new executive editor for news fell into journalism one summer early in his KU career. Jeff Taylor was taking two courses and delivering furniture when he heard the University Daily Kansan needed newsroom help.

Taylor, j'84, thought at the time that he was headed toward law school, but was intrigued by the unexpected opportunity.

"I said, 'Hey, I don't really know what I'm doing yet, but I'm glad to try to do something,'" Taylor recalls from his office in Indianapolis, three days before he ended his run as a regional editor of USA Today Network and reported for work at USA Today's Virginia headquarters. "I did a few stories for them, and I thought, 'This is all right. I kind of like it.' Next thing you knew, I was a journalism major and it took off from there."

And next thing he knew, he was a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter for the Kansas City Star, awarded the national reporting honor in 1992 for a series—reported and written with his late special projects partner, Mike McGraw—that exposed "betrayals and blunders" at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At the Detroit Free-Press, Taylor was the lead reporter on a 1997 series that revealed

money scandals surrounding the University of Michigan's "Fab Five" basketball recruiting class. As managing editor, he was lead editor on a team that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting for a series that brought down Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

As editor at the Indianapolis Star, Taylor led a newsroom that produced "Out of Balance," which revealed USA Gymnastics' failure to protect athletes from sexual abuse.

"Jeff is an extraordinary journalist," says Nicole Carroll, USA Today's editor-in-chief. "He brings out the best in reporters."

Taylor will oversee USA Today's news, money, tech, topical enterprise, and world and breaking news coverage, all with an eye toward dynamic digital presentations.

"Print still matters, but it's not the most important point of conversation for us," Taylor says, referencing an online platform that generates more than 90 million unique visitors each month. "The opportunity is there to get great work in front of an audience that is bigger than ever."

Taylor says the news organization will



Jeff Taylor fell for KU during a visit while a junior at Frontenac High School. "I thought, 'This is just such a magical, cool place.' I knew that's where I wanted to end up."

continue its relatively recent emphasis on watchdog journalism, such as a 2017 series that brought to light driver shortages in U.S. trucking, but will also continue delivering fast, fun reads shared at breakfast tables and office water coolers.

"We want to be really great at the serious work, but we also to be great at the work that's a 'talker.' It's an inspiring read; it's terrific storytelling.

"We want to be great in pursuing stories that are about how people live and the things that they talk about in their homes all across America. That's our objective."

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Abby Ogden, j'16, is a project manager at Barkley, a marketing and advertising agency in Kansas City. She lives in Mission.

Jerusha McFarland Pitney, c'16, coordinates volunteers for International Friends, a student organization at KU. She begins classes in fall 2018 for a master's in social welfare.

17 Cole Anneberg, j'17, lives in Kansas City, where he's a marketing specialist at BKD, an accounting group.

James Bunting, b'17, coordinates human resources at AeroGo. He lives in Renton, Washington.

Abigail Bartlow Case, c'17, is an executive legal assistant at Koprince Law in Lawrence, where she makes her home with **Collin**, d'14, g'18.

Rebecca Crooks, c'17, is an international PR samples assistant for CHANEL in New York City.

Nicholas Jurden, e'17, lives in San Francisco, where he's a software engineer at Thanx, a loyalty-app company.

Bradley Mikulecky, e'17, is a civil engineer at Mead & Hunt in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Sydney Pursel, g'17, in January was named the winner of the Ucross Foundation's first Native American Visual Artist Fellowship. She traveled to Ucross, Wyoming, in March to create new art, which will be featured at the foundation's gallery next year.

Mary Rice, PhD'17, an assistant professor of literacy at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, in February was named an emerging scholar by the Online Learning Consortium. She will participate in the organization's new program on digital learning and leadership.

Meg Talbott, j'17, manages accounts at Quest Diagnostics in Lenexa.



18 Eiel Bach, b'18, is a rail transportation coordinator at Cargill in Wayzata, Minnesota.

Caitlyn Foote, m'18, is a physician at Christie Clinic in Mattoon, Illinois.

Chris Gartin, m'18, is a surgeon at Fremont Health Medical Center in Fremont, Nebraska.

Molly Johnson Guthrie, c'18, manages public policy and advocacy for the Susan G. Komen organization in Dallas. She lives in Heath, Texas, with her husband, Jonathon.

Shane Jackson, j'18, is a sports reporter at the Manhattan Mercury.

Kathleen Keleher, j'18, is a news reporter for the News-Press & Gazette Company in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Matt McLaughlin, '18, is an infielder in the Colorado Rockies organization. He spent three years as a shortstop at KU before getting drafted in 2017 to play professionally.

Ryan Miller, j'18, makes his home in Enid, Oklahoma, where he's a reporter at Enid News & Eagle.

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Nicholas Palmer, b'18, is a staff accountant at the Scott W. Holloman accounting firm in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence.

MacKenzie Sexe, b'18, lives in Shakopee, Minnesota, where she's a total-compensation analyst at Integrated Healthcare Strategies.

Ian Shea-Cahir, g'18, manages digital marketing for Road Trip Communications in Shawnee.

Molly Baustien Siuty, PhD'18, received the 2018 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Association of

Colleges for Teacher Education. She is assistant professor of inclusive teacher education at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

Henry Sloan, g'18, is a loan officer and assistant vice president at the Farmers State Bank in Oakley, where he lives with his wife, Kaitlin.

Josh Smith, c'18, manages international eligibility services for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in Kansas City.

Ramakrishna Kamath Suresh, g'18, is an automation engineer at Walrus Marine

and Engineering Company in Kerala, India.

Isaac Thibault, c'18, is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual in Kansas City.

ASSOCIATES

Kevin Carroll, assoc., the Alumni Association's national chair, is general manager and chief operating officer at the Bath and Tennis Club in Palm Beach, Florida. He and his wife, **Lisa**, assoc., live in Jupiter.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Hip-hop artist delivers 'school is cool' message

On Feb. 4, 2017, a new Cue Wright was born. Already having earned two KU degrees and in the early days of a promising career in higher education, Wright shed her naturally shy self and stepped onto the outdoor stage at Mass Street's Replay Lounge as the hip-hop artist Cuee.

And slayed.

"I knew I could write raps," says Wright, j'15, g'17, "but I didn't know I could perform as well as I did."

A Chicago native, Wright was coaxed into a campus visit by her mother's longtime employer, "Uncle" Gale Sayers, d'75, g'77. Front-row seats to a basketball game didn't hurt, but it was Mount Oread that stole Wright's heart.

Memories of that day are valuable tools in her current part-time job as senior coordinator of student ambassadors. When she meets with prospective students, Wright uses her story to help others write their own.

"I always channel that with my out-of-state students," she says. "They're thinking, 'Why am I at Kansas?' Well, go out on this campus and let it fill you."

Wright arrived as a civil engineering major, but felt lost. Her mother asked what she was doing outside of class, to which Wright responded, "Nothin."

Wright switched her major to journalism, found her way to KJHK and eventually became director of hip-hop programming. Shortly before winter break of her senior year, her J-School adviser noted her "people-person" personality and suggested she consider a student affairs role in higher education. That required a master's degree, yet another unknown for Wright, but she dove in. Soon her advanced studies were wearing her thin.

"I need an outlet. I need an other. I need something else. And so I started writing rap. Everything I'm doing is self-taught, but luckily I love to learn."

Encouraged by family and friends, Wright in 2017 released "Master's Cap," in which six songs each explore a year of her college experience.

"My thing is," she says, "school is cool. I love school. I'm a nerd."

Wright's current mixtape, "Shameless," which she's dropping online throughout 2018, displays her growth as an artist, both in writing skills (*My life is a tornado/The haters all around me, everything will be*



Cue Wright hopes to one day retire from a successful music career and return to KU as a hip-hop professor. "Helping people," she says, "is what I really like to do."

OK, though) and emotional maturity that "lets the world know who I am." Her success led to a busy summer schedule in Lawrence and Kansas City, including a prominent gig at the Middle of the Map Fest at Crown Center.

"Pursuing hip-hop in Lawrence has been different. They put me on a lot of alternative shows, and the audience sees this hip-hop opener and it's totally different than what they've signed up for. The rewarding part is when they say, 'Now I'm a hip-hop fan.'"

"I take the blank stares as a challenge, and I love challenges."

In Memory

30s Raymond Buckley, c'38, 103, Dec. 24 in Overland Park, where he had a 57-year career as president and general manager of the Better Business Bureau. Surviving are a daughter, Carolann Buckley Gregoire, s'77, s'87; a son; and four grandchildren.

Georgia Ruth Tucker Cox, n'33, 105, Jan. 15 in Independence. She was a registered nurse and helped run Cox Variety Store in Cherryvale with her husband, Oscar. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, Ada Cox Hinshaw, n'61, and Georgianna Cox Rail, '72; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Miriam Young Pack-Kelsey, f'37, 102, Jan. 1 in Olathe, where she was a homemaker. Survivors include two sons, Garrett Pack, e'60, and David Pack, c'67; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

40s Elinor "Bunny" Kline Egbert, n'47, 92, Nov. 4 in Sun City, Arizona. She was a nurse and homemaker. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

Maurine Breitenbach Firner, '46, 92, Feb. 5 in Tribune, where she was a homemaker. Surviving are three sons, two of whom are Rick, '72, and Antoni, g'89; three daughters, one of whom is Angela Firner Tyroler, '87; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Joyce Burns Grimes, c'49, 91, Jan. 14 in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where she was a retired teacher. A son and a daughter survive.

Nancy Goering Hedrick, c'48, g'49, 91, Jan. 26 in Overland Park. She lived in Newton for several years, where she directed personnel and established the volunteer program at Prairie View Mental Health Center. In 1981, she was named Newton Business and Professional Woman of the Year. She is survived by her husband, Clay, c'48; a daughter, Jane Hedrick Grant, d'72; a son, Clay III, '76; a sister; three grandsons; and nine great-grandchildren.

Claudine "Scottie" Scott Lingelbach, b'44, 95, April 3 in Lawrence, where she was a docent at the Spencer Museum of Art. In 1991, she received the Alumni Association's Mildred Clodfelter Award for her volunteer service to KU. Survivors include a daughter, Cynthia Lingelbach Bach, j'70; a son; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Long, c'49, m'53, 90, Dec. 28 in Olathe. He was a physician and surgeon for more than 35 years in Newton. Surviving are his wife, Ellen Patterson Long, c'49; and three daughters, two of whom are Bonnie, '78, and Nancy Long Gilkison, '78.

Leo Martell, e'42, 99, Dec. 14 in Kansas City, where he was an architect and civil engineer. Survivors include three daughters, two of whom are Ruth Martell Shuker, d'71, and Patricia, c'82, s'83; two sons, one of whom is Michael, e'75; a stepdaughter; 31 grandchildren; 69 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Jack Parker, c'43, 94, Feb. 9 in Westwood, Massachusetts, where he was a retired surgeon and assistant clinical professor of surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine. A son, a daughter, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Jill Peck Royer, c'44, 95, Feb. 12 in Abilene. She worked in sales and property management. Surviving are three sons, Robert, '70, Richard, d'73, and Michael, c'93; a daughter, Shannon, b'87; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Ella Nail Savage, p'46, 94, Feb. 3 in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she and her husband bred horses. She is survived by her husband, Eldon, c'50; two sons, one of whom is Steven, c'72; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

John Sutherland, '46, 93, Jan. 23 in Overland Park, where he was partner in the family business, the Sutherland Lumber Company. He is survived by four sons, one of whom is John Jr., c'71; a

daughter; 21 grandchildren; and 54 great-grandchildren.

John Thiele, e'48, g'50, 91, Feb. 4 in Topeka. He worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for nearly 40 years. Surviving are his wife, Barbara Richard Thiele, '50; two sons, Jeffrey, m'79, and James, e'81; a daughter, Sara Thiele Heydari, '82; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Doris Bower Toomey, n'46, 93, Dec. 12 in Wilmington, Delaware, where she was a nurse. She is survived by four sons, one of whom is C. Michael, c'71; four daughters; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Barbara Magill Wilson, c'47, 94, Jan. 3 in Madison, Wisconsin. She was an executive secretary at several corporations. A son, a daughter, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

50s Dolly Ralston Anderson, c'51, l'53, 97, Jan. 17 in Carmel, Indiana. She was an attorney and later served as a municipal judge in Mission Hills. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Andra Anderson Cochran, '72; a son; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John Anderson, f'51, 92, Oct. 28 in Chandler, Arizona, where he retired from a long career at IBM. Surviving are three sons, one of whom is Stewart, g'81; two daughters; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Betty Bloomer Bradley, '51, 88, Feb. 5 in Oklahoma City, where she volunteered for several organizations. Survivors include two sons, Forrest, '79, and Richard, c'08; two daughters; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Marilyn Mundon Breidenthal, d'57, 82, Jan. 4 in Leawood. She was a personal shopper and created MMB Exclusive, a designer clothing service. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Theodore, j'85; and three granddaughters.

Letty Lemon Calhoun, j'55, 84, Jan. 17 in Vista, California, where she was a writer and president of Lionhart Publishing Company. Her husband, John, and three daughters survive.

Myron "Sonny" Enns, '50, 90, Jan. 18 in Olathe. He was president of Enns & Wilson Building Systems in Manhattan. Survivors include a daughter, Maribeth Enns Burns, d'74; a son; three sisters; two grandsons; and three great-granddaughters.

Dale Barham Evans, c'58, 81, Feb. 17 in Kansas City, where she was a homemaker. Surviving are two daughters; a son; and a brother, Peter Barham, c'64, g'66.

Herbert Glidden Jr., '51, 91, Feb. 27 in McPherson. He was a funeral director and owned Glidden Funeral Home. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Herbert III, '79; a daughter; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mary Tibbetts Glidden, '50, 88, Jan. 8 in McPherson, where she was a funeral director. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Herbert III, '79; a daughter; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Carol Hastings Graham, c'50, g'67, 89, Feb. 15 in Lawrence, where she established a GED educational program for adults and also volunteered at the Watkins Historical Museum. She is survived by two sons, Christopher, '77, and Barney, m'79; a daughter, Janice Graham Olker, '80; a brother, James Hastings, b'50; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Marjorie Albright Hazlett, '54, 86, Feb. 17 in Topeka. She worked for Kansas Athletics for more than 41 years as administrative assistant to the head football coach. Surviving are a daughter, Karen Hazlett Russell, j'81; and a grandson.

John "Jack" Holt, c'57, m'61, 82, Feb. 2 in Lenexa. He was a physician at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Charlette; three sons, John Jr., j'81, l'84, Robert, b'83, and Thomas, b'89; two daughters, Elizabeth Holt Jantsch, b'85, and Mary Holt Adamle, d'89, g'98; a brother, James, '61; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

William Holt, e'55, 84, Jan. 20 in Sunnyvale, California, where he retired after a 27-year career at General Electric. He is survived by three daughters; a

brother, James, '61; and six grandchildren.

William Honan, c'52, 87, Feb. 23 in Kansas City, where he owned a life insurance agency. Surviving are his wife, Jean; three sons; a brother, Richard, c'57; and five granddaughters.

Richard Houseworth, b'51, 89, Jan. 1 in Scottsdale, Arizona. He had a 40-year career in banking and served three terms as superintendent of banks for the State of Arizona. Two daughters, a son and three grandchildren survive.

Edward Huycke, c'50, m'53, 89, March 31 in Oklahoma City, where he was former chief of staff at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita. Survivors include four sons, three of whom are Edward, c'75, m'78, Mark, c'78, m'82, and John, e'82; two daughters, Ann, c'77, m'80, and Kathleen, c'84; 13 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Jo Ann Jarrett, d'51, 89, Dec. 8 in Russell. She was an elementary school teacher and was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1988. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Mary Kindsvater Jones, a'50, 89, Dec. 23 in Oxnard, California, where she was a bookkeeper. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Richard Bruce Joseph, c'52, m'56, 87, May 7, 2017, in Kailua, Hawaii, where he was an otolaryngologist. Surviving are his wife, Janet Padgett Joseph, d'54; a son; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Robert Kay, e'55, 84, Jan. 15 in Geneva, Illinois. He had a long career in the oil industry. Survivors include his wife, Marilou Selvig Kay, '55; a son; a sister, Judith Kay Walter, '61; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Ronald Kendrick, e'57, 83, Feb. 4 in Parker, Colorado. A longtime resident of Johnson, he was a farmer and ran the local John Deere dealership. Surviving are his wife, Barbara, three sons, two daughters, 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Diana Cruse Lee, d'55, 84, Jan. 19 in Overland Park. She taught art and was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood and Daughters of the American Revolution. She is survived by two sons, David, c'81, and

Peter, c'89; a daughter, Samantha Lee Sturgeon, d'84; and nine grandchildren.

Lit Ning Ma, e'54, 86, Dec. 25 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, where he retired after a career in electronics and aerospace. Two daughters, a son, a stepdaughter, a stepson and four grandchildren survive.

Thomas Frank McCoy, f'50, g'52, 93, Feb. 17 in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, where he was an artist and retired professor of fine arts at UMass Dartmouth.

Joseph Moya, c'58, 85, Jan. 27 in Omaha, Nebraska. He had a 25-year career at Eli Lilly and Company. Surviving are his wife, Sharon; three daughters; two sons; a stepdaughter; two stepsons; a sister, Isabel Moya Paniagua, c'52, l'54; two brothers; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A.M. Pederson, m'51, 95, Feb. 17 in Wichita. He lived in Plainville for several years, where he was a physician. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Christine, c'68; two sons, Ron, n'85, and Doug, PharmD'02; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Kathleen Eisenbise Pott, c'57, 82, Jan. 29 in Wichita. She worked for Wichita State University. Surviving are her husband, Tom, a'57; a daughter, Susan Pott Mikulecky, f'80; a son, Tim, f'85; a brother, Warner Eisenbise, c'55, l'58; and three grandchildren.

William Rehm, b'55, 84, Nov. 24 in Bonner Springs, where he owned Rehm Real Estate & Insurance. Survivors include two daughters, Susan, c'85, and Julie, j'90; two sons, one of whom is William III, b'87; and three grandchildren.

Robert Reinecke, c'55, m'59, 88, Jan. 17 in Philadelphia. He was an ophthalmologist. A daughter survives.

Mary McGinty Relihan, '51, 88, Jan. 27 in Wichita, where she was involved in several social and community organizations. She is survived by her husband, Donald, c'50, m'54; two daughters, Anne Relihan Rounds, '74, and Jane Relihan Hesse, '79; a son, Ted, f'83; a brother, William McGinty, c'57; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

John "Jack" Runnels, c'57, m'61, 82, March 6 in Eagle Point, Oregon. He was a neurosurgeon at the Menninger Founda-

In Memory

tion in Topeka. He also worked at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, California, and he was a clinical faculty member at Stanford University Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Linda Sue; a son, John III, '83; two daughters, Ruth, '83, and Laura Runnels Fleming, c'85; a sister, Diane Beyer Perett, c'70; and five grandsons.

David Spalding, m'59, 83, Jan. 2 in Rogersville, Missouri, where he was a retired ophthalmologist. His wife, Paula, a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Jack Steele, g'51, 94, Jan. 13 in Tucson, Arizona. He was a professor of business at several universities, including KU, and later became a consultant. He is survived by his wife, Marion, a son, a daughter, two stepsons, a grandson and four step-grandchildren.

Raymond Stone, m'58, 83, July 8, 2017, in Aurora, Colorado. He was a physician for the Veterans Health Administration in Kansas City and El Paso, Texas. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Randy, c'83; a daughter; two stepsons; a step-daughter; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Geneva James Swartzel, d'58, g'99, 82, Feb. 12 in Lawrence, where she taught English as a second language. She is survived by three daughters, Patricia, c'82, g'14, Kathryn, c'86, and Susan Swartzel Wunder, c'95; a son, Richard, j'96; a brother, Ivan James, e'63, g'69; two sisters; six granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

Richard Teaford, e'52, 89, Feb. 24 in Valley Falls. He was a civil engineer for the State of Kansas and Marion and Jefferson counties. Surviving are his wife, Maryetta; five sons, one of whom is Kris, e'88; a brother, Sidney, b'51; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Harold Welton, s'53, 96, Feb. 12 in Kansas City, where he was a retired probation and parole officer. Survivors include a son, Steven, c'76; a daughter; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

60s Elizabeth Schaechtele Ailor, n'60, 79, Feb. 19 in Lawrence, where she was a public health nurse at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. She is survived by her husband, Richard, '64; two daughters, Lisa Ailor Schmitt, '82, and Sarah Ailor Walters, s'90, g'95, '15; a sister, Mary Schaechtele Lake, '81; and two grandsons.

Jerry Anthony, n'67, 80, Jan. 8 in San Antonio, where he was a retired military serviceman. A brother and two sisters survive.

James Brownfield, c'60, m'64, 79, Feb. 8 in Deephaven, Minnesota. He had a long career as an ophthalmologist. Survivors include his wife, Tess; two sons; a daughter; a sister, Ann Brownfield Crane, d'63; and nine grandchildren.

Caryle Bender Carr, PhD'68, 86, Jan. 30 in Leavenworth. She taught pathology and medical technology. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Dan, assoc.; and two sisters.

Marcia Ebright Clements, d'65, 74, Feb. 2 in Shell Point, Florida, where she retired after teaching for more than 50 years. Surviving are her husband, Charles, a daughter, two sons, a sister and two grandchildren.

Roberta Johnson Garrison, c'62, 76, Nov. 21 in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. She worked for Weight Watchers International for more than 35 years. Survivors include her husband, T. Michael, e'61; a son, Steven, c'93, g'98, PhD'03; and a daughter.

Howard Gibson, b'65, g'67, 74, Feb. 18 in Overland Park. He had a long career in marketing and brand development and founded the Gibson Consulting Group. Surviving are his wife, Mary Louise St. Clair Gibson, d'65; a son; a daughter; three brothers; and four grandchildren.

Cornelia "Toni" Barnes Goble, c'60, 81, Feb. 16 in Enon, Ohio, where she was a retired education specialist for the U.S. Air Force. She is survived by her husband, Jack, e'58; a daughter; two sons; and three granddaughters.

William Hutsell, p'61, 79, Nov. 29 in Nevada, Missouri, where he was a pharmacist for more than 50 years. A sister and two brothers survive.

James Kahler, l'60, 84, Sept. 30 in Lyons. He was an attorney and partner at Hodgson and Kahler. Surviving are a son, Kirk, c'87, j'87; a daughter; two brothers; a sister; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John Keene, b'65, 75, Jan. 22 in Rockwall, Texas, where he had a 40-year career as a certified public accountant. He is survived by his wife, Patsy; a daughter, Kathleen Keene Espot, '03; two sons; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

James Mackey, e'60, 80, Jan. 7 in Lenexa. He worked at Hallmark for 25 years. His wife, Jean, and a daughter survive.

Mildred Merrill Maxwell, c'62, 96, Jan. 22 in Olathe, where she was a retired teacher. Three daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Jane Dean McMaster, c'60, 79, Jan. 31 in Wichita, where she was a travel agent. She is survived by three daughters, two of whom are Margaret McMaster Caccia, c'85, and Kathryn McMaster Kraske, '17; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

Raymond Meyn, c'65, g'67, PhD'69, 75, Dec. 27 in Houston. He was a researcher and professor in the department of experimental radiation oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Surviving are his wife, Anne Hamilton Meyn, d'68; a son; a daughter; a sister; and two grandsons.

William Mills, c'64, l'67, 75, Feb. 8 in Hutchinson, where he was vice president at the Trust Company of Kansas. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Alice Cash Mills, d'65; two daughters, one of whom is Hilary Mills Lindsey, j'92, c'93; two sons, William, c'95, and James, j'02; two sisters, Barbara Mills Byers, c'69, and Mary Mills Weil, c'70; and seven grandchildren.

Charles Nicholson, d'60, g'66, 84, Feb. 8 in Topeka, where he retired from a long career with the Kansas State Department of Education. Survivors include his wife, Carol Immer Nicholson, c'60; two sons; a daughter; three stepsons, two of whom are Brent Medley, c'86, and Richard "Cordy" Medley, '91; a step-daughter; and several grand-

children and great-grandchildren.

Thomas Purma, c'66, 73, Dec. 16 in Wilson. He had a long career in the aerospace industry. Surviving are his wife, Carolyn, two daughters, a stepson, two stepdaughters, a brother, three granddaughters, five step-grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Charles Roberman, c'60, 79, Dec. 31 in Spring, Texas, where he was executive vice president at Vector Technology. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Janice; four sons; a daughter; three sisters, two of whom are Irene Roberman Blom, d'58, g'60, and Grace Roberman Ellis, '65; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Samuel Steele, m'68, 78, Feb. 2 in Newland, North Carolina, where he was a urologist. Surviving are his wife, Olivia, and a son.

Daryl Wilcox, g'67, EdD'82, 87, Jan. 10 in Wayne, Nebraska, where he was professor of special education at Wayne State College. He is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Charles Wilhelm, d'65, g'67, PhD'70, 75, June 13, 2017 in Apollo Beach, Florida. He was professor emeritus of speech pathology at Fort Hays State University. Surviving are his wife, Tamara, a son, a stepdaughter and five grandchildren.

70s Jean Bailey, d'74, g'80, 66, Jan. 18 in Atchison, where she was a reading specialist and librarian for Atchison Public Schools. A brother, Lawrence, c'70, survives.

Suzanne Schmidt Brito, c'79, 60, Feb. 24 in Wichita. She was a volunteer and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Surviving are her husband, Raul, c'80; a daughter, Mallory, b'09; a son, Chris, b'12; her mother; a brother, Bill Schmidt, '75; and two granddaughters.

Dar Daily, c'73, 66, Aug. 20 in Plymouth, Minnesota. He co-founded a software development company and later taught mathematics to adults and children. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, assoc.; two sons; a daughter; and a sister, Cheryl Daily Fannin, d'70, g'75.

Robert Hesler, e'76, 69, Dec. 30 in Overland Park, where he was an engineer and president of the family business, the Hesler Company. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Bennett Hesler, c'74; two daughters, one of whom is Brooke Hesler Ramsey, j'03; a sister, Mary Hesler King, d'62; and three grandchildren.

Marti Butell Kalb, g'77, 75, Jan. 31 in Canon City, Colorado. She was a speech-language pathologist. Surviving are her husband, F. Kent, c'61, l'64; a son; a brother, Carl Butell, c'65; a sister; a grandson; and a great-granddaughter.

Mary Lawson, c'79, 61, Dec. 20 in Mount Vernon, New York, where she supervised media at Fox News. Her parents and a brother survive.

Cathryn Cottingham Logan, d'72, 68, Jan. 11 in Castroville, Texas, where she was a retired music instructor and orchestra director. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, David, c'71; a son; and a grandson.

Linda Smith Martin, d'70, 69, Jan. 19 in Traverse City, Michigan. She was a teacher and homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Stewart, c'68; a daughter, Natalie Martin Joseph, d'96; two sons, Stewart, c'00, and Alex, c'03; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Patricia Lettau Oliver, c'75, 64, Feb. 4 in Springfield, Missouri. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Craig, c'75, l'78; two daughters; and two brothers.

Matthew Schuler, c'77, p'80, 63, Oct. 23 in Overland Park, where he was a pharmacist and clinical trial pharmacologist. He is survived by a brother, Marin Luke, e'82, g'89, '15; and a sister, Margaret Mary, c'88.

Janice Rahmeier Tucker, n'73, 66, Jan. 13 in Denver, where she managed the nursing program at Denver Health. Survivors include her husband, Glenn, g'78, PhD'80; and a brother.

80s Riley Greenwood, d'82, 59, Jan. 8 in Valley Center, where he was a teacher and coach at Valley Center High School. Surviving are his wife, Diane Blurton Greenwood, '84; a son; his mother, Nancy MacGregor Greenwood, d'53; and a brother, Jack, c'85.

Faye Newsom, '82, 96, Feb. 15 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker. Survivors include two daughters, Jennifer Newsom Rogozinski, c'68, and Betty Newsom Amyx, b'82; a son, John "Bo," e'73, g'75; two brothers; and two granddaughters.

00s Andria McNames Cooper, l'01, 44, Feb. 5 in Wayne, Nebraska. She was a judge on the 8th District Court of New Mexico and assistant professor of criminal justice at Wayne State College. Survivors include her husband, John, two daughters, her parents, her grandmother and two brothers.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Stephen Evans, c'71, g'76, PhD'00, 69, Feb. 26 in Lawrence, where he was a senior lecturer in the department of English. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his husband, Jim Ward; his mother, Montana Farnsworth Newkirk, EdD'80; and two brothers, Grant, c'79, and Samuel, '82.

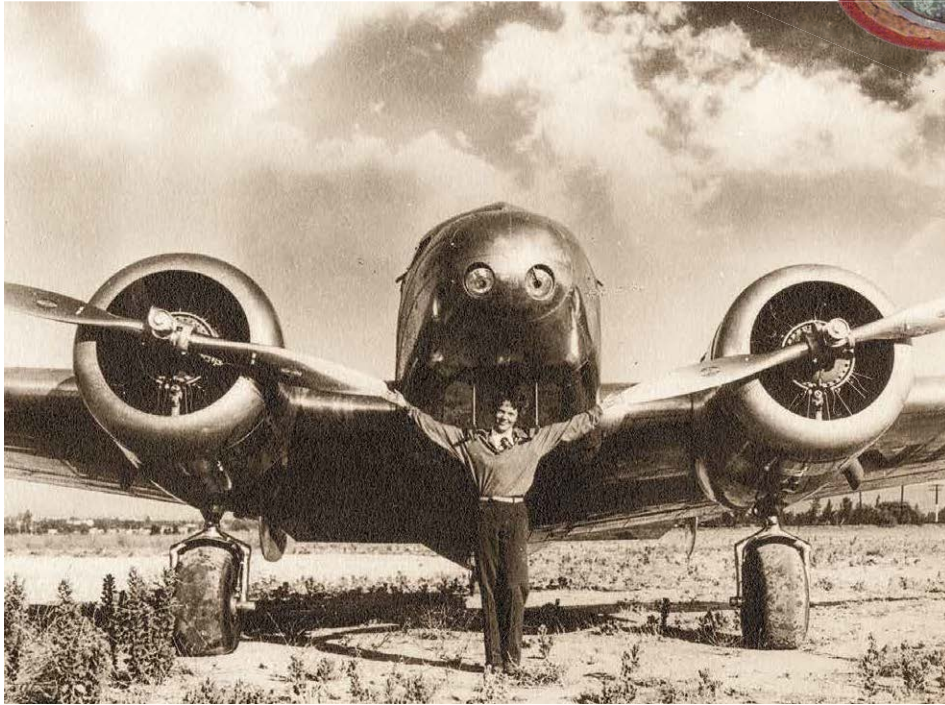
Ann Eversole, EdD'89, 75, Nov. 13 in Lawrence. In 1973, she began her career at KU as assistant dean of women, and she retired 36 years later as assistant vice provost for student success. She was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 2007. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include a daughter, Elizabeth, b'01.

Frances Ingemann, 90, Jan. 28 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita and founder of the department of linguistics at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A sister survives.

Robert Lichtwardt, 93, Feb. 9 in Lawrence, where he was professor and chair of the department of botany. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, assoc; a son, Robert, c'95; a daughter, Ruth, '03; and a brother.

Ernest Pogge, 90, Jan. 20 in Lawrence, where he retired after 30 years as professor of civil engineering. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a son, George, e'75; a daughter, Dorothy, '79; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Rock Chalk Review



COURTESY AMELIA EARHART COLLECTION/PURDUE LIBRARIES (5)

Earhart found?

**Analysis suggests it's likely,
yet Jantz cautions against certainty**

Are bones found in 1940 on Nikumaroro Island the skeletal remains of lost Kansas aviator Amelia Earhart? According to a recent study by forensic anthropologist Richard Jantz, they can't be excluded as being Earhart's—a stance bold enough to reignite debates that have waged since Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the South Pacific during their 1937 attempt to circle the globe.

Jantz, c'62, g'64, PhD'70, told *Kansas Alumni* in an interview from his Knoxville, Tennessee, home that media coverage of his research erred with headlines trumpeting an airtight solution to the mystery.

"There was a lot of publicity, more than I necessarily wanted," said Jantz, University of Tennessee professor emeritus and director emeritus of UT's renowned

Forensic Anthropology Center. Noting that critical articles—including commentary by *Outside Magazine* and *Snopes.com*—dismissed claims that Earhart's remains had finally been positively identified, Jantz added, "They concluded that it wasn't proved, and I agree with that. It's not proved. It's just supported."

The bones in question were found three years after Earhart and Noonan's fatal flight by a British officer scouting what was then called Gardner Island. A skull and long bones were sent to Fiji, where locally prominent physician D.W. Hoodless concluded the bones had belonged to a stocky, Polynesian male, dismissing both



Earhart and Noonan as possible sources.

The bones have since disappeared, but Hoodless' measurements and notes were found in 1997. Anthropologist Karen Ramey Burns, of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, reviewed Hoodless' work and concluded the remains probably belonged to a female; she asked Jantz to

review her findings, and he concurred, adding that the remains were more likely of European extraction than Polynesian.

"The circumstantial case that Amelia Earhart died on that island," Jantz told *Kansas Alumni* in 1999, "is very strong."

And there it remained, until nearly 20 years later when British graduate student Pamela Cross and Australian anthropologist Richard Wright in 2015 published a paper supporting Hoodless' original finding that the bones were most likely male, excluding Earhart as a candidate.



(Noonan, who was more than 6 feet tall, is excluded as a candidate by height.)

Burns died in 2012, so Jantz took up their quest anew, this time using his latest analytical software, enhanced databases and, among other intriguing elements, waist and inseam measurements taken from Earhart's clothing held at Purdue University's Amelia Earhart Collection and a scalable photograph of Earhart holding an oil can at her side.

With assistance from The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery—a champion of the Nikumaroro hypothesis—forensic photographer Jeff Glickman purchased the same Mobil can on Ebay to measure it precisely, which then allowed Jantz to reach “reasonable approximations” of Earhart's bone lengths. The analysis again meshed with Hoodless' numbers.

Further research also led Jantz to conclude Earhart's weight far exceeded the “linear and gracile” frame described by Cross and Wright, undermining gender identification based on stoutness.

Combined with Euro-American artifacts found with the bones—a woman's shoe, a box for a sextant of the type Noonan was known to use, freckle cream of a type thought to be used by Earhart, a bottle dated to the 1930s that had been broken and heated, a disassembled pocket knife—

that seemingly point toward the presence of a Western woman living as a castaway on the island in the 1930s, Jantz again concluded that the evidence made it unlikely that the bones could have been remains of a British or Yemeni sailor aboard the SS Norwich City, a freighter that wrecked at Nikumaroro in 1929.

With no other candidate sources for the bones, Jantz again concluded that, absent new information, the remains are more likely than not Earhart's, despite vehement arguments from critics who contend Earhart's airplane did not have enough fuel to reach Nikumaroro after missing the intended layover at Howland Island.

“In this particular case, there's a lot of prior evidence that Amelia Earhart—or, maybe I should say a Euro-American—was there, before you even look at the bones,” Jantz said. “You can't just dismiss it, because if you don't think those bones are Amelia Earhart's, then it requires independent events for the bones and the Euro-American artifacts to get there at the same time. A survivor of the Norwich City

would not have all that stuff with him, and an islander, who some say it might be, would likewise not have had all that stuff.

“You have to have some other person leave the bones, and then another event that got the artifacts there, and that's just not a [plausible] explanation.”

Jantz, a Halstead native, plans to further research details about SS Norwich City crewmen and their likely anthropological traits, with the hope of finding evidence that could exclude them as the source of the Nikumaroro bones and strengthen the stance that no plausible candidates exist other than Earhart.

“But, I am not under any illusion that it will put it to rest,” Jantz said wearily. “There's a lot of emotional attachment on the part of the various theory holders, and they don't let go of it easily.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Batteries included

Research breakthroughs could make energy storage key link in nation's power system

Renewable energy accounts for about 15 percent of U.S. electricity generation and about 10 percent of total consumption.

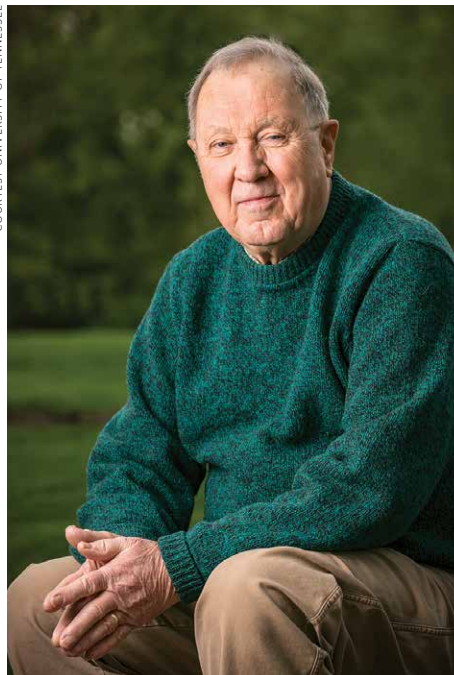
From 2000 to 2016, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the federal government's tracker of energy statistics and analysis, consumption of non-hydroelectric sources of renewable energy—a category that includes wind and solar power—more than doubled.

Trung Van Nguyen, professor of petroleum and chemical engineering, thinks those numbers could go even higher if researchers can find a way to address the key problem with renewable energy—the fact that energy sources like sun and wind are intermittent.

His solution: batteries.

Since 2010, Nguyen has worked on a hydrogen-bromine flow battery that could allow wind and solar farms to store some of the power they generate before sending

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Richard Jantz's active retirement includes ongoing research on skeletal changes in 20th-century Americans, but he expects to also continue work on the Earhart case: “It does kind of take over your life.”

Rock Chalk Review

it onto the electrical grid.

When calm air stills turbines and clouds or darkness render solar panels useless, renewable energy producers add no power to the grid. But even when the wind blows and the sun shines, renewable energy often gets “dumped” because the power plants sometimes generate more electricity than the grid needs at that moment, according to Nguyen.

“There is a mismatch between supply and demand,” he says. “But if you have a storage system you can help dampen the mismatch; when we have excess supply and low demand you can use the supply to fill the tank. When you have more demand than supply, you can draw on that tank.”

A \$2 million 2010 grant from the National Science Foundation and a \$1.72 million 2012 grant from the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) allowed Nguyen and his graduate students to overcome most of the

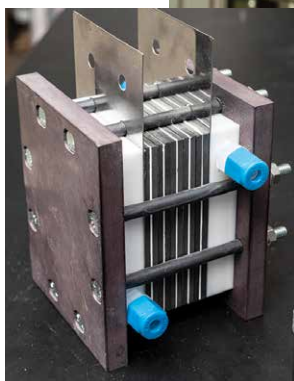
hurdles to making an industrial-size battery capable of storing energy efficiently and—a key consideration—affordably.

The highest hurdle for battery technology is cost. Many workable battery systems are being developed, but they are pricier to operate than the energy they save.

“The cost of storage has to be a lot less than the value of the energy,” Nguyen explains, “otherwise one would just dump the energy. The system I’m working on for large-scale energy storage, the hydrogen-bromine system, is the most cost-effective system out there, because of the low-cost raw materials that we use.”

Among the problems Nguyen has solved is development of a high-surface-area electrode that improves battery performance and cuts costs. The electrode is where electrical current enters or leaves a battery, and to be efficient it needs lots of surface area. He hit on an idea for greatly increasing that surface area.

“Before our work, people used paper-carbon electrodes and had to stack electrodes together to generate high-power



Trung Van Nguyen, with graduate student Yuanchao Li, holds a lab-scale hydrogen-bromine flow battery. The 1/10,000 scale model stores 100 watts of power; the full-size battery will be the size of a semi trailer and can store one megawatt of energy.

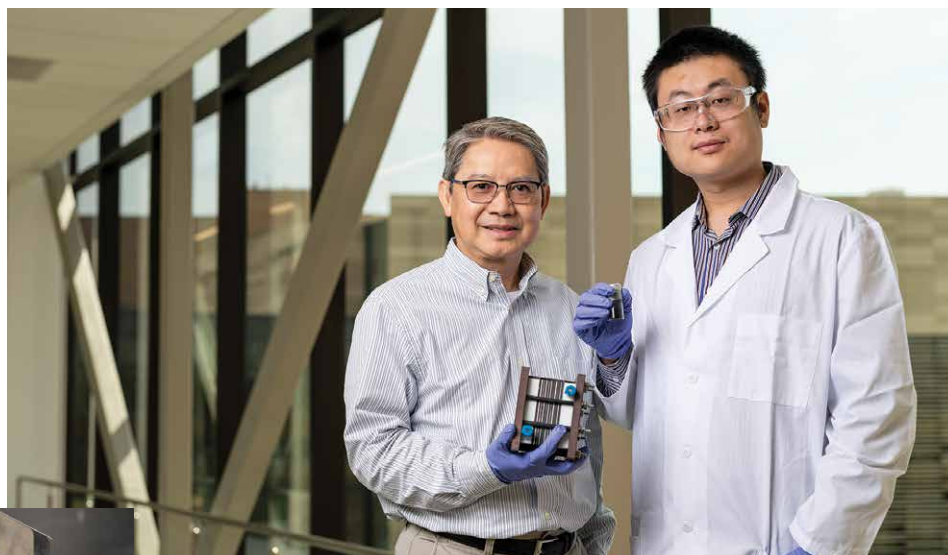
output,” he explains. “The electrodes had to be a lot thicker and more expensive because you had to use multiple layers—they were bulkier and more resistive.”

He and his research team came up with a simple but novel idea: Grow tiny carbon nanotubes on top of carbon fibers already inside the electrode.

“It’s just like whiskers on your face,” Nguyen says, explaining that the three-dimensional surface boosts surface area by 50 to 70 times.

A final challenge—finding a way to synthesize very small nanoparticles of a key catalyst for one of the reactions in the system—is nearly solved, Nguyen believes. That would allow the higher energy output needed to make the battery compatible with the electric grid.

Once that barrier is cleared, hydrogen-bromine batteries the size of semi trucks could be set up on wind farms like those in western Kansas, ready to store excess energy when power generation is high but demand is low.



STEVE PUPPE (2)

The stakes are huge. Renewables now surpass nuclear power in energy output, and a report released in January from the International Renewable Energy Agency projects that renewable energy will be cheaper than fossil fuels by 2020.

“Unless we come up with some energy storage technology, we will not be able to add more renewable energy sources to our energy network, because it can’t handle this kind of variability,” Nguyen says. “This new technology will help overcome that. You can add as much as you want; we can go 50 percent renewable energy as long as we have the storage.”

—Steven Hill

From the ashes

Tom Averill’s heroine emerges from loss to discover a new life in ancient fossils

As her husband, Solomon, lies dead in the front yard of their Lawrence home on Aug. 21, 1863, Nell Johnson Doerr faces down his murderer, a drunken Quantrill’s raider with a dragoon pistol in one hand and Solomon’s watch in the other. The widow rushes the ruffian, screaming, “No, you have taken his life. That is enough!” She wrests the watch away and flings herself on Solomon’s body. The marauder points his gun toward her,

cocks the hammer, then inexplicably stumbles off.

This harrowing scene occurs early in *Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr*, the 10th book by Thomas Fox Averill, c'71, g'74, professor emeritus of English at Washburn University. Averill tells Nell's story through a collection of her diary entries, letters and drawings. Against a backdrop of thoroughly researched history and prominent characters from the early years of Lawrence, the University and the young state, Nell's diary and correspondence with her mother, Jo; sister, Mary; her friend, Sally Miller, and others at first seem authentic, but all are the stuff of Averill's imagination in this work of archival fiction.

Found traces Nell's travel from her home in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to help settle Lawrence with Solomon and fellow abolitionists; her grief over the loss of two sons to miscarriage and, only a few years later, her husband; and her determined pursuit of a unexpected calling that transfixes her in the most unlikely of moments—on that awful Friday in August, as she huddles beneath her new home, along the limestone foundation, listening in horror as Solomon confronts the “Missouri savages” after ignoring her pleas to hide.

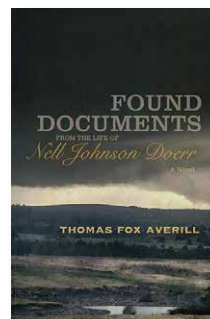
“In that rock, I saw shapes,” Nell writes the next day. “The rock was not so much rock as it was home to a thousand lines, etchings, lacings, small white curves like cut fingernails, dots like sand carried onto the floor by careless boots, little twigs and stems like the litter left by birds under the cherry tree. These shapes in the Rock of Ages had before now been hidden to my eyes.”

Nell's newfound purpose helps her emerge from devastating loss and loneliness to become an amateur scientist, studying bryozoan fossils with the encouragement of Benjamin Mudge, the first state geologist, and Hugh Cameron, “The Kansas Hermit,” an eccentric math scholar from New York who settled in the Midwest and walked from Kansas City to Lawrence, where he served in the Civil War and later lived in a treehouse, didn't cut his hair or beard, and wrote flamboy-

ant letters to the newspaper in support of hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation.

The fictional Nell attracts stares and gossip as an eccentric in her own right, ignoring social norms for widows as she befriends Cameron and other local outcasts, seeks mentoring from men of science and chooses fossil hunting over Sunday church. Nell encourages her friend Sally to defy her hard-drinking husband and pursue her own study of butterflies, and she boldly advocates for women's suffrage and public recognition of her scientific work. Her perplexed church pastor laments that Nell feels “compelled to turn everything into a ‘cause.’”

It is fitting that Nell, a character who finds her true self in Averill's novel, first appeared as a discovery in her own right. In Averill's 2011 Western tale, *rode*, she was an infant found by her adopted



Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr

by Thomas Fox Averill

University of New Mexico Press

\$19.95

parents, Robert and Jo Johnson, amid the burning ruins of her birth parents' cabin.

Like her husband's prized watch—which is lost and found again, years after Quantrill's Raid—and like the fossils that mesmerize a timid young widow, transforming her into strong-willed scholar, Nell herself is a talisman to treasure.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Kennedy Center world premiere

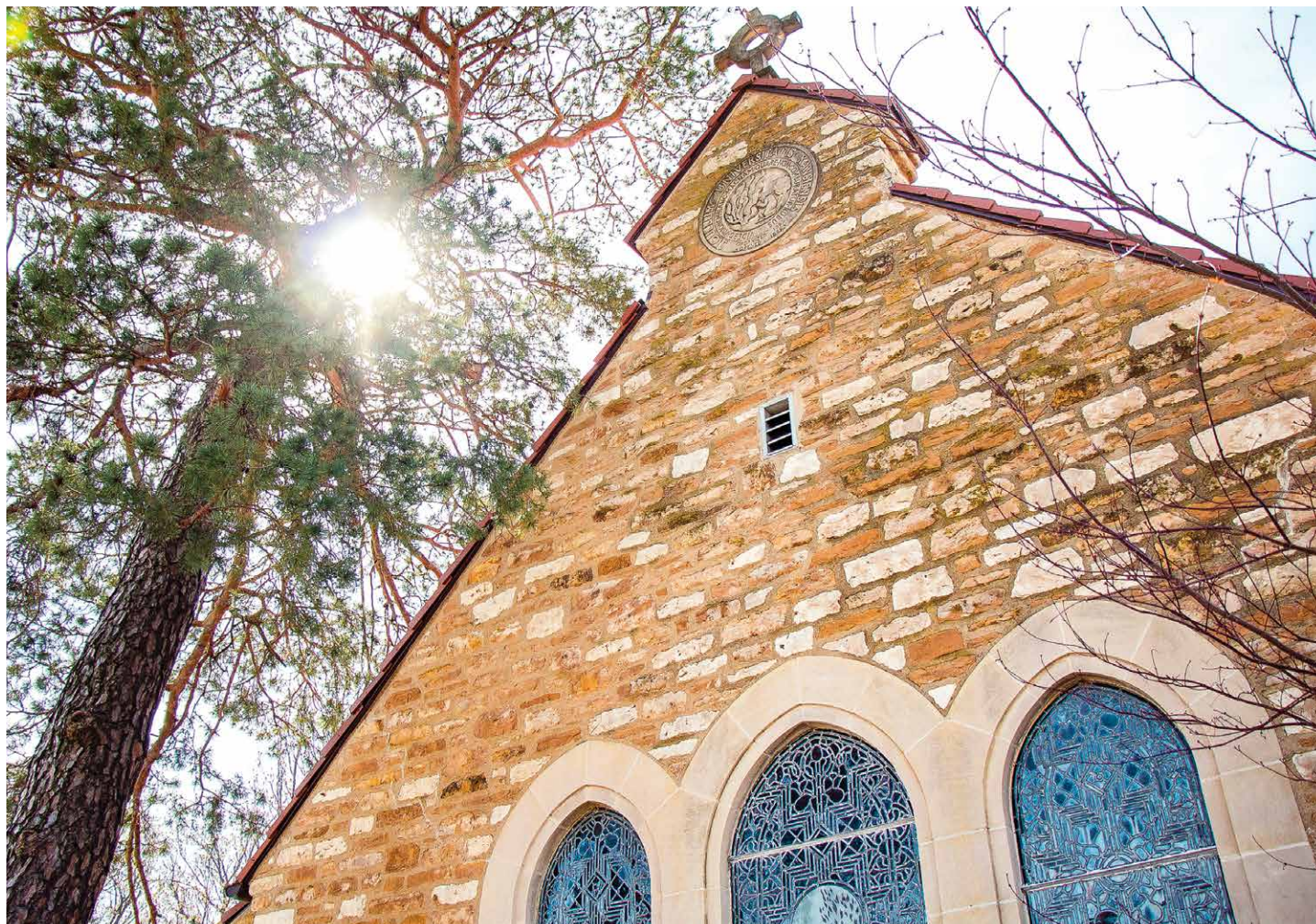


During a world premier performance April 29 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Michelle Heffner Hayes (above), professor and chair of dance, and the KU Jazz Ensemble I, directed by music professor Dan Gailey, performed “Palos Nuevos: The Jazz/Flamenco Project,” composed by Gailey. The jazz musicians then teamed with the KU Wind Ensemble (right), led by director of bands Paul Popiel, to perform Kevin Walczyk's Symphony No. 5 “Freedom from Fear: Images from the Shoreline.”



Glorious to View

Photograph by Lauren Muth



Kansas Alumni photography intern Lauren Muth, an Overland Park senior and photo media major in the School of Architecture and Design, captured this sunny prospect of Danforth Chapel's north side, which features the University Seal and stained-glass windows refurbished in the 2007 restoration of KU's little chapel on the Hill.

ROCK CHALK, FOREVER A JAYHAWK!

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