

| SARAH PENNER
| The writing life

| REBEKAH TAUSSIG
| Sitting Pretty

kansasalumni

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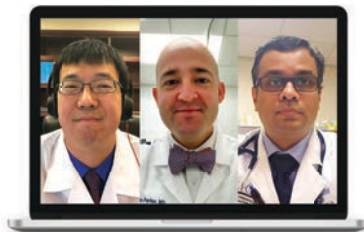


'A Better Place'

*Mount Oread bids farewell
to University Architect Jim Modig*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER

Talk and squawk in the news



“One of the things I’ve learned from policy is that we tend to believe information that’s about ourselves. And this is about Kansas. This isn’t about California ... this is us.”

—Donna Ginther, professor of economics and director of KU’s Institute for Policy and Social Research, on the institute’s data analysis finding that Kansas counties with mask mandates reported roughly half the cases of COVID-19 recorded by counties that opted out of the statewide mask mandate.



“[Hughes] just has always been there. And he continues to be there. I don’t think he’s going anywhere, apparently, as relates to me.”

—Darren Canady, Director’s Faculty Fellow in the University Honors Program and associate professor of English, on portraying iconic poet Langston Hughes in the Theatre Lawrence production “Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?”, which streamed online in February in celebration of Black History Month. Canady, a playwright who grew up in Topeka, read “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” when he was young, fascinated with a great American writer who, like himself, hailed from eastern Kansas.



THEATRE LAWRENCE

“They don’t know how lucky they are to have Lawrence, Kansas, as a hometown, but we do. Just as I’m proud that they are ours, they should be just as proud that we are theirs.”

— Jennifer Scales Ananda, c’04, l’10, s’10, who at the Nov. 17 Lawrence City Commission meeting—her last as mayor—proclaimed Lawrence the official hometown of Sam and Dean Winchester, fictional characters from the TV show “Supernatural,” which concluded its 15-year run in 2020. The show’s creator chose Lawrence as the brothers’ home because of its proximity to Stull Cemetery, known for its urban legends.



COURTESY CITY OF LAWRENCE

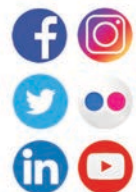
“I don’t particularly think of myself as a great photographer or anything like that, but hopefully it’s shining a light on some of the people who have been working so hard—and giving them some recognition for all the hard work they’ve put in.”

— Daniel DeJong, c’10, m’14, a physician and self-taught hobbyist photographer in Wichita. As the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, he began shooting black-and-white portraits of his co-workers before and after their shifts at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis hospital as a show of appreciation.



DANIEL DEJONG

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COVER STORY

The Public Servant

After four decades tending Mount Oread, University Architect Jim Modig retires, leaving some big boots to fill.

by Chris Lazzarino

Cover image by Steve Puppe



Day Job, Daydream

A finance major finds balance—and fulfillment—in chasing a long-held desire to write.

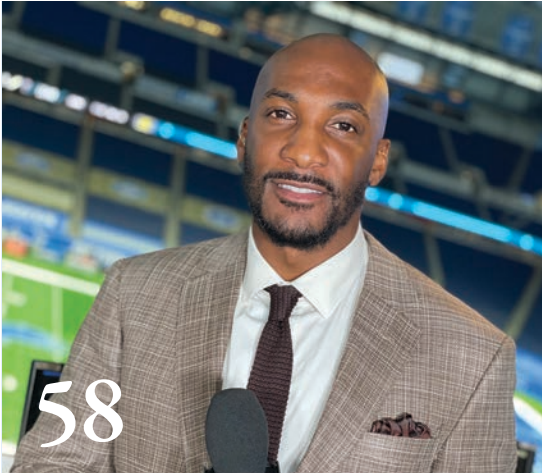
by Sarah Penner



In Her Words

Through Instagram posts and a debut memoir, disability advocate Rebekah Taussig shares a candid look at life in a wheelchair.

by Heather Biele



Profile: Aqib Talib

Football All-American and Super Bowl champ aims to keep it real in making the jump to broadcasting.

by Chris Lazzarino



WINTER 2021

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ONLINE EXTRAS



Video
Tour Mount Oread with campus keepers Jim Modig, Warren Corman and Mark Reiske.

Digital Feature
A Lawrence pizza shop's move to new digs uncovers an athletics treasure.



From the Archives
Remembering the marvelous Mrs. Watkins, one of KU's earliest and greatest benefactors

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magazine.org**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free KU gift, a \$5 value.

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Familiar face

I WAS SURPRISED and pleased when I saw the photo of the Dodge City Cowboy Band on the cover [“The Last Cattle Drive Redux,” issue No. 4, 2020]. There was my grandfather, Tim Young, on the front row with his snare drum.

According to a news article, Tim served as Ford County Clerk for most of his working life. He attended Dodge City schools and was a member of the Cowboy Band from about 1904 until 1949. Additionally, Tim was active in booster events in southwest Kansas, Boy Scout work, and as a member of the National Guard during World War I.

Thanks for the memories.

—Susan Sutton, d’71
Concordia

Character questions?

CHANCELLOR GIROD AND Provost Bichelmeyer’s response to the tragic death of George Floyd raises questions about the character of our University. [“Mandate for Change,” Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 3].

Does the Chancellor presume an outsize role of racism in the “tragic litany of African Americans lost to violence”? Is Steven

Pinker’s pithy summary more accurate? “Data: Police don’t shoot Blacks disproportionately. Problem: Not race, but too many police shootings.” Do our administrators presume one proper response shared by all decent people to these tragedies? Spike Lee’s advice to eschew reliance on a “magical Negro” to instruct us in all matters of race seems prudent when the public square resonates with such different takes as those of Ibram X. Kendi or John McWhorter. Is the Chancellor’s Task Force a rubber stamp intended to implement policies based on incorrigible first principles (diversity, equity and inclusion)?

Should we commit to the fashionable mantra of diversity, equity and inclusion? Or recommit to the liberal creed that steadfast commitment to equal opportunity in a meritocratic society is equity instantiated?

Is diversity a first or second thing? Wouldn’t it be utterly perverse to privilege skin pigment over objective qualification as a first principle?

In a meritocratic society, are unequal outcomes among ethnic groups prima facie evidence of inequity and “systemic racism”? Are

disparities inevitable in an open society? Should we rebalance the NBA (or the KU Department of African and African American Studies)?

Is inclusive excellence an oxymoron—weasel words used by beleaguered administrators who can’t acknowledge difficult trade-offs need to be made, given scarce educational resources?

Five new committees or task forces. Are we instantiating Pournelle’s Iron Law of Bureaucracy? To wit: Any organization has two kinds of people—those dedicated to furthering the organization’s original mission—like professors turning out well educated students; and those dedicated to furthering the bureaucracy by expanding their budgets and staffs.

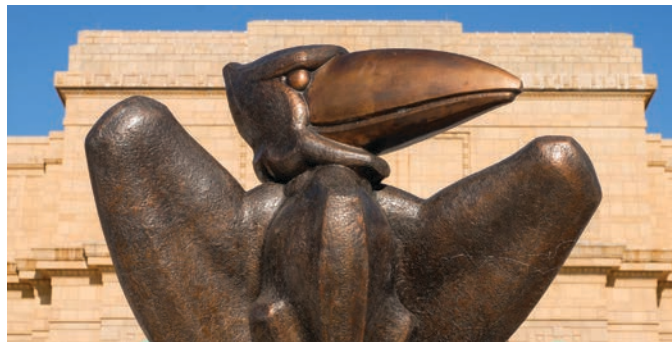
Is the search for institutional racism which truly disadvantages African Americans at KU a snipe hunt? Does our administration forestall debates on debatable topics? Such as: Define social justice. Define systemic racism. Are “difficult conversations” settings where faculty and staff don’t get with the program transmitted in workshops “Deconstructing Privilege”? Or conversations where freshmen in the KU Common Book read don’t share the

viewpoint of the facilitators?

Are we a “KU family” or is that ideal adolescent, cloying and claustrophobic? Are we still an academic community which entertains and tolerates different viewpoints, though they may offend? In a family “there are times, after all, when it is necessary to call a spade an implement highly useful for digging” (Joseph Epstein). In a liberal academic community the rules of engagement are more boisterous. Are we a liberal or illiberal institution? The University can answer the question by formally adopting the University of Chicago free speech and expression principles—or not. The University Senate Committee on Freedom of Speech appointed in Fall 2016 still hasn’t produced a formal recommendation. We shouldn’t have to wait as long as Odysseus’s dog for our University to ante up.

—George K. Bascom, c’73, m’76
Kearney, Nebraska

Editors’ note: We welcome letters to the editor. The Alumni Association and the University remain committed to free speech and the rights of all individuals to express their differing personal views, including those that others might find challenging or inappropriate. Letters appearing in Lift the Chorus represent only the authors’ opinions, and *Kansas Alumni* reserves the right to edit as needed for clarity and as space requires. Send responses to articles in the magazine to kualumni@kualumni.org or 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100.



CHRIS LAZZARINO

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SUSAN YOUNGER (2)



“This is a really tough starting point for us to swallow, quite honestly. We recognize the financial challenges the state is facing, but it does feel like higher ed got singled out in this instance. So we have a lot of work to do.” —Chancellor Doug Girod

years early, and in 2020 they turned out nearly 1,700 graduates.

Rich Smith, e’86, g’91, president and CEO of Henderson Engineers, is among the industry advocates for the program. He was the firm’s 50th employee when he was hired 27 years ago; Henderson now includes 500 employees in the Lenexa headquarters and more than 300 additional team members across nine U.S. cities. The company has relied heavily on engineers from Kansas schools, especially KU and K-State. “The firm has been built on the shoulders of that talent,” he says. “Twelve of our 15-member leadership team are KU or K-State grads.” Smith foresees continued demand. “We’re projecting 14 percent growth next year, and we’re going to lean on KU and K-State as much as we have in the past.” And though the firm’s reach in consulting stretches beyond the state’s borders, he says, “that money comes back here to Kansas.”

Vital investment also flows into the state from the KU research enterprise, which in FY 2019 attracted \$263.9 million in outside funding, mainly from federal agencies. Research supports an average of 4,192 jobs annually, and KU discoveries have helped launch 44 new companies.

As the Legislature debates the FY 2022 budget in the weeks ahead, alumni voices will be critical in urging lawmakers to avoid further cuts to higher education and maintain stable funding for KU and the other universities. To advocate for KU through Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Alumni Association’s state-wide volunteer network, visit kualumni.org/jhe.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

IN HIS WEEKLY VIDEO update Jan. 20, Chancellor Doug Girod didn’t mince words as he described Gov. Laura Kelly’s proposed fiscal year 2022 budget for higher education, which includes a 5.3% cut to the University’s base appropriations.

“This is a really tough starting point for us to swallow, quite honestly,” he told viewers. “We recognize the financial challenges the state is facing, but it does feel like higher ed got singled out in this instance. So we have a lot of work to do.”

Kelly’s recommendation would mean a \$13.6 million reduction—in total dollars, the largest cut in KU history. The Lawrence and Edwards campuses would lose \$7.6 million in basic operating funds; KU Medical Center would lose \$6 million.

The governor also proposed 2.5% salary increases for state employees—except those in higher education. Instead, she asked for \$10.4 million for the Kansas Board of Regents to distribute among universities and colleges at its discretion.

Amid the pandemic, KU already faces a projected fiscal year 2022 deficit of \$74.6 million, nearly quadruple the painful \$20 million cut that the Lawrence campus absorbed in FY 2019. Reductions in campus instruction and other activities have cost KU dearly in revenue from housing, dining, parking and events—on top of reduced tuition revenue; fall 2020 enrollment fell 2.8%, including an 18% drop in international students. Even after KU implemented \$33.1 million in one-

time savings through salary reductions and freezes and early retirement incentives, the looming deficit will demand furloughs and layoffs, cuts in academic programs and reduced services to Kansans. A further decrease in state funding would force even more dire decisions.

The Regents had asked the governor and the Kansas Legislature to maintain stable base-budget funding at last year’s level for all universities. In addition, Kansas industry leaders and the Regents proposed renewal of the 10-year Kansas Engineering Initiative Act, passed by the 2011 Legislature to provide more engineering graduates for the Kansas workforce. The KU School of Engineering and its counterparts at Kansas State and Wichita State universities each have received \$3.5 million annually to expand, and each school matched that investment, with the goal to graduate a combined 1,365 engineers by 2021. The three surpassed that mark two



KU School of Engineering





AN EMPATHETIC SOUL might have interpreted sublime sunrises tickling Mount Oread to life most late December mornings as something of an apology from an ugly year that knew its days were numbered. Sorry, 2020. Too little, too late. But ... we'll take it.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE

“I miss people being in three dimensions and the place that is KU. ...We need involvement with each other, interaction, connection, and as human beings we get that best by being present with each other.”

—Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer



JILL HUMMELS (3)

STRONG HALL

Momentous year

Provost assesses launch of ‘Jayhawks Rising’ and prepares to turn strategic plan into action

FIVE DAYS INTO HER NEW ROLE as provost and executive vice chancellor, on Feb. 28, 2020, Barbara Bichelmeyer led a Universitywide discussion of KU’s new strategic plan, Jayhawks Rising. As she and Chancellor Doug Girod outlined the guiding vision and priorities, developed over months of study, they thanked the hundreds of faculty and staff who had bypassed a rare, spring-like Friday afternoon in February to brainstorm about the best ways to turn the plan into action.

By mid-March, KU leaders were preparing to close campus and finish the semester online to protect the community from COVID-19. Bichelmeyer’s return to her alma mater after 25 years took a bizarre turn, limiting her first year of settling in



KU.MARCOMM

and getting to know folks to onscreen encounters.

“I miss people being in three dimensions and the place that is KU,” says Bichelmeyer, j’82, c’86, g’88, PhD’92. “I’m aware that we are all grieving. We need involvement with each other, interaction, connection, and as human beings we get that best by being present with each other, both physically and psychologically. As soon as you lose physical place, you need connection even more. But it’s so much harder because it’s technology mediated and it’s not as complete.”

Instructional technology happens to be one of Bichelmeyer’s specialties. Now a driving force in transforming higher education’s present and future, it also links her to her KU past. As a doctoral student and the School of Education’s director of technology in the mid-1990s, “when portable

ABOVE Last February Bichelmeyer and Girod visited with graduate students displaying their research in the Capitol and led a strategic planning forum, where the provost unfurled a long scroll of stakeholders to whom KU is accountable.

computers weighed like 30 pounds,” she recalls, “I had to lug computers all over campus, down to Rob-inson and back up to Bailey.” She often stopped at the traffic booth at the juncture of Memorial Drive and Mississippi Street to ask the attendant, Debbie Brown, for a coveted temporary campus access pass. Twenty-five years later, Bichelmeyer stopped at the booth on her way to Strong Hall, and Brown said, “Welcome to campus.” The new provost exclaimed, “I know you!” Amid an endless parade of Zoom meetings, she has found moments to stop and reminisce with colleagues about treasured English professors Carroll Edwards and Bud Hirsch. “All of that has given me an important sense of history and stewardship,” Bichelmeyer says, “and that’s also something that sustains me a lot right now: history and stewardship.”

“I think a lot about what Mount Oread is going to look like in the future. What is that footprint when I’m finished with my tenure, and how did I help? The Hill will look different.”

The Jayhawks Rising strategic plan (jayhawkstrising.ku.edu) will help answer those questions, and Bichelmeyer is no stranger to such ventures. She spent two decades as a professor and administrator at Indiana University-Bloomington and, most recently, five years as provost, executive vice chancellor and professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She has participated in three strategic planning processes in the past six years.

KU’s process was well underway when Bichelmeyer arrived to help guide the transition

from strategic planning to what she calls strategic doing and alignment. The vision of KU as an exceptional learning community that lifts each other and advances society is distilled into three priorities: student success, healthy and vibrant communities (on campus and globally), and research and discovery. Specific master objectives, supported by tangible metrics, will gauge progress toward fulfilling the priorities and vision.

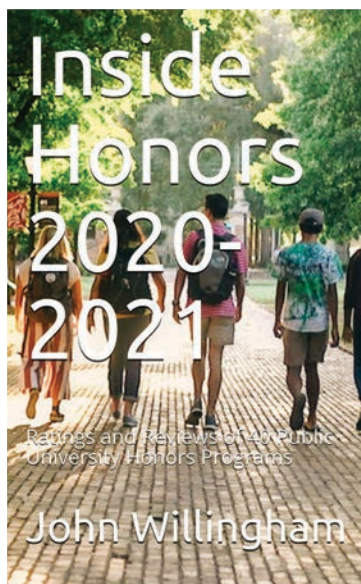
And, while meeting these demands, KU also must cope with a historic financial challenge, created in part by the pandemic but also because traditional models and systems no longer work in modern higher education. As state funding has continued to decline (now accounting for less than 18% of operational funding), tuition and other revenue sources now must fuel the enterprise. “We’ve moved from an appropriate revenue model to an earned revenue model,” Bichelmeyer explains, “and our policies, our procedures and our culture aren’t written for that, so we’re having to reframe a culture that integrates and brings the importance of the discovery enterprise with the teaching and learning enterprise so they’re working together and in tandem.”

Now faced with a projected \$74.6 million deficit on the Lawrence campus for fiscal year 2022, KU must make tough decisions. One-time 2020 solutions—salary and hiring freezes, salary reductions and early retirement incentives—must be replaced by new models and systems.

—continued



A 2020 Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange ranked KU 22nd for undergraduate study abroad participation among 188 public doctoral-granting higher education institutions. In the 2018-'19 academic year, KU had 1,118 undergraduate study abroad students, accounting for a 28.8% rate. A total of 1,323 graduate and undergraduate students participated in credit-bearing international activities during the year.



High marks: *The University Honors Program in 2020 was top rated for the eighth consecutive year by INSIDE HONORS: Ratings and Reviews of 40 Public University Honors Programs. KU’s program earned high marks for overall excellence in honors curriculum, student achievement of prestigious awards and its living-learning community in partnership with Student Housing.*

“There are phenomenal people who are doing great, great work who love this institution, but there’s no way around it—we’re challenging everything we’ve ever done and saying it can’t be done the same way anymore.”

—Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer

The Kansas Board of Regents in January approved a policy that would temporarily suspend tenure, should state universities need to cut academic programs and faculty. While five of the six universities said they would not use the policy, Girod and Bichelmeyer said they would work with administrators, faculty governance, students and other leaders to determine whether and how KU might enact the policy, though both leaders publicly stated that they hoped the tenure suspension would not be necessary. More than 900 faculty and staff members signed a letter in protest; national organizations representing thousands of colleagues also voiced outrage over the potential suspension of tenure.

“There are phenomenal people who are doing great, great work who love this institution,” Bichelmeyer says, “but there’s no way around it—we’re challenging everything we’ve ever done and saying it can’t be done the same way anymore.”

Ten Jayhawks Rising COVID design teams assembled last summer to help guide KU’s return to campus for fall 2020. “We’ve worked that plan, and we were pretty successful. I’m not sure anyone thought that we would get through the fall semester,” Bichelmeyer says.

Now that universities are preparing for a return to fully open campuses in fall 2021, presuming that vaccines have rolled out successfully, the teams will reconvene in the spring and summer to assess the Jayhawks Rising plan and the metrics and determine what KU will look like and how it will operate post-COVID.

“Now we’re moving toward aligning all the resources of the University underneath that plan,” Bichelmeyer says, “and if we do it well, we will have strategic effectiveness ultimately.”

Bichelmeyer likens the current climate to the challenges her parents’ generation faced growing up during the Depression and World War II. “There is not a moment in time when the University is more vulnerable and not a moment in time when the work is more critical—and the opportunity is greater.”

To guide her alma mater, Bichelmeyer says she will rely on her sense of KU history and stewardship, along with one of her favorite sayings from philosopher Eric Hoffer: “In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER



STEVE PUPPE

CAMPUS

Multilayered protection

Successful fall lends optimism for spring

HIKERS, HUNTERS AND SKIERS take to heart a basic precept of outdoor survival: layering. Turns out the concept of dressing safely also applies to pandemic mitigation, at least in the view of University officials charged with keeping campus safe.

While no single layer of prevention is enough to keep COVID-19 at bay, multiple layers added together are effective: face coverings, social distancing, a health-check phone app, classroom and laboratory configurations, touchless technology in restrooms, automatic doors—and, new for spring semester, stand-alone air filters in 600 classrooms and 300 lab spaces—all helped create what KU leaders have described as the safest place in Kansas.

“Now that we’ve been through a semester and we’ve seen the success, it was a lot more comfortable preparing to have on-campus activity this spring,” says Mike Rounds, vice provost for human resources, public safety & operations, “and really with no concern about the safety of being able to do that.”

Rounds notes that the University knows of no documented case of COVID-19 transmission in any classroom, lab or office space. KU anticipates working in partnership with the School of Pharmacy to open a vaccination site once vaccines are widely available in Douglas County, and he is confident that “superlayer” will allow campus to return to something resembling normal by fall. Masks will likely be required, but social distancing probably won’t, unless recommended by federal health authorities.

KU closed its fall semester at Thanksgiving and did not reopen until Feb. 1; two empty months

have finally been swept aside; never has it been sweeter to hear the steam whistle prompt backpack-toting students to stride down Jayhawk Boulevard.

“It feels like it should now,” Rounds says. “We’re in a university because there’s students and there’s activity and there’s a lot of energy, and we’re starting to get it back. And I’m excited to get it fully back as we move into summer and next fall.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

AWARDS

Global scholar

AN ALUMNA WHO FOR YEARS has dreamed of a career in foreign service took a giant step toward fulfilling that goal in December when she was named the University’s third Charles B. Rangel Fellow. Lilah Wilder, an Overland Park native, will receive up to \$106,000 to prepare her for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

A recent graduate who earned degrees in French and global & international studies with a minor in Middle Eastern studies, Wilder has interned at the U.S. Department of State, where her proficiency in French and Arabic aided public diplomacy efforts with visitors from the Middle East and Africa.

“I’ve always been curious about other cultures, and I have sought out opportunities to learn about other people and their ways of doing things,” Wilder, c’20, told KU News Service. “No matter where we come from, there are universal joys that we share in our common humanity, such as art, sports, music

and movies. We can use these things as tools in diplomacy to find common ground with each other.”

Wilder enriched her studies at KU by participating in the Honors Program, Global Scholars Program, Global Awareness Program and the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Program for Arabic study. She also studied abroad in Morocco and in France and went to Taiwan on the Mosaic Taiwan Fellowship Program. Wilder worked closely with KU’s Office of Fellowships during the Rangel application process.

As a Rangel Fellow, Wilder will receive support for a two-year master’s degree in a field of study that relates to foreign service, as well as internships and other training opportunities. She is assured a five-year contract as a foreign service officer when she graduates from the program.

The fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University. Past KU recipients include Constanza Castro, c’19, in 2018 and Catalina Wedman, c’20, in 2019.



COURTESY LILAH WILDER

Wilder

Professor Emerita of English Elizabeth Schultz, one of KU’s original February Sisters and founder of a Douglas County Community Foundation fund that supports efforts to preserve and understand nature, received the 2020 Tom and Anne Moore Peace and Justice Award from Ecumenical Campus Ministries and the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice. A Melville scholar who retired in 2001 after 34 years at KU, Schultz, assoc., co-organized the University’s first Earth Day celebration and helped launch the African and African American Studies department. The Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund has awarded more than \$325,000 in grants since 2005.



Resist the temptation: *Put down your mobile phone in meetings. That’s the succinct finding of a recent study by KU communication studies researchers. Beyond the obvious, however, data show phone usage is viewed far more negatively than laptops or notepads, which Assistant Professor Cameron Piercy attributes to “introspective illusion”: justifying our own phone usage as necessary while suspecting others of distracted scrolling. Even if phones are OK with the boss, the habit is still judged 30% more harshly than using computers or notebooks. “The effect for the phone is ginormous,” Piercy told KU News Service. “It’s as big an effect as you’ll ever see in a social-science study.”*

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few virtual offerings this spring. For full listings of events, visit the links below.

Lied Center

April 22 KU Percussion Group with special guest Thomas Kotcheff, piano

lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

"Art and Activism: 50 Years of Africana Studies at KU," through May 16

spencerart.ku.edu

Humanities Lecture Series

Feb. 26 Tara Westover, author of critically acclaimed memoir *Educated*

hallcenter.ku.edu/hls

Dole Institute

March 16 "UnRepresented," documentary screening and filmmaker Q&A

doleinstitute.org

Alumni events

March 3 "Gardening in Small Spaces: How to Grow Vegetables in Your Backyard," a webinar with author Melissa K. Norris

kualumni.org/kuconnection

Academic Calendar

May 6 Last day of spring classes

May 7 Stop Day

May 10-14 Finals week

May 16 Commencement



STEVE PUPPE

"I need to somehow help them get the education within the time they spend at the University, so when they graduate and go into architectural practice, they are very confident in their skillsets."

—Kapila Silva

ACCOLADES

Seniors bestow HOPE

Architecture professor receives 2020 award from senior class

KAPILA SILVA DIDN'T KNOW what to make of the email he received on a Friday evening in late October, notifying him that he had won the 2020 HOPE Award. "I wasn't sure it wasn't spam," he says with a laugh. "It was quite a surprise, especially when I realized it was student-nominated. It's an honor."

The HOPE Award—Honor for the Outstanding Progressive Educator—is a decades-long tradition, established by the Class of 1959 and given annually to a notable professor through the Board of Class Officers. It is the only award given to a faculty member by the senior class.

Silva came to the School of Architecture & Design in 2007 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he earned his doctorate in architecture in 2004 after receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Moratuwa in his native Sri Lanka. He was promoted to professor in August 2020 and teaches courses in architectural design and historic preservation. He received the school's Jack and Nancy Bradley Student Recognition Award in 2010 and KU's K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award in 2018.

Silva describes himself as a hands-on instructor

and uses the example of a basketball coach who's in the trenches with his players, ready to advise and guide them at any time. Last fall, he recalls being awakened at 5:30 in the morning by a text from a student who was struggling to send an assignment to another teacher. Silva responded immediately. "It was due that day, and he didn't know what to do," Silva says. "So, I sent him a Zoom link right away and talked to him. We went through a strategy."

In addition to teaching, Silva has led the School of Architecture & Design's Study Abroad program in Asia since 2008 with his colleague Dr. Jae Chang. The annual trips have taken Jayhawks to India, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and other countries, allowing them to connect with local architecture students and faculty as well as city officials and residents. "That gives them a really good cultural immersion and understanding of how architecture is practiced and thought of in those countries," Silva says.

A licensed architect in Sri Lanka, Silva conducts research into the management of UNESCO World Heritage sites, focusing on the social, cultural and psychological aspects of architecture, urbanism and historic preservation. He eagerly shares that knowledge with his students.

"I have a certain degree of expertise and experience in the subject area that they are studying," he says. "I need to somehow help them get the education within the time they spend at the University, so when they graduate and go into architectural practice, they are very confident in their skillsets."

—HEATHER BIELE

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Domingo Pagliuca's "Eternal Gratitude," recorded in Swarthout Hall with piano by School of Music alumna Paulina Leisring, earned the musicians a Latin Grammy for best classical album.



STEVE PUPPE

MUSIC

Grammy for 'Gratitude'

Pianist recognized by Latin academy for classical collaboration recorded at KU

THE ROAD TO PAULINA LEISRING'S Grammy Award started in Taiwan, but the story of how the recording came to fruition is a tale that spans continents.

Leisring, DMA'06, in November won a Latin Grammy in the category of Best Classical Album for her piano performance on South American trombonist Domingo Pagliuca's album "Eternal Gratitude." The album was produced by Pagliuca's mentor, the noted classical performer and producer Sam Pilafian, and recorded in KU's Swarthout Recital Hall. The Grammy was awarded by the Latin Recording Academy.

Leisring and Pagliuca met in 2017, when the Venezuelan trombonist performed at KU's Lied Center with Boston Brass. Known for combining lively classical compositions and hot jazz standards, the band uses humor, a boisterous stage performance and a wide range of musical styles and distinctive arrangements to engage audiences.

Pagliuca praised the beautiful sound quality in

Swarthout, which underwent a \$2.5 million renovation starting in 2014 that transformed the Murphy Hall space and improved its acoustics ["Ode to Joy," issue No. 3, 2015], and he wondered if it would be possible to record there. He was impressed by Leisring's abilities as well.

Leisring's husband, Steve Leisring, professor of trumpet, made arrangements for the session and suggested to Pagliuca that Paulina could play piano on the album. School of Music sound engineer Brock Babcock engineered the recording.

"When I am asked about the experience of recording my CD and how it was recording and playing with Paulina, two words come to my mind immediately: It was a spectacular and unforgettable experience," Pagliuca says. "Her musicianship and artistry are exceptional as her delicate musical approach—when required—and powerful sound blended perfectly with what I played on the stage. Swarthout Recital Hall at the University of Kansas is just an amazing hall to record."

After graduating from the National Taiwan University of Arts at age 20, Leisring attended Ohio University, where she completed another bachelor's degree and a master's degree in piano performance. Her piano professor at Ohio, Sylvia Reynolds Eckes, DMA'79, suggested she audition for a 1998 KU piano festival celebrating the 70th birthday of acclaimed pianist Leon Fleisher (who died in August 2020 at age 92).

"I was accepted for the festival and chosen to play

in the opening recital, as well as for a master class with Leon Fleisher,” Leisring recalls. “I will never forget it, because Maestro Fleisher came up to me afterwards to compliment my performances. Having seen the beautiful campus during that festival, and with Dr. Eckes’ connections at KU, it was an obvious choice to do my doctoral studies here.”

Leisring credits Roberta Schwartz as one of her most influential professors at the School of Music. She came to appreciate the roles history and art play in music through her studies with Schwartz in musicology. “This was especially helpful with the challenge of playing in multiple styles from Bach to Stravinsky on the ‘Eternal Gratitude’ CD,” she says.

The album pairs compositions inspired by Claude Debussy, Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and other classical composers with more contemporary and popular pieces such as “Trombonology” by Tommy Dorsey.

The title, “Eternal Gratitude,” is a nod to Pilafian, who was battling advanced cancer when he traveled to Lawrence for four days in January 2019 to complete the album. The group only had one rehearsal, in which Pilafian—producer of recordings by members of the New York Philharmonic and a performer with Leonard Bernstein and many brass groups as a tuba player—was impressed by Leisring’s abilities.

“Sam said very little, which shocked us,” Leisring recalls. “He just smiled a lot. At one point he asked me if I had done a lot of recordings, and I said, ‘no’ and he said, ‘Well, you will.’ He also called me ‘the secret weapon,’ which was a huge compliment. Somehow, we all connected and Sam’s approval just kept giving us the ability to take musical chances and create something great.

“Sadly, Sam passed away just over two months later and never heard the finished CD. We were his last project. The name of the CD, ‘Eternal Gratitude,’ was given because of his mentorship to Domingo and the effort he made to come to Lawrence, in spite of his illness, to make this project happen.”

Leisring says she hopes the recording will help more people enjoy classical music.

“Music connects people despite their background, economic status, culture and race, not only the performers, but listeners as well. Music communicates emotion, including joy, sadness, fear, security. It transcends everything that people use to separate us and connects us all. That is what we tried to do: create beauty together that others can be inspired by.”

—STEVEN HILL

Mass Street & more

Prime grade

IN A YEAR OF SMALL PLEASURES, a piece of really good meat can be everything, says Food and Wine Magazine, which in November released its list of top 100 essential independent butcher shops in the nation. One of Lawrence’s own, Leeway Butcher, made the cut.

The full-service shop, which opened in 2018, is owned by Lee and Kristin “K” Ashby Meisel, b’10, and offers a variety of high-quality, humanely raised meats and hand-crafted sausages. The Meisels opened the adjacent restaurant, Leeway Franks, in 2015.

Food and Wine lauded Leeway for its “sustainability-minded, whole-animal operation that sources its meat from small, local farms.”

National recognition for a local treasure? We’ll take it.



Let's grab a slice

PAPA KENO’S, for three decades an icon of the Lawrence pizza scene and since 2017 the Student Alumni Network Restaurant Partner Program’s exclusive pizza restaurant, recently moved to swank new digs at 837 Mass St., formerly home to Jock’s Nitch and Royal College Shop shoe store. Owners David, f’09, and Nora Nemchock Hawley, f’06, incorporated materials from their architectural titanium business into the reimagined interior—be sure to take notice of the rare “crystal titanium” bar top, as well as a wall of autographs by KU athletes from the site’s athletic apparel days—and they’re eager to welcome returning alumni with a high-tech ordering system for dining outside and safe distancing inside for savoring a “slice as big as your face!” More information about the new Papa Keno’s and a video by the Association’s Dan Storey are available at kansasalumnimagazine.org.



Nora and David Hawley

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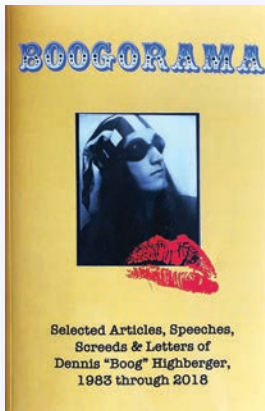
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1. Retrieved on January 26, 2021 from [usnews.com/education/online-education/university-of-kansas-155317](https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/university-of-kansas-155317)

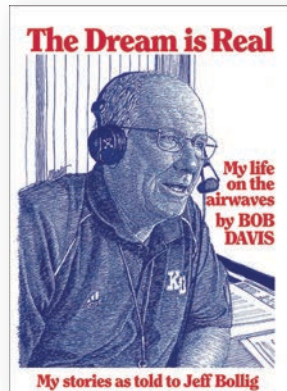
2. Based on a limited sample of self-reported data from University of Kansas School of Business online MBA alumni from graduating cohorts in 2016-2019.

Book briefs



Boogorama
Selected Articles, Speeches,
Screeds & Letters of Dennis "Boog"
Highberger, 1983-2018
by Dennis "Boog" Highberger
@RtH*Le Press

FROM HIS ELECTION as student body vice president on the Costume Party ticket to his term as Lawrence mayor, Dennis "Boog" Highberger has managed a formidable balancing act: dedication to the solemn charge of public service and utter refusal to take himself too seriously. *Boogorama*, his collected writing across four decades, showcases the progressive politics, humble determination, irreverent humor and appreciation of the absurd that make Highberger, e'85, l'92, a Lawrence treasure. Highlights include his 2005 mayoral acceptance speech (quoting The Grateful Dead), excerpts from the campus magazine *Disorientation* (an alternative to KU's official new-student orientation) and a rogue's gallery of alumni KU would rather forget. For an endeavor hatched on a Kentucky Street porch couch as an exercise in street theatre, Highberger's political career has proven consequential: In January he started his fourth term in the Legislature, representing Lawrence's 46th District. *Boogorama* reminds us what a long, strange (and thoroughly delightful) trip it's been.



*The Dream is Real: My Life
on the Airwaves*
by Bob Davis, as told to Jeff Bollig
Outskirts Press, \$22.95

BROADCASTERS WHO CALL the action for specific teams—as opposed to network hotshots who parachute in for single games—become part of the fabric of the seasons for sports fans; the few who over the years gain celebrity status of their own, including former Voice of the Jayhawks Bob Davis, become familiar friends, with whom we can relax after a long day of work to talk sports. Such friendships are the foundation of Davis' *The Dream is Real*, written in partnership with Jeff Bollig, b'84, co-author of two previous Jayhawk sports books. Featuring a foreword by Kevin Harlan, j'82, *The Dream is Real* takes readers on an insider's journey across the regional sports scene, including Fort Hays State University, the Kansas City Royals, and, of course, the Kansas Jayhawks, with contributions from more than 50 coaches, athletes, broadcasters and friends. Few saw more great games, and knew more of the greats, than Davis, who along the way became one of the greats himself.



Music Is ...
by Stephen T. Johnson
Simon & Schuster, \$24.99

PROLIFIC ILLUSTRATOR, muralist, painter, musician and Caldecott Medal-winning author Stephen T. Johnson, f'87, hits a high note in his lavish creative career with *Music Is ...*, a joyful exploration of 10 musical genres sure to enchant children and adults alike. On an initial lap through the beautiful book, front sides of accordion pages are filled with what Johnson, lecturer in the School of Architecture & Design, describes as "illustrations accompanied by simple, onomatopoeic sound phrasing and narrative pastiches." Reverse course to savor "condensed summaries of each genre with related instruments, songs, musicians and composers." The rich book also includes a bibliography and extended author's note.



“It’s long past time for racism and discrimination to end. If we are to be on the side of social justice, we—meaning, we as leaders, KU as an institution, and each of us as community members— simply must do the work.”

—Chancellor Girod and Provost Bichelmeyer



SUSAN YOUNGER

CAMPUS

‘We must do the work’

Recommendations on policing target campus safety improvements

A UNIVERSITYWIDE INQUIRY ordered last fall by Chancellor Doug Girod to examine public safety services at KU and recommend improvements has made more than a dozen suggestions for changes in campus policing and other public safety areas.

Chaired by Charles Epp, g’89, Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, the 27-member Chancellor’s Task Force on Community-Responsive Public Safety included faculty, staff, students and alumni. The group gathered input from the KU community, including comments generated during three public listening sessions in September; a meeting with members of AbolishKU, a student group that circulated a petition to abolish the KU Public Safety Office; and a letter from the leadership of the KU Black Alumni Network that listed several concerns and called for adoption of “significant oversight and policy reforms to ensure the KU Public Safety Office and its officers are treating members of the campus community with the utmost care and respect.” The task force gathered additional public comment in October after publishing a preliminary draft of their report.

The group forwarded its recommendations in

November to the chancellor, who has been evaluating them during the winter recess and talking with various constituent groups. He will share his formal response early in the spring semester.

The recommendations fall into three categories:

- Improvements to KU’s responses to behavioral health emergencies. These include expanding mental first aid training for University Housing staff, more fully integrating KU services with Douglas County’s Zero Suicide Initiative, shifting responsibility for emergency responses to students experiencing mental health crises from KU public safety officers to mental health professionals, and adding trained mental health professionals to KU first-response staff. The task force also called for establishing a working group to better integrate KU services with Douglas County’s expanding mental-health care system, and ensuring adequate staffing levels in the KU Public Safety Office to reduce stress on officers due to overtime workloads.

- Improvements to campus police systems for addressing issues related to officer conduct. These include adopting policies, training and supervisory procedures that incorporate de-escalation and use of force guidelines recommended nationally by groups such as the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, continuing the recently initiated program to gather data on the race and ethnicity of persons stopped by KU public safety officers, publishing summaries of that data annually, and integrating the information into ongoing supervision of officers, with the goal of eliminating racial and ethnic dispar-

ities in stops. The report also calls for publishing on the KU Public Safety Office website an officer code of conduct consisting of KU Public Safety Office policies on use of force and officer conduct.

- Changes to advisory and oversight processes for the campus Public Safety Office, including establishment of a police oversight board made up of faculty, staff and students.

In addition to starting a nine-member oversight board, recommendations call for establishing a complaint process that would allow people to lodge complaints about officer conduct through various campus offices, and appointment and training of campus police officers as liaisons to groups in the KU community as a way of building trust with “groups who are historically marginalized from positive relationships with the police, particularly African Americans, Latinx, and Native groups, LGBTQIA+ groups, and international student groups.”

Girod created the task force last August in the wake of nationwide demonstrations demanding social justice in response to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other unarmed Black men and women killed by police. In a June email to the KU community, Girod and Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer, j’82, c’86, g’88, PhD’92, stated their determination to stand with and for all community members targeted by hate speech, discrimination and racial violence. “It’s long past time for racism and discrimination to end,” they wrote. “If we are to be on the side of social justice, we—meaning, we as leaders, KU as an institution, and each of us as community members—simply must do the work.”

The task force’s charge to come up with strategies for making campus policing more respectful, transparent and community-responsive is part of a broader effort, called for by the chancellor and provost in June, to make KU “a place that doesn’t replicate, tolerate or perpetuate racism.” That work further involves establishing a University-level advisory council for equity and inclusion, training campus leaders to facilitate conversations among groups on campus, partnering with leaders in higher education and the public and private sector across Greater Kansas City to address the root causes of racial violence, and making equity, diversity and inclusion improvements part of COVID-19 response and KU’s long-term strategic planning.

Read the complete Task Force on Community-Responsive Public Safety report at kansasalumnimagazine.org.

—STEVEN HILL

LAWRENCE

A good deed

TEN YEARS AFTER KEVIN GOOD founded Good Energy Solutions in Lawrence, business was booming. “It kept expanding,” says Good, e’91, who opened the solar and renewable energy company in 2007 with his wife, Shana Tillman Good, j’90, “so we thought we should be doing something for the community. We wanted to give back.”

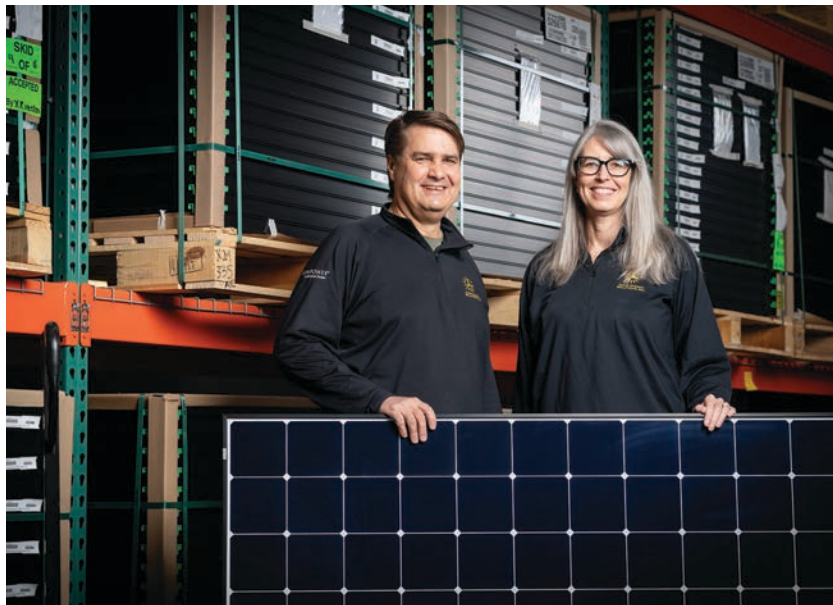
The Goods started the Solar Giveaway Program and asked community members to nominate local non-profit organizations that could benefit from a free solar energy system. In 2017, the company donated its first energy system to Van Go Inc., an arts-based social service and job-training agency for teenagers, and followed it up with an installation in 2020 at the Sunrise Project, which provides sustainable gardening and cooking programs. Later that year, anonymous donors contributed funds for a system to be installed at local food pantry Just Food. The Goods plan to announce the next non-profit recipient in the coming months.

Good explains that the energy savings are substantial and allow these organizations to put less money toward utility bills and more money into community programs and services. “It’s the kind of gift that should last 25 to 40 years,” he says.

—HEATHER BIELE

RECORD GRADS

The School of Engineering set new marks for graduates by awarding 48 doctorates and 536 bachelor’s degrees for 2019-’20, increases of 118% and 76% since 2009-’10. Enrollment over the decade grew from 1,751 undergraduates to 2,545 and from 189 doctoral students to 212. The growth results in large part from the 2011 Kansas Engineering Initiative Act. Industry leaders and the Kansas Board of Regents are urging legislators to extend the program for another decade (see KU Voice, p. 7.)



STEVE PUPPE

Kevin and Shana Good



“The Jayhawk Buddy System is not at all about getting people to stop drinking. It’s about reducing risk, so people can use alcohol more responsibly.”

—Jenny McKee



STEVE PUPPE

STUDENT LIFE

Best behavior

Jayhawk Buddy System urges students to be smart about alcohol

BUDDY UP WHILE ON BREAK. Good teams always stick together. Practice moderation. #CelebrateLikeAJayhawk.

These are just a few of the catchy tag lines KU students see on campus, in Lawrence and on social media, thanks to the Jayhawk Buddy System, a campaign that encourages students to make smart decisions about alcohol consumption and look out for their peers. In fall 2020, the program celebrated 10 years on campus.

Following the tragic, alcohol-related deaths of two KU students in 2009, the University set out to improve alcohol education and develop a plan to promote responsible student behavior. Under the direction of Frank DeSalvo, then associate vice provost for student success, and Associate Professor Robert Basow, j’67, a group of journalism students in Basow’s Strategic Campaigns class visited several colleges to research successful programs and create an effective strategy for KU. The students came up with the concept for the Jayhawk Buddy System (JBS) and enlisted the help of local marketing firm Callahan Creek (now known as Callahan), which donated its services to develop the campaign logo.

“It’s a student-born program,” says Heidi Miles Garcia, d’96, g’04, associate director at KU’s Watkins Health Services. “That’s one of the things we’re really proud of.”

The JBS, now led by Garcia and Jenny McKee, d’04, g’06, program manager at Watkins’ Health Education Resource Office, provides students a

variety of tips and tools to make safe, responsible decisions about drinking, including abstaining from alcohol use and obeying the law. The campaign emphasizes social norms—standards of acceptable behavior—to ensure students have accurate information about their peers.

“We’re essentially trying to get people to understand that the majority of their friends, their peers, their classmates, are using alcohol in a really responsible way,” McKee says. “The Jayhawk Buddy System is not at all about getting people to stop drinking. It’s about reducing risk, so people can use alcohol more responsibly.”

Since 2003 KU has collected data on student health behavior through the National College Health Assessment and has seen significant improvements in reported alcohol-related habits. In addition, a 2019 U Celebrate! survey conducted by the National Social Norms Center at Michigan State University, which provides funding and resources for KU and nine other universities to support health-focused campaigns, found that the JBS has improved student behavior at KU: In a sample of about 800 Jayhawks, 88% reported staying with the same group of friends while drinking, 85% used a designated driver and 80% ate before or during drinking.

McKee explains that the JBS relies heavily on social media to deliver practical, timely messages to students about protective behaviors before and during planned activities, including reminders to charge their cell phones before going out, plan a safe ride home, alternate non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, and identify a buddy for the night.

“During the hours when students are partying, they get messages through Twitter and Snapchat on their phone,” she says. “That way we can literally be in students’ pockets while they’re doing their partying, to make sure that they’re getting those messages when they actually need them.”

Students who follow the JBS on social media platforms receive T-shirts, water bottles, hats, koozies—and during the COVID-19 pandemic, masks and hand sanitizer. The campaign also delivers critical information to students through posters

ABOVE Heidi Garcia and Jenny McKee (left to right) oversee the Jayhawk Buddy System, a campaign created by students in 2010 that encourages Jayhawks to make safe, smart decisions about alcohol use. “You don’t leave your JBS skills behind when you graduate,” says McKee. “You need those even as an adult.”

and advertisements at sporting events, movie theatres, liquor stores, local restaurants and bars, and in buildings across campus.

The JBS's "Toilet Talk" series features new messages each month in restrooms. "We have a captive audience of one," McKee says with a smile. "Literally our job, our hope, our desire is that *everywhere* students go on campus, whether it's the bathroom, the lobby of the Union, Memorial Stadium or Allen Field House, they are seeing the Jayhawk Buddy System."

Now that Garcia and McKee have marked a 10-year milestone with JBS, they look forward to continuing the momentum. "It's really exciting to see the data, to see how it's changed behavior," Garcia says. "You know, I have two college-aged girls, and at the end of the day you just want them safe. And that's really what this is all about. We want everyone to be safe, get home safe and watch out for their friends."

—HEATHER BIELE

UPDATE

Toland becomes Kansas Lt. Governor

DAVID TOLAND, c'99, g'01, was sworn in as lieutenant governor Jan. 4 in Topeka. Toland will also continue his role as secretary of commerce, in which he has served under Gov. Laura Kelly since January 2019.

The Iola native was founding CEO of Thrive Allen County, a nonprofit community group that promotes economic development, health care access and healthy lifestyles in the southeastern Kansas county, where Toland's family has lived for seven generations ["Thrive Where You're Sown," issue No. 3, 2018]. As commerce secretary, he has overseen rebuilding of the state's economic development office, with an emphasis on international business recruitment, broadband development and the launch of a new strategic planning process. Toland and his team have also helped lead Kelly's campaign to foster economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Toland succeeds Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers, who was appointed state treasurer by Kelly after Jake LaTurner was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November. Toland is presumed to be Kelly's running mate when she stands for re-election in 2022.

At the state capitol ceremony, Toland credited Iola for providing "a rich childhood and grounding in what it meant to be a member of a community" and credited his parents, Clyde, c'69, l'75, and Nancy Hummel Toland, g'74, for their decision to raise their children in Iola "because of the quality of the people—the supportive, nurturing people who for generations have made investments in education. In economic development. In parks, libraries and museums. Investments by people, in people."

Calling Toland "one of Kansas' best and brightest," Kelly praised his work as commerce secretary to provide critical help to small businesses and to rebuild the state's global recruiting programs. "He is a smart and dynamic leader," she said, "and is ready to step up on day one to help our administration drive our economic recovery and keep Kansans healthy."

—STEVEN HILL



WIL WIDMER

Toland

COURTESY JAYHAWK BUDDY SYSTEM (3)

PRACTICE MODERATION

7 OUT OF 10

JAYHAWKS CUT THEMSELVES OFF BEFORE THEY HAVE TOO MUCH TO DRINK

JAYHAWK BUDDY SYSTEM

Data Source: 2019 KU UCelebrate Survey, n=808 @KUJBS

#CELEBRATELIKEAJAYHAWK

— Celebrate like a —

JAYHAWK

MOST JAYHAWKS STAY WITH THE SAME GROUP OF FRIENDS WHILE DRINKING

9 OUT OF 10

JAYHAWKS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A DESIGNATED DRIVER IF THEY NEED TRANSPORTATION HOME

“The viewing tower is a beautiful structure in its own right. My students looked at me and said, ‘How can we get that experience to everyone?’ And the idea that emerged was, What if we sort of lay the tower down, and instead of going up we go out? We take advantage of the crest of the hillside, and as the slope falls away we are essentially rising over the land in the same way you do when you rise up in the tower.”

—Chad Kraus



Dirt Works Studio

STUDENT LIFE

Panoramic view

Student projects seek to broaden scenic vista for all

THE PASSERINE PAVILION, a cantilevered viewing platform at Wells Overlook Park that extends several feet beyond a hillside affording sweeping views of Lawrence and rural Douglas County, draws its name from the birds (members of the order Passeriforme) that take flight from sides of prairie hills.

“You get this experience that you are standing on a precipice overlooking this great valley,” says Chad Kraus, associate professor of architecture and founder of the School of Architecture & Design’s Dirt Works Studio, a design-and-build class for third-year architecture students. A V-shaped “inverted butterfly” roof completes the effect. “The idea is the pavilion is taking flight,” he explains, “about ready to leap up off the edge of the hill.”

With one of the best publicly accessible vistas in Douglas County, Wells Overlook Park, 3 miles south of Lawrence, is a popular destination for folks seeking a panoramic view of KU and its golden valley.

But the very features that make the park such a good vantage point—a three-story viewing platform and picnic area perched atop a steep grade—also can make the best views inaccessible to many

visitors, including individuals with mobility issues and families with small children.

Kraus’ students are addressing that problem with a pair of projects designed to improve access to both the panorama and the picnics. The viewing pavilion, which was begun last spring but delayed by pandemic restrictions, should be completed by late February. Construction then will begin on a nearby seating area, the Polaris Pavilion.

Both can be reached without scaling steep slopes and are designed to meet or exceed ADA standards.

“The viewing tower is a beautiful structure in its own right,” Kraus notes. “My students looked at me and said, ‘How can we get that experience to everyone?’ And the idea that emerged was, What if we sort of lay the tower down, and instead of going up we go out? We take advantage of the crest of the hillside, and as the slope falls away we are essentially rising over the land in the same way you do when you rise up in the tower.”

The decision to take advantage of the park’s topography affirms one of the studio’s key tenets. “One of the things we like to do is explore the relationship between architecture and the landscape,” Kraus says. “And being up on a crest overlooking the Wakarusa Valley, it’s a great setting to do something where they can really express the potential of the setting.”

The studio’s earlier exterior projects include The Roth Trailhead, the entrance to a popular KU Field Station site completed in 2012, which features a rammed earth wall with a sun-shading canopy and

EARL RICHARDSON (3)



an outdoor classroom, and The Field Station Gateway (2013) and Armitage Pavilion (2014), both at the Armitage Education Center. The gateway and pavilion highlight and draw inspiration from the surrounding prairie landscape at the research site north of Lawrence. More recently, students have renovated interior campus spaces in Nunemaker Center, Marvin Hall and Chalmers Hall.

Dirt Works also tries to focus on public projects geared toward portions of the community that might otherwise not be able to obtain design services. The 2016 project designed and constructed a Sensory Pavilion for Audio Reader’s Sensory Garden, an outdoor space for all, but with special

design emphasis on the blind and visually impaired. The Wells Overlook pavilions are a joint venture with Douglas County Public Works, which received a grant from the Land Water and Conservation Fund to help pay for the work.

“I would say this is a return to our core values,” Kraus says. “They check all our boxes: engagement with the community, engagement with place, materials, the holistic aspect of the design project, the scope and budget—all are well-tuned to what the studio is capable of doing.”

Most third-year students are “young and still learning” as designers, he adds, and most have no experience as builders. A modest scope is best.

“The little pavilions are ideal for us, because they allow the students to take an entire project from conception, all the way through, and have complete ownership of it,” Kraus says. “It creates kind of a complete ecosystem of design, and I think that’s a really important experience in preparing them to be better designers.”

—STEVEN HILL

LEFT Initially stymied by COVID restrictions, Dirt Works Studio students rallied to turn their avian-inspired design for an accessible platform at Wells Overlook into reality. On completion, the pavilion will provide sweeping views rivaling those offered by the site’s three-story tower.

Sonnet for scholars

Mindie Miller Paget, c’99, g’01, director of external affairs for the Office of Research, in December composed a sonnet to honor those who pursue discoveries. Her rhymes bear repeating:



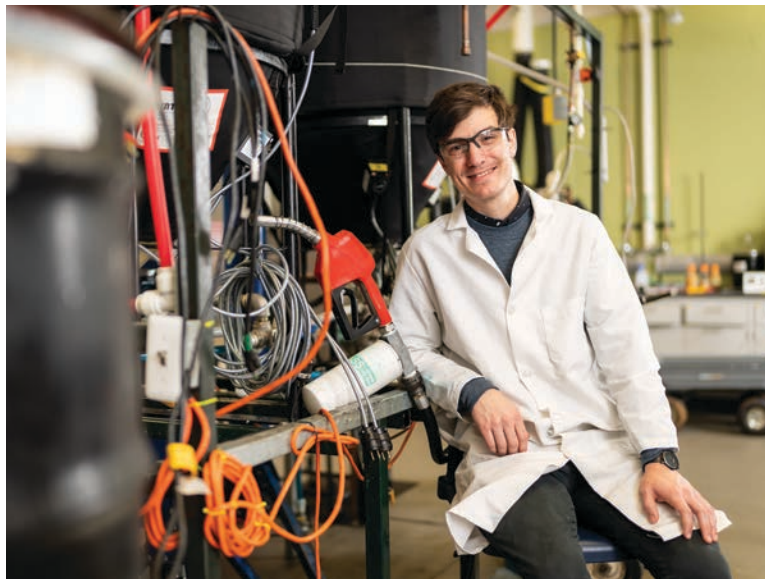
*Before the virus changed the way we live,
 You taught and learned and probed without refrain.
 Like protons charged to take less than you give,
 Your revelations easing human strain.
 In archives, labs and field sites you explored,
 With cures, connections, knowledge as your goal.
 Your passion to your vision kept you moored;
 Your curiosity fed full your soul.
 Then COVID placed a detour in your path,
 Its toll profound both here and ’round the earth.
 With care and caution you have met its wrath,
 Your innovation leading to rebirth.
 So long as KU stands upon this hill,
 We’re Jayhawks and the world can’t break our will.*

FOR ART'S SAKE

Rather than losing her museum's beloved holiday tour tradition, Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer Museum of Art, rallied faculty, staff and museum aficionados for an "outdoor exploration of art." The Jan. 10 event featured serenades by University Carillonneur Elizabeth Berghout, g'97, DMA'01; a discussion of Elden Tefft's magnificent Campanile doors, led by Tefft biographer Craig Voorhees, c'76; a sunset stroll through Marvin Grove; and the debut of dramatic new lighting, by KU Endowment's Clint Paugh, on the museum's exterior Louise Nevelson sculpture. The Spencer is open to visitors Thursdays through Sundays; required reservations can be made at spencerart.ku.edu.



RYAN WAGGONER



STEVE PUPPE

CLASS CREDIT

Jayhawk's passion for biodiesel fuels leadership role on national board

LEO BUDY, a Kansas City, Kansas, senior in chemical engineering, is among four U.S. students chosen to lead the Next Generation Scientists for Biodiesel (NGSB), a national program that fosters professional relationships between budding and established scientists, shares information and increases collaboration between academia and the biodiesel industry.

Budy fired his interest in biodiesel with the KU Biodiesel Initiative, a student-run operation that turns used cooking oil from campus kitchens into fuel for mowers, trucks and other diesel equipment on Mount Oread. Founded and directed by Susan Williams, Charles E. & Mary Jane Spahr professor and chair of chemical and petroleum engineering, the Biodiesel Initiative gives students freedom to steer the program's research and production goals.

"Students have huge input, and it's extremely hands-on, in the sense that all the equipment we use, the reactors we use, we mostly built them ourselves," Budy says. "I'm a hugely tactile learner, and it was really awesome for me to get in there and literally get my hands dirty."

As an NGSB leader, Budy helps organize events

for the National Biodiesel Board, including its annual convention in January. He and fellow students also help the organization in its mission to boost production of a sustainable energy source.

"As we strive for our goal of 6 billion gallons of biomass-related diesel by 2030, which would double our industry's current production, science will play a vital role," says Donnell Rehagen, the board's CEO. "Our four new co-chairs bring diverse and promising research, as well as exciting outreach experience to NGSB."

Budy has experience in both areas. Last spring he completed a research project that used soybean hulls, a waste product, as an absorbent in the biodiesel production process. He has also worked to generate enthusiasm for biodiesel among Kansas students. For inspiration, he looked to the lab in the School of Engineering's Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center, where spent cooking oil in 55-gallon drums is transformed into biodiesel and delivered to Facilities Services within a week.

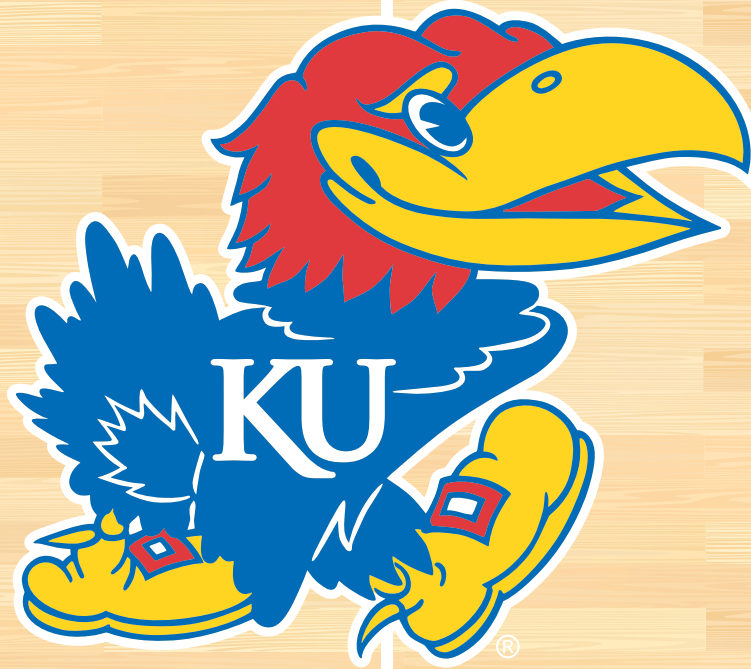
"Being able to see it, to have it be something totally tangible that we can see being used and see the value we're creating, that feels really good," Budy says.

The production process itself is pretty basic—"It's a fairly simple reaction, but it really is great for applying a lot of the fundamentals of chemical engineering and process engineering that we're learning in class," he says—but the potential payoffs reach far beyond campus.

"For me personally, it ticks all the boxes: I love the engineering aspect of it, I love the fact that it's environmentally positive," Budy says, "but it's also regionally important to me. I'm a proud Kansan, and a lot of our support for this comes from our Kansas soybean farmers. To have some of the best students from KU going into biofuels would be great for the industry, and to keep that industry growing would be fantastic for Kansas farmers."

—STEVEN HILL

JAYHAWKS!



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“We’re trying to gear ourselves up to have a storybook end to our season, and you can’t do that unless you play well in the post-season. We’re gearing up to do that. That has not changed.”

—Coach Bill Self



STEVE PUPPE (4)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

‘A lot of opportunity’

Best is yet to come, Self reminds 'Hawks after early Big 12 losses

OFF-COURT INSPIRATION has been in short supply during the strange season of COVID, with players spending the majority of their time sequestered in their rooms, emerging only for practice or to play in front of sparse crowds both in Allen Field House and on the road, so coach Bill Self on Feb. 1 noted a happy turn of events.

“I think one thing that’s happened that’s a very big positive is classes started on KU’s campus today,” Self said. “I’m excited. I drove to work and actually saw about 15 kids walking to class, which is pretty remarkable, considering the windchill. I do think that having students back, even though it will be a reduced amount, any type of energy level like that is a positive.”

Indeed, the buoyed 'Hawks beat Kansas State, 74-51, the following day, renewing their quest for a prestigious season.

Once ranked as high as No. 5, the Jayhawks won all eight of their December games. January

began with 25-point home loss to Texas. Victories at TCU and at home over Oklahoma—a top-10 team, as of early February—were followed by losses at Oklahoma State, Baylor and OU.

“We’re trying to gear ourselves up to have a storybook end to our season, and you can’t do that unless you play well in the postseason. We’re gearing up to do that. That has not changed,” Self said Jan. 27, the day before a much-needed eight-point win over TCU in KU’s first home game in 21 days. “The only thing that has changed is the disappointment of being in a situation that midway through your league play you’re already significantly behind the league leader [Baylor].”

Junior guard Tyon Grant-Foster (1), sophomore guard Christian Braun (2) and junior guard Ochai Agbaji (30) in early-season action in empty Allen Field House.



The Jayhawks followed up their victory over TCU with a 19-point loss at Tennessee in the made-for-TV Big 12/SEC challenge. KU shot 37.7% from the field, including 25% of 3-pointers, while Tennessee drilled 52.8% from the field, including an astounding 61.5% beyond the arc.

“I’m not sure there’s two or three teams in America that could have beat Tennessee that night,” Self said two days later. “Let’s not look at outcomes as reasons why things need to be changed. I think it’s different than that. The bottom line is, we haven’t played up to our own abilities, in large part because I don’t think our intangibles have been good as they were in December.”

Few intangibles are more important to Self than playing with a bounce, with energy, joy and a smile, all of which seemed to evaporate while the Jayhawks were gripped by dreary January.

“Enjoy playing with and for each other. This is something that we have consistently done really well over the years, and

it doesn’t seem to be that good right now, especially not as good as what it was in December. We’ve shown that we can do it, but it hasn’t been consistent at all this past month.”

Senior forward Mitch Lightfoot identified defense as the team’s most-urgent priority, along with yet another crucial intangible: pride.

“We know that it’s up to us to change it. We need to do this for each other, we need to do this for our coaches, and we need to do this for our fans, too,” Lightfoot said before the K-State victory. “That was unacceptable, how the past month went.”

Said sophomore guard Christian Braun, “We’re just trying to get back to what we know we are and what we know we can be. We’re trying to play for what’s across our chest—you know, get our pride back, show that we’re competing.”

After KU suffered its third-consecutive conference loss, Self admitted that the unique season had perhaps proven to be a bigger challenge than expected. Players eat in their rooms and maintain social distancing even with teammates; they live inside a bubble limited to 30 people, so they can’t let off steam by visiting with family, going to a movie, or pounding back “a thousand wings” with friends.

“And then you get it all started again on Groundhog Day the next day,” Self said. “It stinks, it’s no fun. But I also see opportunity.”

With February yet to play out as *Kansas Alumni* went to press, and the unknowns of possibly living in a bubble during the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments still facing every college basketball team with postseason dreams, Self chose to focus on what is in the team’s control: how they play and coach basketball.

“I still think our best is good enough to beat a lot of folks. Like life, anybody can do it if it’s going good. It doesn’t take courage to be great when everything else is really good in your life.

“Now that we’ve got some obstacles—within our control and out of our control—we can find out just how competitive and how good we are. It see it as a good opportunity.”

FOOTBALL

Youth movement

Football looks to bright new stars

SHORTLY AFTER the Big 12 on Dec. 10 announced the COVID-related cancellation of KU’s Dec. 12 home game against Texas, coach Les Miles tweeted, “Here come the Jayhawks! #RockChalk”

The upbeat message might have seemed out of place, considering the Jayhawks had concluded a winless season with a canceled game, but the positive outlook was trademark Miles, who is determined to emphasize enthusiasm for a rebuilding program that has concluded only its second season.

At the Dec. 16 early signing day news conference, Miles noted that 27 true freshmen played in 2020, including 20 scholarship players, and 11 true freshmen started at least one game. All faced challenging odds, given the loss of summer training and limits and disruptions at preseason camp, and the rest of the young roster—35 scholarship players from Miles’ first two recruiting classes have appeared in at least one game, and 23 have started—also lost out on spring football, their critical development period.

“We went out and got guys who are winners,” Miles said. “Guys who have played and competed and understand what it’s like to win, to help us change the culture.”

The Jayhawks finished the early signing period with the Big 12’s fifth-ranked recruiting class, as judged by Rivals.com, and KU’s incoming class includes Lawrence running back Devin Neal, the top high-school prospect in Kansas.

“Guys who are the best prospects,” Miles said, “are also the guys who accept the challenge of changing culture and winning. Devin Neal will be a leader on our team, and certainly there’s a number of guys who accepted that challenge.”

The infectiously upbeat messages briefly dimmed with the unexpected departure of offensive coordinator Brent Dearmon, who left for Middle Tennessee State, but yet again Miles swiftly pivoted to the positive when he introduced veteran

STEVE PUPPE



Miles

Mike DeBord, who previously served as offensive coordinator at Michigan, Tennessee and Indiana.

“The key piece for me,” Miles said Feb. 3, “is knowing that he will impart *team*, the feeling of doing something for others, I have your back.”

DeBord said that as soon as he and Miles first started talking about the KU job, he immediately began watching film of the 2020 Jayhawks. While noting that he intends to clean up some technique

KU football finished the early signing period with Rivals.com’s fifth-ranked Big 12 class, ahead of KSU, Baylor, Texas Tech, TCU and OSU.

and scheme issues, he insisted that KU football is closer to success than those who lived through the winless season—players, coaches and even fans—probably realize.

“Sometimes you think you’re a long way off and you’re not,” DeBord said. “We’re going to get this done. I have no doubt in my mind.”

A big part of his job will be motivating the program’s young players, but roles switched during an introductory phone call with one of last season’s freshman starts, quarterback Jalon Daniels.

“I was already jumping for joy,” DeBord said, “but that kid had me even more excited, just listening to him. That’s what youth does to you. Youth excites you. Youth pushes you harder, pushes you stronger.”

New offensive line coach Lee Grimes—named to Texas A&M’s All-Decade team for 2000-2010—takes over what is likely the most experienced group at KU, including three “superseniors” who are able to return thanks to the grace year allowed athletes after the chaotic COVID year.

(Miles confirmed to the Lawrence Journal-World that five other seniors, including receiver Kwamie Lassiter II and linebacker Kyron Johnson, also chose to return.)

Introduced alongside DeBord, Grimes said he’ll benefit by working with a new offensive coordinator, since he’s not the only guy trying to get caught up on the playbook. He says his linemen already “have all the attributes that I’m looking for,” and he’ll push the O-line to set the tone for growth across the entire offense.

“There’s no panic here. The foundation is set,” Grimes said. “We’re going to keep building it the right way, and when you do that, you build lasting success.”

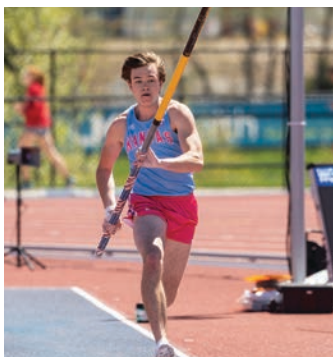
Much to KU’s relief, the good news continued in February with a commitment from Dallas receiver Quaydarius Davis, who chose KU over Alabama, LSU, Oregon, USC and Texas to become KU’s first four-star recruit since the Rivals rankings began in 1999.

“Coming to take over, man, change the culture,” Davis said in a video posted by KU football. “Let’s get it.”

UPDATE

Zach Bradford broke his own Anschutz Pavilion pole vault record with a winning jump of 18 feet, 6.5 inches at the Jan. 22 Jayhawk Classic. Bradford has junior eligibility indoors but will compete as a sophomore outdoors. **Gleb Dudarev**, competing unattached with no remaining indoor eligibility, broke his Anschutz record in the weight throw at 81-5. ... Two-time Naismith Hall of Fame inductee **John McLendon**, d’36, on Jan. 13 was

STEVE PUPPE



Bradford

posthumously awarded the NCAA’s highest honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Award. Mentored by **James Naismith**

while at KU, where he became the first African American student to earn a bachelor’s degree in physical education, the Tennessee State coaching legend was the first coach to win three-consecutive national championships and compiled a career record of .760. Other Jayhawks who have received the “Teddy” are Olympic gold medalist **Billy Mills**, d’62, and **Sen. Bob Dole**, ‘45. ... Senior forward **Tina Stephens** and sophomore guard **Holly Kersgieter** combined for 37 points in women’s basketball’s

70-63 victory over Kansas State Jan. 23 in Allen Field House. ... Midfielder **Ceri Holland**, who started all 75 games in her KU career, has signed to play professionally for Liverpool FC Women in her native England. ... COVID-19 claimed yet another disruption to the sports calendar, with the second-consecutive postponement of the Kansas Relays. “We have to operate in as lean a fashion as possible,” says Athletics Director **Jeff Long**, “while not inhibiting the health, safety and well-being of our student-athletes.”



Senior guard Marcus Garrett (0), last season's Naismith and Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, celebrates a teammate's 3-pointer while observing strict COVID protocols.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
STEVE PUPPE

DAY JOB,

DAYDREAM

*Seizing the moment,
an aspiring author draws
on professional skills to pursue
her personal passion*

It's 5:17 on a Wednesday morning. I'm sitting at my desk, accompanied only by a cup of coffee and a black cursor blinking on a computer screen.

My husband is asleep in another room. My colleagues—accountants and associates at the consulting firm where I work—will not log in for another three hours. Even my social media feeds are silent at this ungodly hour.

Yet I'm wide awake, surrounded by notebooks, research material on 18th-century London, and Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. A single lamp is lit on my desk while behind me a candle flickers. The house is mercifully silent. The next few hours are mine and mine alone: my time to pursue a daydream—to become a traditionally published author—before I must pivot to my day job.

This 5 a.m. regimen has proved the only way to balance the two.

Admittedly, I did not envision this bleary-eyed, early morning scene when I graduated from KU in May 2008, my new finance degree in hand. Walking down Campanile Hill that spring day, I saw ahead of me a long career in the corporate world: audit reports, board rooms, high-pressure presentations. I'd snagged a good-paying job at Koch Industries in Wichita, and I couldn't wait to dive into the routine of a young, working professional. I maintained a faint interest in someday writing a novel—born during my younger years dabbling with diaries and poetry—but a new, lucrative career has a way of sidelining those trifling childhood dreams.

At Koch Industries, I quickly climbed the corporate ladder. I was promoted from

associate to manager within several years; I presented regularly to senior business leaders and traveled to our overseas offices several times a year. It was a dream for a 20-something woman: business-class air travel, open-bar lounges and industry events in world capitals. I was challenged by the work, delving into such areas as rogue trading, derivatives accounting and data visualization software. All of these are left-brain activities: logic, analytics, critical thinking. I was proud to be “using my degree” in the real world, happy to feel that the time and money I put into my college studies did, eventually, pay off.

And yet, despite the challenging work and my upward trajectory over the years, something within me remained unfulfilled. A part of me craved a playful, creative outlet. My right brain began to bravely express its dissatisfaction, subtly reminding me of that childhood dream to write a book.

In 2015 my father, with whom I was very close, died. A few months later, I attended a lecture hosted by Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love* and *Big Magic*. She asked the audience a rhetorical question, one that forever changed my life: “Do you want to sit in this same chair, one year from now, still dreaming your dreams without having taken a single step toward them? If not, then get started now.”

It was the wake-up call I needed. At that moment, I decided I would heed this urge to write a book. I had nothing to lose, after all, and I woke up the next day eager to get started.

Alas, there was a problem: I had a day job. I was required to be in the office, analyzing data and leading meetings, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. At the time, I distinctly remember viewing my day job as a sudden hindrance, something keeping me away from a long-held vision. When, exactly, did I think I'd find the time to write a book?

Writing after work seemed the logical answer, and I made a hearty effort for a couple of weeks. But as most of us know, energy wanes throughout the day. By the time I cooked and ate dinner, put on comfortable clothes, and settled down after a workday, the last thing I wanted to do was outline story scenes or invent new characters. There was no ignoring it: By evening, I was too mentally and intellectually depleted to chase any dream at all.

I course-corrected, as I'd so often done in the workplace. I evaluated what wasn't working and strategized a path forward. In this instance, it meant waking up (very) early and writing before work.



by SARAH PENNER

“

Despite the challenging work over the years, something within me remained unfulfilled. A part of me craved a playful, creative outlet. My right brain began to bravely express its dissatisfaction, subtly reminding me of that childhood dream to write a book.”

Those first few weeks were difficult as my body adapted to a new sleep schedule. But in time, not only did I become accustomed to the early mornings, I actually grew to like them. In the quiet hours there are zero distractions, zero demands. It's just me and a keyboard. On Twitter, I began interacting with the #5amWritersClub hashtag, finding an entire group of early risers like me. The pre-dawn can sometimes feel dark and lonely, but this offered a sense of camaraderie. I was not the only crazy one, it seemed.

The months passed, and before my eyes a book began to take shape. Ten thousand words turned into 30,000, and a year later I'd written a novel-length manuscript. I had no formal writing experience, having taken just six credits of freshman English at KU. This new writing gig was entirely self-taught: a few online classes in nonfiction and then, later, fiction. It was a different experience than my classroom studies at KU, as there were no finals, no GPAs. This was driven from a place of passion, not profession.

As I continued this dual pursuit—day job and daydream—I found that writing before work satisfied the creative, right-brain energy I so badly needed to expend. It was the sort of fulfillment I hadn't yet discovered.

Then came the rejections.

As every published author knows, rejection is part of the endeavor. More than 100 literary agents passed on my first book—the one I'd so eagerly written during those early morning writing sessions. I was discouraged, but not paralyzed. I quickly got to work on my next project, a historical novel titled *The*

Lost Apothecary. Much of the novel takes place in London, just steps from one of the international Koch offices I'd visited many times—a confluence of day job and daydream if ever there was one.

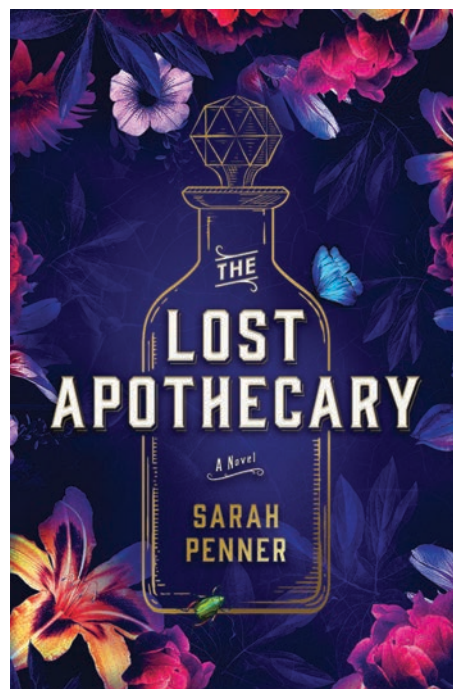
It was a time of transition. While I shifted from one writing project to another, a few other shifts occurred, too. On a bit of a whim, my husband and I decided to leave Kansas and relocate to Florida. We sold a beautiful home, quit our jobs, and packed up a U-Haul with our dog and possessions. Over the course of several months, we settled into our new home in Florida, and I began working full time at Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), a large consulting firm. During this time, one thing remained consistent: the 5 a.m. writing sessions. No matter the shifts (dare I say, chaos) in my life, that quiet time remained my own, a sliver of the day with no commitment, no calendar reminders, no phone calls.

Then, in 2019, life got a bit wild. In a matter of months, I signed with a literary agent in New York, and shortly thereafter we sold my debut novel, *The Lost Apothecary*, for six figures to Park Row Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. I got the news about the sale in the middle of a workday—a Wednesday afternoon, to be exact. I was working from home at the time, and while my agent summarized the deal terms over the phone, I paced my bedroom in a sort of shellshocked daze. By the time she'd finished, I couldn't remember a word of what she'd said, and I asked if I could call her back in 15 minutes to review the terms again. Not exactly my best performance, given I'd spent a decade in corporate America and knew well the

importance of having a pen and notebook at the ready.

In the months to follow, I worked on several rounds of revisions to *The Lost Apothecary* with my editor at Park Row. Yet again, these efforts took place in the early morning, before I logged into work. They say that drafting a book is a creative, right-brained activity, whereas revising is an analytical, left-brained activity. Indeed, I felt like revising is where I shined, and perhaps this was due to the critical thinking skills I'd gained during my time at Koch and PwC. I could not help but notice the innumerable parallels between working with numbers and revising a book: looking through large data sets (words) for themes and patterns; resolving anomalies (characters) that didn't quite fit; and reworking formulas (scenes) to best achieve an end result.

Both efforts also require the ability to be flexible, to think on one's toes. On any given day, I might have spent the early morning answering my editor's probing questions—"Why did this character act strangely at the end of chapter 14?"—only to then pivot to my manager's inquiries midday—"Why did we see a spike in brokerage inquiries last month?"



All of us have passions, and many of us regretfully feel that our day jobs are keeping us from those pursuits. Only after the passage of 12 years in the workforce have I been able to look backward with clarity: Though I might not have recognized it at the time, my day job and my daydream have always been inextricably intertwined. I learned discipline from those bleary-eyed morning writing sessions before going into the office. I found story inspiration in the cities to which I traveled for work. I developed crucial analytical skills that have benefited me immensely in the editing process.

Truly, I wonder if I would have written a book at all, had it not been for the routine required by my day job and the skills acquired during it. And only through working full time was I able to see the gap between where I found a paycheck and where I found real fulfillment. A day job provided that clarity, the yin to the yang. Further, I have never needed to rely on my creative pursuits to support me financially, which has allowed me to be brave with my story ideas and unafraid of a few stumbles—like a hundred agent rejections.

For those of you seeing a bit of yourself in this story, I encourage you to take inventory of your own pursuits. Remember, a day job doesn't make a daydream impossible. On the contrary, it might serve your interests or goals without your realizing it. Ask yourself what skills or opportunities you're finding in your day-to-day (even mundane) routine, and then ask yourself how those might aid whatever creative or adventurous endeavors you dream about.

The Lost Apothecary will be published in just a few short weeks, on March 2. This means my childhood vision has nearly come to fruition—the daydream fulfilled. And yet, once this date has passed, you'll still find me rising to write at 5 every morning. Even if I do have the luxury of leaving the corporate workforce in the future, I have come to enjoy this routine. There are always more words to write, more stories to tell. And no matter the hour, the cursor on my screen blinks on. —



LAURA FOOTE

Sarah Byrne Penner, b'08, is the debut author of *The Lost Apothecary*, forthcoming March 2 from Park Row Books, an imprint of Harper Collins. The novel is available for preorder at major booksellers, and will be published in the U.S., U.K. and Canada, and translated into more than 15 languages worldwide. Sarah lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her husband.

The Public Servant

**University
Architect
Jim Modig
leaves a
Mount Oread
legacy for
generations
of Jayhawks
to treasure**

by Chris Lazzarino

Portrait by Steve Puppe

In a 41-year KU career that drew to a close in January, University Architect Jim Modig guided or was closely involved with 168 significant construction or renovation projects on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses worth \$1.5 billion, including 40 projects worth \$737 million since the 2014 conclusion of the latest Campus Master Plan.

He was a key player in the transformational Central District project, a public-private partnership that made the \$350 million development possible in an era of virtually no state support for new construction. He also oversaw the revitalization of the western and southern slopes of Mount Oread with Capitol Federal Hall and the DeBruce and Earth, Energy & Environment centers.

Inside Murphy Hall, home to the School of Music, the beautifully renovated Swarthout Recital Hall sings Modig's praises. The re-created Spencer Museum of Art is a testament to his vision. And the rebuilt Jayhawk Boulevard and Memorial Drive—the historic heart of campus—affirm Modig's impulse to improve Mount Oread's look and feel and his commitment to preserving the sublime campus experience.





Notably, his retirement received an exceedingly rare public recognition from Chancellor Doug Girod. Large universities like KU lose irreplaceable scholars and staff every semester; it is impossible to even approach giving each a proper tribute.

Modig, however, stands out.

“Jim has been as kind and helpful a colleague as you could hope to have,” Girod wrote in an email to campus. “No matter how tight the deadline or how challenging the assignment, Jim approached his work with an easygoing manner and thoughtfulness that benefited the project and those with whom he worked.

“It has been a privilege to work with him, and KU is a better place because of him.”

Yet even the most notable of careers, it turns out, sometimes hinge on owning a proper pair of rubber boots.

While attending KU in the early 1970s, Jim Modig worked part time for a Topeka company that built machines for producing wallboard and consumer paper products. Modig drafted concepts from the company’s

designer into detailed instructions for manufacturing, for instance, gears that turned at specific rates of rotation. When the company began planning an addition to its factory, Modig turned ideas and sketches into floor plans.

“It wasn’t anything fancy or exotic,” he says, “but it was an opportunity at a fairly young age to actually have some participation.”

After his 1973 graduation, with a degree in environmental design, Modig signed on with the state architect’s office, doing yet more work that was neither fancy nor exotic yet important: planning and delivering office space in the Kansas Capitol and nearby state buildings.

“I was kind of stuck in that process of doing space planning, simple little floor plans, organizational arrangements, things like that,” Modig recalls. “And this is where my career kind of took a huge turn.”

In April 1973, Gov. Robert Docking, b’48, signed Senate Bill 280, providing \$58 million for expansion of KU Medical Center’s aging Bell Memorial Hospital, then the largest state-funded construction project in Kansas history.

“By *far* the largest,” emphasizes Warren Corman, e’50, whom Modig succeeded as

University Architect in 2011 after Corman’s 2010 retirement.

Details, thankfully, have become hazy through the years, but, in Corman’s succinct recollection, “It turned into a big mess,” including kickback allegations, public scandal, the works. Modig recalls that state officials drove to Kansas City, took possession of all architectural plans, returned them to Topeka, and asked Modig to join a team of public and private-sector engineers and architects.

Modig helped orchestrate designs for more than 30 critical aspects of construction, literally from beneath the floors to above the ceilings, including industry-specific technical spaces such as patient rooms, radiology labs and operating suites.

“So we sat in that room and finished the drawings for that project,” Modig recalls. “It was Education 101, big time. I think that’s where I got interested in managing larger-scale projects.”

The drama at 39th and Rainbow, however, was far from quelled. Just as Modig and his team in Topeka were completing their designs, an on-site inspector quit. Along with whatever else was going wrong—was anything going right?—Corman, who then worked as a staff



STEVE PUPPE



SUSAN YOUNGER

Central District (left) and the Earth, Energy & Environment Center (above), two of Modig's signature achievements, deliver modern exteriors while honoring the University's traditional visual identity.



STEVE PUPPE

architect for the Board of Regents, recalls that a well-connected Wichita lawyer managed to get his son hired on to oversee the troubled site. When Corman dropped by to monitor progress, he was stunned by what he saw in the midst of mud-caked chaos:

“The kid was wearing *white* shoes instead of boots,” Corman says, disgust still evident in his voice. “So that’s when we put

Jim on the job. He straightened it out.”

In mid-1977 the state architect’s office loaned Modig full time to KU Medical Center. Shortly before the project’s completion, in May 1979, a construction management job opened in Lawrence, and KU officials asked Modig to drop by Lawrence on his drive home to Topeka.

As Modig recalls, he went through a formal application process; in Corman’s memory, the job was his for the asking.

“When he did such a nice job of working with some pretty unruly contractors,” Corman says, “we decided we didn’t want to lose him.”

Modig met with a trio of titans in facilities planning who would become indelible influences: R. Keith Lawton, b’47, vice chancellor for campus planning and development; Jim Canole, a’49, then associate director of facilities planning; and legendary landscape architect Al Thomas.

“They were very calm, very calculating,” Modig says. “And so that’s kind of how I grew up. It was in that same philosophical way.”

Modig hired on as assistant director for construction management, and, after spending a month wrapping up at KU Medical Center, he turned to his first

Lawrence-campus construction project, the Burge Union. He advanced to Canole’s former position as associate director when Canole was promoted to director of facilities planning after Lawton’s mid-1980s retirement. When Canole retired in 1987, Modig took over as director, a role he held until relinquishing it—while retaining his duties as University Architect—as he neared his phased retirement.

Saving Hoch Auditorium’s façade following the iconic landmark’s devastating lightning-strike fire of June 15, 1991, and transforming the site into the modern campus hub now called Budig Hall, will always remain one of Modig’s signature achievements—in large part because it is both beautiful and beloved. But he also savored the invisible, the far-less glamorous, the work that happens in decaying old tunnels, dank crawl spaces, mechanical equipment rooms and, yes, at muddy construction sites.

His hard hat and boots always ready in the trunk of his car, Modig quietly relished any chance to be close to the action, where his visions for the future of our physical KU were coming to life.

Or, more precisely, the *shared* visions that he *shared* a role in realizing.

“It’s recognizable as KU because of the work that Jim has done,” says Mark Reiske, a’86, a 31-year KU veteran who succeeds Modig as both University Architect and director of Facilities Planning & Development. “Jim set a tone for a new palette for Central District; it’s not like the rest of campus, but if you’re a KU person, Central District is a very recognizable place now. Jim mentored that same approach along the boulevard. He controlled what happens along that area of campus. He controlled what happens at Potter Lake and in Marvin Grove; he’s protected those areas from development that would have basically taken away some of those fond memories for graduates and our visitors.

“And never once—I’ll guarantee you this—never *once* did Jim think, ‘Well, gosh, someone will remember me because of this.’ That was never, ever, ever in Jim’s mind. It was about the University of Kansas. It was about what’s right for KU.”

It’s interesting to reflect that after hours of interviews with *Kansas Alumni*, one of the vivid memories that Modig shared from his decades of working on the Hill was from early on, back when he was occasionally summoned by his boss, Keith Lawton: “We have a problem. Let’s go for a ride.” After visiting one job site or another, Lawton would swing by Daylight Donuts on 23rd Street. “And the next thing I know,” Modig says, “I’m reaching for a napkin to make notes.”

The anecdote is illustrative, perhaps, in how Modig views the campus which he spent a career protecting and defending: not in places, but people.

And the people he’s worked with over the years noticed.

“One of the greats,” says Ramin Cherafat, CEO of McCownGordon Construction, one of the partners that helped KU realize the vision for Central District. “Jim Modig is one of the most high-integrity people I’ve ever done business with. He always wants to do the right thing. He’s one of those guys who made you and your team want to work harder for him, and the



STEVE PUPPE

1



STEVE PUPPE

2



DAN STOREY

3



SUSAN YOUNGER

4

For many decades to come, Mount Oread will reflect the sensibilities of a quiet, driven architect who always put KU first.

1. Budig Hall
2. School of Pharmacy
3. DeBruce Center
4. Budig Hall and Hoch Auditoria
5. Memorial Drive
6. Capitol Federal Hall
7. Jayhawk Boulevard
8. Swarthout Recital Hall
9. Spencer Museum of Art

STEVE PUPPE



5

DAN STOREY



6

STEVE PUPPE



7

CHRIS LAZZARINO



8

STEVE PUPPE



9

University, just because of how gracious he was and how he conducted business.”

Modig is soft-spoken, polite, kind and attentive, usually dressed in a navy blazer and nondescript slacks—the opposite, in every way, of the glamorous, obsessed architect archetype—so one might presume his tastes in design and construction to be similarly conservative, perhaps even stuck in the past.

That, Cherafat insists, would be wrong. “Jim is always willing to learn and find better ways to do things,” Cherafat says, “and that created a lot of value for the University of Kansas. He got jobs done quicker because he was so collaborative. It’s not like that on every other campus. He was unique in that way.”

Zach Loy, manager of business development for Turner Construction—a regular presence on Mount Oread for more than 25 years—says that when employees circulated a farewell card for Modig through their Kansas City office, “It hit me how many careers he touched just within our walls, people who were really moved by having worked with Jim. And you can multiply that by at least 10 for all the other companies, architecture firms and contractors that he’s worked with.

“To say that Jim is a man of integrity would be a huge understatement. He is ... I’m not even quite sure how to find the words ... but he just carries this incredibly high level of trustworthiness. Being the outstanding leader that he is, Jim has set KU up for success, even in the post-Jim era.”

A drafting class in junior high or high school, Modig’s now not sure which, captured his imagination—“I just liked the ability to kind of put things together mentally, on paper”—and when he progressed to drawing his first floor plan for a class at Topeka West High School, he felt the stirrings of what could be his life’s work.

“I know that architecture is more than just drawing a floor plan,” Modig says, “but that was what kind of hooked me to continue to pursue that.”

“To say that Jim is a man of integrity would be a huge understatement. He just carries this incredibly high level of trustworthiness. Being the outstanding leader that he is, Jim has set KU up for success, even in the post-Jim era.” —Zach Loy, Turner Construction

A buddy from the west side of town, Joe Smith, in 1968 asked Jim to join him on a Labor Day camping trip to a family cabin at Council Grove Lake. Joe had recently started dating a gal from Highland Park High, on the east side, and he thought Jane and her family might be at the lake, too—perhaps, wink wink, with one of Jane’s friends. A drive-in double-date ensued and, a half-century later, the two couples are still double-dating.

“Sue and I have been together now for 52 years,” Modig says, “and married for 50.”

Throughout his more than four decades at KU, Modig was usually in the office by 7 or 7:30 each morning and didn’t leave until 6 or 6:30 in the evening. His long-time colleague Eric King, who worked with Modig at KU before joining the Board of Regents, from which he retired in 2018 as associate vice president for facilities, recalls sharing daily brown-bag lunches, during which they talked not about sports or fishing but projects then underway, such as Anschutz Library, the Dole Human Development Center and Snow Hall renovations. Soda cups were always set on the floor.

“Jim’s desk was stacked with paperwork,” King says with a chuckle. “I couldn’t find a square inch of space for lunch.”

Modig’s typical 10- or 12-hour days invariably grew to include after-hours events with community groups, weekend tours for important visitors and, especially during the frantic construction over the past decade, endless streams of meetings—on site, in the office or over the phone—with contractors, administrators, lawmakers, neighbors. Once at home, he typically made his way back to a computer after dinner to slog through emails

or review his trademark spreadsheets, which dazzled colleagues across the country with their organization and efficiency.

“I’ll call it a personal-held responsibility,” Modig says of the drive that pushed him to check every box, day after day, to honor his fiduciary responsibility for the University’s money, safety and vibrancy. “Whether you’re talking about the dollars that are there or the condition of the facilities that we’re having faculty and students work and study in, it’s that pride of ownership. Trying to make sure that we’re making smart decisions wisely so that we’re not wasting our limited resources.”

Despite the long hours, Modig says, he tried not to bring job stresses home, “but I’m sure it shows through occasionally.” He began phased retirement after the 2018 completion of the massive Central District project, his career capstone, handing over the directorship of Facilities Planning & Development to Reiske while retaining the title of University Architect and moving, administratively, to the Office of the Provost, where he reported to Chief Financial Officer Diane Goddard, g’91—another key KU player in the Central District who also recently retired.

Modig originally planned a three-year journey toward retirement, but the stresses associated with readying campus to safely reopen after being shut down by COVID-19, along with the buyout package offered by the state to certain eligible employees, spurred him to cut his departure time in half. He retired Jan. 8.

“The pandemic set the stage that allows me to retire quickly and unceremoniously, just the way I like it,” Modig wrote in a private email to *Kansas Alumni*, for which we ask his forgiveness for sharing.

Now the lifelong servant-architect



ABOVE As seen here during a 2004 tour for *Kansas Alumni's* coverage of critical tunnel repairs, Modig took to heart his duty to keep fellow Jayhawks informed about challenges facing Mount Oread. "I had an opportunity, due to the dedication of alumni, to allow campus to be the best that it can be."

turns to projects nearer and dearer than even KU. "You're donating your labor," Modig deadpans of the difference between orchestrating multimillion-dollar projects on Mount Oread and bird-dogging sales to replace carpet at his home west of Stull with hardwood floors, "so all you're buying is material." He recently helped his son transform a foreclosed Topeka house into a suitable home, which they then upgraded with a new kitchen to prep the property for sale as the family grew.

"I'm not one of these real creative guys who has one of these fancy houses that is unique, one of a kind, and all the fancy spatial relationships, but I think there is a piece of a house that makes it personal, and makes it a space," Modig reflects. "I don't often talk about this, but place-based education ... we're teaching in classrooms; that's place-based. We're living in a residential environment, and whether you got wallpaper up or you got paint, whether you got hardwood floors or carpet, it all

adds up to the textures and layers of the space that relate to you."

Jim says he and Sue are compatible, in part, because "we're both pretty low-key." They enjoyed camping trips when their children, Sherry and Brian, were young, but Jim's worsening allergies halted their outdoor pursuits. They now favor road trips, especially to campuses around the country for Jim's professional conferences, and Modig took a grandfather's delight in photographing Amber Draper, c'20, one of this three grandchildren, at campus sites that were meaningful to her after COVID canceled her May 2020 walk down the Hill.

The buildings and locales were special to Amber because

of her own KU experience, but they were ready to fulfill that role for Amber and her classmates and every other Jayhawk over the past four decades thanks, in large part, to her grandfather's insistence on doing the best he could with the resources at his command. (Modig bemoans leaving the job with tens of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance still to be completed, should the funds magically appear, and he genuinely worries about the future of KU's education and research missions should aging buildings, classrooms and laboratories be allowed to fall into deeper disrepair.)

"It's nice to have a good-looking building, and it's nice to have it present itself well to the people who come into it. It's that first-impression kind of thing," Modig replies when asked to describe a good day on the job. "But functionally, when a building really performs, when you see the vibrancy of activity in the building, that's probably the most reassuring thing that you could have."

Modig says he can see himself occasionally strolling campus on lovely evenings and making his institutional memory available as needed—"I'm probably not the person who would just walk away and never return"—but for now, for the first time in a very long time, his personal interests take priority.

Travel, friends, family, and, because construction is never done, a 12-by-16-foot model-train layout that got set aside two decades ago as he tackled larger problems of the world.

"I would like," Modig says, "to finish what I've started."

And it won't even require rubber boots.



More online

Watch Dan Storey's video of Jim Modig, Warren Corman and Mark Reiske on a tour of campus at kansasalumnimagazine.org.



In Her Words

Rebekah Taussig offers an intimate look at the complexities of disability in her debut book

Rebekah Taussig believes the words we use and the stories we tell matter. For as long as she can remember, Taussig has described her experiences through “angsty, cliché poetry” as a child and “agonizing, relentless journaling” as a teenager. In her 20s she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English, creative writing and literature from the University of Missouri-Kansas City before heading to Mount Oread, where she focused on life writing and memoirs along with disability studies as a doctoral candidate at KU.

Both life writing and disability studies are near and dear to Taussig. Born in Manhattan, Kansas, in the mid ’80s, she was 14 months old when she was diagnosed with a malignant cancer that attacked her spine. Two years of treatments—chemotherapy, radiation, surgeries—gradually took a toll on her young body, leaving her paralyzed from the waist down.

This life-changing event and the experiences that followed form the foundation of her book, *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*, a collection of essays published in August by HarperOne. Taussig, PhD’17, candidly describes growing up in a body unlike those around her, revealing the challenges and complications that she and others with disabilities face each day. The

book is a natural extension of the mini-memoirs she began sharing five years ago with more than 44,000 followers on Instagram.

“I think that for a long, long time I have been trying to make sense of the world around me through words,” she says. “That’s just a part of how my brain works. And language is sort of like a way of exploring the world. I’ve had that impulse for a long time.”



The youngest of six children, Taussig moved to Kansas City with her family when she was in elementary school. As she details in *Sitting Pretty*, her parents, though loving and supportive, made no special accommodations for her in their modest home. Taussig continued to sleep on the top bunk in a bedroom on the top floor the house, pulling her body up without the assistance of ramps or handrails. Several years passed before she received her first wheelchair. All of that, Taussig explains, shaped her youth.

“On the one hand, it made me pretty scrappy and kind of adaptable,” she says. “It made me creative and imaginative in that way. I also think it made me less self-conscious; I was just one of six and just another kid in the whole mix. There wasn’t a lot of spotlight on my disability.”

by Heather Biele / Portrait by Steve Puppe

“But I also think that because there was not a lot of careful attention paid to that part of my experience that I went a very long time without actually processing some of the things that were difficult or challenging about it. I kind of blustered into adulthood with a whole part of myself that I wasn’t very aware of.”

As a young girl, Taussig recalls feeling valuable and fully capable of contributing to the group, aware of her disability but not defined by it. “I floated in my own bubble,” she writes, “a universe where everything glistened and glowed and I wore a crown sparkling with jewels. I believed everything I did—the way I moved my body, the way I looked, the roundabout paths I took—was right.”

But as years passed, she grew to perceive herself as a burden on those around her: ugly, weak and helpless. Fueled in part by the fact that she didn’t see girls or women like herself featured on TV, in magazines or in ads, she feared she was “not among those who would be needed, admired, wanted, loved, dated, or married.”

Though she had put pen to paper in some form for years, Taussig discovered a greater sense of direction during a KU creative nonfiction writing class taught by novelist Laura Moriarty, s’93, g’99, who later became her adviser.

“We had the opportunity to write about ourselves, about our own lives,” Taussig recalls. “And I think I basically crammed my whole life story into a 10-page essay, which was never going to be an essay in itself, but she saw what I was doing. ... It seemed like something pretty special was happening in that bit of beginning writing.”

Seeing great promise in Taussig’s work,

Moriarty encouraged her to continue writing about what she knew best: her own life experience. “I could see that she wanted to do it and that she would be really good at it,” says Moriarty, professor of creative writing and fiction. “Also, it would be really important work that would be valuable to other people. The thing I think is so interesting about Rebekah’s story is it’s universal, it’s specific.”



COURTESY REBEKAH TAUSSIG (3)



Taussig writes mini-memoirs and shares images of her life with her son, Otto, and husband, Micah, with more than 44,000 followers on Instagram. “One of the things that’s really cool about Instagram,” she says, “is that you’re immediately engaged with people.”



After taking Moriarty’s class, Taussig began sharing her stories on Instagram. She found the social media platform not only gave her an outlet but also connected her with people who shared similar ex-

periences or wanted to learn from hers. To this day, she’s surprised by the overwhelmingly positive response. “Immediately I was like, ‘What? Why would anyone care?’” Taussig says with a laugh. “I still feel that

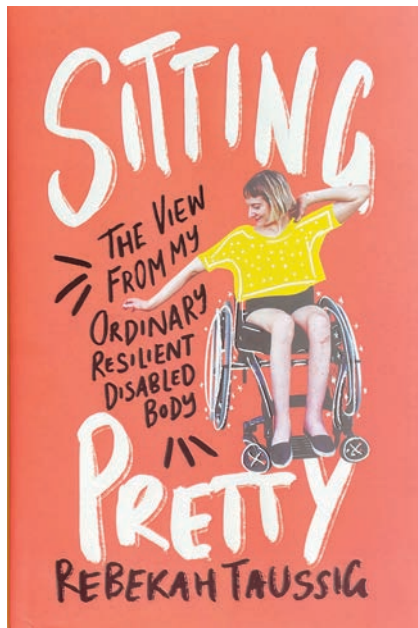
way a little bit. But yeah, I didn't really expect that at all. If anything, it emphasized to me that these are ideas that we are kind of thirsty for and a way of thinking that resonates with a lot of people—like, it's not just me, even though I grew up thinking that surely it was just me who felt this way or experienced things like this."

Though Taussig had occasionally toyed with the idea of writing a book, the task truly took shape as she encountered limitations on Instagram. "I would sit down to write something in a Google doc, thinking this was going to be something I'm going to post, and then it would be inevitably be like three times too long to fit into that space," she says, "so I would agonize and hack it to bits and cut two-thirds of it until it fit into that space. I think I was just realizing that I needed to stretch out a bit more, that I needed something like a chapter to explore an idea instead of 2,000 characters."

In *Sitting Pretty*, Taussig examines her experiences in great detail: cringeworthy encounters with friends, loved ones and well-meaning strangers; frustrating moments teaching writing and disability studies to high school students at Pembroke Hill School, a rewarding yet often excruciating role she held for the past three years; challenges with accessibility, affordable housing and health care; and the prevalence of ableism, which she explains isn't limited to "discrimination in favor of able-bodied people," as *Oxford English Dictionary* defines it.

"It's more about systems and structures and values and ideology than it is about a single moment in time," Taussig says. "I think a lot of times that's what ableism is reduced to. Like, 'You said that word, you're ableist,' or 'You took that parking spot, you're ableist.' And maybe that's true, but I think if we reduce ableism to that, we're missing so much more of what needs to be addressed and changed."

Moriarty believes that part of what makes Taussig's writing so appealing is her ability to look at her own story objectively



while still considering others' perspectives, a skill Taussig honed on Instagram and continues in *Sitting Pretty*. "She takes a hard look at things that are difficult and she doesn't sugarcoat them or say, 'That's OK,' but she finds her own way through them," Moriarty says. "She rejects the typical story. She rejects it and strongly emphasizes her own. And that is what is so valuable to me as a reader with her work."

Since the release of *Sitting Pretty*, Taussig has gained national attention, appearing in *Forbes* and *The Guardian* as well as *Time* magazine, which featured an excerpt from the book. In October, she was invited to participate in KU's virtual celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, featuring internationally recognized disability rights leader and longtime activist Judy Heumann. Taussig moderated "Where are the Disabled Artists?" a conversation with Heumann and other notable guests about the representation of disability in the media.

As the Zoom discussion began, Heumann held up a copy of *Sitting Pretty*. "Go out and buy it," she said enthusiastically. "I did."

Last May, shortly before the release of *Sitting Pretty*, Taussig began a new chapter in her life story: she and her husband, Micah, welcomed their son, Otto, into the world. Though motherhood is new, Taussig found herself prepared for it in an unexpected way. "One thing that has really surprised me about motherhood is just how familiar a lot of the feelings and experiences are to disability in a way that I never would have anticipated," she says. "I feel like my way of being in the world as a disabled person feels very similar to what it feels like to be a mom, which is so weird. Like, who would have ever thought that those experiences would be parallel?"

Much like her experience as part of the community with disabilities, Taussig discovered a sense of solidarity with fellow mothers, bonding over shared frustrations, fears and fatigue. But Taussig also grapples with a different challenge: how she's perceived as a mother in a wheelchair.

"When someone sees me as helpless as an independent individual and they rush up to help me or think it's amazing that I'm doing whatever I'm doing, the most that I feel is annoyed," she says. "You know, like, 'Oh my gosh, OK, yes, I'm fine. I don't actually need your help.' But when somebody sees me as helpless when I'm with my baby, suddenly there is a very real threat there, because not only do you see me as helpless, but now I'm the caretaker of another little human. And if you think I'm helpless, then you think I can't take care of my kid, and that is a new kind of problem. That is a new thing to have to prove."

As Taussig has shown repeatedly throughout her life, she finds a way to confront these uncomfortable, painful moments with humor, grace and understanding.

And she challenges others to do the same.

“What we got was extra hands, extra help to get the project done on time, which was extremely important. We got not just work, but careful work, where they paid attention to detail and made sure everything was good.”

—Erin Curtis-Dierks

COURTESY ERIN CURTIS-DIERKS



Curtis-Dierks



STEVE PUPPE

CAREER

Bridges built

Jayhawk Career Network program connects students, employers

FACING A HARD DEADLINE for a big website redesign, Firesign Marketing, a small Kansas City agency that specializes in law and legal tech firms, needed a hand transferring data to its client’s new site. Because three of the four-member team are KU journalism graduates, they turned to a source they knew they could trust: their alma mater.

Firesign used the Alumni Association’s Bridges program, KU’s marketplace for connecting students and recent graduates to real-world projects, to enlist the help of students Grace Fisher and Kayla Hernandez for the precise, detail-oriented work the job required.

“What we got was extra hands, extra help to get the project done on time, which was extremely important” says Erin Curtis-Dierks, j’97, senior account director at Firesign. “We got not just work, but careful work, where they paid attention to detail and made sure everything was good.”

Part of the Association’s Jayhawk Career Network, Bridges enables employers with Jayhawk connections to list short-term virtual projects through the KU Mentoring hub, the Association’s

online platform that matches students and alumni in mentorships. Students apply for and complete projects online. The smaller scope and condensed time frame of these “micro-internships” allows students to quickly add real-world experience to their résumés and gives businesses a chance to help future and new alumni while benefiting from their talent.

“Right now, because of the pandemic, the world of business and work is changing rapidly,” says Howard Graham, g’09, PhD’20, director of the Jayhawk Career Network. “With their experiences in the virtual world, with social media and online classes, students and recent graduates really can be valuable to a business that needs to adjust to this rapidly changing work environment. So employers who use Bridges not only are providing opportunities for personal and professional growth, but also

ABOVE “It was the perfect storm of things I was looking for,” says sophomore Grace Fisher of the Bridges program, which landed her a micro-internship. “I kept busy, made money and advanced myself professionally.”

they could be getting some immediate help with a strategic priority or a project that needs to advance faster because of this rapidly changing environment.”

Curtis-Dierks says Firesign looks to KU students to fill more traditional, long-term internships, so it seemed a natural fit when they needed short-term help. Especially since the project required a high degree of accuracy.

“We like that KU connection because we feel like there’s a level of trust there, a synergy, with us being alumni and them being students,” she says. “We can count on them to do a really good job.”

A large applicant pool with many qualified candidates and the platform’s ease of use were also pluses, Curtis-Dierks says. And then there was the satisfaction contributing to her alma mater.

“We were journalism students, so we know how important it is to have internships when you’re in college, how pivotal they were to us getting jobs after graduation,” she says. “To come full circle and have students helping us out benefits us all. They get to build their résumé and we get to give back to the University we all love. It’s a win-win for everybody.”

Fisher, a sophomore in business from the Chicago suburb of Lombard, Illinois, is interested in branding and content creation and strategy; she envisions a career in marketing or advertising. Getting paid while putting her extended winter break to good use was “A-plus,” she says, but what she really values are the long-term benefits a micro-internship promises.

“The ability to put it on my résumé and be able to talk about it in future interviews is great,” Fisher says. “The importance of getting that real-life experience, working with a professional to hit a due date without having somebody guide you every step of the way, I feel that’s something that can only be learned by doing it.”

Moreover, she says résumé building at this early stage of her college career feels like a head start.

“Relevant experience is so hard to get when you’re an underclassman, because you’re not able to be a president of a club, you’re not able to be on the executive boards just yet,” Fisher says. “Little experiences like these can totally set you apart by a mile. It puts you on people’s radars.”

“One reason why I came all the way to KU from Chicago was because I knew this is a huge alumni network; a lot of them come back to Chicago. Now I feel like I’m really seeing those opportunities and seeing that alumni network in action.”



ASSOCIATION

Jayhawks Flock Together

Virtual fundraiser nets \$100,000 for student and alumni programs, Campus Cupboard

THE ASSOCIATION HOSTED its first virtual fundraising event, Jayhawks Flock Together, Nov. 19 in support of student and alumni programs and KU’s Campus Cupboard, a food pantry for students, faculty, staff and affiliates. The event was presented in partnership with Dimensional Innovations, Helix Architecture + Design and McCown-Gordon Construction and supported by video production sponsor KJO Media.

The Association typically hosts two large fundraising events each year, the Rock Chalk Ball in Kansas City and the Jayhawk Roundup in Wichita. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Association reimagined both traditions as a virtual event, in which Jayhawks across the globe could participate.

The event included a pre-party, followed by a live broadcast, which was hosted by John Holt, j’81, l’84, co-anchor of Kansas City’s FOX 4 News. The program also featured Chancellor Doug Girod and Association President Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, along with an interactive fundraising segment and silent auction.

Nearly 750 Jayhawks worldwide participated in the event, which raised \$80,000 from sponsorships and the silent auction to support the Association’s Jayhawk Career Network and the Student Alumni Network, and \$20,000 from the Fund-the-Future portion of the live program to benefit the



Holt

750

Jayhawks raised **\$80,000** to support the Association’s Jayhawk Career Network and the Student Alumni Network.

\$20,000

will benefit the **Campus Cupboard**, which addresses the seriousness of food insecurity and its effect on Jayhawks.



MARCH MEMBER CAMPAIGN

Jayhawks: Consider renewing, purchasing a gift membership or contributing to the Alumni Association as part of the Member Madness campaign. With each membership or contribution you'll earn a point for the KU school of your choice. At the end of the month, the Association will award multiple student scholarships based on the schools with the most points.

Campus Cupboard, which the chancellor selected to highlight the seriousness of food insecurity and its effect on Jayhawks.

According to KU, about one-third of students experience food insecurity, and those needs have only intensified amid the COVID-19 pandemic with the loss of jobs on campus and in the community.

"We deeply appreciate the generosity of KU alumni and friends who contributed financially to the KU Campus Cupboard," says Jennifer Burlingham Wamelink, '03, associate vice provost for Student Affairs and Food for Jayhawks committee member. "Your gifts help the pantry provide students with specific food items, hygiene products and school supplies that meet their unique needs and are particularly meaningful as we prepare for what looks to be another difficult semester for many."

"We are especially proud to support the KU Campus Cupboard to help students who are struggling with food insecurity and hunger," Peterson says. "In addition, these

funds are critical to the Association's efforts to expand industry and career connections between all Jayhawks and significantly enhance the student experience. We are grateful for all event sponsors and Jayhawks who came together during a very challenging time to positively impact thousands of students and alumni."



STEVE PUPPE

ABOVE The Campus Cupboard is located on the 4th level of the Kansas Union and provides food, personal care and kitchen items for students, faculty, staff and affiliates.

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Alumni assets

Jayhawk Career Network joins campus partners to aid students' job search

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S Jayhawk Career Network teamed with KU's University Career Center and other campus and community partners to mark National Mentoring Month in January, hosting a monthlong series of events for students and recent graduates.

Students and alumni flocked to online events like Winter Boot Camp, a three-week program designed by the career center to help senior students launch their job searches; Exploring Graduate School Week, a series of virtual events hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies for students considering graduate school at KU; and webinars that addressed compassionate leadership and remote work wellness for alumni and for students preparing to enter the workforce—part of JCN's mission to offer professional development for Jayhawks at every stage of their career.

The Association also highlighted through social media and emails some of the many alumni who have signed up for KU Mentoring, JCN's online platform that connects students and alumni in



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN YOUNGER/PIXABAY IMAGE

mentorships. The platform matches students and mentors based on personal and professional interest, geographic location and other factors. Featured mentors included Caitlin Ungerer, j'17, a Chicago influence marketing manager; Andrew Linn, u'10, a New York City composer and audio producer; Mercedes Bounthapany, c'18, a diversity, inclusion and equity coordinator at KU; Cora Burgoyne, c'17, g'19, a Denver public health professional; and Brandon Monroe, b'12, an Austin, Texas, digital marketing director.

"We were really pleased with the number of students who attended," says Howard Graham, g'09, PhD'20, director of JCN. Particularly popular were the Career Community Conversations, a series of Zoom events organized around vocational themes such as "educators and helping professionals," "scientists and technologists," and "artists, designers, performers," each featuring a panel of alumni who discussed networking, career preparation, job searching and interviewing tips.

"What I took away is how active and prepared the students were to ask questions, to take notes from our alumni and to learn from their expertise and their experiences," Graham says. "Students were eager to



STEVE PUPPE

ABOVE The Association's Howard Graham and KU's Kim Beeler led the National Mentoring Month collaboration between KUAA and the University Career Center.

participate, and also very thankful—we know that from the notes they left in the chat or simply because they came on the Zoom and said, ‘Thank you for being here; this really means a lot to me.’

“That’s how it should work, right? When you attend KU, one of the greatest assets the University has is its alumni, and what we’re really trying to do is put students into direct contact with those alumni through the mentoring platform and through events like this.”

Kim Madsen Beeler, c’93, j’93, g’99, assistant director of UCC, says alumni networks are integral to the center’s mission to help recent and soon-to-be graduates navigate a job market roiled by uncertainty.

“Students are nervous about entering the work force, especially during a recession,” Beeler says. “They don’t want to hear from career coaches; they want to hear from alumni who are working in their area of interest. The JCN platform made it easy to find successful, student-focused alumni who were willing to help our seniors by graciously offering their time, enthusiasm and professional experience.”

More than 250 students enrolled in Winter Boot Camp, and they heard from 25 alumni and career partners during the Career Community Conversations. Students who participated in breakout tutorials with JCN staff members learned to use the KU Mentoring platform and identified as least two alumni mentors they can potentially connect with. More than 50 students signed up for mock interviews conducted by alumni mentors.

“It is exciting to see the number of Jayhawks who volunteer to give their time, talent, and expertise to our seniors,” Beeler says. “We have an amazing alumni network and they will always play a key role for students who are exploring careers, conducting job searches and growing professionally. One of the most important goals of KU and the UCC is to not only graduate students, but to help them transition successfully. Jayhawk Career Network helps us achieve that goal.”



New Life Members

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

Wayne O. Adkisson
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Brooke Bennett Aziere &
Timothy P. Aziere Jr.
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Lyle L. & Mary L. Boll
Christopher J. & Sara
Kiszka Bristow
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Myron L. Bultman
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Tarin L. Clay
Jeannine M. Cobb
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& Ryan P. Ferares
Thomas L. Cotter
Barb Eggert
Jason S. Endecott
Shawn R. Farmer
& Stephanie A.

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Daniel J. & Kimberly
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Jack W. Fee
Derek R. Fine
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& Deborah H. Fowler
Michael M. & Sara Birk
Gentry
Terese A. Gorman
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Edward Harris
Kendall T. Harris
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Rebecca Dold Holloway
Bruce R. Hopkins
Stuart E. Jenkins
Tyler N. Klug
Steven J. & Sally M. Knoll
Jared D. Lange
John P. & Mallory Leach
Camden J. Leary
Ryan M. Leary

Megan K. Lucas
Andrew S. Maass
Joseph M. & Kendall
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Madison N. Meyer
Yvette Alexander Miceli
Darla McJilton Neal
Edward J. & Sara Watson
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Patranella M. Porter
Andrew M. Reese
Meagan Reichstein
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Jayhawk Profiles



KATHRYN SCHATZ

Cyclist pushes pedals, and limits, as miles pile up

by STEVEN HILL

AS THE DAYS WOUND DOWN on a year filled with grim milestones and dire pandemic warnings, Kathryn Naethe Schartz was wrapping up a personal milestone grounded in determination and good health.

A Lawrence recreational cyclist, Schartz, c’79, g’93, logged 15,000 miles on her bike in 2020, the equivalent of crossing the United States coast-to-coast five times. In the process, the 65-year-old nurse practitioner completed a century ride (a one-day ride of at least 100 miles that is a badge of honor for serious cyclists) 14 times.

“I do like to push it and see, if I’ve set a goal, that I can finish it,” Schartz says. “It’s just a sense of accomplishment. There’s something about seeing what your limits are and trying to push them.”

Pushing limits in 2020 meant, among other challenges, attempting her first solo

“She has a deep appreciation of nature, and every time she’s out on a bike that grows even more,” Maribeth Orr says of her friend Kathryn Schartz, who cycled 15,113 miles in 2020 and pedaled another 817 on an indoor trainer. “That’s been a lot of her fuel.”



STEVE PUPPE (2)

century. She had previously completed 100-mile routes on organized century rides, which typically provide ample rest stops and refreshments along with the added support of traveling in a pack. Never had she done one on her own.

By year’s end she’d gone from none to a dozen—a good indicator of her drive, Schartz admits, laughing. “I’m a little obsessed, I guess.”

Friend and training partner Maribeth Orr, a physician, Ironman triathlete and women’s cycling advocate for Trek Bicycles, says Schartz is in a league of her own. Both she and Schartz are members of a Facebook group, Social Distance Cycling Club, that draws recreational riders from around the world.

“Not many people in that group worldwide put up those kind of numbers,” Orr says of Schartz’s total, which exceeds the average mileage U.S. motorists drive in a year. “There’s always comments, from men and women alike, about, ‘Wow, that’s impressive.’ And if you factor it by age, certainly she’s a standout. She’s probably in the top one to fifth percentile in the world with that type of distance for someone in their seventh decade of life.”

After graduating from KU in 1979 with an English degree, Schartz was in nursing

school when she discovered aerobics and began what would become a decades-long commitment to fitness. In the 1990s she began mountain biking.

“Exercising as much as possible, daily if possible, is something I decided long ago was important for physical health, but also for mental health—it’s a good way to de-stress,” Scharzt says. “Combining exercise with fresh air and countryside was even better.”

Curious about annual rides like Lizard Under the Skillet and Octoginta hosted by the Lawrence Bicycle Club (LBC), she bought a road bike in 2016 and started attending the club’s weekly group rides. A 2017 tour of Tuscany with Trek Travel “completely hooked” her on cycling, and riding with LBC’s Retro group, a cadre of older cyclists, helped build her enthusiasm for the sport.

“A lot of them are in their 70s, and they are some of the strongest riders I’ve ever seen,” Scharzt says. “That helps give me the confidence to keep pushing it. I don’t feel like I’m overachieving by wanting to do long distances or wanting to ride every day, because I see them doing it.”

Scharzt rode every month of 2020, occasionally logging miles on an indoor trainer when snow, ice or lightning made outdoor cycling dicey. Because LBC suspended group rides in response to the COVID pandemic, cycling became mostly a solo activity. At the same time, her potential riding time expanded after COVID temporarily closed the Children’s Mercy Hospital clinic where she worked as a nurse practitioner. She transitioned to doing telehealth appointments at home before retiring in October.

“As much as I like group rides and the social aspects of riding, I also like solo rides because there’s a kind of meditation when I’m out alone and it’s just me and the bike and nature,” Scharzt says. “I’m not someone who can sit still and meditate on purpose, but there’s a kind of inadvertent meditation when I’m on a bike. The answers to some problems just kind of present themselves without my effort.”

In 2018 she summited Mont Ventoux, a storied Tour de France climb that features a 10% grade for 11 miles, and in 2019 completed the Dirty Kanza 100, a grueling gravel century in the Kansas Flint Hills. But most of her daily riding—like her love of cycling—centers on the countryside around Lawrence.

“One thing I really liked this year about being able to ride so much is just watching the seasons change, and how even the countryside that’s so familiar to me has its own beauty as the seasons change. And I get to see it on a bike, close up, in a way I never could from a car. That’s what I love about it.”

ANNIE GOWEN

Storyteller shares heartland sagas with Post’s wide audience

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

A COLD WIND whipped through the prairie as they laid Buck Timmins to rest.

So begins Annie Gowen’s Dec. 9 Washington Post story about a mask debate cleaving Mitchell, South Dakota. While sharing tales of anger, mistrust and even death in the relentless season of pandemic that swept across the northern Plains, Gowen, a national correspondent now in her second year as the Post’s Lawrence-based Midwest bureau chief, also reveals clues about her own world view, including a deeply held belief in the importance of storytelling.

“One of the things that was interesting about my South Dakota story was that a lot of people who read it converted it into subscriptions,” Gowen says. “People still



COURTESY ANNIE GOWEN (2)

Annie Gowen on assignment in New Delhi (left) and Kerala, India (above), during her dream posting as South Asia bureau chief. “I had always wanted to go to India,” she says. “It was an emerging economy at the time and people thought it was going to rival China.”

“A lot of people want to be narrative writers, but not everybody gets the chance. It’s hard for local reporters. They don’t have time, they don’t have the resources, they don’t get the support, they don’t have fancy designers turning your story into a thing of beauty.” —Annie Gowen

want that, whatever goes beyond Twitter or a basic news story.”

Forced to work her way through school after the 1981 death of her father, Tony, for many years a KU professor of freshman-sophomore English, Gowen, c’89, j’89, had little time for the University Daily Kansan, which, in its daily edition heyday, resembled a full-time job for reporters and editors.

Although she spent only one semester as a Kansan copy editor, a course requirement, Gowen headed to Washington, D.C., to chase her goal of someday writing for the Post’s Style section. To gain experience, she first accepted a reporting job with the Washington Times, a conservative newspaper then riding high during George W. Bush’s presidency.

“It was actually an interesting place to work,” Gowen says. “It was a cool place to start, and a lot of people who were there went on to big jobs.”

Gowen left the Times for a two-year feature writing fellowship at the Chicago Tribune and, after gaining additional experience as a Chicago freelancer, she landed her dream gig: The Washington Post.

Sort of.

“I got a job as a cops-and-courts reporter in one of our suburban bureaus, in southern Maryland, about an hour from D.C.,” Gowen says. “At the time, hyperlocal was really big. We had a huge local operation when the paper was owned by the Graham family. That was their thing.”

After applying for every possible opportunity in the prestigious mothership newsroom, Gowen in 1997 finally made her way to the Metro desk—“The Metro editor at the time, Jo-Ann Armao, said, ‘I hired you because you won’t go away’”—and Gowen

settled in for a 16-year run as a news reporter while also eyeing her next goal: a posting in India, a multicultural country that had always tickled her imagination.

Turned down for the South Asia bureau when she finally had an opportunity to apply, Gowen in summer 2011 was instead offered a temporary assignment covering troop drawdowns in Iraq; her savvy as a foreign correspondent verified, the Post in 2013 offered Gowen its post in New Delhi as South Asia bureau chief.

“It’s a dream foreign posting because it’s just such a fascinating country. It’s so multilayered, and I was always fascinated by that,” she says. “To me, it was one of the best places you could go.”

Upon her 2018 return following an award-winning five-year tour, the Post assigned Gowen to its “Team America,” a group of reporters tasked with both enterprise reporting as well as on-site coverage of national events. In 2019, Gowen requested time to explore the plight of farmers snared by collapsing commodities prices triggered by the U.S.-China trade war, and she found three heartbreaking stories in Minnesota: a family trying to save their land after being forced to sell their dairy herd, a woman whose husband took his life in the face of financial ruin, and a farmer forced to live on food stamps.

“When I got back to the U.S., I wanted to get back to my true love, which is narrative writing,” Gowen says. “So they were able to give me the time to do the farmer series, which I think was well received.”

When editors asked Gowen to open a Midwest office ahead of the 2020 election season, she happily accepted, in part to be close to her mother, longtime Lawrence therapist Marianne Gowen, g’84—with

whom Gowen got to spend the final seven months of Marianne’s life before her passing in April 2020—and also to be at the heart of the action as enthusiastic citizens across the political spectrum began rallying behind their candidates.

And then came 2020.

“I was sent here to write about Trump’s America,” Gowen says, “and I have done that, but it became about the pandemic. And, it became about the racial divide. I never would have thought when I came here that that would be a prime focus, but the Midwest has these deep, deep scars.”

Also unexpected was her reception when she ventured into pro-Trump rural communities, where she worried about interviewing Americans distrustful, at best, of reporters from coastal news outlets.

“Sometimes people joke about it,” Gowen says of the anti-media stereotype, “but they’re always, 99.9 percent, very welcoming. I’ve had some very conservative farmers welcome me into their homes. When I did the mask debate, everybody on the other side was very patient about talking to me. I think they sense that I’m a down-to-earth person.”

Eager to continue honing her storytelling craft while riding out social restrictions in Lawrence, Gowen fell into the habit of writing three longhand pages first thing each morning, as prescribed by creative guru Julia Cameron, and “refilling the well” by reading great books by gifted writers. She hopes to one day return to foreign reporting, and she’s trying her hand at screenplays, but Gowen is mainly focused on her here and now, sharing stories of her native Midwest with readers unlikely to ever enjoy the opportunity of her access.

“A lot of people want to be narrative writers, but not everybody gets the chance,” Gowen says. “It’s hard for local reporters. They don’t have time, they don’t have the resources, they don’t get the support, they don’t have fancy designers turning your story into a thing of beauty. I think a lot of journalists aspire to that, and I did, also; it just took a long time to get to this level, to work at a place that supports this kind of journalism.”



ELISE PATRICK

Alumna coaches pets by coaxing their owners

by HEATHER BIELE

ELISE PATRICK FIRST DISCOVERED her passion for animal behavior and dog training five years ago as a volunteer at the Lawrence Humane Society. A part-time job in administrative support at KU allowed her to spend hours at the shelter each week, shadowing the behavior manager and conducting classes alongside her.

“Every chance we got we were talking about training and behavior,” recalls Patrick, g’10, “and I realized, ‘Oh my gosh, I could probably do this as a career and actually make a living at it.’”

Patrick was already leaps and bounds ahead of the pack, having studied sociology and psychology as an undergraduate at Baker University before earning her master’s degree in higher education at KU, all of which provided foundational skills that

could easily be applied not only to humans but also to four-legged creatures.

“Behavior is behavior, regardless of the species,” she says. “The other thing about dog training is that it’s really teaching people. It has very little to do with dogs when it all comes down to it. When you’re teaching group classes, you have to find a way to communicate with people so that they can then communicate with, and train, their dogs. I really think all of my career in administrative support at KU, and certainly my higher education degree, contributed to that.”

After developing basic dog training skills as an apprentice under several local professionals, Patrick completed a week-long, intensive course at Peaceable Paws Academy in Fairplay, Maryland, taught by renowned trainer Pat Miller. In 2018 Patrick earned her Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed credentials, which require at least 300 hours of training experience and successful completion of a written exam. She moved from Lawrence to the small port community of Astoria,



ABOVE Elise Patrick and her 4-year-old Goldendoodle, Millie, work on their training skills at Lawrence’s Wagmore Canine Enrichment, where Patrick teaches basic manners courses for dogs of all ages.

Oregon, where she opened her own dog training facility. “I happened upon a retail space that was just perfect for what I wanted to do,” she says. “I was open about a year

before COVID hit, and the rest is history.”

Patrick returned to Kansas last year and landed a position at Wagmore Canine Enrichment in Lawrence, which is owned by fellow Jayhawks and trainers Jerri Johnson, c’95, and Jeannene Loewenstein, d’83, g’88. In December she enrolled in the popular Karen Pryor Academy, which offers a six-month online training course that culminates with an in-person workshop in June, hosted by Wagmore. The comprehensive program covers modern behavior and training methods, including the use of clickers, a proven technique that conditions dogs to associate a desirable behavior with a crisp sound and a reward, most often a treat. It’s one of many tools Patrick uses as a positive reinforcement trainer, also known as a fear-free or force-free trainer.

“We’re getting behavior; we’re not punishing behavior,” she explains. “We’re not using any type of chains or prongs or electronic shock to get our dogs to behave. We’re using what we know to be the best way to help animals give behavior, which is by reinforcing it so that they get good consequences. And in the case of dogs, food is a good consequence.”

Patrick teaches the Puppy Start Right and Surviving Adolescence classes as well as a Basic Manners course for those with dogs 6 months and older. At Wagmore’s daycare facility, she coaches pups who need extra help with their socialization and training skills. She rounds out her workweek by teaching group classes on Sundays at Camo Cross Dog Training in Topeka.

Patrick admits that her biggest challenge isn’t necessarily the furry critters she helps train—it’s their owners. “In our society now, we just want quick fixes,” she says. “The biggest complaint that we as positive reinforcement trainers get is that it’s not happening fast enough. So, communicating with people in a way that makes sense to them and that we can get buy-in is a challenge. The rewarding part of that, though, is seeing those who do buy in and say, ‘Oh yeah, this is awesome. This is a great way to train my dog.’”

AQIB TALIB

Former NFL star brings welcome new voice to FOX broadcast booth

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

ROOKIE ANNOUNCERS, even famous former players, parade through NFL broadcast booths every season, most riding out forgettable stints calling the games they once played before being shown the door, never to be heard from again. Nothing about Aqib Talib is ever forgettable, as KU football fans well know, and Talib’s rookie season as an analyst for national FOX Sports broadcasts was no exception.

“It feels honest, Aqib,” sportscasting legend Dan Patrick told Talib, ’09, in their Dec. 22 interview. “That’s probably the best compliment I can give you. It feels honest in what you’re telling me when you’re breaking things down.”

In his Dec. 21 podcast, recorded shortly after Talib’s second broadcast of the season, the Dec. 20 Eagles-Cardinals game, podcast kingpin Bill Simmons lauded Talib as “our hero, the hero 2020 needed,” and told his handicapping sidekick “Cousin Sal” Iacono, “I thought [Talib] was excellent today. I’m all in. Can we get him for Monday Night Football?”

“Really?” replied Cousin Sal. “I can’t tell if you’re kidding.”



COURTESY AQIB TALIB

“I’m in,” Simmons said. “I am not kidding. I love Aqib Talib.”

“I saw the outfit,” answered Iacono. “He went all out.”

Talib’s super-sharp Christmas-themed suit did, indeed, make headlines, but so did his natural voice, which drew praise from Yahoo Sports columnist Shalise Manza Young: “The reality is that for a not-small population of football fans, Talib marks the first time they’ve heard someone who sounds like them in a broadcast booth. He’s quite literally speaking their language—Black English, or as it’s called by academics, African American Vernacular English, the vernacular developed by Black Americans over centuries.”

Speaking with *Kansas Alumni* from his Dallas home, Talib explained that the natural style that won over critics and fans alike was no accident. For one thing, he wouldn’t have considered doing it otherwise—“I don’t need to do this to feed my family. I just do it for staying around the game”—but FOX Sports also encouraged him to embrace his authentic voice. His producer on the Dec. 20 game even wrote out on a flip chart, in capital letters and exclamation points, “QI BE QI!”

Don’t be Joe Buck; don’t be Troy Aikman, Talib was instructed. They have enough of both.

We all have enough of both.

“They’re coaching me to be myself,” Talib says, “so that must be what FOX wants. FOX must want that new voice. That must be why they came to me. They know I’ll keep it as real as possible.”

Talib, MVP of KU’s 2008 Orange Bowl, finished his potentially Hall of Fame NFL career after the 2019 season, and promptly became a popular analyst for the NFL Network, starting with guest stints on the network’s set at the Super Bowl in Miami, site of his collegiate triumph. Talib had yet to announce his decision to retire, but an appearance on the podcast “Inside the Green Room with Danny Green” caught the attention of co-host Harrison Sanford, who approached Talib about starting his own podcast.

Talib agreed, and announced on the debut episode of “Call to the Booth” that he was officially retired. Now teamed with Sanford, the duo immediately sounded like old buddies from Houston.

Not so. They never knew each other until intersecting on Green’s show.

“That’s one of my talents,” Talib says of his easy-going charisma. “Put me with anybody, man, and we’ll make it work.”

Enscathed with a home theatre outfitted with a fleet of flat-screen TVs, Talib says he was perfectly content watching games on Sundays and talking about the action on his podcast, while leaving plenty of room for coaching his 7-year-old son, Jabril, and three nephews in youth football. When FOX approached him about a tryout, he was intrigued enough to record a demo tape, but didn’t give it much thought one way or the other.

“The next thing I know, they called and said they wanted to sign me to a three-game-max deal,” Talib says. “Then it took two months for the paperwork to come

through. It wasn’t even real to me yet.”

It got real in early November, when FOX hailed Talib for the Nov. 15 Washington-Detroit game. Featuring two uninspiring teams, Talib’s debut garnered just enough notice for fans and critics to anticipate his return, which came a month later in Arizona, where Talib’s call of a spectacular TD catch by DeAndre Hopkins became a highlight reel of its own, widely appreciated by fans happy to hear analysis by an ebullient defensive star rather than the usual staid former quarterback.

“It’s kind of surreal to me,” Talib says, “because I didn’t go out pursuing it. It kind of just fell upon me. I’m trying to just do.”

Talib says he’s been in regular contact with his FOX producers since the season ended, and he anticipates that he’ll be invited back for 2021—which would be a delight, he insists, if for no other reason than the opportunity to continue demonstrating to children of color that there’s a place for their voice on TV, too.

“I hear kids, ‘Qi, I heard you call the game!’ and that definitely puts a smile on my face,” he says. “They know exactly where I’m from. They know Qi is just being himself. That’s what it does, more than anything. It gives the inner-city kids the confidence to be themselves and go do what you want to do.”

BELOW Aqib Talib intercepting a Virginia Tech pass in the 2008 Orange Bowl and celebrating his 2018 induction in KU football’s Ring of Honor.

STEVIE PUPPE (2)



1943 Laurie Russell, c'43, celebrated his 100th birthday in January. He served in World War II and later enjoyed a long career designing power plants as a consulting engineer in Kansas City and Omaha, Nebraska. He makes his home in Prairie Village and has three children, one of whom is **Annette Russell Zimmerman**, c'72, c'73; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

1958 Robert Terrill, b'58, lives in Overland Park, where he wrote *Becoming Human: A Lifelong Metamorphosis*, which was published in November.

1961 David Britton, c'61, recently published his first book, *The Best Senior Trivia Book*. He makes his home in Bellingham, Washington.

1962 Larry Jecha, c'62, m'66, lives in Richland, Washington, where he's the health officer for Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and also serves Garfield and Columbia counties. He recently was named interim health officer for Yakima County.

1963 Hoite Caston, c'63, lives in Independence, where he owns Hoite Caston Productions.

1968 Jim Connelly, d'68, g'72, is a metalsmith and owns Silver Works & More, an online jewelry shop. He and **Cara Russell Connelly**, f'71, live in Lawrence, where they first opened a brick-and-mortar store on Mass Street in 1974 and enjoyed retail space for 35 years before taking their business online.

1969 David Mikami, p'69, is a pharmacist and owns Molokai Drugs in Kaunakakai, Hawaii.

Kenneth Ruthenberg, b'69, is a shareholder attorney at Employee Benefits Law Group in Folsom, California. He lives in Gold River.

1970 Carol Engler Stevenson, p'70, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Maryland Pharmacists Association and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations for outstanding community service. She and **Todd**, e'70, make their home in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

1971 J. Hannah, d'71, is a partner at iDredge, a water solutions company in Louisburg.

1972 Scot Foster, c'72, n'74, h'76, PhD'84, retired as academic vice president and provost at Samuel Merritt

University in Oakland, California.

Romalyn Eisenstark Tilghman, c'72, g'74, who wrote *To the Stars Through Difficulties*, a 2018 Kansas Notable Book of the Year, lives in Los Angeles and is working on a second novel set in New Hope and Prairie Hill.

1973 Jim Modig, a'73, retired in January as University architect, a position he had held since 2011. He previously served as director of design and construction management for 30 years. During his tenure, Jim oversaw KU's \$350 million Central District project as well as the reconstruction of Jayhawk Boulevard and Memorial Drive, the construction of Capitol Federal Hall and the renovation of Spencer Museum of Art, among other projects.

1974 Chris Carver, a'74, founding senior principal at Populous in Kansas City, in November was named to Sports Business Journal's 2020 list of Power Players: Leaders and Innovators in Design and Development. Chris also directs design for the firm's sports and public assembly facilities.

Anne Lolley, b'74, l'77, works at Bank Management Services and conducts webinars for Kansas bankers. She makes her home in Topeka.

Eugene McCall, e'74, l'84, PhD'90, is president and CEO of McCall Environmental in Greenville, South Carolina.

1975 Douglas Merrill, c'75, m'78, is chief medical officer at St. Charles Health in Bend, Oregon.

Don Nottberg, c'75, owns Elite Feet in Leawood. He and **Leslie Goldstein Nottberg**, '78, live in Overland Park.

1976 Rusty Clark, j'76, retired in December and closed his family's fourth-generation business, Thorpe & Co. Jewelers, which opened in 1900 and was the oldest retailer in Sioux City, Iowa. He and his wife, **Karen Bloom Clark**, d'76, had run the store for decades.

1977 Fred Conboy, c'77, is CEO and president of Amar-gosa Opera House in Death Valley, California.

Mark Denison, c'77, m'80, is professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology and director of the division of pediatric infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. In October he received the Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association.

Joseph France, p'77, g'80, lives in Lenox, Massachusetts,

School Codes

- a** School of Architecture and Design
- b** School of Business
- c** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- d** School of Education and Human Sciences
- 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

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where he retired as managing director of Caxton Pynson.

Steven Miller, c'77, PhD'83, is an executive at Sandia Biotech in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Galen Oelkers, b'77, g'78, stepped down as president of the Zeist Company in March 2020 and transitioned to a part-time role as chief investment officer for the company and its foundation. He lives in Sandy Springs, Georgia, where he also serves as director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and volunteers on several community boards and committees.

Marjorie Rothschild, g'77, g'80, is assistant professor in the department of natural sciences at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, where she makes her home with her husband, Lewis Coons.

1978 John Anderson, e'78, retired as director of the Office of Regulation and International Engagement at the U.S. Department of Energy. He lives in Centreville, Virginia.

Trish Rose, l'78, is a judge on the 27th Judicial District. She was among 13 judges in October who joined the Kansas Supreme Court to hear cases on the court's dockets.

1979 Paula Woolworth, h'79, retired senior vice president at GAB Robins and MedInsights, in October received the 2020 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association. She makes her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her wife, **Deborah**, assoc.

1980 Jeff Elder, b'80, l'83, in October was appointed chief judge of the 2nd Judicial

District by the Kansas Supreme Court.

Jay Hinrichs, c'80, g'83, is president and general manager of the Kansas City Baseball Club, formerly known as the Kansas City T-Bones. He lives in Overland Park.

Mike James, p'80, manages scientific publications at Grifols in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Suzanne.

Christopher Reynolds, c'80, l'84, is an education paraprofessional in the Shawnee Mission School District. He and **Abigail Morris Reynolds**, n'82, a registered nurse at HCA Midwest, live in Overland Park.

1981 Mavis Carroll-Emory, c'81, owns Creative Management, a human resources consulting firm in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Patricia Weems Gaston, j'81, was honored in November at the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools' "Reasons to Believe" virtual event, which celebrates alumni for their accomplishments and life stories. Pat, a Kansas City native, is a KU professor of journalism after her long career as an editor at The Washington Post and the Dallas Morning News, where she shared a Pulitzer Prize for international stories on violence against women.

Brenda Press Harden, j'81, is a real estate agent at Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes. She lives in Mission Hills.

Lynelle Baba Pierce, n'81, in October received

the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association. She's a clinical assistant professor at the KU School of Nursing.

Roxann Hargrave Ward, j'81, wrote *Color-Rich Gardening for the South: A Guide for All Seasons*, which will be published in March by the University of North Carolina Press. She's a garden designer and owns Roxann Ward Designs in Senoia, Georgia.

1982 Stanford Felix, f'82, DMA'08, wrote *Beautiful Singing: A Singer's Guide to Improving the Voice*, which was published in November. He is founder and former executive director of Kansas Concert Opera and Minnesota Concert Opera, and he continues to concertize and teach voice lessons in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

James Kindscher, m'82, professor of anesthesiology at KU Medical Center, in December was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

1983 Dee Ahuja, c'83, m'87, is CEO of UnityPoint Accountable Care and interim medical director of quality for UnityPoint Clinic. He lives in Rock Island, Illinois.

Tracy Ashlock, d'83, works in technical marketing and sales management at Combined Resource Solutions in Vancouver, Washington.

Michael Cummings, a'83, e'83, a renowned architect who specializes in movie theatre design, in November received the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the

Cinema Technology Community. He and his wife, Pamela Miller, also were honored by KU Endowment and Children's Mercy Hospital with the Legacy Giving Partnership Award for establishing an estate gift that will fund an endowed program at the hospital as well as several initiatives at KU.

Brad Daniels, c'83, owns Windtrax Inc., a carwash equipment supplier in Mission.

Rajiv Kumar, m'83, m'86, lives in Agoura Hills, California, where he's a psychiatrist.

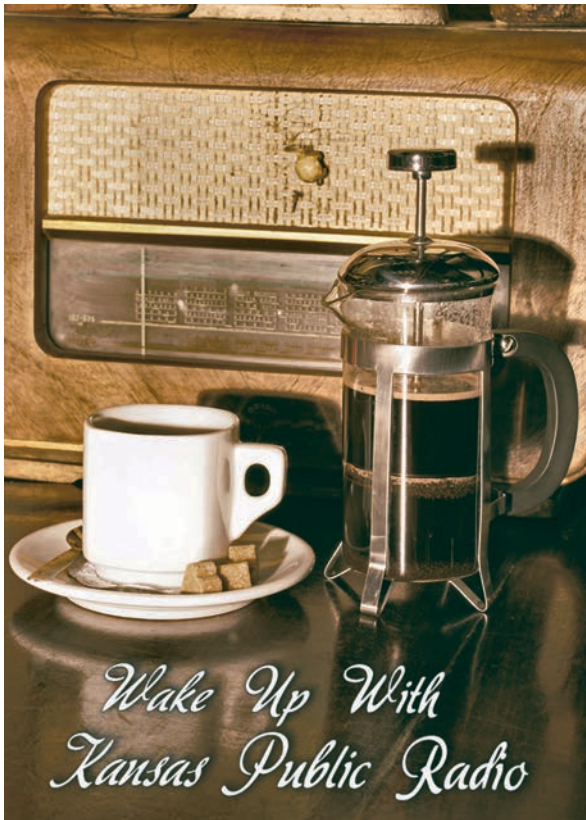
Joseph Moore, c'83, retired as senior management analyst at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., where he worked for the foresight, strategic planning and risk management service. He makes his home in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Sam Murray, b'83, retired in May after a nearly 30-year career in sales and marketing with Koch Industries. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Andover and have two children, one of whom is **Jacob**, c'18.

Rodger Payne, c'83, is professor of political science and an associated faculty member with film studies and production at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Francis Wardle, PhD'83, lives in Denver, where he recently wrote an article about his late wife, Ruth, which was featured in the fall 2020 issue of Chokma Magazine, a publication of the Chickasaw Nation. His ninth book, *Oh Boy!*, was published in 2018 by Exchange Press.

1984 Diana Butler, j'84, lives in Mission, where she's



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a senior paralegal specialist at the U.S. Department of Defense.

Charles Jehle, b'84, '97, directs revenue accounting at T-Mobile USA in Overland Park, where he makes his home with **Janet Perkins Jehle**, c'83, g'85.

Mike, e'84, g'93, and **Teri Leckie Kelly**, b'83, live in Mickleton, New Jersey, where they recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. Mike is vice president of strategic learning and development at ChristianaCare Health System in Newark, Delaware. They have three sons, two of whom are Jayhawks, **Taylor**, b'12, and **Mitchell**, e'18.

Marcy Stonefield Nemeth, c'84, is senior principal engineer for technical support at RSA Security. She lives in

Overland Park with her husband, Scott.

Melissa Taylor Standridge, b'84, in November was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the Kansas Supreme Court. She had served on the Kansas Court of Appeals since 2008.

1985 Joseph Hung-Gai Lun, b'85, owns the International Medical Company in Kowloon, Hong Kong. He and **Woan-Yung Yap**, p'86, a pharmacist, live in Tai Hang.

Jeffrey Stanton, b'85, is executive vice president at Labconco Corp in Kansas City. He and **Sarah Hannah Stanton**, b'85, who directs administration at the Kansas City Sports Commission, live in Overland Park.

Andrea Mitchell Walsh, b'85, c'85, is president and CEO of HealthPartners in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is on the board of Electromed.

1986 Lisa Stormes "LS" Hawker, j'86, is the author of the thrillers *The Drowning Game*, *Body and Bone*, *End of the Road* and *The Throwaways*. *The Drowning Game* is a USA Today bestseller and finalist in the ITW Thriller Awards in the Best First Novel category.

Jamsheed Mehta, g'86, directs development services for the city of Glendale, Arizona.

Mark Reiske, a'86, director of facilities planning and development at KU, in January also was named University architect. He has been with KU for 31 years and replaces **Jim Modig**, a'73, who retired.

Paul Winslow, f'86, lives in Arlington, Virginia, where he's senior account manager at Opus Interactive.

Felicia Drury Wright, c'86, is deputy director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's American Indian Environmental Office in Washington, D.C. She recently started at the EPA's Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains in Denver.

1987 Frederick Breidt, PhD'87, is a microbiologist with the United States Department of Agriculture at North Carolina State University. In October he was honored with the 2020 Technical Achievement Award from the Association for Dressings and Sauces.

Brad Proctor, e'87, manages national sales at IBM Corp. He lives in Overland Park.

Bill Sequeira, g'87, PhD'89, lives in El Dorado Hills, California, where he's CEO of Alida Inc., a data technology firm.

1988 Robin Hales Johnson, b'88, is senior manager of global real estate operations at Salesforce in San Francisco.

Jeffery Keeling, c'88, manages North American sales and marketing at Brokk, a manufacturer of remote-controlled demolition machines. He lives in Olathe.

Mary Schuler, c'88, owns Gobo Marketing Services in Kansas City.

1989 Jeffrey Davies, e'89, lives in Peoria, Illinois, where he's drivetrain chief engineer at Caterpillar.

Andrew Eilert, b'89, is president of Evernorth Healthcare.

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He and **Stephanie Digman Eilert**, b'90, live in Leawood.

Paula Dechant Robison, j'89, lives in San Diego, where she's president and CEO of Golden Rule Charity.

David Snell, c'89, is an actor who has appeared several television series, including "The Shield" and "The Unit." He lives in Van Nuys, California.

Michael Werner, j'89, teaches language arts at Shawnee Heights High School in Topeka, where he lives with **Michelle Deitrick Werner**, h'89, g'06.

Michael Wetson, b'89, owns Inscio, a Netsuite consulting company in Plano, Texas.

1990 Dana Brown, '90, is partner and manager of technical alliances at Panzura. She

lives in Aliso Viejo, California.

Andrew Fox, c'90, is president of Ingevity's Asia-Pacific division and vice president of performance materials. He's based in Shanghai, China.

Jill Jess, j'90, is the onsite communications manager for FleishmanHillard's client General Motors. She lives in Lawrence.

Mark McCormick, '90, in October was appointed by Gov. Laura Kelly to the Kansas African American Affairs Commission. He directs strategic communications at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas.

Guy Rupp, g'90, retired from IBM in Austin, Texas.

Elaine Sung, '90, is sports editor at The Daily Memphian. Previously she was deputy sports editor at Detroit Free

Press and digital editor at The Blade in Toledo, Ohio. She lives with her partner, Will, in Memphis, Tennessee.

1991 Scott Branton, a'91, is a quality assurance specialist at Hollis + Miller Architects in Kansas City.

Theresa Pettersch Larsen, b'91, manages investor relations at Jubilee REACH in Bellevue, Washington.

Angela Jacobson Watson, b'91, is president of enterprise sales at UPS in Atlanta. She makes her home in Marietta, Georgia.

1992 Jason Glidden, c'92, lives in Overland Park, where he's managing director at U.S. Bancorp Asset Management.

Stef Taunton Hanna, c'92, is a financial planning assistant

at Heart Financial Partners in Topeka.

Andrew Schefter, c'92, is executive vice president and head of production at Sentient Entertainment in Los Angeles. He and **Erika Ostertag Schefter**, b'93, who directs revenue management at Royal Caribbean Cruises, live in Miami.

Michael Schwartz, b'92, is CEO of Specialty Dental Brands in Nashville, Tennessee.

1993 Denise Scott Geelhart, c'93, created and produces the true crime podcast, "Murderous Roots," which first went live in July 2020. She makes her home in Bloomington, Illinois.

Michael Gremillion, c'93, directs the Alabama Water

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1. Retrieved on January 5, 2021 from onlineu.com/degrees/masters-sports-management

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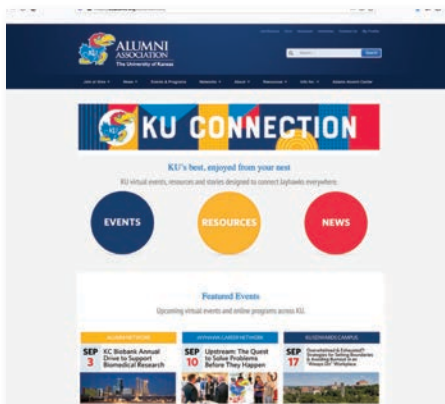
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Institute at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Stephen Maceli, g'93, g'95, owns Maceli's Banquet Hall & Catering in Lawrence, where he makes his home.

John Thywissen, c'93, lives in Austin, Texas, where he recently earned his PhD in computer science from the University of Texas.

Rex Walters, d'93, is assistant coach of the New Orleans Pelicans professional basketball team. He was a guard at KU from 1991 to '93 and helped lead the Jayhawks to the Final Four during his senior year.

1994 Derek Brown, c'94, l'97, is a U.S. Army colonel and staff judge advocate in San Antonio.

Denise Gabel-Comeau, c'94, directs quality and patient safety at Mountain Health Network in Huntington, West Virginia.

Debra Pierce, PhD'94, is a neuropsychologist at Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Bobbi Rahder, g'94, '17, is museum director at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center in Carson City, Nevada.

Molly Wilder Stephens, b'94, is a project manager at Foley Equipment in Kansas City.

Matthew Vaughan, a'94, is executive director of Ministry Leadership Initiative Inc. in Prairie Village, where he lives with his wife, Amy.

1997 Jenifer Naaf

Ashford, l'97, a magistrate judge on the 10th Judicial Court in Johnson County, was elected president of the Kansas Magistrate Judges Association.

Drew Carter, b'97, lives in St. Louis, where he's president of Maritz Motivation.

1998 Becky Nicholas

Lowry, d'98, m'03, is associate professor of internal medicine at KU Medical Center. In October she received the Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumna Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association.

Amber Shultz, c'98, g'17, g'18, on Feb. 1 was named secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor by

Gov. Laura Kelly, pending Senate confirmation.

Kimberly Friedrichsen Simms, c'98, is chief customer officer at Planful. She lives in Littleton, Colorado.

1999 Adrienne Goodwin, a'99, owns Construct Design in Portland, Oregon.

Ryan Jones, c'99, lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he's a physician at UCHealth.

Paul Pierce, '99, will be inducted in the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in November. The consensus All-American was a forward for the Jayhawks from 1995 to '98 and was drafted in 1998 by the Boston Celtics, where he became a 10-time NBA All-Star and 2008 NBA

champion. Affectionately known as “The Truth,” he played 19 seasons in the NBA before retiring in 2018.

Paul Voiles, e’99, is managing director of transportation at Binkley & Barfield in Houston, where he lives with **Lisa Bessinger Voiles**, e’01, an engineer at KBR.

2000 Stacy Abernathy, j’00, g’10, is a pharmacy relationships manager at the National Healthcare Association in Leawood.

Robert Bishop, b’00, is senior director of quality reporting at Cerner in Kansas City. He lives in Prairie Village.

Leslie Peterson Reardon, b’00, c’00, works in business development at Veracity Consulting in Overland Park.

Devon Reese, l’00, in November was elected City Councilmember At-Large in Reno, Nevada, where he makes his home.

2001 Neda Karimi, m’01, is an ophthalmologist at Elander Eye Care in Santa Monica, California.

Jeffery Lichtenhan, c’01, g’03, PhD’07, assistant professor of otolaryngology at Washington University in St. Louis, in October received the Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumnus Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association.

Christopher Stoppel, b’01, g’02, directs budget and financial planning at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. He makes his home in Broomfield, Colorado.

2002 Kathryn Thomas Alsbrook, c’02, is an associate attorney at Dysart Taylor Cot-

ter McMonigle & Montemore in Kansas City. She specializes in personal injury and discrimination claims.

Rich Federico, l’02, is an assistant federal public defender for the District of Kansas in Topeka. He and his wife, **Ann Premer**, j’99, l’02, live in Lawrence and have two daughters, Emilia and Elizabeth.

Jonathan Gilmore, c’02, is of counsel attorney at Dysart Taylor Cotter McMonigle & Montemore in Kansas City. His practice focuses on estate planning and administration.

Maura Klein, c’02, manages housing at the Ohio Department of Medicaid. She lives in Columbus with her husband, Brandon Sturgill.

Michelle Miles Lang, b’02, director of alumni programs at the KU Alumni Association, was selected in December to participate in the University’s 2020-’21 Staff Fellows Program.

Erik Roesh, c’02, is a franchise recruitment manager at Shell USA and Jiffy Lube International in Houston.

2003 Katharine Williams Arroyo, j’03, wrote *For Better or Cursed*, which was published in December by Delacorte Press. It’s the second book in her young adult series *The Babysitters Coven*. Kate and her family recently moved to Lawrence from California.

Kyle Hunt, b’03, is national account manager at Axalta Coating Systems in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania.

Jason Lehtinen, g’03, founded 35 North Capital, an investment management firm in Overland Park.

2004 Trevor Chipman, b’04, manages global marketing of disposable respirators at 3M. He and his wife, **Nicole**, assoc., who also works at 3M, live in Hudson, Wisconsin, with their two sons, Henry and Luke.

Scott Huizenga, g’04, is director of management and budget for the city of San Antonio.

Paul Shoulberg, c’04, a freelance director and screenwriter, recently participated in a video discussion on the indie filmmaking process. His films include 2017’s “The Good Catholic” and “Ms. White Light,” which was released in 2019.

Thomas Toler, g’04, a retired U.S. Army colonel, is executive director of the Georgia Cyber Center at Augusta University. He makes his home in Evans, Georgia.

Ryan Voth, c’04, m’11, lives in Topeka, where he’s a psychiatrist at Stormont Vail Health.

Kristen Baranek Whitacre, b’04, is an internal audit senior manager at PNC Bank. She and **Micah**, e’04, g’11, live in Olathe.

2005 Jennifer Goetz, ’05, is a crisis case manager at Valeo Behavioral Health in Topeka, where she lives with her partner, **Mark Aaron**, assoc., a prevention and control specialist for the EPA in Lenexa.

Lisa Schmitz, g’05, manages public relations for Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa.

2006 Ian Bradt, e’06, g’11, is senior program manager at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies in Kansas City, where he makes

his home with his husband, Josh Hollingsworth.

Born to:

Jeremy, b’06, g’12, and **Rebecca Mann Allen**, f’08, son, Luke, April 15, in Kansas City, where he joins a brother, Leo, who recently turned 4.

2007 Kevin Berman, b’07, g’08, is a partner at Richey May and leads the firm’s governance, risk and compliance service. He’s based in Los Angeles.

Ryan Brumbaugh, c’07, is a senior geophysicist at Mundell & Associates in Indianapolis.

Chris Leitenberger, e’07, lives in Renton, Washington, where he’s an engineer at Blue Origin.

Lauren Marino, c’07, l’10, is an attorney for the United States Postal Service in Washington, D.C.

Marisa Spoonhunter Mendoza, s’07, is director of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. She has two daughters, Devon and Julia.

Rachel Case Oracki, b’07, is a mortgage planner at Blackhawk Bank in Rockford, Illinois.

Kevin O’Rourke, m’07, lives in Kansas City, where he’s a physician at University Health Physicians.

Matthew Pauly, g’07, is an architect at Gould Evans. He lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, **Jessica**, assoc.

Stacie Kramer Rolfingsmeier, c’07, is a senior portfolio management expert at Swiss Re in Kansas City. She and **Cort**, c’05, a public defender in Johnson County, live in Lenexa and have two children, Rylie and Nolan.



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Caitlin Ungerer

*Influencer Marketing Manager
Octagon, Chicago*

Caitlin Ungerer, j'17, works as an influencer marketing manager. As a student at KU, Caitlin majored in journalism, and her post-grad plan was to start a career in broadcast. "As senior year rolled around," she says, "I wasn't passionate enough about news to pursue a long-term career. This was a scary but freeing realization!" Her mentor guided her to a fellowship at Octagon, a sports and entertainment marketing agency, which turned into a full-time position.

Her advice for students — "In the hustle and bustle of college, and really just life, it's easy to simply go through the motions but you never know when a connection you made months or even years ago could pop back up in your life and impact you! Take the time to slow down and have meaningful conversations. You won't regret it."



Brandon Monroe

*Digital Marketing Director
Notley Ventures, Austin, Texas*

Brandon Monroe, b'12, is a data-driven (and sports-loving) marketer sitting at the intersection of search and storytelling. He is always happy to connect with fellow Jayhawks.

Being a Jayhawk was influential in his establishing connections when he relocated to Texas following graduation. He joined a circle of KU co-workers who became family. He also leveraged his alma mater for introductions to local business leaders, who have enhanced his career.

His career advice is, "Network, network, network! Use LinkedIn to find an internship with a company/industry you're interested in. Connect with your local alumni chapter on Facebook, and grab a coffee with a fellow Jayhawk."



Cora Burgoyne

*Health Professional
Denver, Colorado*

Cora Burgoyne, c'17 g'19, is a public health professional dedicated to improving public health outcomes in our communities. She is currently serving as a COVID-19 Emergency Response Project Manager.

Through mentoring, Cora can assist with internship and job strategies, navigating graduate school, mock interviews, and more.

Her main advice for students is to say yes to every opportunity, especially if there is uncertainty about a career path. "College is a lower-stakes environment to truly explore and get involved in a variety of activities. By saying yes to opportunities, you may be able to figure out what really interests you and what your passions are."

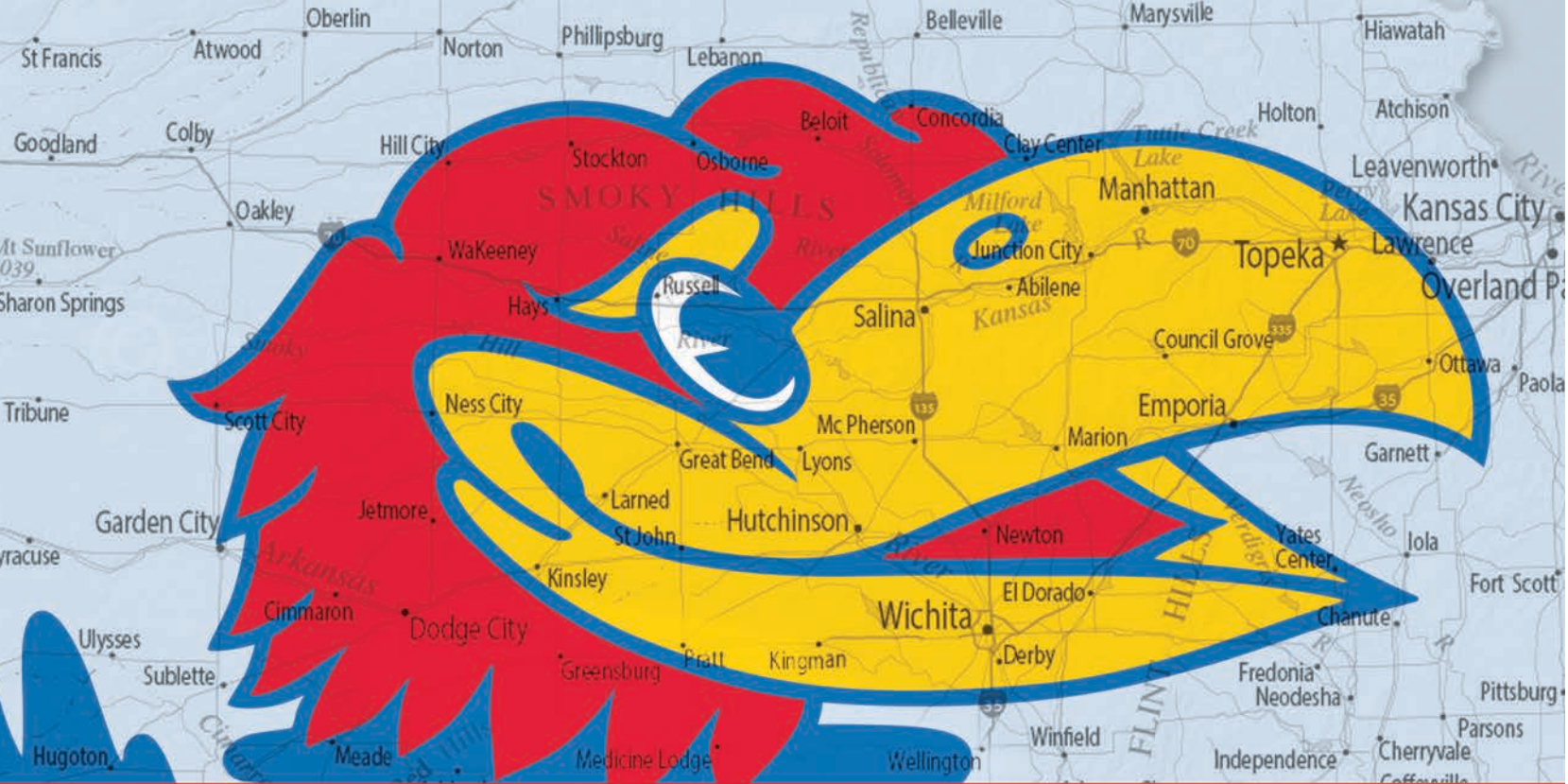
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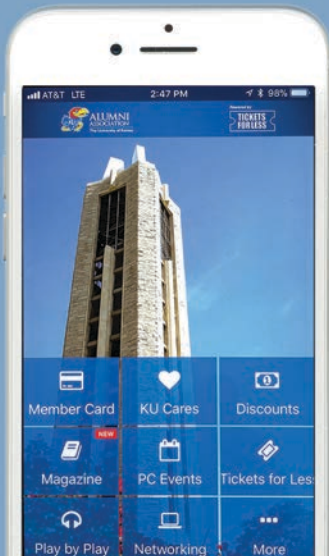
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Kyle Ver Steeg, m'07, is a plastic surgeon at Mercyhealth Galleria Dermatology and Plastic Surgery in Loves Park, Illinois.

2008 Julie Hayes, g'08, is senior growth success manager at Klaviyo, a software company. She and her husband, Jeff Peden, make their home in Scituate, Massachusetts.

Kesa Swadley Herlihy, n'08, PhD'17, a clinical assistant professor of nursing at KU Medical Center, in October received the 2020 Early Career Achievement in Nursing Alumna Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association.

Matthew Mawby, c'08, makes his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he's an

attorney at Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan.

Neva Sedorcek Thiessen, g'08, is an elementary education liaison at Wichita State University.

Chance York, c'08, is an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Married

Austin Schenkel, c'08, to Maddie Morrell, Oct. 24 in Dallas, where he is a principal at DBA Commercial Real Estate.

2009 Andrew Clark, j'09, g'14, lives in Overland Park, where he's a digital marketing manager at Amazon Web Services.

Katherine Haug-Myers, c'09, is partner at Edelman, Liesen & Myers in Kansas City.

Jacob Hill, b'09, leads product management and development for mobility and 5G at AT&T in Dallas.

Benjamin Jones, PhD'09, is state historian and director of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre. He previously served as the state's secretary of education.

Bertram Lyons, g'09, is partner and managing director of software development at AVP. He and **Lisa Rausch**, g'06, PhD'13, an associate researcher at the University of Wisconsin, live in Madison and have two children, Delia and Winslow.

Christopher Vague, c'09, '10, directs marketing at GlaxoSmithKline. He and **Rachel Ernst Vague**, c'06, live in Raleigh, North Carolina, and have three children, Logan, Hattie and Emma.

Gino Rea Zanabria, e'09, g'11, is a senior FPGA engineer at Vecima Networks. He makes his home in San Jose, California.

2010 Dalena McGrew, g'10, lives in Shawnee, where she's senior director of finance and operations at the Military Family Advisory Network.

Ayesha Mehdi, l'10, g'10, is an attorney and partner at Spencer Fane in Las Vegas. She recently became vice chair of the American Bar

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Association Health Law Section's coordinating committee on diversity and the healthcare fraud and compliance interest group.

Nathan Miller, c'10, g'11, is a senior land services specialist at Black & Veatch in Overland Park.

2011 Erin Bryan, u'11, is a brain injury waiver service coordinator at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. She lives in Overland Park.

Audrey Seybert Chritton, e'11, g'17, is lead electrical engineer at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies in Kansas City. She and **Douglas**, e'12, live in Lenexa.

Lauren Braun Ellenbecker, e'11, is a senior cost analyst at

Turner Construction in Kansas City, where she lives with **Max**, e'11, f'14.

Dayna Langdon, s'11, s'12, is an associate attorney at McHenry, Haszard, Roth, Hupp, Burkholder, Blomberg & Camplin in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her practice is concentrated in family and juvenile law.

Jacob Lynn, e'11, manages analytics at Textron Aviation in Wichita, where he lives with his wife, Emily.

Peter Nye, f'11, lives in Arlington, Virginia, where he's a program officer at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rachel Wuntch, j'11, is a teacher in the Dallas Independent School District. She lives in Plano.

Born to:

Kory Kirkegaard, c'11, and **Lauren Magathan Kirkegaard**, b'12, daughter, Khloe Ariel, June 15 in Overland Park. Kory is a dentist at the Art of Dentistry.

2012 Julia Barnard, c'12, lives in Durham, North Carolina, where she's a researcher at the Center for Responsible Lending.

Amelia Bartkoski, b'12, is a recruiter and human resources generalist at Colavria Hospitality in Denver, where she lives with **Patrick Morton**, j'12, g'18, a consultant at accounting and business advisory firm Plante Moran.

Lisa Dahlke Connell, f'12, is assistant legal counsel at the Iowa Economic Development

Authority in Des Moines.

Stephanie Schutt Graff, m'12, in October was appointed medical adviser to the Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. She's an internist and oncologist and directs clinical research and the breast program at Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute at HCA Midwest in Leawood.

Taylor Kelly, b'12, is a senior business operations specialist at RSA Archer in Overland Park. He lives in Lenexa.

Esther Kparyea, s'12, is co-owner of Effective Fulfillment and partner at Best Care Consulting in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

Daniel Lee, c'12, is a freelance photographer and owns Sinlee Creations Inc. He

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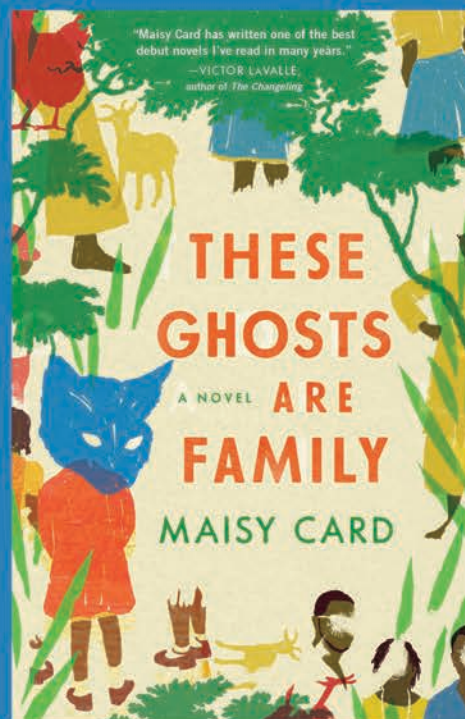
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JAYHAWK BOOK CLUB



Calling all bookworms!

The KU Alumni Association and KU Libraries invite you to join the Jayhawk Book Club and virtually connect with Jayhawks around the world.

Spring 2021 book

These Ghosts are Family, by Maisy Card

Available at the KU Bookstore, www.kubookstore.com/These-Ghosts-Are-Family

Here's how it works:

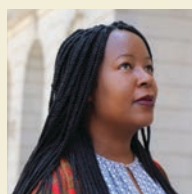
Each semester, KU Libraries staff select a book and create questions for discussion online in a closed Facebook group.

How to join:

1. Visit kualumni.org/bookclub and fill out the form to join and receive emails.
2. Join the Jayhawk Book Club Facebook Group.

Jayhawk Book Club Spring Discussion:

Join us for the spring online discussion of the Jayhawk Book Club!



This event will be held online, and the author, Maisy Card, will join us on Zoom for this talk:

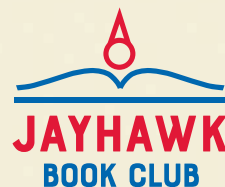
**Thursday, May 6, 2021
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (CST)**

Visit kualumni.org/discussion for details on how to join the meeting.



Questions?

Contact Michelle Lang,
director of alumni programs,
at michellem@kualumni.org,
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and his wife, Vanessa Sin, live in McKinney, Texas.

Robert Miller, g'12, PhD'16, is a lecturer in the department of history at South Texas College in McAllen, Texas, where he lives with **Jacyln**, g'13, PhD'16, assistant professor of history at the college, and their son, Philip, who recently turned 1.

Samantha Schueler-Emerson, e'12, g'15, is a configuration design engineer at Boeing in Everett, Washington, where she lives with her husband, Adam, and their daughter, Maren, who's almost 2.

Jonathan Shorman, j'12, is lead political reporter at the Kansas City Star. He lives in Lawrence.

2013 Alexa Backman Hughey, d'13, manages opera-

tions at Netsmart in Overland Park. She lives in Leawood with her husband, Joshua, and their daughter, Josephine, who's 1.

Owen Martin, e'13, is head distiller at Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey in Denver.

Lindsay Smith, l'13, is Cononino County deputy legal defender in Flagstaff, Arizona. She lives in Bellemont and has a daughter, Thea, who just turned 6.

Married

Rebecca Sabatés, c'13, m'18, to Sam DuMontier, June 6 in Kansas City. They make their home in Prairie Village.

2014 Gina Adams, g'14, is an artist in Longmont, Colorado. She was selected to

participate in the inaugural exhibition of K Art, the nation's first and only Native-owned commercial art gallery in Buffalo, New York.

Dillon Davis, c'14, is a communications strategist at Terracon in Olathe. He commutes from Lawrence.

Stuart Mitchelson, b'14, g'15, lives in Pittsburg, where he's an accounting manager at AutoAlert.

2015 Callista Buchen, PhD'15, is assistant professor of English at Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana. The author of two chapbooks and a full-length collection of poetry was featured in a virtual poetry reading last fall, hosted by the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Nathan Coons, g'15, directs data management at Waddell & Reed in Mission.

Kim Gochioco, g'15, '16, is senior manager of process engineering at Vertex. She lives in Camarillo, California.

Austin Lear, b'15, g'16, manages financial services at RSM US in San Francisco.

Kouri Linder, c'15, is manager of professional services at WellSky. He and **Jenna Coon Linder**, c'13, executive coordinator at the National Insurance Producer Registry, live in Westwood.

Graham Oltjen, c'15, '16, lives in Houston, where he's a field service engineer at Agilent Technologies.

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2021 DESTINATIONS

- **Middle East Meandering**
February 27-March 10
- **Brazilian Spotlight**
March 8-19
- **Legends to Lagoons**
March 15-25
- **Dutch Waterways**
April 20-28
- **Coastlines and Colonnades**
April 22-30
- **Springtime in Provence and Burgundy**
May 5-13
- **Spain-Andalucia in a Parador**
May 6-14
- **Galapagos Islands**
(Western Itinerary)
May 25-June 1
- **Portrait of Italy**
May 29-June 13
- **Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords**
May 30-June 7
- **Gold Rush and Glaciers of Alaska**
June 7-14
- **France-Normandy**
June 19-27
- **Great Journey through Europe**
June 21-July 1
- **Kenya Safari: The Big 5**
June 21-July 1
- **National Parks and Lodges of the Old West**
July 8-16
- **Cruise the Rhine and Mosel Rivers**
July 11-19
- **Cruising the Baltic**
July 24-August 8
- **Imperial Splendors of Russia**
August 3-12
- **Alpine Splendor: Switzerland and Austria**
August 5-18
- **Toronto to Vancouver by Rail**
September 7-13
- **Wonders of Peru**
September 16-27
- **Enchanting Ireland: A Tour of the Emerald Isle**
September 16-28
- **Singapore, Bali and Indonesian Islands**
September 23-October 8
- **Romance of the Douro River**
September 29-October 10
- **Prismatic Fall Colors of Canada and New England**
October 1-11
- **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**
October 1-4
- **Greece-Athens and the Island of Poros**
October 8-17
- **Danube to the Black Sea**
October 11-23
- **Patagonia Explorer**
October 16-29
- **Rambblas and The Rivas**
October 25-November 2
- **Enigmatic India**
October 29-November 12
- **Artifacts and Antiquities**
November 1-12
- **Red Sea and Aegean**
November 2-15
- **Journey to South Africa**
November 2-17
- **Egypt and the Ancient Nile**
November 7-17
- **Cuba and its People**
November 17-24
- **Morocco: Land of Enchantment**
December 3-21
- **Holiday Markets Cruise: The Festive Rhine River**
December 12-20

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



**ALUMNI
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Born to:

Andrew, PhD'15, and **Sara Wenzel Riley**, g'13, daughter, Adrienne Cooper, Aug. 4 in Chicago, where Andrew is assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Illinois. They live in Oak Park, Illinois.

2016 Darren Haag, c'16, is asset and innovation manager for the city of Lawrence. He lives in Topeka.

Brandon Haerle, e'16, lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he manages projects at Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline.

Ross Ringer, c'16, is vice president of product at GeoWealth Management in Chicago.

Shameem Kauffman Strecker, b'16, g'17, is a deals senior associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Denver, where she makes her home with **Rachel Strecker**, g'17, who also works at PwC as a risk assurance senior associate. The two married in Maui, Hawaii, in February 2020.

Nate Swann, g'16, is U.S. Army chief of staff in Savannah, Georgia.

Evan Traylor, c'16, lives in Washington, D.C., where he's associate director for college engagement at the Union for Reform Judaism. In December, he participated in a Zoom panel discussion about his experience as a Jewish person of color.

2017 Malika Baker, c'17, l'20, is an associate attorney at Baker Sterchi in Kansas City. She practices in the areas of product liability defense and commercial litigation.

Hannah Smith Bihuniak, e'17, manages market risk at

Koch Supply and Trading. She and **Sam**, b'17, live in London.

James Crowder, e'17, is a manufacturing engineer at Schlumberger in Lawrence. During the COVID-19 pandemic he developed AllBadge, an ID badge with a hooked end that allows users to avoid door handles.

Alex Hinkle, c'17, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he's a financial adviser at Edward Jones.

Travis Hoehn, c'17, l'20, is an associate attorney at Baker Sterchi in Kansas City. He lives in Lawrence.

Matthew McFarlane, e'17, g'19, works in energy analysis at Henderson Engineers in Lenexa. He and **Ebony Onianwa**, c'17, g'20, make their home in Overland Park.

Madelyne Moloney, j'17, directs external communications at NewRez, a mortgage lending company.

Michael Pritchett, m'17, is a hospitalist at the University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City. He and his wife, Chelsea, live in Roeland Park.

Rebekah Taussig, PhD'17, wrote *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*, which was published in August by HarperOne. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, Micah Jones, and their son, Otto, who's almost 1.

Married

John Hunter Senior, e'17, g'19, and **Emily Draeger**, d'18, g'21, Nov. 21 in Lawrence. They make their home in Denver.

Born to:

Christopher Cordt, g'17, g'19, and his wife, Jessica, daughter, Edie-Grace Avianna, Aug. 22 in Miramar Beach, Florida. Chris is a district sales manager at ADT Security.

2018 Mitchell Kelly, e'18, is a process controls engineer at Applied Control in Englewood, Colorado. He and **Amy Peacock Kelly**, c'17, an environmental scientist at New Horizon, live in Overland Park.

Jonathan Pine, b'18, works in business development at Zpartz Inc. in Grandview, Missouri. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in De Soto.

Makayla Reed, c'18, lives in Lawrence, where she's a case manager at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center.

Travis Toon, g'18, manages business development at the Global Finance Group in Newport Beach, California.

Kerry Williams, l'18, is an attorney in Kansas City. He and his wife, Meaghan, live in Prairie Village.

Born to:

Justin, g'18, g'19, and **Lauren Schmidt**, assoc., daughter, Aubrey, Nov. 2 in Kansas City. Justin is a program manager at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics.

2019 Joseph Le, c'19, is chief of staff for Kansas House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer. He commutes to Topeka from Lawrence.

Melvin Mack, g'19, is a space operations officer in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Melinda, live in Lansing and have two children, Alexis and Quincy.

Eligia Raio, s'19, directs sales and admissions at Ascension Via Christi Village in Pittsburg.

Derrick Smith, g'19, is a budget analyst for the city of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Valeza Zogjani, g'19, is a policy researcher and program manager at the Democracy for Development Institute. She lives in Serbia.

2020 Ami Albert, g'20, is a staff accountant at Varney & Associates in Manhattan, where she makes her home.

Hannah Ehmcke, b'20, lives in Kansas City, where she's a consulting analyst at Accenture.

Smruti Gore, g'20, is a research scientist at OsteoNovus in Toledo, Ohio.

Madison Graves, j'20, coordinates media for Glynn-Devins in Kansas City.

Lisa Laughlin, g'20, is a project manager at City Light & Power. She lives in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Halley Maloy, g'20, is the first-ever epidemiologist for Umatilla County in Pendleton, Oregon.

Evan Parsons, j'20, is an account executive at Glynn-Devins in Kansas City.

Blake Ronnebaum, l'20, lives in Kansas City, where he's an associate attorney at Polsinelli.

Michael Swain, j'20, is the Iowa State University beat writer for 247 Sports.

Cindy Pipes Swatek, g'20, is a mental performance consultant and owns VIDA Mindset & Performance in Kansas City.

1940s Gerald Canatsey, c'42, 101, Sept. 6 in St. Louis, where he was an executive at Pet Inc. Surviving are a son, a daughter, six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Wilda Vermillion Connell, '48, 93, Aug. 4 in Manhattan. She and her late husband owned the Dixie Caramel Candy Store in Junction City. A son, two daughters, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

George Cooper, e'49, 100, Dec. 14 in Tonganoxie, where he was a mechanical engineer and vice president at Puritan Bennet Medical Gas. He co-authored *Jayhawk: Love, Loss, Liberation and Terror Over the Pacific*, which details his war years as a B-25 bomber pilot. In 2018 he was honored as a KU Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumnus. He is survived by five daughters, three of whom are Georgeanne, c'68, Merrilee, g'90, and Laurie Cooper Putthoff, c'91; a son; a sister; 15 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Jeanne Spencer Fish, c'42, l'45, 99, June 10 in Eureka, California. She was a longtime member of P.E.O. Sisterhood and received the organization's 75-year service award in 2018.

Donald Frisby, e'49, 92, Oct. 29 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was general manager of real estate and buildings for the U.S. Postal Service. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Doane Frisby, '50; two daughters; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Harold Green, c'48, 96, Nov. 6 in Kansas City, where he had a long career in pharmaceutical sales. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by

two daughters, one of whom is Sandra Spires Cook, '66; three grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Lucian "Lou" Hammer, b'48, 96, Sept. 11 in Lawrence, where he retired as a purchasing agent after a 38-year career with Lawrence Paper Company. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Gary, g'83; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Betty Bacon Hodges, j'48, 95, Nov. 18 in Mission, where she was a secretary at Lever Brothers and a national officer for Alpha Delta Pi sorority. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Valerie Hodges Cheney, b'79; a son, Lance, b'87; and four grandchildren.

Raymond Mann, c'49, 95, June 16 in Tomball, Texas, where he retired as chief of exploration operations at Shell Oil Company. Two daughters, five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren survive.

Nation Meyer, '43, 98, Nov. 12 in Hutchinson, where his career at First National Bank spanned 70 years and included serving as president and senior chairman. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis "Tucker" Landeene Meyer, c'57; two daughters, Diane Meyer Longenecker, d'70, and Laura Meyer Dick, b'89, g'93; two sons, one of whom is John, d'93; nine grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Mary Jo Mercer Powers, c'47, 93, June 27 in Winfield. She had a long career as a dietitian and retired from the VA Hospital in Denver.

Virginia VanOrder Thomas, j'46, 96, June 6 in Cushing, Oklahoma, where she was a homemaker. Two daughters,

two sons, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren survive.

Donald Wright, b'49, 94, Aug. 9 in Topeka, where he was a CPA. He also completed the Bicycling Across Kansas tour 17 times. Survivors include a son, a grandson, two step-granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

1950s Franklin Austin, e'54, 87, Oct. 3, 2019, in Englewood, Colorado. He had a 20-year career in the U.S. Air Force and worked on a family farm in retirement. Survivors include three daughters, one of whom is Sallie Austin-Swanson, '81; a son; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

James Baird, j'55, 86, May 1 in Kansas City. He owned the Holt County Sentinel newspaper in Oregon, Missouri. Surviving are three daughters, one of whom is Laura Baird Gatson, c'82; two sons, one of whom is Rob, '83; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Philip Baker, b'58, 84, Nov. 10 in Venice, Florida. He had a long career as a senior systems engineer and instructor at IBM. He is survived by his wife, Linnie; four daughters, one of whom is Kristin Baker Larpenter, c'91, g'95; a sister; and four grandsons.

Glen Beauchamp, e'53, 91, May 29 in Selma, Indiana. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Marines and served several tours overseas. He later taught high school mathematics. Survivors include three sons; a brother, Gary, c'66, m'70; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Olive Selfridge Bloom, '54, 87, Sept. 30 in Wichita. She and her late husband, Lewis,

m'57, were founding members of the South Central Kansas Community Foundation in Pratt, and she received the foundation's first Outstanding Service Award. Surviving are three sons, Barry, c'78, m'81, Lamont, m'79, and Jim, j'80, g'83, g'08; 10 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Eli Boucher, g'50, 99, Oct. 8 in Lenexa. He was a retired teacher, principal and superintendent at several school districts in central Kansas. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Michele Boucher Heidrick, d'71; three sons, two of whom are Greg, p'74, and Dana, c'79; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Robert Braden, c'55, 89, July 15 in Apple Valley, California, where he was a pilot and retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Surviving are his wife, Valoris, a son, two daughters, four grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Breckenridge, j'53, 88, April 1 in Sunrise, Florida, where he retired after a long career in advertising.

John Cleland, b'58, 84, Nov. 7 in Topeka, where he had a 40-year career with Security Benefit Group and retired as senior vice president, chief investment strategist and chairman of the board of Security funds family. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Betty Seltsam Cleland, d'58; two daughters, Anne Cleland Hannon, b'83, and Allyn "Sunny" Cleland Murphy, c'84; two sons, Aric, b'87, and AJ, c'94; a brother, Joe, g'65; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Barnum Cody, c'50, 91, May 31 in Houston, where she was a member of

P.E.O. Sisterhood and volunteered at her church. Two daughters, two sons, 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren survive.

Donald Darnell, d'59, g'63, 87, May 24 in Amarillo, Texas. He was a high school teacher and track coach and retired as director of personnel for Kansas City Kansas Public Schools. He is survived by three daughters, one of whom is Debra Darnell Kielman, '77; a son, Mark, e'82; three sisters; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Herbert Doubek, c'53, m'56, 91, June 21 in Manhattan. He was a longtime resident of Belleville, where he was a family practitioner and Republic County coroner. He was honored as Kansas Family Physician of the Year in 1992. Surviving are two daughters, one of whom is Debra, m'86; a son; a brother; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Wohlgemuth Duckers, j'55, 86, Oct. 11 in Bellaire, Texas. A longtime Salina resident, she was a news reporter at the Salina Journal and a public information officer at St. John's Military School. A memorial has been established at KU Endowment. She is survived by two sons, Ed, b'81, and Kyle, b'82; a daughter, Sarah, b'83, l'86; four sisters, three of whom are Dorothy Wohlgemuth Lynch, d'59, Joan Wohlgemuth Musbach, c'64, and Lois Wohlgemuth Stanton, d'65; and seven grandchildren.

Janice Horn Ferguson, d'52, 90, June 7 in Prairie Village. She was an elementary school teacher and homemaker. Surviving are a son, Scott, e'83; a daughter; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Monahan Franklin, '52, 92, Dec. 28, 2019, in Saratoga, California, where she was a homemaker. A son, a daughter and a sister survive.

Joyce Ellis Friesen, n'52, 88, Sept. 25 in Lawrence, where she was a retired operating room nurse at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. She is survived by two sons, Stan, c'79, and Rick, f'83; two daughters, Karen, '85, and Judy Friesen Kamerer, b'88; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Robert, e'55, and **Carol Christmann Gallieart**, b'55, both 87, July 28 in Bellevue, Washington, of natural causes. He was chief test pilot for the 747 aircraft at Boeing, which included work for Air Force One, and she was a homemaker. Survivors include a daughter and a son.

Irene Faringer Hain, '51, 92, July 31 in Lawrence. She was an accountant for nearly 30 years at AT&T.

Robert Hamm, '50, 93, Aug. 26 in Kansas City, where he retired as regional manager in the glass division at PPG Industries. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Michael, b'76; a daughter; a brother, Bill, d'59, g'66; a sister; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Rosalie Henry, c'53, c'55, 89, Nov. 17 in Ness City. She was a longtime resident of Fairway. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

Zelina Higginbottom Hickox, d'51, 92, July 19 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She was a retired kindergarten teacher. Two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren survive.

William Huse, c'59, m'63, 83, Oct. 10 in Kansas City, where he was a physician and served as chief of staff at several area hospitals. Survivors include his wife, Linda Irving Huse, h'74; two sons, Shawn, '86, and Jason, '88; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Laura Willan Johnson, c'58, 83, May 11 in Olathe. She was a longtime resident of Medicine Lodge, where she was a physical therapist. Surviving are three daughters, Letitia Johnson Bernard, p'82, LeeAnn Johnson Gienke, c'87, p'87, and Lenise Johnson Mellott, p'87; a son, J.C., e'89, g'91; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Richard Judy, c'54, g'55, 87, Sept. 10 en route to the Grand Tetons. He lived in Indianapolis and was best known for his publications and teaching about Soviet economics at the University of Toronto, breeding innovations at the Judy Ranch in Jewell County, his founding of several successful software companies and his seminal book, *Workforce 2020: Work and Workers in the 21st Century*. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Jane Lommel; two sons, Alex, '84, and Stephen, f'87; three daughters; and a sister, Susan Judy Harper, c'68.

Robert Kline, c'54, 88, Oct. 7 in Montgomery, Alabama. He served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force before becoming business administrator at his church. He is survived by his wife, Gene Hart Kline, '56; a son; a daughter; four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Earl Knauss, b'55, 87, Nov. 13 in Kansas City, where he was treasurer and chief financial officer at Farm-land Industries. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Karen; two daughters, one of whom is Michelle Knauss Sonderegger, f'84; four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Ronald Lenser, e'56, 88, Oct. 9 in Dallas, where he owned R.A. Lenser & Associates, a petroleum engineering and geologic services firm. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two daughters survive.

Doris Greenbank Livingston, j'51, 91, Sept. 30 in Wichita. An El Dorado native, she was editor and co-publisher of the Butler County News and vice president of Traf-O-Teria System and Butler County Printing. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, c'53; a son, Robert, c'81; two daughters; six granddaughters; and several great-grandchildren.

Garland Longhofer, d'50, g'55, 94, Sept. 14 in Hutchinson, where he had a long career as a high school teacher and counselor. Surviving are two daughters, Jane Longhofer Briscoe, '72, and Becky Longhofer Grant, d'77; a son, Tom, b'78; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Ralph MacNaughton, m'54, 91, May 27 in Leawood. He was a radiologist at St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City. Survivors include three daughters, two of whom are Mary, '81, and Kathleen MacNaughton Hance, c'92, m'96, g'15; a son, Paul, '92; and 13 grandchildren.

Mary Mahoney, d'54, 87, Feb. 17, 2020, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She was a high school physical education teacher and coach and was involved in national and Olympic gymnastics competitions. Surviving are a brother, Tim Mahoney, assoc.; and a sister.

Paul Maurer, p'57, 90, Nov. 3 in Upland, California. He owned several pharmacies. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline Crampton Maurer, n'49; a son; a daughter; and a grandson.

Beverly Jackson McCain, d'56, 85, Sept. 30 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was an elementary school teacher and active in her church community. She is survived by three sons, three stepsons, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Roger McKinley, g'50, 94, Aug. 8 in Winchester, Virginia, where he had a long career with the U.S. Department of Defense and earned the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Service Medal in 1981. His wife, Genevieve, two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Frances Hara McNellis, d'59, '96, 83, Nov. 3 in Lenexa. She lived for many years in Lawrence, where she taught high school history, government and political science. Survivors include her husband, Jesse, c'57, g'59; two sons, John, c'82, g'86, and Michael, c'87; a daughter; and several grandchildren.

Robert Meeker, c'57, l'63, 85, July 25 in Leawood. He retired as general counsel and vice president at Business Men's Assurance Company. His wife, Pamela, survives.

Georgia Anne "Sis" Hedrick Mercer, c'52, 89,

Sept. 6 in Houston, where she taught children with learning disabilities. Surviving are two sons; a daughter; a brother, Clay Hedrick, c'48; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Donna Daise Murray, d'58, 84, Oct. 18 in Larkspur, Colorado, where she was a homemaker and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is survived by her husband, Dick, a'58; two sons, one of whom is Dave, c'84; a daughter; a brother, John Daise, d'55; a sister; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Virginia Jennings Nadeau, f'57, 85, Oct. 31 in Kansas City. She was an interior designer and owned Jennings Interiors on the Country Club Plaza. She also served on the advisory board for the Spencer Museum of Art at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

Charles Nakoa, c'51, 91, Aug. 12 in Honolulu, where he retired as executive director at Queen Lili'oukalani Children's Center. His wife, Suzanne, survives.

George Prochaska, '52, 90, Oct. 20 in Topeka. He was a retired naval captain and worked at Southwestern Bell for nearly 15 years. Surviving are his wife, Kathleen; a son, Mark, c'79, m'84; three daughters, two of whom are Anne Prochaska Landgraf, n'81, and Mona Prochaska Packer, n'84; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Thomas Raymond, m'58, 89, Aug. 31 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he was an otolaryngologist. He is survived by his wife, Anna, a son, two daughters, four granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

George Richardson, b'50, g'51, 92, April 30 in Sequim, Washington. He retired as executive vice president at Del Monte. A daughter, a son, a brother, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

Russell Settle, c'56, m'60, 85, July 1 in Overland Park, where he was a physician. He is survived by his wife, Sue; two daughters, one of whom is Natasha Settle Karlin, '92; two stepdaughters, Kimberly Castle Queen, c'88, and Lori Castle Grieve, h'91; two grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandchild.

James Shirley, b'57, 88, Sept. 2 in Akron, Ohio, where he was a CPA. A son, Philip, c'89, survives.

Shelby Smith, b'50, 93, Nov. 6 in Wichita. Throughout his career he was an FBI agent, director of security at Boeing and an investment banker. He also served in the Kansas House of Representatives. Survivors include his wife, Betty Shartel Smith, '52; two sons; two daughters; and 12 grandchildren.

Con Spainhour, p'55, 87, Nov. 14 in Winfield, where he was director of pharmacy at the Winfield State Hospital and retired at Winfield Pharmacy. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is John, '89; six daughters, one of whom is Elisabeth Spainhour Walsh, '98; a sister, Suzan Spainhour Stremel, d'62; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Oliver Swift, c'53, g'57, PhD'73, 89, Nov. 9 in Carrollton, Georgia. She had a long career in psychology and community mental health, which included directing the Stone Center for Developmental Services and Studies at

Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She is survived by two daughters, Lynn Swift Anderson, c'79, l'84, and Mary, c'82, g'92; a son, George, c'85; and a grandson.

Dot Taylor, '55, 89, Nov. 11 in Topeka, where she worked at the State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Historical Society.

Robert Walker, c'52, l'54, 90, Oct. 11 in Los Angeles. He was an attorney and executive at several banks and retired at Wells Fargo. Survivors include four sons, one of whom is Patrick, c'87; three daughters; and 13 grandchildren.

Diane Johnson Weil, c'51, 91, July 26 in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, where she was active in a garden club and named Pennsylvania Gardener of the Year in 1998. Her husband, Harry, two daughters, a brother and a grandson survive.

Marvin Weishaar, b'54, 88, Oct. 27 in Liberty, Missouri, where he owned an accounting firm and was active in various community organizations. He is survived by his wife, Mary Czinczoll Weishaar, '55; four sons, Marc, b'85, Martin, c'86, l'89, Matthew, b'91, and Michael, d'95, g'99, PhD'07; a daughter; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mark Yeokum, a'59, 83, Aug. 5 in Leawood, where he retired after a long career with Trans World Airlines. Surviving are his wife, Jo Anne; a son, Dan, b'84; a daughter, Sarah Yeokum Kelly, b'86; a sister; and two grandchildren.

H. Lee Zimmerman, '50, 94, July 12 in Lawrence, where he owned Zimmerman Steel. He is survived by a son, Kim, '76; a daughter, Nancy Zimmerman Roberts, d'77; and two sisters, Kathryn Zimmerman

Heylman, '46, and Carolyn Zimmerman Engelken, d'55.

1960s Paul Anderson, d'65, 78, Aug. 29 in Salina, where his career in medical sales spanned more than 40 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Hahn Anderson, d'63; a daughter, Lisa, '91; two sons, Charles, c'94, and Matthew, c'96; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Justin Urbach, c'65, 77, Oct. 20 in Dallas, where he was a retired endodontist and clinical professor at Texas A&M University. Surviving are four daughters; a brother, Michael, c'74, j'76, g'79, f'81; and two grandchildren.

Richard Bennett, b'60, 82, Sept. 9 in Kansas City. He had a long career as a CPA and was partner at Schehrer Harrod & Bennett accounting firm in Lawrence. His sister, Beverly Bennett Williams, b'62, survives.

John Boyd, b'62, 79, June 15 in Kansas City, where he retired as vice president at AUL Corp. He is survived by his wife, Debbie, a son, a daughter, a sister and two grandchildren.

Kenneth Boyer, c'65, 79, June 20 in Wilson, North Carolina. He served in the military for more than 25 years and later owned Southern Testing and Research Laboratories. Survivors include his wife, Merrilyn, three sons, two sisters and a granddaughter.

William Brookman, b'60, 82, Jan. 13, 2020, in Cleveland, Oklahoma. He owned the Active Athlete in Tulsa. Surviving are his wife, Rose Ryba Brookman, '60; two daughters, one of whom is Melissa Brookman

Hattaway, b'95; a son; and six grandchildren.

Wayne Campbell, b'67, g'68, 74, Nov. 29, 2019, in Palm Harbor, Florida, where he retired as community relations manager at Southwestern Bell. He later worked in marketing. A daughter, Kimberly, c'00, survives.

Kenneth Coleman, b'64, 78, June 2 in Pearland, Texas, where his career included working as a sales manager at Gulf Oil and Westlake Chemicals. Surviving are his wife, Sydney, two daughters, two sisters and three grandchildren.

Marjorie Parrish Conklin, d'64, 78, Sept. 29 in Westmoreland, where she started her career as a teacher and later managed the law office of her late husband, Gary, c'60, l'63. She also volunteered in her community. She is survived by a daughter, Kellie Conklin White, b'89; a son, Cory, b'94, j'94; a sister; and two grandchildren.

James Coy, c'61, 81, May 23 in Evansville, Illinois, where he had a long career in marketing, advertising and sales. His wife, Ann, a son, two daughters and six grandchildren survive.

Thomas Dawson, l'67, 77, Oct. 28 in Lansing, where he was an attorney and past president of the Leavenworth Bar Association. Surviving are his wife, Barbara, assoc.; a son; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

Richard Ewy, l'65, 79, Sept. 8 in Wichita, where he was an attorney and managing partner at Foulston Siefkin law firm. Surviving include his wife, Joanie Stromberg Ewy, d'65; three daughters,

two of whom are Sarah Ewy Erickson, c'92, and Erin Ewy Coleman, '93; a sister, Jeanette Ewy Bussey Ragsdale, n'57; and five grandchildren.

Duane Fredrickson, m'66, 81, Aug. 6 in Lindsborg, where he was a family physician and participated in the rural preceptor program for the KU School of Medicine. In 2009 he received the Kansas Family Physician of the Year Award. His wife, Nancy, a daughter, a son, a sister and seven grandchildren survive.

Jane Darrah Gates, d'64, 78, Oct. 3 in Mercer Island, Washington. She was an elementary school teacher. She is survived by a daughter; a son; two brothers, Thomas Darrah, m'66, and John Darrah, b'70; a sister, Jody Darrah McCamish, d'70; and five grandchildren.

Stephen Gechter, b'68, 73, July 16 in Dodge City, where he was a CPA. Surviving are his wife, Sue, a son, a daughter, two brothers, two sisters and two grandchildren.

Darcy Lafollette Gerhard, c'64, 78, May 14 in Franklin, Tennessee. She worked in real estate sales and management at the Gill Agency. She is survived by her husband, Lee, g'61, PhD'64; a daughter, Tracy Gerhard Abrams, c'93; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Stanley Graham, c'67, a'75, 74, Aug. 14 in Austin, Texas, where he was a retired pilot at American Airlines. Survivors include a sister, Kate Graham, f'70, g'72.

Jane Kenyon Hansen, d'66, 88, Nov. 5 in Midland, Texas, where she was a kindergarten teacher. Surviving are her husband, Hans, c'55,

l'66; three sons, Jon, c'74, l'77, Chris, '76, and Noel, g'87; a sister; a brother; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Larry Heck, c'62, m'66, 80, Nov. 16 in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was a practicing radiologist and also served on the medical faculties at several universities. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Frances Fullerton Heck, d'62, g'66; a daughter, Julie, '97; a son; a sister, Jane Heck McCabe, '73; and three grandsons.

William James, b'60, 82, May 15 in Prairie Village, where he was a salesman and owned Waldo Hardware. Surviving are two daughters, Sherri, '82, and Lori James Tempel, '84; a son; a brother; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Karen Jennison, c'62, 79, Aug. 10 in Greeley, Colorado, where for more than 40 years she was professor of sociology at the University of Northern Colorado. She also served as chair and assistant dean of the department.

Marvin Koelsch, b'68, 74, Aug. 21 in Wichita, where for more than 40 years he owned Midwest Accounting & Management. He is survived by his wife, Jan, a son, a daughter, a sister and three grandchildren.

Stanley Lehman, c'60, 81, Nov. 3, 2019, in Orange, California, where he was a retired attorney. Surviving are a son; a daughter; two sisters, one of whom is Carolyn Lehman Elfelt, c'63; and a grandson.

David Lipp, b'64, 78, July 18 in Overland Park, where

he was president of D.J.L. Development Company. A daughter, Heather, c'97, survives.

Larry Malone, '63, 79, June 12 in Olathe, where he was an estimator at List and Clark Construction Company. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Heather Malone Grandsire, d'92; his stepfather; a brother; and five grandchildren.

Anthony Martin, '62, 79, July 26 in Overland Park. His career as a dentist spanned more than 40 years. Surviving are his wife, Mary Lou, two daughters, a brother and two grandchildren.

Frank Naylor Jr., c'61, 81, Oct. 6 in Berryville, Virginia. He had a long career in agricultural finance and development, including as the undersecretary of agriculture who oversaw farm credit policy during the Reagan administration. He is survived by a son, Wes, '86; a daughter; a stepson; a stepdaughter; and six grandchildren.

Michael O'Brien, c'67, 74, July 16 in Echo Park, California, where he was a retired landscape architect and city planner for the city of Los Angeles.

Karin Moebus Otto, c'61, 81, Aug. 6 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She retired as chair of the department of biology at the University of Tampa in Florida. Surviving are a daughter; a sister, Susan Moebus Bjorn, c'68; and three grandchildren.

John Parkison, c'68, 73, Oct. 28 in Kansas City, where he owned a lawn and garden business. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Jami Wilkerson Parkison,

d'67; a son; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

Charles Rees, g'63, PhD'67, 78, Aug. 12, 2019, in Austin, Texas. He was professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of New Orleans in Louisiana. His wife, Janice, a son, two daughters and nine grandchildren survive.

Gary Rosenwald, e'64, PhD'72, 79, Oct. 26 in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he retired after working as an oil company researcher, educator and government safety officer. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Young Rosenwald, '64; a son; three daughters; and nine grandchildren.

Don Shahan, b'61, 83, Aug. 12 in North Tustin, California, where he retired after a long career in retail management and commercial real estate. He is survived by his wife, Polly, three daughters, a sister and six grandchildren.

Rita Schreiber Tracy, n'60, g'84, 82, Oct. 8 in Lawrence. Her career as a registered nurse spanned 40 years, and she retired as assistant professor at Washburn University School of Nursing in Topeka. She also was a deacon at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence. She is survived by her husband, Dick, d'58, g'65, PhD'66; a daughter, Vanessa Tracy Milota, g'97, '02; a sister, Velta Schreiber Kramer, f'49; and a grandson.

Judith Tietze Trowbridge, d'67, 74, July 30 in Dallas, where she was active in her community. Survivors include two sons and four grandchildren.

Neil Wood, c'64, 78, Aug. 29 in California. He served in the U.S. Navy. His wife, Rebecca, survives.

1970s Sarah Boyle Betz, c'70, 73, Sept. 26 in Columbia, Maryland. She is survived by her husband, Robert, d'68; and three sons.

Archille Bourque, g'72, 88, Aug. 1 in Putnam, Connecticut. He served in three branches of the armed forces, retiring as lieutenant colonel, and later worked in banking and insurance. Survivors include his wife, Eileen, two sons, three daughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Richard Braunsdorf, c'72, 71, July 26 in Kansas City, where he was a microbiologist at the Wyandotte County Health Department and area medical centers. He is survived by his wife, Marlene Wise Braunsdorf, n'71; a son, John, e'00; a daughter, Beth Braunsdorf Bosch, j'04; a sister, Linda Morgovnik, '96; a brother; and three grandchildren.

Eunice Nealeigh Campbell, d'70, 72, July 3 in Naalehu, Hawaii. She was a retired high school English teacher. Surviving are her husband, George, g'70; two sons; two brothers; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Leonard Clark, l'73, 77, July 11 in Derby. He lived in Wichita for many years and served in government, private practice and academia. Survivors include his wife, Leatha Johnson Clark, '79; three daughters, two of whom are Teresa Clark Hodges, c'95, g'08, and Laura, j'05; a son; a granddaughter; and a step-grandson.

Daniel Crook, p'70, 72, April 16 in El Dorado, where he retired as staff pharmacist at Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; two daughters, one of whom is Kirstie

Crook Towner, '93; three sons, one of whom is Kevin, '95; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Russell Daniels, b'71, 74, Feb. 19, 2020, in The Villages, Florida. He was executive vice president of administration and risk at Dunbar Armored in Baltimore. Survivors include his wife, Marcy; two daughters; and two brothers, one of whom is William, b'73.

Richard Davis, '71, 71, July 9 in Wichita, where he retired after more than 40 years in dental practice. He is survived by his wife, Linda, assoc.; two sons, Darren, p'97, and Gavin, '99; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Stephen McIntire, c'71, 71, June 22 in Urbandale, Iowa, where he was a copy editor at the Des Moines Daily Record. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two sisters survive.

John Stewart McWilliams, l'70, 74, Sept. 17 in Overland Park. He was an assistant district attorney in Sedgwick and Johnson counties and later was appointed associate district judge for the 10th Judicial District of Kansas. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Wortman McWilliams, c'67; and two sons, Nolan, b'03, l'08, and Nicholas, h'03, '06.

Jean Dooley Peterson, d'71, g'76, 100, Sept. 2 in Kansas City. She was a teacher and active in her church community. She is survived by a daughter, Ann Peterson Hyde, c'66; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Richard Stoico, b'77, 65, June 17 in Naples, Florida. He owned Cafe Luigi for nearly 30 years in Bedford, Massachusetts. Surviving are his wife, Carol; a daughter, Kelsey Stoico McIntosh, '07; a son;

two sisters; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

1980s Ruthellyn

Henderson Hinton, g'83, PhD'01, 76, April 30 in Pittsburg, where she was professor of nursing at Pittsburg State University. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, a sister, a brother and two grandchildren.

David Millstein, '80, 75, Oct. 26 in Lawrence, where he owned several properties along Mass Street and was instrumental in the revival of Liberty Hall in the mid-1980s. He is survived by his wife, Susan Youle Millstein, c'79; a son, Josh, e'01; two daughters, Audrey, '02, and Casey Millstein Dobbins, f'09, '11; a sister, Cydney, c'72; and three grandchildren.

1990s Elizabeth Willard

Van Beber, s'93, 53, Nov. 3 in Overland Park. She was a therapist at the Gillis Center in Kansas City. Survivors include her husband, Eric, b'83; two daughters, one of whom is Kathryn, a sophomore at KU; and two brothers.

2000s Patricia "Trish"

Becher, s'09, 52, Sept. 10 in Louisburg, where she was director of community support services at Comprehensive Mental Health. Surviving are her wife, Kelly Ratliff, '82; a son; a daughter; her mother; three sisters; and a brother.

Laurie Shoffner Coyner, m'05, 63, June 14 in Wichita. She was a psychiatrist. Survivors include her husband, John; two sons, one of whom is Derek Cox, c'10; a daughter; two brothers; and a grandchild.

Bradley Hope, b'05, 40, Aug. 7 in Andover, where he was a CPA at Adams Brown Beran & Ball. A memorial has been estab-

lished with KU Endowment. He is survived by his father, John, d'74, g'80; and a sister.

2010s Benjamin Levy

c'11, 33, June 29 in Lawrence, where he worked in data analysis. He is survived by his parents, Richard, c'78, g'80, and Kathleen Kunde Levy, '01; and a sister, Erin, a junior at KU.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Elizabeth Banks, assoc., 90, Oct. 10 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita of archaeology and curator of the Wilcox Classical Museum. She was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

James Church, 85, Oct. 14 in Lawrence, where he had a 40-year career as professor of mathematics. He is survived by his wife, Ann; a son, James Jr., c'89, g'94; and three grandchildren.

James Cook, 84, Nov. 18 in Olathe, where he was a hematologist and professor emeritus of medicine at KU Medical Center. Surviving are two sons, Gregory, '81, and Paul, c'90; two daughters, Cheryl Cook Sperry, n'83, and Dianne Cook Walker, h'90; two brothers; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Dennis Diederich, m'65, 84, Aug. 29 in Overland Park. He was an internist and directed the division of nephrology and hypertension at KU Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Alice, '87; two brothers, one of whom is Paul, m'76; and six sisters, two of whom are Marilyn Diederich Kramer, '83, and Jeanine Diederich Hummell, '86.

James Gunn, j'47, g'51, 97, Dec. 23 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of English and founding director of the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction. Known affectionately as the "Father of Science Fiction," he wrote more than 100 short stories and authored 28 books during his career. He also was managing editor of *Kansas Alumni* magazine from 1955 to '58 and contributing editor from 1958 to '60. A son, Kevin, c'79, survives.

Josephine Herrmann Lutz, d'79, 93, Nov. 2 in Wichita. She managed student services for independent study and was a docent at the Spencer Museum of Art. Surviving are three daughters, two of whom are Jennifer, d'82, and Rosalind Lutz Courington, c'90; a brother; a sister; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Mary Ross Moran, g'72, PhD'75, 85, Oct. 5 in Lawrence. She was retired professor of special education. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Greg, c'83, m'87; two daughters, one of whom is Laura, e'86; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

C. Richard "Dick" Robins, 91, Nov. 12 in Lawrence. He was curator emeritus at the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum. His wife, Catherine, two sons and a daughter survive.

Susan Smith Wachter, g'86, 72, Nov. 16 in Lawrence, where she started her career with Kansas Athletics as assistant athletics director of business development and retired as chief financial officer. She was KU's Outstanding Female Employee of the Year

in 1987. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, John; a daughter, Jessica Wachter Thompson, c'00; and two grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Martin Kasick, assoc., 78, May 18 in Olathe. He worked at Case IH for more than three decades. Surviving are his wife, Patricia, assoc.; a daughter, Kimberly Kasick Hicks, c'90; two sons; and five grandchildren.

Peter Leibham, assoc., 80, Oct. 18 in Lenexa, where he had a long career in sales. He is survived by his wife, Karla Bender Leibham, d'74, g'93, '03; a son, Peter Jr., '87; a daughter, Kirsten Leibham Parker, c'96, g'99; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Edward "Bud" Price, assoc., 77, June 30 in Prairie Village. He owned Colonial Patterns Inc. Survivors include his wife, Carol Haworth Price, d'70; three sons, two of whom are Chris, c'99, and Matt, b'01; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Albert Ross, assoc., 96, June 3 in Mission, where he was a retired attorney. Surviving are his wife, Ora "Gretta" Nuttle Ross, d'68; three daughters, one of whom is Gretchen Ross Hill, PhD'90; a son, Albert IV, m'85; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Walter Scheller, assoc., 84, May 22 in Tonaganoxie, where he was a home builder. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Stevens Scheller, h'76, g'03; a daughter, Carrie Scheller Barth, b'95; three stepsons, one of whom is John Fatzer, '01; and five grandchildren.

PHOTO FINISH

“DIDN’T LIKE IT MUCH,” coach Bill Self replied when asked about playing the Dec. 3 home opener, against Washburn, in a ghostly Allen Field House emptied by pandemic restrictions. Although official attendance was listed as 0, about 100 family members of players were allowed inside. Kansas Athletics opened Phog’s house to 2,500 fans as of the season’s third game.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
STEVE PUPPE





MOUNT OREAD

Journalism's story

Exhibition shares rare images from Stauffer-Flint Hall

ONE OF THE MOST remarkable campus history exhibitions in recent memory lines Stauffer-Flint Hall's second-floor hallway, telling the long story of a building that evolved over more than 120 years from Fowler Shops into today's high-tech, thoroughly modern William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Thanks to choked campus access, few have seen it or even know it's there.

Culled by Communications Director Julie Adam, j'89, from a variety of campus archives, the beautifully printed

and framed images feature the building, faculty, staff and students. It was intended as part of the celebration surrounding Stauffer-Flint's January 2020 reopening following a \$5 million renovation, but six weeks after the building came back online it was emptied again, except for limited numbers of students working in the new Media Crossroads broadcasting studio.

"It was actually twofold," Ann Brill, journalism dean since 2004, says of the exhibition's genesis. "One was for people who would be coming to see the changes in the remodeled building, but it was also



SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY (2)

ABOVE For the first broadcasts of KJHK-FM, in October 1975, students produced the show remotely from the lawn of Flint Hall.

LEFT Fowler Shops custodian, circa 1900, thought to be the oldest known image of a person in the building that became Stauffer-Flint Hall.

for current students and faculty, to give them a sense of perspective. It's fun to see all the people, some familiar faces and some who have been gone for a while."

As one of the contractors from B.A. Green Construction told Brill, Stauffer-Flint Hall retains a unique personality, with a "pride of ownership" that reflects its status as one of the relatively few buildings on Jayhawk Boulevard's historic heart that houses only one school.

"The word that comes to mind is responsibility—the responsibility that we have still, to all those people who literally and figuratively built the building and making sure that legacy is always honored," Brill says. "When you walk into the building, you don't see pieces of paper on the floor. You don't see things not taken care of. Everybody who works there and learns there really does take responsibility for the way the building looks."

Brill anticipates that the exhibition will remain until campus reopens to visitors, so alumni will have a chance to see it in person; in the meantime, it is also available at kansasalumnimagazine.org, along with a KU journalism history video compiled by Associate Professor Emeritus David Guth.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

LEGACY LIVES HERE

For decades, Jayhawks have found a home on the Hill at KU Libraries. In the beloved study carrels of Watson Library, students of all disciplines enjoy a serene study space to read, write, and research. Now, thanks to KU students in the School of Architecture & Design's Studio 509, a new iteration of upgraded carrels meet evolving student needs with modern furniture, improved lighting, and inspirational décor.

Leave your legacy at KU and secure your place in history on campus through a named study carrel — where students and visitors will find special, engraved plaques placed in each named space to recognize your gift. The incredible renovations and limited naming opportunities will live on as a library legacy for generations of Jayhawks to come.

To learn more, visit lib.ku.edu/carrels or contact **Christy McWard**, executive director of the Office of Communication and Advancement, at **785-864-0092** or cmcward@ku.edu.

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