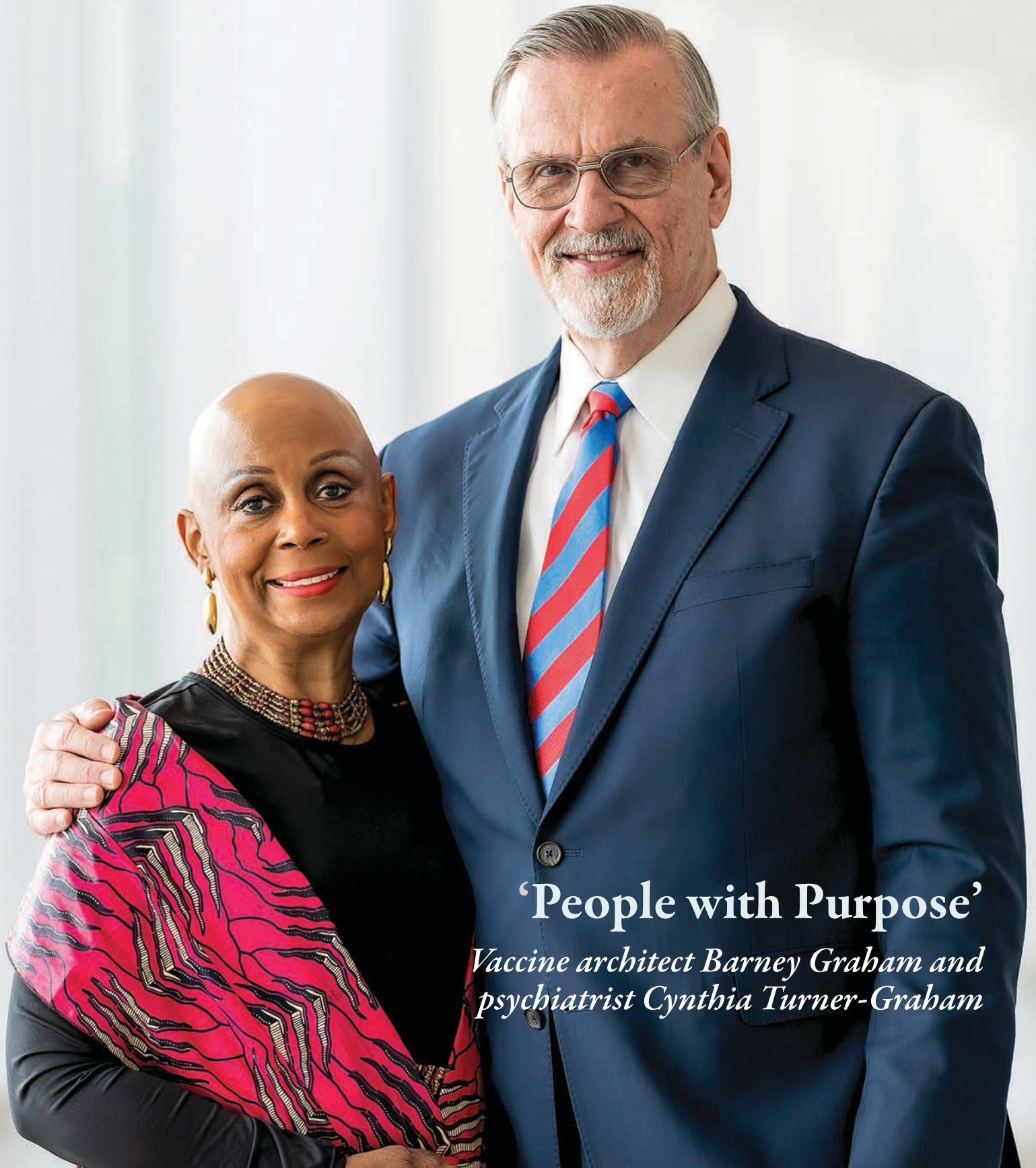
PICTURE OF HEALTH
Rural Kansas photos

REFORM ADVOCATE
A mother's quest

kansasalumni

ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2021 | $7



'People with Purpose'

Vaccine architect Barney Graham and psychiatrist Cynthia Turner-Graham

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Talk and squawk in the news

"If you have not, please get vaccinated so we don't have to worry about this virus continuing to affect our communities and loved ones. I fully believe I would be in a much worse condition if not for the vaccine."

—Men's basketball coach Bill Self, announcing July 23 on Twitter that he had tested positive for COVID-19. Self, who is fully vaccinated, reported that he experienced minor symptoms shortly before he was scheduled to hit the road recruiting; he entered isolation following a pair of positive COVID tests and reported that he was "feeling pretty good right now."

"When you are running in the Olympics, it is brutal. You have your country across your chest. You don't want to let anyone down. We're not going to let anyone down with this either."

—Kyle Clemons, c'19, a former KU track & field star and 2016 Olympic gold medalist, telling the Lawrence Journal-World about Gold Medal BBQ, the new restaurant he and his wife, Christina, herself an Olympic sprinter, opened in August in downtown Lawrence.

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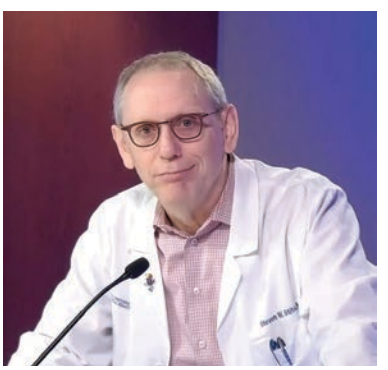

"The real experiment is not the vaccination. The real experiment is the virus inside of you. You're being used by the virus as a way for it to change itself into something that's even more dangerous. Don't let the virus use you."

—Dr. Steve Stites, chief medical officer at The University of Kansas Health System, during the July 14 Morning Medical Update, explaining the dangers of large-scale hesitancy to COVID-19 vaccines.

"It's weird, surreal. I feel changed in a sense that whatever bad vibes are going on around the world, it gives me hope that there is a new future."

—Topeka pharmacist Jim Schwartz, p'84, in the Topeka Capital-Journal, after being reunited with his long-lost KU class ring. Schwartz had his ring stolen 34 years ago while traveling in Minnesota; searching out its owner, a Good Samaritan told the KU School of Pharmacy that he came into possession of the ring via a former girlfriend, who told him she had bought it at an estate sale.

"Hell, yeah. Have you seen him in Summer League?"

—Miami Heat forward and former KU basketball player Markieff Morris, '12, when asked whether fellow Jayhawk Marcus Garrett, c'21, who in July signed a training-camp contract with the Heat, could contribute to the team's success this season.

IN THIS **ISSUE**

COVER STORY

Make the Dream Work

Before he led the team that developed lifesaving COVID vaccines, Barney Graham gathered strength—for his science and his life—from a partnership with his wife, psychiatrist Cynthia Turner-Graham.

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Cover image by Steve Puppe

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More Than Meets the Eye

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My Son's Story

After seeing the tragic consequences of flawed mental health support, a mother sets out to reform a broken system.

by Jerri Niebaum Clark

Profile: Larkin Sanders
Seeking to broaden the audience for classical music, a clarinetist starts close to home.

by Steven Hill

SUMMER 2021

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ONLINE EXTRAS

Videos
Meet the 2021 Fred Ellsworth Medallion winners.

Digital Feature
Esports levels up with new Union space.

From the Archives
KU Marketing Communications interviewed Baby Jay's creator in 2011(see the video at rockcha.lk/BabyJayBirthday).

kansasalumnimagazine.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.** Please limit your comments to 350 words. 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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Hoch memories

I LOVED YOUR PIECE on Hoch Auditorium! ["Gone but not forgotten," Hail to Old KU, issue No. 2]

It was my senior year that it burned down. I had four years of performing in Vespers there, and was devastated to watch it burn, as I was on campus that morning. I have to share with you a quick story of my first Vespers.

Freshmen were relegated to a group called "University Singers." For Vespers, our name changed to "Balcony Choir." The first balcony was reserved for attendees, but the second balcony was spooky and unsafe, and we were perched there. The joke was that our group sang in the balcony because freshmen were expendable.

Our director was Sara Wentz, g'88, who to this day serves as the choir director at my Lawrence church. She was concerned that we could not see her from the first row because of the balcony's steep pitch, so she leaned backwards very dangerously over the railing while she directed us. We honestly thought she was going to fall!

Thankfully she did not, and we all survived the Balcony Choir experience. That was December 1987, and I believe that balcony was condemned and closed a year or two later.

You helped me rekindle very fond memories of concerts and classes in Hoch. Like you, I did not care that it was imperfect. It was glorious and a deserving matriarch of Jayhawk Boulevard. You must let me tell you sometime about the choir director's robe that was accidently saved from the fire!

–Curtis Marsh, j'92
Lawrence

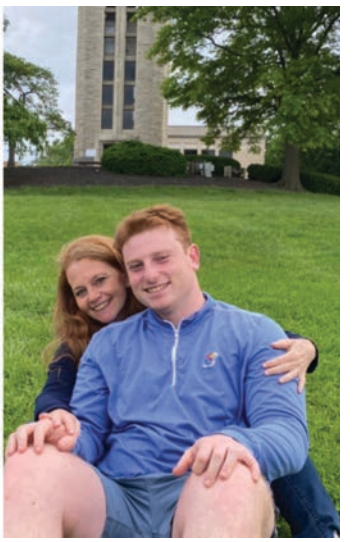
I REMEMBER Dave Brubeck and Paul Desmond playing at Hoch Auditorium in the early 1960s. It was instrumental in my discovery and lifelong appreciation of jazz.

–Fred Flock, f'64
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Picture of bliss

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE Steve Puppe's photo of the four women and a baby! [First Glance, issue No. 2] Thank you for such a prominent position in the magazine.

–Cara Connelly, f'71
Lawrence



Amy and Eli on the Hill—in March 1998, and after Commencement ceremonies for the 2020 and 2021 classes May 23.

Like mother, like son

AS AN ALUMNA who graduated from KU more than 20 years ago, I never would have guessed that my little guy, Eli, d'20, would pick KU.

Our experiences were different, but we both enjoyed our time on the Hill. It was pure joy to watch and visit him throughout his four years at KU, and I am so grateful to the University for honoring the 2020 class during this year's Commencement.

–Amy Rodenberg Needle, c'97
Philadelphia

A letter about a letter

DID A LETTER published in Lift the Chorus ["And I quote," issue No. 2] conscript Henry Fowler to instantiate the dilemma posed in 1785 by Church of England cleric William Paley? Father Paley pondered Edward Gibbon's oblique criticism of Christianity in *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* and, presumably, sighed.

"Who can refute a sneer?"

–George Bascom, c'73, m'76
Kearney, Nebraska

Forever friend

ALL INVOLVED in *Kansas Alumni* do a terrific job in creating such an interesting magazine. It takes me forever to read each issue because I'm compelled to read just about everything!

–Janet Kittlaus, b'65
Glenview, Illinois

Another Jayhawk rises

There was nary a ripple in the world of The Associated Press when a 22-year-old graduate of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications quietly walked into the noisy, crammed AP office on the first floor of the State Capitol in Topeka to begin work as a temporary news staffer.

It was early January 1988 when Sally Streff joined the staff headed by veteran correspondent Lew Ferguson to cover the legislature and Kansas politics for the next six months—with the hope of all such relief staffers, that doing well could land a full-time position with the AP. She had been recommended to me by Tom Eblen, general manager of the Daily Kansan, a great judge of talent for me and many in the news business.

In his so-called "Lew Ferguson Finishing School for Boy and Girl Journalists," Lew sent many a young staffer on her or his road to bigger things in the AP and the news industry, and beyond. One, Dan Biles, is a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court.

May 30 was AP Executive Editor Sally Streff Buzbee's last day with the news company that became her work home for more than three decades—a career that began at the lowest rung in the AP news ladder and ended at its very top—and on June 1, she became executive editor of The Washington Post ["Buzbee to Post," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 2], the first woman in its history to hold that position.

If Lew were alive, he'd be beaming with happiness and pride for this pupil in whom he helped instill the basics of being a journalist. As the AP bureau chief who hired her into that first job and then for her first full-time position in Kansas City, I'm beaming too. And confident of her continued success on another big stage.

Sally makes all of us so proud to be a Jayhawk.

–Paul Stevens, g'73
Lenexa

Debate for all?

It is my fervent hope that Saralyn Reece Hardy is sincere in her comments [KU Voice, issue No. 2] that a large public research university should be a place to "tangle with unfamiliar ideas and perspectives," "embrace others in their otherness" and "learn and respect difference." I say this because my observation is that in the last few years the University has been the antithesis of these expressions of inclusivity. The dismissal of and hatred toward any person or idea not in accordance with the "woke" left is palpable. Debate is smothered in angry, righteous rejection of ideas of "otherness." (Admittedly a new noun in my lexicon.)

I hope Director Hardy's concept of legacy entails "rethinking our future by repairing past ignorance and harm" perpetrated by political and philosophical thought—from left, right and those who do not think at all but are useful idiots.

–James Craig, p'69
Lenexa

February Sisters mark 50th anniversary

On Feb. 4, 1972, 30 women with four children in tow seized and occupied the East Asian Studies building at KU. They vowed to stay in the building until the University met six demands to advance justice and equity for women students, faculty and staff. Robin Morgan described it as the first time in American history that women planned and carried out an occupation of property in pursuit of their rights. Their demands forever changed KU and created the Hilltop Child Care Center; the Women's Studies program and major; an affirmative action plan, office, and board that included a February Sister as a member; a women's health clinic, including birth control availability at Watkins Health services; and women named to top academic administrative positions.

In February and March 2022, we will celebrate 50 years of this momentous event with a series of activities. We are interested in hearing from anyone involved in the February Sisters' action, inside or outside the building, including students, staff and faculty involved with Women's Studies, the Hilltop Child Care Center, the women's health clinic, the affirmative action office, or women administrators in the 1970s and beyond.

We want to hear from you and invite you to participate in our celebration. Please email the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at wgss@ku.edu with "February Sisters" in the subject line.

Please do join us in the celebration of this significant anniversary.

–Elizabeth "Beth" Schultz
February Sister
Lawrence

–Christine Leonard Smith
February Sister
Lawrence

February sister Christine Leonard

Editors' note: A story on KU professor Steven Soper's work with Biofluidica on COVID-19 testing ["At-home test progresses," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 2] incorrectly stated the company's home as San Francisco. Biofluidica is in San Diego. We regret the error.

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Courtesy Dole Archive Collection (3)

Moynihan, Dole

Dole, McGovern

Lessons from a bipartisan era

At some point you have to put campaigns on pause and govern

by Bob Dole

Why can't Republicans and Democrats get along? That's a question I've been asked countless times since I resigned from the Senate on June 11, 1996, to campaign for president full time. It's a good question, for which I have a good answer.

In part, partisan divisions embody ideological ones. Democrats and Republicans represent different views about government's proper size and scope. When one side wonders why the other doesn't simply give in on a point that's antithetical to its beliefs, it reminds me of Robert F. Kennedy's words: "Those who now call for an end to dissent . . . seem not to understand what this country is all about. For debate and dissent are the very heart of the American process. . . . There is no limit set to thought."

What our political process could do without is personal attacks, demeaning insults and shortsighted partisanship that might score points in the next election but won't make life better for the next generation. Looking back on my 27 years in the Senate, the legislative accomplishments that helped Americans were the product of negotiation with Democrats. Partisan differences didn't stop me from teaming up with New York's Pat Moynihan to save Social Security, with Massachusetts' Ted Kennedy and Iowa's Tom Harkin to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act or with Delaware's Joe Biden to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

Reaching across the aisle has also been a focus of my post-Senate life. During my presidential campaign, I reminded my supporters that Bill Clinton was my opponent, not my enemy. When the campaign was over, I was proud to accept his request to chair the campaign to raise funds to build the World War II Memorial. While asking countless people for donations, I didn't care about their party registration, as I didn't care about the party registration of the soldiers and medics who saved my life in the hills of Italy in 1945.

I also teamed up with three fellow former Senate leaders—Democrats George Mitchell and Tom Daschle and Republican Howard Baker—to form the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank that fosters bipartisanship by combining the best ideas from both parties to solve tough problems. Instilling our future leaders with the values of bipartisanship and civility is the mission of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

The genuine cross-aisle friendship I had that likely surprised people most was with fellow World War II veteran George McGovern of South Dakota. I was chairman of the Republican Party when he was the Democrats' presidential nominee in 1972, and I worked hard to ensure his defeat. But then we worked together for decades, in and out of the Senate, to help eliminate hunger at home and around the world.

Thinking about George brings to mind the day in June 1993 when, at my invitation, he attended the funeral ceremonies of former First Lady Pat Nixon. When asked by a reporter why he should honor the wife of his bitter political opponent, George replied, "You can't keep on campaigning forever."

All those serving on Capitol Hill would do well to remember those words. Civil debate and principled dissent are to be celebrated. But you can't keep on campaigning forever.

—Dole, '45, served as a U.S. senator from Kansas from 1969 to '96 and was the 1996 Republican presidential nominee.

THE FIRST DAY of school, Aug. 23, looked refreshingly familiar, as students made their way to in-person classes and campus activity returned to March 2020 levels, albeit with masks required indoors. "We know our health and safety efforts effectively mitigate risk on our campuses," Chancellor Doug Girod wrote in his first message of the semester. "For these reasons and more, we remain committed to providing our students and colleagues the on-campus experience they expect and deserve this year."

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE


ERSITY OF KANSAS
STRONG
HALL

Studio 804 (5)

"We do everything," says Dan Rockhill, professor of architecture and founder of KU's Studio 804 program. "We don't subcontract much of anything at all. So it's a hands-on, fully immersive experience for students."

ACADEMICS

Tiny homes, big solution

Studio 804's latest project provides critical support for homeless families

Since founding KU's Studio 804 architecture program more than 25 years ago, Dan Rockhill has hoped that one day he and his students could work with the Lawrence Community Shelter. With the onset of the pandemic, Rockhill saw an opportunity to support the shelter's homeless clients in a meaningful way.

"Their living conditions, even before COVID, were a problem," says Rockhill, J.L. Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture, describing the shelter's open, dormitory-style environment, packed with rows of bunk beds. "When the virus came, they realized that being able to isolate people was a whole other issue, and that resulted in their having to turn many potential guests away."

Rockhill approached the shelter about constructing and donating 12 tiny homes, which could not only help separate residents to prevent illness but also provide private, temporary housing for families for years to come. Thanks to the sale of houses from previous Studio 804 projects, Rockhill had the funds to donate design services, materials and labor for the completed containers, while the shelter provided the infrastructure, such as water, sewer and electricity.

Once news of Studio 804's tiny home project leaked, Rockhill says offers to donate construction materials, including the steel shipping containers; electrical, HVAC and plumbing services; and other building necessities quickly rolled in. "I think it was an interesting comment on the community, because we're all in this together," he says. "To see the local industries do what they could to help was gratifying."

As with other Studio 804 projects, KU students in their fifth year of the master of architecture

program worked in all aspects of the construction process, from developing preliminary sketches to landscaping the finished product. The 2020-'21 class included 18 graduate students, who transformed a dozen 160-square-foot shipping containers into single-family units, most of which include a bunk bed, a pull-out sleeper couch, a small kitchenette and a full bathroom. One home is fully ADA-accessible and has been configured to support two people.

All of the homes feature solar panels that generate electricity for dual-purpose air conditioning/heating units and LED lighting, and each home is equipped with Energy Star-rated windows, doors and appliances. Screens on the sides of the six pairs of units support vines that will provide shade and passive cooling during hot weather. "We do a tremendous amount of sustainable practice, meaning that we want these buildings to reflect our interest in sustainability. If all goes according to plan, this will be our 16th LEED platinum-certified project," says Rockhill, referencing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council.

All of the furniture and cabinetry was designed and built by the students, who worked off-site throughout the year in the Studio 804 warehouse, located just a few blocks away from the shelter in East Lawrence. The students also constructed picnic tables and a new, 900-square-foot commons area, as well as updated fencing for the community garden.

The shelter has dubbed its new tiny-home community Monarch Village, aptly named for the surrounding butterfly trails and pollinator garden that the shelter planted a few years ago. "The fact that butterflies stop off, get nutrients and continue on their journey, it's a great metaphor," says Meghan Bahn, the shelter's director of community engagement.

Bahn, g'06, explains that Monarch Village was built specifically with families in mind, a vast improvement over shared living space the shelter previously provided for homeless parents and children. Families who move into the tiny homes also benefit from separate storage and laundry areas in the main building, as well as a dedicated staff to help them transition to permanent housing. By midsummer, three families had moved into the units and applications are currently being accepted for more.

The shelter will once again partner with Studio 804 during the upcoming academic year to construct another 10 tiny homes, this time for single women. As with the first 12 tiny homes, they will provide private, temporary shelter for those most in need in our community.

"I really feel that with Monarch Village privacy is going to be a game-changer," Bahn says.

—Heather Biele

UPDATE

Penner book a hit

The Lost Apothecary, the first novel by Sarah Byrne Penner, debuted at No. 7 on The New York Times hardcover bestseller list in March and remained there seven weeks. It also made the USA Today bestseller list and the American Booksellers Association IndieBound list, which tracks sales at independent bookstores across the country.

"I was delighted to see the book do so well, and so soon," says Penner, b'08. "Readers seem very attracted to the thriller-esque premise of a female apothecary poisoner. Add a bit of magic, old London vibes, a mysterious glass vial and it makes for quite the fun read and continues to sell very well around the world." *The Lost Apothecary* has been translated into 40 languages and was recently optioned by Fox Entertainment for a TV drama series. A paperback edition is due Feb. 22.

Penner rose at 5 a.m. to write the book while working full time in finance ["Day Job, Daydream," issue No. 1, 2021]. She now starts her day at a more leisurely 6 a.m., having left the corporate world in March to devote more time to fiction.

If real estate *is all about location, it's impossible for Jayhawks to do better than Sprague Apartments, the midcentury modern brick building behind Danforth Chapel. Built in 1960 with a bequest from Elizabeth Sprague, KU's longtime head of home economics, the apartments were intended as affordable housing for retired faculty, and, eventually, retired staff. Now KU Endowment, which owns and administers the building, has opened the one- and two-bedroom apartments, priced well below market rates, to all faculty and staff with at least five years of service. Retirees retain preference on the wait list, and one unit is reserved for a helper, typically a grad student. "It's such a unique little community of people all related to KU in some way," says Monte Soukup, e'89, KU Endowment's senior vice president for property. "They all take care of each other."*


Susan Younger

Steve Puppe

"The safest environment is created by a vaccination. And while I know that doesn't guarantee you won't get sick with the Delta variant, it does fairly well guarantee you won't get *very* sick with Delta variant."

—Chancellor Doug Girod

CAMPUS DURING COVID

Not yet normal

Prizes encourage student vaccinations to thwart dastardly Delta

Sorority women serenaded potential new members arriving by the busload. The football team practiced at the stadium. Little girls danced gleefully in Chi Omega fountain. Weary grad students trudged down Jayhawk Boulevard under the burden of weary backpacks. Dog walkers and bicyclists relished the end of a humbling heat wave, and residence halls opened in a hot rush of cars and kids and parents.

Never was the late-summer return of the delicacies of Mount Oread life more welcome than it was in August, as Jayhawks young and old, new and not so new, flocked back to the campus home denied them one year ago.

And yet whatever "normal" once was, or might one day be again, it was not yet in the picture for the opening of fall classes. The dreaded "Delta variant"—which Chancellor Doug Girod, a physician and surgeon, described in a campus message as being 10 times more contagious than early versions of the SARS-CoV-2 virus—reignited COVID-19 fears, here as everywhere else on Planet Earth. The joys of loosened restrictions brought by spring vaccinations gave way, grudgingly, to a unique outlook for semester's onset, including the surprise announcement of a lucrative incentive program to encourage students to get vaccinated.

"The key word for the coming academic year," Mike Rounds, vice provost for Human Resources, Public Safety & Operations, and Chris Brown, vice provost for faculty development, wrote in an Aug. 6 campus letter, "is 'adapt.'"

Ten days after the University lifted its outdoor mask mandate, Girod on May 24 signed off on the pandemic year of 2020-'21 by noting, "Thanks to your work, we concluded this academic year with no known cases of COVID-19 transmission in our classrooms and research facilities and no outbreaks stemming from University events. ... It was never a given that we would be where we are today, and we shouldn't take that for granted."

The sunny outlook brightened further when, on May 27, the University announced that masks would be optional indoors on Mount Oread and at the Edwards Campus in Overland Park—the exceptions being public transportation and health care facilities. Across Lawrence, too, the grueling pandemic experience eased. The downtown swimming pool was once again filled to the brim. Lawrence Public Library allowed patrons to browse and study

without masks or time limits. Much-missed salad bars returned, nightspots hopped and the summer slate of outdoor events resumed.

The good times soon dimmed. On July 16, Dr. Steve Stites, chief medical officer at The University of Kansas Health System, announced, "We're in trouble, Kansas City." Less than a week later, his tone grew even more dire: "We are past the tipping point. We are in trouble."

Men's basketball coach Bill Self on July 23 revealed that, despite being fully vaccinated, he had entered isolation after testing positive for COVID-19, and on July 28 the University "strongly urged" that masks be worn indoors; a mask mandate for indoor public spaces, which all had hoped was behind us for good, returned Aug. 9.

"This mask mandate," Girod said Aug. 6, "is an important and hopefully short-lived step that will enable us to prioritize health and safety while maintaining our commitment to a full on-campus experience for students this fall."

Girod emphasized his expectation that in-person classes would resume, and remain, along with other activities that were put on hold after the arrival of COVID-19. On Aug. 13 he announced that students who uploaded their COVID-19 vaccine records to the Watkins Health Services student portal would be eligible for a slew of prizes—funded with more than $200,000 in federal money designated for vaccines, testing and incentives, along with donations from campus entities and affiliated partners—including free tuition, upgraded parking passes and $5,000 cash awards.

KU also began offering $40 gift cards to KU Bookstores for the first 4,000 students who received their first "completely voluntary" dose of a vaccine sequence at an on-campus clinic, which would also make them eligible for $10 KU Dining gift cards after scheduling a second appointment.

"The most important thing in the world that we can do right now is to get people vaccinated," Emergency Management Coordinator Andrew Foster, c'12, said in an August appearance on Girod's video message to campus. "It feels like we yell this at the top of our lungs every day. I know there's still a lot of people hesitant on getting the vaccine, but at this point we have to get everyone vaccinated in order to end this thing."

Foster and Girod noted that free vaccines will be offered throughout campus, including the Kansas Union, academic departments and campus events, and health care professionals will be available to consult with those who are "still on the fence" about whether or not to vaccinate.

Weekly prize raffles will continue through October. Three students will receive cash prizes of $5,091, equivalent to one semester of in-state tuition, and another three will win a flat $5,000. Two students will win coveted gold parking permits; four will win $1,000 in KU Dining Dollars; one will win an iPad, AirPods and an Apple Watch, courtesy of campus soft-drink partner Pepsi; and others will receive football and basketball tickets, courtesy of the Chancellor's Office, and gift cards provided by adidas, Rally House and other local retailers and restaurants, courtesy of Truity Credit Union and the Alumni Association.

While campus instructional and research spaces have edged back toward pre-COVID layouts, increased personal space has been retained, compared with traditional interior designs, and other important upgrades, including air filtration systems, will aid in thwarting all airborne illness.

None of which, Girod notes, will ultimately win the battle against COVID-19. It's still about getting the Fauci Ouchie, and if cash prizes make that happen, then bring on the goodies.

"The safest environment," Girod said Aug. 17, "is created by a vaccination. And while I know that doesn't guarantee you won't get sick with the Delta variant, it does fairly well guarantee you won't get *very* sick with Delta variant.

"It's a great myriad of prizes out there, so students, please, take advantage—take *full* advantage—of this opportunity. ... Go out, get vaccinated, and Rock Chalk."

—Chris Lazzarino

Steve Puppe

With the Delta variant reigniting COVID concerns, the first week of fall classes saw many groups convening on campus lawns and in open-air tents, holdovers from the pandemic's debut.

Spoonfuls of sugar

Students who register their vaccinations are eligible for these prizes:

- **Three** **cash prizes** of **$5,091** (one semester of in-state tuition)
- **Three** **cash prizes** of **$5,000**
- **Two** **gold parking passes**
- **Four $1,000** prizes in **KU Dining Dollars**
- **One** **iPad, AirPods** and an **Apple Watch**
- **Football tickets**
- **Basketball tickets**
- **Gift cards** to **Rally House, adidas,** other **local stores** and **restaurants**
- The first **4,000** students who receive their first shot at an on-campus clinic will receive **$40** **KU Bookstores gift cards;** those who schedule their second shots will receive **$10** **KU Dining cards.**

Alumna Melissa Peterson in May became the University's first director of tribal relations, a position created to address the needs of Native American students and strengthen ties to tribal communities, part of KU's effort to encourage diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Peterson, g'11, '21, was born and raised in the Navajo Nation and recently served as associate director for KU TRIO Supportive Educational Services & STEM. As an adviser for the KU First Nations Student Association and president of Native Faculty and Staff Council, she also organizes the annual KU Powwow & Indigenous Cultures Festival.

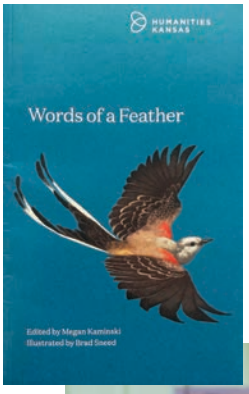
ARTS & CULTURE

Words of a Feather

New book by Humanities Kansas celebrates the beauty of birds and poetry

Last year, amid the widespread cancellation of in-person events, Humanities Kansas leaders sought ways for Kansans to enjoy arts, literature and culture from the comfort of their homes—a concept they called "DIY humanities."

"Before the pandemic, so much of our work was focused on building community, which always meant bringing people together to engage with the humanities," explains Leslie Bowyer VonHolten, c'96, g'15, director of grants and outreach at Humanities Kansas. "When we couldn't get together anymore, we wanted to come up with ways that people could still engage with the humanities but do it safely within their own families, their own pods or on their own."



VonHolten reached out to Megan Kaminski, associate professor of English and poetry at KU, to edit and co-write *Words of a Feather*, a chapbook of poems inspired by birds, published early this year. The book features illustrations by Prairie Village artist Brad Sneed, f'89, and the works of 10 poets, most of whom have ties to Kansas, including Kaminski, whose own poetry often explores the ways we interact with nature.

"It was really inspiring to be able to work on a project that was so attuned to connecting with large groups of people and with people who maybe don't normally read poetry," she says. "That really excited me. And I think that excitement was shared by the people I contacted."

Emily Dickinson's poem "'Hope' is the thing with feathers" provided inspiration for the book and was among the first to be featured; the rest of the poets were carefully curated by Kaminski. Included are works by the late Mary Oliver, a celebrated nature poet, and Kansas native and avant-garde poet Ronald Johnson, as well as Ignacio Carvajal, assistant professor of Latin American literature and culture, who honors the many languages of the mockingbird by composing his poem in English, Spanish and K'iche', a Mayan language of Guatemala. Each poem is accompanied by one of Sneed's drawings, along with a notable tidbit about the bird and its natural habitat.

Humanities Kansas has printed 3,500 copies of *Words of a Feather*, which is free and available at state parks and from more than 30 cultural partners throughout Kansas, including libraries, museums, community colleges and other nonprofit organizations. The project was funded by the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund of the Douglas County Community Foundation, Kansas Tourism, Kansas State Parks and Friends of Humanities Kansas.

Both Kaminski and VonHolten hope that the chapbook, the first for Humanities Kansas, will ultimately help fellow Kansans discover and celebrate the powerful connections between poetry and nature. "We hope people look up into the trees, the sky and see the beautiful birds that come through Kansas," VonHolten says, "and engage with the poetry and recognize that the words of the poets can really open up our experiences with the outdoors."

Steve Puppe

Kaminski and VonHolten

—Heather Biele

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Steve Puppe

In Phoenix and Washington, D.C., DeWitt worked for seven mayors. He recalls an early lesson from one Phoenix mayor who asked him a question: "I started trying to give him what he wanted. He said, 'If you tell me what I want to hear, I will never trust you again.' I was pretty young. Good advice."

STRONG HALL

He's not afraid to ask

For new CFO, the answers to KU's financial jeopardy begin with posing the right questions

In April, five weeks into his role as the University's CFO and executive vice chancellor for finance, Jeff DeWitt made his KU video debut, explaining the financial plight of the Lawrence campus in a 55-minute presentation alongside Chancellor Doug Girod and Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92.

DeWitt shared PowerPoint slides, of course, but more important, he used pithy, plain English, most quotably the phrase "death by a thousand cuts," to describe the persistent budget reductions KU has made in all but two years since 2008. "It must be exhausting," he added.

The financial woes on the Lawrence campus—years in the making—result from declining state funding, flat enrollment and inflation, DeWitt explained. The resulting structural budget deficit can be solved only by multiyear financial planning, not one-year fixes. "One-time money cannot deal with a structural deficit," he said. "This is what we've done historically and this is what many cities and many universities do—look one year out, declare victory and worry about next year when you get there."

In August, five months into his KU tenure, DeWitt sees progress, starting with the fact that "I don't see people denying we have a problem anymore." After many late nights to survey the University's financial landscape in preparation for the April video (rockcha.lk/FinancialUpdate), DeWitt and his team are now developing a five-year financial plan tied to the Jayhawks Rising strategic plan. They also are revamping financial reports to help stakeholders understand the complete budget picture for all of KU. He encourages colleagues to submit their ideas for ways the Lawrence campus can grow its way out of the structural deficit and avoid the $24 million in red ink that awaits in 2024. As he told the Kansas Board of Regents in August, "Between now and 2024, we need to find a way to fill that hole. And if we can fill that hole, then we'll get another year but we're still structurally unbalanced."

DeWitt regularly reviews ideas submitted to jayhawksrising.ku.edu and shares promising

brainstorms with Bichelmeyer and Girod. "No one's smarter than the group, " he says. "You need to get ideas of the faculty, and the staff, and the provost and the chancellor. You've got to listen and you need to empower people."

As examples, DeWitt fires off questions that could lead to solutions for KU: "We've got all this space we're not using. What do you do with that? Do you tear it down or do you deploy it in other ways? How can we grow enrollment? We're not that big online. Well, why not? Maybe we can partner with Lawrence in terms of looking at convention opportunities and things like that."

His roles as CFO in Phoenix and Washington, D.C., provided the preparation for KU's challenges. They also proved DeWitt doesn't scare easily.

He began his career in Phoenix by creating a 50-year water resource plan for a city in the desert. Twenty-five years later, as CFO, he led the city's recovery from the desperate days of the Great Recession to a triple-A credit rating as the nation's fifth-largest metropolis with an annual budget of $3.4 billion.

DeWitt is eternally curious. In 2014 he interviewed for the CFO job in Washington, D.C., mainly because he had never seen the nation's capital and he wanted to meet a member of the search committee, Alice Rivlin, who had made history as the founder of the Congressional Budget Office.

For seven years, he oversaw finances for the District of Columbia, a unique entity with a $16.9 billion annual budget that comprises not only the nation's 20th-largest city but also the functions of county and state government, a hospital, a sports authority, K-12 public education and the University of the District of Columbia. He led 1,700 staff members and reported to Congress.

When DeWitt's sister, a research professor at the University of Central Florida, told him the CFO job at the University of Kansas was open, he did his own research. Lawrence and eastern Kansas reminded him of southern Illinois, where he grew up in the small rural town of Fairfield.

More important, DeWitt, a first-generation college student, believes in the power of higher education. He served in the U.S. Army to pay for his undergraduate degree at Eastern Illinois University, and he financed graduate school at Southern Illinois University after delivering pizzas for two years and working as a college-dormitory assistant for two more. "My education has given me opportunities I could have never dreamed of, including my current position," he says. "I love being part of a purpose-driven organization and want to ensure success for KU and its mission to give others the benefit of a college education."

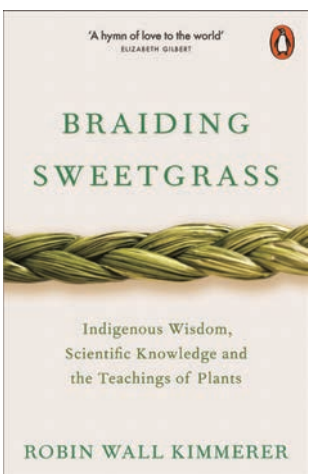
He attributes his zest for learning and endlessly asking questions to his mother, a librarian, and his father, a diesel mechanic, whom he describes as creative and always quick to encourage their children. He also credits his mentor and predecessor as CFO in Phoenix, the late Kevin Keogh. "He was really, really wicked smart. He was from New York. He was difficult, but he was smart," DeWitt recalls. "He would ask the dumb questions in the room. So the consultants would come in and he would ask lots of questions. He never pretended he knew. ... And he would literally kick the people out of the room when they couldn't answer the question, because they were selling something they didn't even understand themselves.

"I would argue the [2008] financial crisis was because smart people didn't admit they didn't know. So my personality, which could be torturous to people, is I ask lots and lots of questions."

DeWitt plans to continue to inquire, learn and share his ideas as KU, especially the Lawrence campus, seeks to overcome the structural financial deficit that has necessitated the "death by a thousand cuts." He also will enlist alumni advocates and the business community to clearly tell KU's story. "You have to put a strategy together, and then forecast it out and see what might work. You'll make some mistakes," he says. "But this is a phenomenal place to live. This is a phenomenal city. This is a phenomenal university.

"So, why can't it come out of this better than everybody else? You don't have to sit here and cut every year."

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner



After a one-year pandemic hiatus, the Common Book program relaunched this fall with *Braiding Sweetgrass,* a thought-provoking collection of essays on botany, teachings of Indigenous peoples, and author Robin Wall Kimmerer's experiences as a mother, teacher and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The book and related materials will be taught and explored throughout the academic year in partnership with faculty and students at Haskell Indian Nations University, and Kimmerer will visit both schools Nov. 10 and 11. More information on public programs can be found at experience.ku.edu/common-book.

Courtesy KU Health System (4)

"It's a very expensive piece of equipment and it took a lot of dedication from KU Health System to be able to come up with the resources to be able to bring that here. … Now it's all in place, and that's incredibly exciting."

—Dr. Ronald Chen

KU CANCER CENTER

Cancer center's BIG news

Massive proton therapy machine will soon offer precision treatments

When the KU Cancer Center's proton therapy gantry and cyclotron finally arrived at The University of Kansas Health System's Proton Therapy Center, much was made of the machine's sheer magnitude, on par with a 747 airliner, requiring a massive flatbed trailer and even a police escort all the way from its arrival at Port Houston, in Texas, to 39th and Rainbow in Kansas City.

But for Dr. Ronald Chen, the truly awe-inspiring aspect of the April arrival was—as with the equipment's reason for being—all about precision.

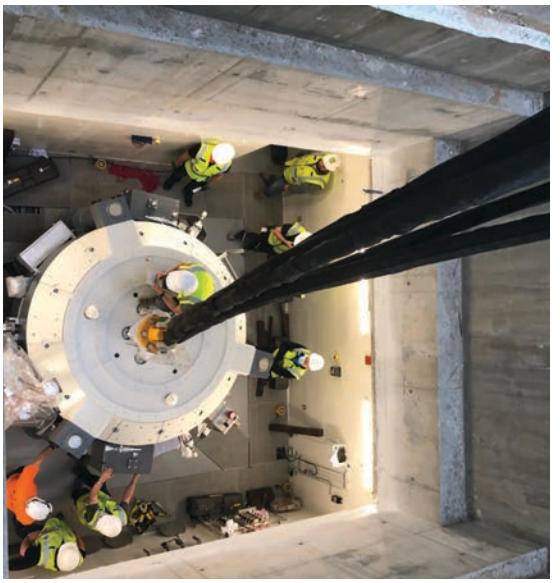
"That really big piece of machinery had to drop through a hole in the roof to be able to get through, and I believe each side of that space had about a 1-inch margin of error," says Chen, c'00, an internationally renowned radiation oncologist whom KU hired away from Harvard University as the Joe and Jean Brandmeyer Endowed Chair of radiation oncology. "We had to be incredibly steady to successfully drop in a huge, 125-ton machine, and, as you can imagine, it takes a whole team of people to make that happen."

When the $60 million Proton Therapy Center comes online early next year, it will offer patients suffering with certain forms of cancer—including brain tumors, prostate cancers, and head and neck cancers—a precision treatment unavailable elsewhere in the region.

Unlike conventional radiation, a proton beam can be targeted and focused to a specific depth and placement, minimizing or even eliminating damage to healthy and vital tissues and organs. Unfortunately, eligible patients from Kansas and across the Kansas City metro area seeking such treatment have been forced to travel to such sites as the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota or MD Anderson at the University of Texas.

"Proton therapy is a daily treatment that happens for six to eight weeks," Chen says, "so for somebody

Nick Burke (l-r), director of engineering and energy; Chief Medical Officer Steve Stites; executive vice president and COO Tammy Peterman, n'81, g'97; president and CEO Bob Page; and Ronald Chen, chair of radiation oncology



to be put on therapy, they would have to go to some other state and basically move there for two months, and not work, just to be able to receive that daily treatment. For the majority of patients the decision is, 'I have the resources to do that but I have to quit my job,' or, 'I don't have the resources to quit my job for two months and get the treatment, so I'll compromise and get the lesser treatment for my cancer.' That's an incredibly difficult situation for many patients, so being able to offer that right here is really huge for our population in this area."

The KU Cancer Center was recognized as a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center in 2012, and earned renewed NCI status in 2017. Now administrators, researchers and physicians from across KU, the KU Cancer Center and The University of Kansas Health System are preparing to submit an application this fall to achieve "comprehensive" designation, the gold standard of NCI status, and offering proton therapy within a brand-new, purpose-built center is the latest element in KU's years-long planning for its upgrade application.

"Achieving a comprehensive NCI designation means that you have to be at the top echelon for everything," Chen says. "You have to be in the top echelon for clinical programs, your equipment, your research, your outreach. And I do think having a proton program—and again, the only one in this region—puts us in that arena. It's an important part of our comprehensive application."

Chen notes that as a KU alumnus, he is particularly proud to have been chosen to help lead KU's efforts to offer proton therapy, which, along with serving patients with the latest and greatest in cancer treatments, will also help attract talented doctors and staff from leading health centers across the country.

"I would say this project of deciding to bring proton therapy to this region and to KU has been ongoing for probably over 10 years," Chen says. "It's a very expensive piece of equipment and it took a lot of dedication from KU Health System to be able to come up with the resources to be able to bring that here. And, once the decision was made, we had to build a building and wait for the equipment. Now it's all in place, and that's incredibly exciting."

—Chris Lazzarino

ALUMNI

51 years OUT

Reunion celebrates local history of LGBTQ advocacy

More than a dozen KU and Lawrence groups will honor a half-century of LGBTQ activism Oct. 18-22 by hosting "51 Years OUT! Celebrating Gay Liberation History of KU and Lawrence" as part of LGBTQ History Month.

The Lawrence Gay Liberation Front (LGLF) formed in 1970. Kathy Rose-Mockry, director emerita of the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity, has chronicled the history of LGLF and other groups that emerged through the years for her forthcoming book. Leonard Grotta, an early LGLF member, recalled the affirmation and support the group provided. "It was really a very personal thing. People were coming out openly for the first time," Grotta, j'80, told Rose-Mockry. "At that age, young people who knew they were gay were finally able to find other gay people to talk to and express themselves, making it OK for them to be themselves for the first time in their lives."

Rose-Mockry, d'78, g'85, PhD'15, and other organizers had planned the celebration for 2020; she hopes to highlight the 51st-anniversary event in the final chapter of her book. 51 Years OUT! will feature panel discussions, presentations, campus tours, a '70s-style dance and other activities. Complete information is available at watkinsmuseum.org/51-out.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For full listings of events, visit the links below.

Lied Center

Sept. 25 America: 50th Anniversary Tour

Sept. 30 Amir ElSaffar and the Two Rivers Ensemble

Oct. 15 The Mayhem Poets

Oct. 17 Tesla String Quartet

Nov. 2 The Simon & Garfunkel Story

Nov. 5 The Brian McKnight 4

lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

"Debut," fall 2021

spencerart.ku.edu

Murphy Hall

Sept. 29 Visiting Artist Series: The Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

Oct. 6 KU Jazz Combos

music.ku.edu

Alumni events

Oct. 13-16 Homecoming

Nov. 14 KU Vet's Day 5K

kualumni.org/kuconnection

Academic Calendar

Aug. 23 First day of fall classes

Oct. 9-12 Fall Break

RESEARCH

Rewriting history

Important Black fiction archive draws NEH support

A KU COLLECTION BILLED as the largest digital archive of African American novels written since the 19th century will get a lot larger and more accessible with the help of a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Black Book Interactive Project, which since 2010 has been digitizing the more than 4,000 titles discovered and cataloged by the KU-based Project on the History of Black Writing (HBW), received a $350,000 grant from the NEH to expand that archive, refine its user interface, and boost a program that teaches digital humanities scholars how to use the database in their research.

The grant will fund the discovery and digitization of another 2,100 titles, continuing a decades-long quest to fill the gap in scholars' understanding of Black writers' contributions to American literature, according to Maryemma Graham, University Distinguished Professor of English, who founded HBW in 1983 at the University of Mississippi and brought it to KU when she joined the faculty in 1999.

COURTESY MARYEMMA GRAHAM

Graham

"People keep coming to us and saying, 'I'm doing research but I don't have any African American authors in my research pool and I don't understand why,'" Graham says. "It's the most common question we get. It's because those writers are not in those collections. There are a lot of digital archives out there, but they're very limited in terms of certain kinds of things."

Graham, who grew up in Georgia at a time when libraries were being desegregated, recalls seeing firsthand how books, especially those that do not circulate widely, can slip out of history.

"I worked in a library, and I remember when they threw books away, and the librarians would say, 'Our population is not going to read these books.' I said, 'Some of these old books need to stay, because they tell a different story.'"

The role of women in the labor struggles that played out in Southern textile mills, for example, is well documented. Less well known is that formerly enslaved Black people employed by those mills contributed to the fight for fair wages. Of a dozen books on the topic, Graham says, only one received wide and lasting readership, and it was a story of workers failing to gain concessions. Novels that documented success stories faded into obscurity before being reclaimed by the KU archive.

Similarly, rediscovered books that tell the stories of runaway slaves who escaped successfully, changed their names and blended into Native American communities in Kansas and Nebraska "are not your ordinary slave narratives," Graham says, but contribute to history in interesting ways.

"Those battles are really over who's going to tell the story," says Graham, who believes she and her HBW colleagues are literary detectives chasing down leads to locate forgotten and understudied novels. "People told their own stories, but those stories got lost. We've got to find them, integrate them into the whole story. It's about giving a bigger picture of what's out there."

Often that paper chase leads to private collectors. While their efforts can save rare titles from disappearing, Graham knows that books locked up in a private library do not contribute to scholars' understanding of Black literature. When HBW started, in the pre-digital 1980s, it too was hampered by limited access.

"It was a huge collection, people knew we had it, and it was a research resource for people," Graham recalls. "But it was in our office, in our space, in our house. That doesn't do anybody any good unless they can physically come to the place."

With the help of several prior NEH grants, the program has unlocked most of those overlooked treasures. The latest grant allows them to do more, by completing the digitization of about 500 books in the existing collection and all the new titles added over the next two years. It will also fund upgrades in the interface that allows scholars to access the collection and will double the number of researchers trained by the Black Book Interactive Scholars Program, a series of webinars for digital humanities scholars interested in tapping the KU database for their research.

"By the end we'll have 40 or 50 people out there in the world doing research," Graham says. "They are sort of our foot soldiers. They're teaching students, they're librarians, they're professionals in other areas, and they help spread the word about the program because they'll be publishing that work, presenting at conferences, doing podcasts about it. And when people say, 'Well how did you find all these things?' it points back to us."

—STEVEN HILL

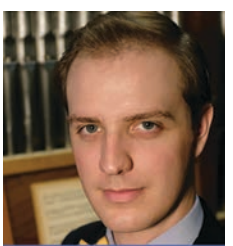
AWARDS

Fulbright trio

As the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Awards emerged from its year of pandemic-induced hibernation, three young KU alumni and graduate students were chosen to spend the next year teaching, performing and conducting research overseas, and five other new grads were named alternates.

"This was the largest applicant group KU has had during my time as the University's Fulbright Program adviser," says Rachel Sherman Johnson, director of internationalization and partnerships at KU International Affairs. "These students rose to the challenge of applying for the program during a worldwide crisis, their enthusiasm for, and belief in, the value of international engagement undiminished by the pandemic."

Samuel Buse, g'21, will study organ performance with access to historically significant instruments throughout southern Spain. Gabrielle Doue, c'19, was selected for a teaching assistantship in Colombia. Isabel Keleti, u'17, will study the Czech piano repertoire with a leading scholar in the works of Leos Janácek.


Samuel Buse
Spain

Alternates are Sadie Arft, g'18, '21, a doctoral candidate in the history of art; microbiologist Natasha LaGrega, c'21; Matthew Santoyo, c'21, e'21, who has degrees in aerospace engineering and German studies; history graduate Jacob Springer, c'21, who studied Russian language and literature; and economist Sneha Verma, c'21.

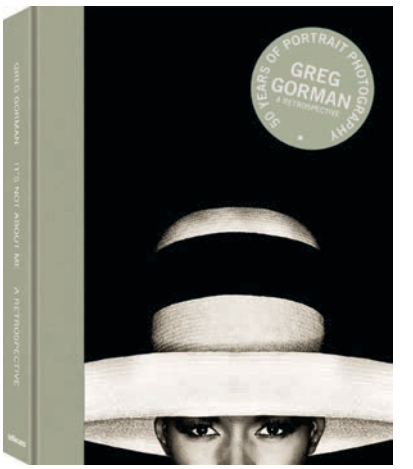

Gabrielle Doue
Colombia

"As the Fulbright program reemerges from the pandemic," says Charles Bankart, PhD'12, associate vice provost for International Affairs, "I could not be more delighted to see KU students leading the way."


Isabel Keleti
Czech Repubic

Book briefs

A handsome 400-page retrospective of Greg Gorman's 50-year photography career starts with a foreword by Elton John and ends with an afterword by John Waters. In between unspools a head-spinning reel of stunning portraits of Hollywood and music celebrities from the 1970s onward. Gorman, '71, discovered photography after borrowing a friend's camera to shoot Jimi Hendrix at a Kansas City concert, and rock and roll icons (David Bowie, Michael Jackson, Mick Jagger, Grace Jones, Iggy Pop) are heavily represented here, as are film legends (Elizabeth Taylor, Alfred Hitchcock, Sophia Loren) and legends-in-the-making (young guns Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio and Johnny Depp near the start of their careers). *It's Not About Me* makes a strong argument that "celebrity photography" is a condescending term for what a photographer of Gorman's caliber does. Call it art.



It's Not About Me: A Retrospective
By Greg Gorman
teNeues Books, $61

A police procedural with a supernatural twist, *The Hatak Witches* follows Detective Monique Blue Hawk as she and her partner investigate the mysterious theft of human remains and the murder of a security guard at an Oklahoma children's museum that holds a large collection of Native artifacts. Devon Mihesuah, Cora Lee Beers Price Teaching Professor in International Cultural Understanding at KU, whose research focuses on the empowerment and well-being of Indigenous peoples, deftly blends tribal beliefs and myths of her Choctaw Nation with life in present day Oklahoma. Her vividly detailed descriptions bring the state's natural charms to life. Shapeshifters, Old Ones, and the titular witch are all part of a dark, powerful mystery that Blue Hawk, a recurring character in Mihesuah's fiction, struggles to unwind as she advances understanding (her own and the reader's) about the cosmology and cultural survival of the Choctaw Nation.

The Hatak Witches
By Devon Mihesuah
University of Arizona Press, $16.95

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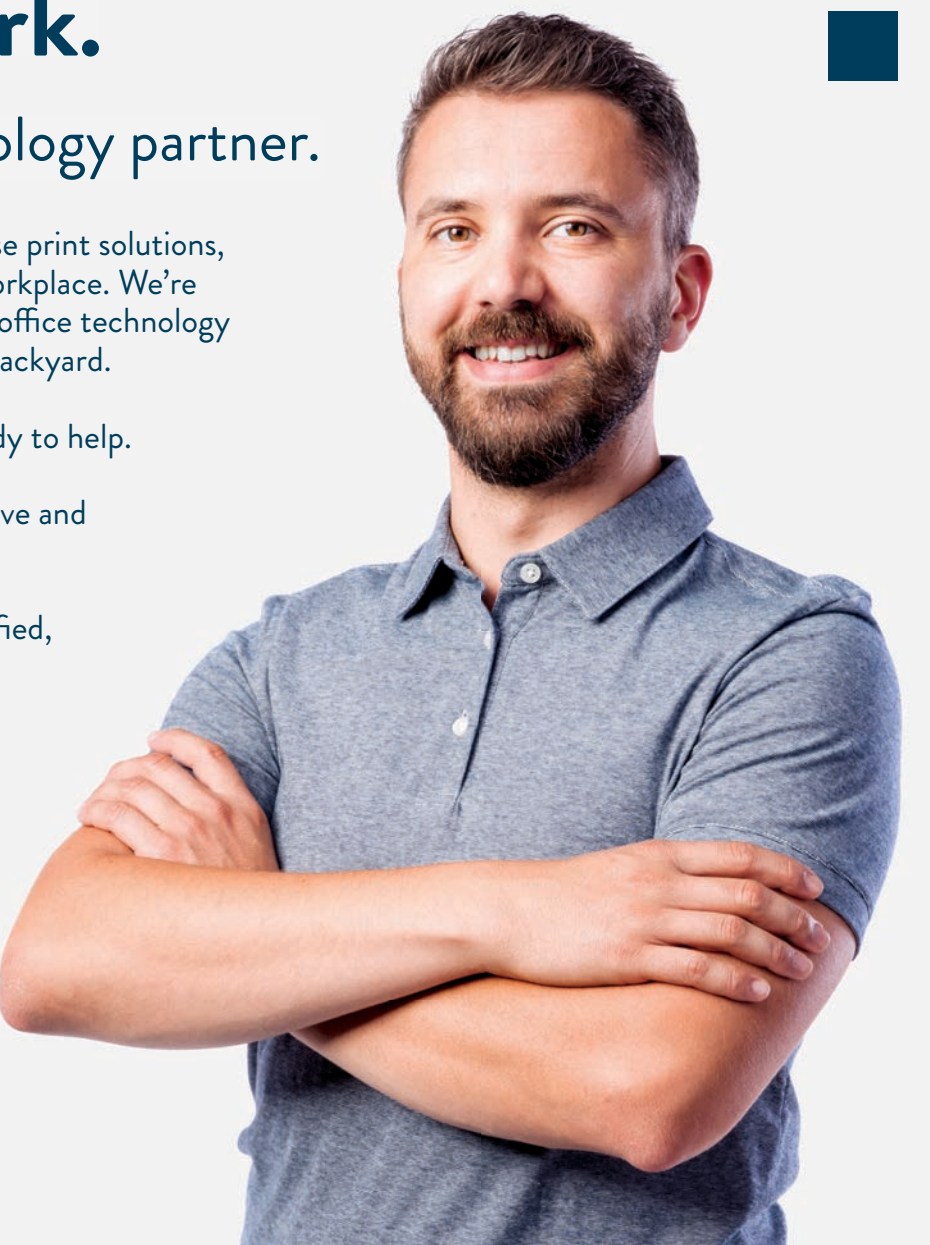

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Education boost

After expanding its undergraduate and graduate degree programs last fall under the umbrella of the new School of Professional Studies, the KU Edwards Campus has added yet another degree option for Kansas City area students: a bachelor of science in education, elementary education.

Offered through KU's School of Education and Human Sciences, the new degree prepares graduates to work as elementary-school teachers or pursue additional training in areas such as special education, curriculum and instruction, and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). Students in the program benefit from general and professional education coursework as well as extensive field experience in kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms in the Kansas City area. The program opened for enrollment this semester.

As with most degree programs at KU's Overland Park campus, this new offering was developed with both students and the surrounding community in mind. "At the KU Edwards Campus, we launch programs in accordance with local workforce needs and help those who are ready to start, change or advance their career," says Stuart Day, dean of the Edwards Campus and School of Professional Studies. "This new program is a direct response to the growing demand for teachers in the Kansas City area and will help train professionals who play a crucial role in the lives of children in our community."

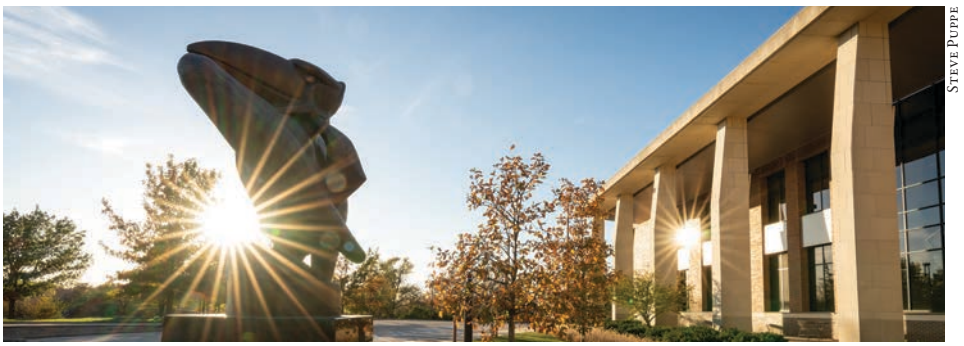
Public Safety changes planned

The University is adopting all 12 recommendations developed by a task force assigned to review how the KU Public Safety Office polices campus.

Chancellor Doug Girod ordered the task force in August 2020 in the wake of nationwide social justice demonstrations following the death of George Floyd and other unarmed Black citizens during interactions with police. Chaired by Charles Epp, g'89, Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Affairs, the 27-member committee, which included faculty, staff, students and alumni, recommended changes in three categories: improvements to KU's responses to behavioral health emergencies, improvements to campus police systems for addressing issues related to officer conduct, and changes to advisory and oversight of the KU Public Safety Office, including establishing a nine-member oversight board of faculty, staff and students ["'We must do the work,'" issue No. 1].

In a May email to the campus community announcing the decision to embrace the recommendations in their entirety, Chancellor Girod said that he had asked the task force "to examine KUPSO practices to make certain that community members are ensured safety and respect—and freedom from bias and racism—in their interactions with police" on campus. Since the task force made its final recommendations in November, Girod said, "a team of KU leaders have worked to determine how to best incorporate and implement the task force's recommendations to the benefit of our community."

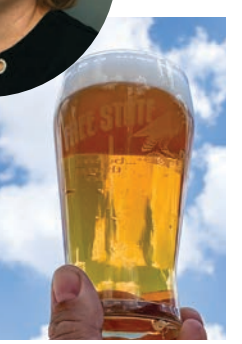
View the task force's recommendations and the University's response at chancellor.ku.edu/task-force-community-responsive-public-safety.



Steve Puppe

Cheers to Sally!

When Geoff Deman, Free State Brewing Company's director of brewing operations/head brewer, saw the news that The Washington Post had named alumna Sally Streff Buzbee, j'88, executive editor, his unnamed brew awaiting its debut suddenly became Buzbee American Pale Ale.



Courtesy Free State Brewing

Deman, c'95, notes that founder Chuck Magerl, '78, is a "huge fan of journalism" who "reads newspapers pretty voraciously," so he was confident the boss would approve. An added benefit was the opportunity to honor a woman rather than the dusty men who had previously graced Free State brews: "I thought it would be cool to recognize something that was a contemporary achievement, of the here and now, and also show that we are just really proud that the Post's first female executive editor is from my alma mater, and Kansas."

Deman reports that "people love this beer," a "classic American pale ale" distinguished from the flagship Copperhead Pale Ale by exclusively American hops and malt, so he anticipates it will be offered on draft three or four times a year for the foreseeable future.

Subscription not required.

ACADEMICS

'Above and Beyond'

In exceptional year, advising award-winner helped Jayhawks find their place

Attending a university where an estimated 35 to 40% of the student body was Hispanic proved pivotal for Rosanna Godinez, both academically and professionally.

"That was the first time I had ever been in a space where I felt like I belonged," says Godinez, who grew up biracial in Johnson County. Her admissions counselor, she recalls, "automatically knew how to say my name without even asking. It's such a simple thing, but because my name is so tied to my cultural background it meant the world to me."

The environment at Dominican University, near Chicago, not only supported her personal growth, but also inspired her to pursue a career in higher education. That led her back home to Kansas and a job as an academic adviser in KU's Undergraduate Advising Center, where since 2016 she has drawn on her college experience to help new Jayhawks—predominantly freshmen and sophomores who have not yet declared a major or who are working toward admittance to one of the professional schools—feel like Mount Oread is a place where they belong.

Steve Puppe

Godinez

"I try to give the same respect to students here," Godinez says. "I am very aware that college is never as simple as enrolling in classes, taking classes, finishing the semester. There are always other things that happen. Sometimes it's a job, sometimes it's personal life situations, sometimes it's family. I strive to be the person that students feel safe with, because I had people who did that for me when I was in college, and those are the people who actually made me want to work in higher education."

In May Godinez was named the 2021 KU Academic Advisor of the Year. Established in 2017 by the KU Advising Network with support from Academic Success, the award honors outstanding academic advisers for their service to undergraduate students, recognizing occupational knowledge, advocacy for students, cultural competency, inclusiveness, campus and community engagement, leadership and more. Godinez was one of 13 advisers from the Lawrence and Edwards campuses nominated in a year that required them "to go above and beyond," according to provost and executive vice chancellor Barbara Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92.

"Rosana set herself apart as described by her nominators who highlighted her passion for helping students, team-oriented leadership style and commitment to social justice," says Susan Klusmeier, g'03, vice provost for academic success. "Her commitment to advising excellence is exemplified through her nomination letters, all of which describe the impact she has had during an exceptionally challenging year."

During 2020-'21 those "other things" that can challenge students' ability to make progress on their academic goals were indeed legion.

The COVID-19 pandemic and recession, widespread social-justice demonstrations and a contentious national election taxed University support systems right when students needed them more than ever.

"We went home in March 2020 and came back in March 2021, so it was a lot of figuring out how to provide that same level of support and guidance we were providing in person," Godinez says. "The systems that we had in place stopped in their tracks, and we had to figure out how to get them moving again." While Zoom meetings gave advisers a way to stay in touch with students, the additional screen time added another burden to advisees already burned out by the constant videoconferencing

"Getting an award from people who know what you do, who do the things you do, I think honestly makes it even more special," Godinez says of the Academic Advisor of the Year Award, which is administered by the campus advising community, including advisers from academic units and enrichment programs across campus.

demands of online classes. "We really spent the last year trying to figure out new ways to engage students so that advising didn't feel like more of the same," she says.

Godinez believes her role as an adviser is to help a student move one step forward. And then another step and another. It's up to the student to define precisely what each step is.

"We're not here to make decisions for students; I'm not going to tell a student, 'You need to take this history class,'" Godinez says. Rather her role is to ask questions that can help undeclared students explore what makes them feel happy or engaged and start to connect them with classes that can build on those interests.

For many students facing job losses, family hardships and elevated stress this past year, the step they needed was to hit pause on their education.

"With all the things going on in the world, in the United States, in Kansas, in Lawrence, I would totally understand if a student came to me and they're like, 'I just can't do it anymore. I need a break. I quit,'" Godinez says. "I would hopefully have helped them before they got to that point, but with everything going on, there were so many things to talk about with students, beyond how is this class going, that it led to certainly some really robust and vitally important conversations."

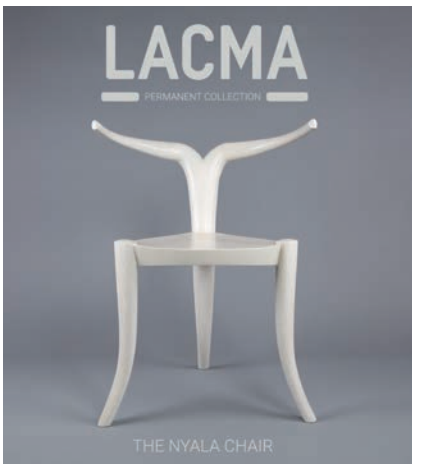
Talking with—and, importantly, listening to—students is key to Godinez's approach.

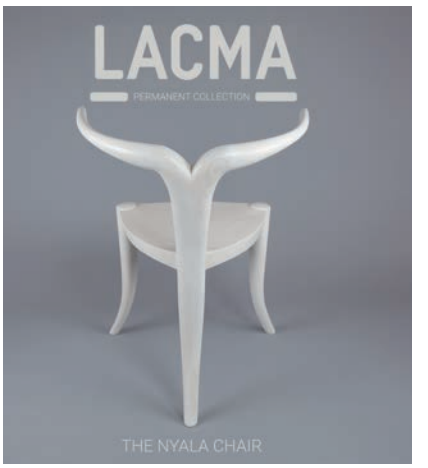
"I want every student who comes through my door to leave feeling like they were heard. Coming from the experience, though, of having had moments that either I felt like I hadn't been heard or I knew I hadn't been heard, it's even more important to me to make sure that our marginalized students, whatever that identity might be, feel that they've got a person who is just listening to them. I may not be able to fix the problem, I may not be able to answer the questions, but I can certainly listen to you and ask questions."

Sometimes those conversations are far from academic: Godinez recently spoke with a student who was caring for three siblings while attending school because their mother was busy working. Another student she connected with because a former advisee who works now for KU Student Housing asked Godinez to reach out because he remembered how much Godinez had helped him as an undergrad.

"Seeing that impact years later," she says, "it just makes you feel good."

—Steven Hill





UPDATE

LA museum adds Tariku chair to collection

Jomo Tariku, a'10, the furniture designer putting a modern twist on traditional African themes ["African influence," issue No. 3, 2019], recently had one of his signature creations acquired by the Los Angeles Museum of Art for its permanent collection.

The eye-catching Nyala Chair features sweeping, hand-carved armrests that evoke the distinctive horns of the Nyala, a mountain antelope found in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia, the country where Tariku grew up. The museum purchased a distinctive first version made of bleached ash wood.

"Staying true to the non-territorial nature of the Nyala, the chair blends with the design palette of modern living spaces while maintaining its individuality," noted the museum—the largest in the western United States—in a May press release announcing the acquisition. It is Tariku's first work to enter a museum collection.

Tariku, who lives near Washington, D.C., has distinguished himself with furniture that riffs on traditional notions of African design while also challenging those ideas.

"Museums rarely collect work labeled African that looks like mine, so I was not expecting to see interest this early," Tariku says. "I hope museum attendees finally get a chance to see work of designers they have not been exposed to, and I hope it also shows young designers from the continent that our heritage is a design asset that is up to us to cultivate and create new things with."

Gedyon Kifle

"I hope museum attendees finally get a chance to see work of designers they have not been exposed to, and I hope it also shows young designers from the continent that our heritage is a design asset that is up to us to cultivate and create new things with."

—Jomo Tariku

After decades of research, KU scientists have identified a new species of fanged frog in the Philippines. Scientifically known as Limnonectes beloncioi, or more commonly the Mindoro Fanged Frog, the new frog looks nearly identical to the Acanth's Fanged Frog, found on a neighboring island, but has a distinct mating call and significant differences in its genetic makeup. "This is what we call a cryptic species," says Mark Herr, a doctoral student in the department of ecology & evolutionary biology, "because it was hiding in plain sight in front of biologists for many, many years."

Mass Street & more

John Brown returns to Lawrence

Between life-size murals and namesake beers and bars, it's obvious Lawrence has a soft spot for John Brown, the notorious abolitionist who clashed with pro-slavery forces during the "Bleeding Kansas" crisis in the late 1850s. Now, fans of the fiery Free State leader can view a new traveling exhibition, "Encountering John Brown," through Nov. 6 at the Watkins Museum of History in downtown Lawrence. Featuring illustrations by renowned Prairie Village artist Brad Sneed, f'89, the exhibition showcases Brown's life from cradle to grave, as told through his encounters with prominent Civil War-era figures, including Frederick Douglass, Robert E. Lee and Harriet Tubman. So, take action—action!—and check it out.

Think chalk dust is a thing of the past?

Indoor climbing, one of the exciting new sports featured at the Tokyo Olympics and since 2003 a popular feature at KU's Ambler Student Recreation Center, finally arrived in Lawrence in a big way, thanks to the February opening of Climb Lawrence, across Vermont Street from Lawrence Public Library in vacant warehouse space that suddenly seems purpose-built as a climbing gym. Climb Lawrence—which also offers a yoga studio; strength and cardio training; and smoothies, pastries and *delicious* breakfast burritos in the Highlander Cafe—is proving so popular with students that it was a deciding factor in one Jayhawk, new-to-KU sophomore Brandon Watson, of Basehor, choosing KU over K-State. "It's such an interesting sport," Watson said, between attempts at a difficult new maneuver. "It's always challenging because there's so many aspects to it."

The same can be said, of course, for breakfast burritos.

Chris Lazzarino

Brandon Watson "bouldering," or climbing without a rope, on one of Climb Lawrence's angled walls. Watson explains that the challenge comes in navigating a wall via "climbing holds" of the same color, which designate a specific route—and puzzle—to be solved.

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Kansas Athletics (3)

Chris Lazzarino

"We wouldn't have taken this opportunity if we didn't think we were able to get the job done and show it in the Big 12 Conference."

—Football coach Lance Leipold

FOOTBALL

'Team over me, cause over comfort'

Leipold and coaches push players to 'strain' for excellence in everything they do

Still more than an hour shy of high noon, day five of training camp chugged mercilessly toward 95 degrees, or 148 on the misery index. Special teams coordinator Jake Schoonover, one of many new faces around the KU football complex since the arrival of coach Lance Leipold, has just bounded out of a two-hour practice bright-eyed and cheery—and bathed in sweat.

So, coach, why the hoodie?

"When I was a volunteer, the equipment guy where I was at didn't want to give me anything," Schoonover begins, adding that the position coach he reported to offered up shorts and a hooded sweatshirt. When he earned a full-time gig, a year and a half later, Schoonover was still wearing the same hoodie and shorts and the miffed equipment manager wanted to know why he wasn't sporting the official team gear he'd been provided.

"And I was like, don't worry about it," Schoonover recalls. "Kind of a spite thing, and it kind of stuck. So now I get kinda sweaty at practice."

Schoonover shared the anecdote with a smile and a laugh. He wasn't bitter. He wasn't showing anybody up, shoving success back in the face of a distant memory. It was more about, hey, no matter how far he might rise, where he came from matters. No need to dwell on it, but no need to entirely forget it, either.

So it goes for much of the KU coaching staff, from Leipold on down. Schoonover, in fact, came over from Bowling Green; the rest of KU's coaching newcomers followed Leipold from Buffalo, and many from Division III Wisconsin-Whitewater before that. Fall camp 2021 really is all about fresh starts, for all involved.

When asked how he's helping his players recover from the trauma of their recent seasons of few wins and much drama, Leipold replied, "Trying to work toward the future yet recognizing the past is a balance for all of us."

Of course, moving on for Leipold, offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki and defensive coordinator Brian Borland is not about shedding a losing culture. The exact opposite, in fact. Moving

on means replicating a winning program: fastest coach in NCAA history to reach 100 wins; a 109-6 record at Whitewater, including six national championships; and 37 wins, including two bowl-game victories, in six seasons at Buffalo, after the program won 25 games over the previous six seasons.

"I think each and every day, each and every week, we try to prove ourselves in what we're doing. That's the competitive nature in each and every one of us," Leipold says. "We wouldn't have taken this opportunity if we didn't think we were able to get the job done and show it in the Big 12 Conference."

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, the Leipold era still awaited its Sept. 3 debut against South Dakota. Regardless of the outcome, it is clear that a complete transformation is underway. The evidence is, in some ways, obvious: Training camp practices started at 8 a.m., and once they really got rolling around 8:30, the tempo was quick, quicker and quicker yet, until breaking for the day at 10:30.

At Wisconsin-Whitewater, Leipold had to get training-camp film on rosters of 147 players, so he created a two-huddle system, under which one offense is breaking its huddle as the other returns from the line of scrimmage, with defenses switching in and out every three or four plays. He carried on the high-paced program at Buffalo and now KU.

"It's coming fast," Leipold says. "We're not a no-huddle team; it's just a different way of going about it."

As evidenced by his "mic'd up" video clips at kuathletics.com, Kotelnicki, a bearded ball of energy who in 2013 joined Leipold at Whitewater after stints at three previous schools, bounds across the practice field, his constant stream of chatter a metronome for the cadence he wants to see from his players. The instruction is invariably positive, and sometimes even fun, evidenced by praising a receiver for his "nice 'stache game!" When another receiver tries to call his teammate out for actually combing his mustache, Kotelnicki happily bellows, "We need more of that!"

Kotelnicki found inspiration for his "wide zone run scheme" from the Denver Broncos of the late 1990s, "Terrell Davis and all those cats." The scheme is designed to "distort and get some stretch against the defense," and he sees running plays within what he calls "the stretch package" as big-play opportunities.

"There's potential for us to be explosive with it," he says, "so it's something we're majoring in, for sure."

As with others around the program, however, Kotelnicki insists he and his philosophies are less about on-field schemes and more about creating a culture of discipline, finish, effort, physicality and, most of all, the concept of strain—as in, demand excellence of yourself in all things, from showing up early for workouts to exiting the field after drills.

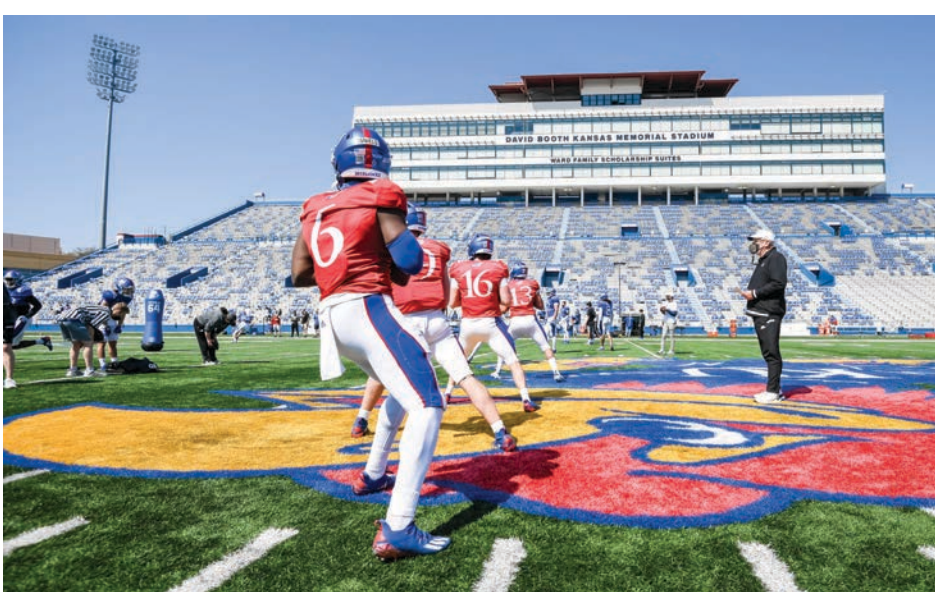
"We have a series of objectives that we're trying to accomplish through fall camp, but there's no timeline on it," Kotelnicki says. "It takes whatever it takes to play winning football."

Defensive coordinator Borland, who arrived at Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1994 after three seasons as defensive coordinator at Baker University, in Baldwin City, is, outwardly, Kotelnicki's opposite: tall, with a fair complexion, and soft-spoken. Yet he brings the same intensity to his side of the line of the scrimmage, as affirmed by his players.

"The way we finish, the way we take the field, the way we come off the field, the way we go to workouts, everything is just raised a level," says super-senior safety Kenny Logan Jr.

Borland's scheme incorporates four down linemen; multiple coverages in the secondary, including both man-to-man and zone defenses; and blitzes. "Once you

KU quarterbacks (below) will rely on super-senior receiver Kwamie Lassiter II (8, left), and an early gauge for program progress will be on special teams, coached by Jake Schoonover (opposite, in hoodie).



learn the basic core of it," he says, "the other things we branch off into are pretty easy to grasp."

The culture that Leipold directs his coaches to teach is, at its heart, as simple as football could possibly get. As described by Schoonover, "Team over me, cause over comfort." They divide the work into "process goals" and "outcome goals"—proper preparations that eventually lead to scoring more points than their opponents on fall Saturdays—and insist, as a mantra, to *strain* toward personal excellence. Prepare yourself even harder than a coach will push you, as Leipold told one player during fall drills, and all of your football dreams can soon fall into place.

"I remember he sat down with a lot of players," Logan recalls, "and said, 'What's something we need to get better?' I said, 'Discipline.' That's what we wanted. That's what we asked for. And that's what we're receiving right now."

KANSAS ATHLETICS

The name game

Athletics greets 'NIL' era with support program for athletes, alumni

In the wake of a landmark NCAA rule change, which itself followed a unanimous Supreme Court decision that declared limits on student-athletes' education-related benefits in violation of federal law, Kansas Athletics launched Jayhawks Ascend, a "name, image and likeness," or NIL, education and assistance program.

"With the initialization of Name, Image and Likeness and the [prominence] that comes with being a student-athlete at KU, Jayhawks Ascend will elevate our student-athletes and allow them to flourish in this new day and age in college athletics," says Athletics Director Travis Goff, c'03, j'03.

The program will coach athletes, now free to capitalize on their name recognition, in areas such as personal brand management, legal services and entrepreneurship training, and financial literacy and business fundamentals.

"Our athletic department has put countless hours and planning into this," says men's basketball coach Bill Self, "and has done a great job making this program unique to the unbelievable resources we have here at KU."

NIL guidelines for boosters and fans can be found at kuathletics.com/kansas-athletics-launches-nil-student-athlete-program-jayhawks-ascend.

Crawford

Mosser

Bien

Andrew Eisch/Kansas Athletics (3)

Kansas Athletics

UPDATE

Sophomore middle blocker **Caroline Crawford** and super-senior outside hitter **Jenny Mosser** were named to the Preseason All-Big 12 volleyball team, and outside hitter/libero **Caroline Bien** was named Preseason Big 12 Freshman of the Year. Crawford, named All-Big 12 First Team after starting every game as a freshman, was also named to USA Volleyball's Indoor U20 National Training Team. ... **Lindsay Kuhle**, seven-time conference coach of the year at the University of Denver, in July became women's golf coach. She replaces 17-year veteran **Erin O'Neil**, who resigned to be closer to family in Florida. ... The 37th-annual Late Night in the Phog is set to return to Allen Field House Oct. 1, after a one-year hiatus as a virtual event. "We probably tip off the season as well as anybody in America," says coach **Bill Self**, "and we are glad it will be back." ... Under a new Big 12 policy announced in August, COVID-related game cancellations will result in forfeits rather than rescheduled games. ... Former guard **Jeremy Case**, c'07, '09, a member of the 2008 National Championship team, has been promoted from his interim role to assistant coach. "He's sharp, he's personable and he's prepared," Self says. "Kansas is fortunate to have him represent this University." ... **Jason Booker**, d'00, who spent seven years as executive director and general manager for Jayhawk IMG Sports Marketing before joining the Kansas City Royals' front office, in July returned to the Hill as deputy athletics director for external affairs and revenue generation.

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MAKE THE DREAM WORK

Teamwork between vaccine architect Barney Graham and psychiatrist Cynthia Turner-Graham makes their world, and ours, a better place

By Chris Lazzarino

Portrait by Steve Puppe

Courtesy Cynthia Turner-Graham

With colleague Kizzmekia Corbett, now on the faculty of Harvard University's school of public health, volunteering at their church vaccination clinic

When Barney Graham set off in that hopeful way that teenagers tend to do, he launched himself from his family's Paola farm in a brand-new 1971 Mustang fastback, pure American muscle for a dashing young man hitting the open American road.

The panache with which Graham roared off on life's great adventure was warranted: Why not hop behind the wheel of a Mustang when you've ridden a real one, bareback, in an actual rodeo?

His beloved silver sports car launched Graham on a long trajectory that took him from Rice University, in Houston, to the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland, where in early 2020 he led a team of brilliant, brave, determined researchers on a quest to save millions of lives by creating the structure underpinning the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, described by The Atlantic magazine as "the two fastest vaccine trials in the history of science."

"Their names will be in the history books," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in reference to Graham and his protégé and colleague, Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, on the occasion of their nomination for Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. "All the vaccines that are doing really well are totally dependent on their work."

Said National Institutes of Health director Dr. Francis Collins, "Kizzmekia and Barney have made contributions to human health that few others could claim."

When Graham, m'79, returned to Lawrence in May to receive the degree of honorary Doctor of Science "for his notable contributions to the fields of immunology, virology and vaccinology, and for discoveries that have improved and saved lives," Chancellor Doug Girod, himself a surgeon, reminded graduates—first in video remarks, when severe weather canceled the scheduled May 16 ceremony, then in person when the event resumed a week later—that "it is not an exaggeration to say Dr. Graham's research is literally the reason we are able to gather in person here today. In my mind, that makes him a real-life superhero."

All of which is, in the pandemic's convoluted progression of time and events, something approaching ... well ... old news. At least it is for Graham, who logged four decades of research that made the vaccine's dizzyingly fast development possible. Ever since Lawrence Wright's book-length New Yorker article, "The Plague Year," appeared in early January—"He is the chief architect of the first COVID vaccines authorized for emergency use," Wright wrote of Graham—the mild-mannered researcher, a polite and gentle man of few words, has found himself called upon to share a story of which he is both proud and weary.

The story Graham *wants* to tell is, to his heart and soul, the more important of the two, and it starts with the second destination to which he was delivered by that flashy Mustang—39th and Rainbow, the Kansas City campus of KU's School of Medicine, where Barney Graham met classmate Cynthia Turner—and then a few hours southwest, where the nascent couple chose to continue the clinical phases of their educations at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita.

"They're just very, very special people," recalls Douglas Voth, then professor and chair of internal medicine at the Wichita campus and now Regents professor emeritus, professor of medicine emeritus and dean emeritus of Oklahoma University Health System's College of Medicine. "It's easy to underestimate how significant their lives have been."

Among the long list of seemingly minor details of daily life that Barney and Cynthia quickly discovered they shared—their fathers were dentists, their mothers had postgraduate degrees, they both changed high schools for their senior years, and their families even owned the same sets of towels and silverware—there was one interlocking aspect of their personalities that could not be ignored.

They both drove Mustangs.

"I had the better Mustang," boasts Barney.

"Well, I had the *cooler* Mustang," answers Cynthia. "Mine was red."

"Dr. Graham's research is literally the reason we are able to gather in person here today. In my mind, that makes him a real-life superhero."

—Chancellor Doug Girod

Barney Graham grew up in Olathe and was an early teen when his family purchased a Paola farm, where he and his younger brother, Christopher, now an accountant in Overland Park, worked for $1 an hour, splitting their days between grueling labor and the fix-it chores required of a working farm. The problem-solving inventiveness necessary for keeping tractors and other machinery in working order appealed to Graham, as did the pride and purpose of logging long, hard workdays.

Barney graduated from high school as valedictorian and, judging by a fond feature story published in January in the Miami County Republic, one of the popular and respected members of his class, despite the awkwardness of joining a rural enclave where his new classmates had presumably spent most of their school years together.

Cynthia Turner was born in Nashville, her family's home for generations, but when her father graduated from dental school, he looked elsewhere for work, far from the segregated South. Cynthia was 2 when he accepted an offer to join a Wichita practice whose previous Black dentist had recently retired. Although her father's practice was at first limited to seeing African American patients, it was soon integrated and he enjoyed a successful career in Wichita.

Racial unrest roiling the country found Wichita in the late 1960s, and Cynthia's parents decided she should return to family in Nashville, where she lived with an aunt and completed her senior year at Pearl High School.

"I was young and I was going to be in the revolution," Turner-Graham recalls, "but I also knew my long-term plans to be a physician could be permanently derailed. My parents and I agreed that in Nashville, I could better focus on my life goals."

When Barney and Cynthia took the first steps toward becoming a couple, they faced more than the typical hurdles of forging a relationship while still in medical school. He was white, she was Black, and in the late 1970s interracial marriage remained rare. Yet even before facing barriers thrust before them by the wider world, they first had to find out whether their own personal outlooks, biases and world views could be overcome.

"The fact that we are sitting here and still married means that we have had to talk about things that most couples don't have to, just in order to understand one another," Turner-Graham says. Noting that her family relied on the "Green Book" to direct them to Black-friendly restaurants and hotels when driving between Wichita and Nashville, she continues, "Understand feelings that didn't make sense, perspectives that were foreign to the other. We would have some go-rounds. But in that process, I think, it gave us a kind of sensitivity to the world's management of difference."

> **"The fact that we are sitting here and still married means that we have had to talk about things that most couples don't have to, just in order to understand one another."**
>
> —Cynthia Turner-Graham

"It's definitely helped me as a person," Graham says of an expanded appreciation for racial issues with which he'd had little, if any, previous experience. "I think it's also helped me as a scientist."

At first even their families objected. Not, Barney and Cynthia insist, because of racial animus, but because both sets of parents were convinced hardships awaited the couple and their children—hardships that would disappear if only they chose different partners.

"It was 1978. They were both having problems with this," Graham says. "They both actually liked each other ..."

"... and they agreed that we shouldn't do this," Turner-Graham says.

"Because," Graham continues, "they thought that we would damage our lives, it would make it difficult for our children, and neither one of us would get to do, professionally, what we had hoped. They were just worried about our future as an interracial couple at that time."

So, while tending to their clinical studies in Wichita, Barney and Cynthia logged more miles in their Mustangs to make frequent visits with her parents in Wichita and his in Lawrence, where his family had since moved, and to Pratt, to visit Barney's maternal grandmother.

Florence Harkrader Hastings, c'1919, was lured back to Kansas from California—where she briefly chased her dream of designing glamorous movie costumes—by Barney's grandfather, Fred Hastings, who lost his first wife, Myrtle, in our previous great pandemic, the 1918 Spanish Flu.

"If she hadn't died," notes Graham, "my granddaddy wouldn't have married my grandmother."

Turner-Graham recalls that on their first visit to Pratt, Florence, a KU Gamma Phi who wore a flapper dress to her wedding, pulled stacks of photo albums from a bureau to share her family's story—soon to be Cynthia's family, as well, Florence noted—while Barney impatiently paced the house crunching on apples.

"I think she was probably the one in the family who was most ready and willing to embrace the marriage we were starting," Graham says. "She was quite a woman."

"It went beyond support," adds Turner-Graham. "That is a kind of generosity; you just had to be there to believe it."

Despite the matriarch's endorsement, their parents still required convincing. They requested marriage counseling with family pastors, and the young couple complied.

"Once they saw our resolve," says Turner-Graham, m'79, "they decided, 'Well, we might as well get on board and try to support these crazy young people.' It surely wasn't their vision or hope for us, but they gave in."

Janice Olker, the youngest of the three Graham siblings and now office manager for the Paul E. Wilson Project for Innocence & Post Conviction Remedies at the KU School of Law, recalls that while the parents "might have been concerned that the children would face struggles," she was eager to welcome Cynthia into the family: "My perspective was, 'Oh, that's cool. They're in love and there's going to be a wedding!'"

As they entered their final year of clinical rotations and began planning their lives together, Barney and Cynthia also faced their next step toward becoming practicing physicians: residencies. They each found promising opportunities, but the rigid placement system failed to turn up a match that would accept them both. Added to the chaos of their urgent personal and professional circumstances, Barney in October 1978 pointed his Mustang east.

Among the researchers Barney met during a clinical rotation in infectious diseases at the National Institutes of Health was Dr. Fauci, soon to gain fame for his work on HIV/AIDS and later the ubiquitious face of—and Graham's colleague in—the U.S. government's COVID-19 response. Barney then ventured to the University of North Carolina, for a rheumatology rotation; shortly before beginning his long drive home, Cynthia suggested during a telephone conversation that he visit Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, where she was certain she could secure a residency outside the match program at Meharry Medical College, a historically Black institution where her father, brother and sister attended dental school and her mother studied nursing.

So on Dec. 24, 1978, Barney Graham arrived, unannounced, at Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. He found that the department secretary was in her office, as were the chief resident, the head of the residency program and the chair of internal medicine.

Courtesy Cynthia Turner-Graham

Newlyweds—and new doctors—after their 1979 Commencement ceremony

On Christmas Eve.

The secretary allowed Graham to fill out an application, then ushered him through interviews with the three doctors.

Flush with excitement, Graham paused as he exited the final meeting, with Tom Brittingham, Vanderbilt's free-thinking and legendary head of residency, and said, "Listen, Dr. Brittingham, I need to tell you something. My fiancée is Black, and I know I'm in the South; if that makes a difference, I just won't be able to come." Brittingham beckoned Graham to return to the chair in front of his desk. "And so we proceeded to have another very long conversation. He said his philosophy was, the world wouldn't be OK until everyone was brown. The older I get, the more I think I'm going to agree with him in the end. Until we're all a little bit brown we're all going to have problems with each other."

Back in Wichita, where both sets of parents were by then trying to outdo each other with their plans for the rehearsal dinner and reception, Barney Graham and Cynthia Turner were married on March 3, 1979, in a chapel on the Wichita State University campus, followed by a honeymoon in the Wichita Royale.

"And then we went back to school," Barney says. "We graduated two months later."

The young married couple found that life was good in Nashville. Barney rose to chief resident at Nashville General Hospital and Turner-Graham left her pediatric residency after two years when she learned that she would have to complete her final year at a Baltimore hospital. Instead, she repaid a public health service obligation incurred during medical school by joining an underserved, long-term care hospital on the outskirts of town, on the sprawling grounds of a former county mental hospital, where the growing family lived rent-free—the house was included in her benefits—with acres of lawn for their three children to play.

After three years there, Turner-Graham finally turned to her true professional passion, psychiatry, for which she entered Vanderbilt's residency program.

"During my psychiatry residency," she recalls, "Barney could see the excitement I had about the things I was learning. But my parents didn't think much of psychiatrists. They said, 'We were hoping you were going to be a real doctor.'"

She went on to become a community activist and volunteer, chairing the Metro Board of Health for several years. In 1993, a Nashville columnist included Barney and Cynthia on a list of the city's "most interesting power couples," noting that it was high time that women be recognized for their own professional accomplishments rather than being dismissed as their husbands' behind-the-scenes support.

Graham's professional life took a dramatic turn in 1982, when he saw one of Tennessee's first AIDS patients. The tragic disease baffled physicians, and Graham immediately began recognizing disparities that haunted him throughout his career, up to and including COVID-19.

"HIV was always worse in Black and brown people," Graham says. "It was always worse for the African continent and it was always worse for poor people, which means it was always worse in Black

and brown people. So that has always been compelling for me, in that sense."

Barney in 1985 sought out a Vanderbilt HIV lab for the required research phase of his infectious diseases fellowship. Dr. Peter Wright instead asked Graham to study respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, a respiratory virus with sometimes fatal consequences for children. By 1986, Graham had accepted a faculty position at Vanderbilt while continuing his RSV research for a doctoral degree in microbiology and immunology and assisting with clinical trials for potential AIDS vaccines.

"Barney represented to me the ultimate synthesis of a visionary, brilliant scientist, who is also exceptionally kind, generous and collaborative," Dr. Mark Denison, c'77, m'80, director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, told Vanderbilt magazine. "I don't remember him ever putting down the science of anybody."

As a talented team of researchers and physicians assembled at Vanderbilt, studying an array of challenging and dangerous diseases, it was Graham, according to Vanderbilt magazine, who served as "the bridge among the various disciplines of adult and childhood diseases, as well as the basic science and clinical research."

"Barney represented to me the ultimate synthesis of a visionary, brilliant scientist, who is also exceptionally kind, generous and collaborative."

—Mark Denison

"We've been in a hurry at the VRC from the very beginning," he says. "At the time we started there were 14,000 new infections in the world every day from HIV. It felt like a disaster. We all went there with the pledge that we would not let paper sit on our desks overnight, we would not waste any time. So we've always gone as fast as we could on everything. Not skipping steps, but just not wasting time."

He recruited a multicultural, multiracial team that is, in Turner-Graham's estimation, "like the United Nations. There are people from every continent except Antarctica." Graham proudly explains that his "expanded world view," directly attributable to his wife's profound influence, teaches him to be "willing to listen to, and notice and pay attention to, people from other cultures." That self-awareness, he explains, also makes for good science: "It enriches our laboratory environment. People just have different ways of thinking. There have been some very unique minds that have come through my lab, with very interesting ways of seeing the world or solving problems or reacting to things."

Graham's lab could be on the brink of even greater vaccine research: Fauci in July announced his hope that billions of dollars be allocated for developing pandemic vaccines in advance of future outbreaks—an idea cited as "... the brainchild of Dr. Barney Graham," according to The New York Times. Fauci said Graham first pitched the concept in 2017, to directors at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and followed up with a paper published in 2018.

"It would require pretty large sums of

The Grahams in 2001 moved to Maryland. Graham had been hired the previous August as chief of the National Institutes of Health's Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory and Clinical Trials Core. (He was promoted in 2013 to deputy director of the Vaccine Research Center [VRC] at NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.) Turner-Graham established an adult psychiatry practice in Rockville, where they lived, before also becoming medical director at a clinic in downtown Washington, D.C.

Graham's ongoing work on an RSV vaccine—fueled in part by a nephew's 1990 diagnosis with the frightening disease—helped create blueprints, both intellectual and, at the protein level, structural, for his lab's COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough. As at Vanderbilt, Graham built a team that was, and remains, dynamic and fearless.

Courtesy Cynthia Turner-Graham

Chris and Janet Graham and Janice and Walter Olker, flanking Barney and Cynthia, at a Lawrence reunion following May's Commencement festivities, sporting Janice's custom-printed T-shirts: "Yay Vaccinated" for two siblings and three spouses, "Yay Vaccinator" for Barney.

money," Fauci told The Times, "But after what we've been through, it's not out of the question."

Of course, the pandemic was not the world's only existential challenge of 2020. There was, and remains, a long overdue racial reckoning. While his wife grieved deeply—and grieves still, aching about the world awaiting her grandchildren—Graham had to pull himself away from the overwhelming daily news reports and trust that his ongoing work on COVID-19, RSV and a fast-approaching universal flu vaccine were appropriate contributions to a better world.

He found solace in his Saturday-morning Bible study group, where he listened and learned from Black men who talked through the social crises in the context of their Christian beliefs, and of course in deep conversation with his wife, but he could not give himself over fully to the angst and fury.

"My main job last year, and even encouraged by the men [in his church group], and by my wife, was to focus on the biology. That is probably what I'm best at, and so that's what I did," Graham says. "There's a lot of things that have to be staged and done in the right order so that you don't waste time. So there was a lot to think through and figure out. I noticed all of the things happening, it was breaking my heart, and we talked about it a lot, at home and in the men's group and with the children, but my focus was pretty much on the biology."

Janice Olker says she still thinks of Barney as "a big kid at heart." Her favorite picture of him was taken in her backyard, while he blew bubbles with her children. She happily admits that she noted the date for Nobel Prize announcements in her calendar—"The world is going to recover from this pandemic because of his work," she says—but even if the Nobel proves elusive, Graham has already received one of his field's highest honors, the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal, for "extraordinary contributions to vaccinology."

Olker says her brother exemplifies their mother's favorite saying, from the Gospel of Luke: *To whom much is given, much is expected*. "And that was normal for us," she explains. "We grew up in a family that helped when we could. My dad bought a house for somebody who used to clean his office. My mom was a teacher and worked at the state hospital, and one summer somebody came home to live with us and work on the farm. We just did stuff like that, and we all always have."

She recalls asking her brother what he thought about the distrustful, even angry, reception much of the country gave to his lifesaving vaccine.

"He says, 'You know, I've worked my whole life …'— in his quiet way, sometimes so quiet it's even hard to hear—'… I have worked my whole life to try to help people, and I don't understand why anybody would think I would hurt them. Why would I hurt anybody?'"

Recalls School of Medicine-Wichita Dean Garold Minns, m'76, then a resident in the fledgling Wichita program when Barney and Cynthia arrived in January 1978, "He was always thought to be a very compassionate and kind individual who bent over backwards to help anybody who needed help, whether it was a patient or a colleague or anybody in the hospital. Everybody felt he was a real gem of a guy."

Courtesy Robert Simari

Courtesy Cynthia Turner-Graham

With (l-r, above) Doug Girod, Robert Simari and Akinlolu Ojo, at the Simaris' dinner party following the School of Medicine's May hooding ceremony. "That was one of our very, very first social events," Cynthia says. "It was very exciting for many reasons." Despite a weather postponement, Barney and Cynthia (right) still celebrated his honorary Doctor of Science.

Dr. Robert Simari, m'86, executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center and Franklin E. Murphy Professor in Cardiology, recalls that he first met Graham when he was named a Distinguished Medical Alumnus in 2017, the year after the same honor went to Vanderbilt's Mark Denison—whose lab in early May confirmed that blood serum taken from the first trial patients showed the vaccine's efficacy exceeded not only their expectations, but even their hopes and dreams. When the Grahams returned for this year's Commencement on the Lawrence campus, they first participated in the Medical Center's "electronic hooding," conducted over video, before joining Doug and Susan Girod and Dr. Akinlolu Ojo, dean of medicine, and his wife, Tammy, for the first dinner party thrown by Rob and Kelly Stavros Simari, b'82, in 16 months.

That night happened to be the debut of a CNN special, "Race for the Vaccine," hosted by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, so the group gathered after dinner to watch along with the Grahams.

"When Barney came on the screen," Simari recalls, "Cynthia reached over and they held hands. It was sweet. They're an absolutely amazing couple and an amazing story."

Simari notes that until the pandemic, coronavirus research struggled for funding and attention; even after the 2002 SARS

outbreak and 2012's frighteningly deadly MERS scare, breakthrough research by Graham and colleague Dr. Jason McLellan, then a Vanderbilt postdoc who is now at the University of Texas and a primary collaborator on the COVID-19 vaccine, struggled to find an audience. Graham and McLellan in 2017 had to submit their research to six scientific journals before finding one that would publish it. Even Graham's now-embraced concept of vaccine development ahead of the storm languished as previous viral outbreaks waned before the efficacy of his new generation of vaccines could be developed and proven.

"He's classic grit," Simari says of Graham. "He did not waver from his goals, in spite of perhaps lack of funding or lack of interest or lack of attention, and the world is very lucky that he did not waver. The medical profession has always been very full of purpose. People with purpose. We value what they do, caring for individuals or parts of society, on a daily basis, but never before have we seen the potential of the impact of our profession in biomedicine on the planet.

"Barney says that 10 people live for every thousand vaccines. Two and a half billion vaccines given. That's just ... daunting."

During the pandemic year, Turner-Graham managed an outpatient psychiatric practice while continuing her civic activities, adapting them all to a virtual environment. She is immediate past president of the Suburban Maryland Psychiatric Society and a board member of the Washington Psychiatric Society. Turner-Graham recently accepted an appointment to the board of directors of Genius Brands, which creates and licenses multimedia entertainment for children, and in 2022 she assumes the presidency of Black Psychiatrists of America. But she also intends to slow down, alongside her husband, who in August retired from the federal government.

They are leaving Washington for Atlanta, where they will be close to their eight grandchildren, eager for personal time denied them while they quite literally saved the world.

"We've been so busy for so long that when we do get time—even three or four hours—to be together, without distractions, it's like, 'Wow, I'd forgotten how fun this was.' It's a surprise every time."

—Cynthia Turner-Graham

"The one thing that we are still confident in," Graham says, "is that no matter how difficult it is between us, or how difficult life is in the world, if we get to spend time together, without too many distractions, we will be happy. And we will have fun."

"We'll take a walk, a bicycle ride, we might cook together," Turner-Graham continues, almost dreamily. "It's kind of funny. We've been so busy for so long that when we do get time—even three or four hours—to be together, without distractions, it's like, 'Wow, I'd forgotten how fun this was.' It's a surprise every time."

When discussing retirement, Graham is precise in his choice of words: He is retiring from the *government*, not from work, or life, so he can still be expected to find projects dear to both their hearts. Health inequities, both here and abroad, are sure to get some attention, as will their church and community.

They won't have that silver Mustang fastback to tool around in—"He drove that thing until it turned to dust," his sister says, and Cynthia recalls that he eventually sold it for $5—but, hey, it is Atlanta, so who knows what surprise might await.

"He says 'retire from government,' but I know he'll always be busy," Olker says. "It'll be more like Jimmy Carter, you know what I mean? He'll probably build houses for Habitat. He's a wonderful woodworker."

Courtesy Cynthia Turner-Graham

Granddaughter Anaya Graham, who was 5 in this photo, happily brags on her own contributions to global health. "She says that if she hadn't helped 'Bebop,' he wouldn't have been able to make the vaccine," Cynthia recalls with a loving laugh, noting the grandkids' pet name for their Grandpa Barney. "She was his assistant. They solved the coronavirus."

by Steven Hill

Photographs courtesy Rural Health Education and Services, KU Medical Center [1]

More than Meets the Eye

Rural Kansas Photo Contest aims to highlight state's charms—to prospective health care providers and the rest of us

Like a lot of kids, Jenifer Yuza spent a lot of time at her grandparents' house during childhood.

Like a lot of Kansans, she grew up in a small town—in her case, McCune, a city of about 500 souls in the state's southeastern corner—thinking it's only natural to drive 30 minutes to get groceries.

Like a lot of people all over the world, whether they spend their days shuttling through urban canyons, suburban sidewalks or wide open farm fields, she may have become just a little blasé about the familiar vistas that rolled by outside the car windows on those long drives, or swept in on the horizon with stormclouds. Or even lurked just across the road from her grandparents' house.

"I did not know the beauty in the small things I saw every day," says Yuza, the marketing and resource manager for Rural Health Education and Services, a KU Medical Center unit that works to recruit and retain health care providers across the state, especially in underserved rural communities. "You know, you pass by an old windmill on your way to work every day, but you hardly notice, you're just so busy living life."

"For me it was Big Brutus," Yuza says of the 160-foot-tall electric coal shovel that is a Kansas icon and the centerpiece of a Cherokee County mining museum. "My grandparents lived across the street from Big Brutus, and I remember exploring it long before it became a tourist attraction."

As coordinator of the Rural Kansas Photography Contest, she has the "thrilling and overwhelming" task of viewing, cataloging and helping judge hundreds of fleeting moments of beauty and insight that didn't slip away unnoticed, but were captured in color and black-and-white by attentive, talented people with a camera and an eye for the sublime.

"I get excited seeing scenes that I maybe wouldn't have noticed before. Maybe they've shot that windmill when a storm has passed and a rainbow arches over it, or they've captured Big Brutus when the sky was just perfect to show off that big, massive piece of orange equipment."

It takes only a moment, Yuza reflects, to say, "I'm glad that photographer went after that scene. They picked the right time of day, the right type of day—and how beautiful it is."

[2]

In its mission to convince health care professionals that rural Kansas is a fine place to build a practice and a life, Rural Health Education and Services is battling a problem that bedevils the vast majority of the state's 105 counties. According to the Rural Health Information Hub, a national clearinghouse for rural health data and resources maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services, 87 entire Kansas counties are designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas in 2021, and another 15 counties have parts that are considered shortage areas. The picture for mental health is even more dire: All but three counties (Shawnee, Douglas and Johnson) are classified shortage areas.

Rural Health administers the Kansas Bridging Plan, a loan-forgiveness program for primary care and psychiatry residents that encourages physicians to practice in Kansas; runs Kansas Locum Tenens, a moonlighting effort that enlists practicing health care providers and residents to pitch in with temporary coverage at underserved rural and urban health care facilities; supports medical mission trips in the U.S. and abroad; and steers the Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center, which specializes in health care workforce development and planning. Located on the KU School of Medicine-Wichita campus, the office is part of KU Medical Center's statewide outreach effort—not its HR department.

"We don't recruit for KU Med," Yuza emphasizes. "We recruit for Kansas."

That may mean finding a nurse for a one-physician office, recruiting a newly trained resident to replace a retiring small-town doctor or helping staff a bigger regional hospital in Salina or Hays.

"Our goal is to help them recruit the most talented health care professionals and keep them," Yuza says. "It can be tough for a small shop; they don't have the resources to do a full recruitment plan. They need help. And we have the expertise, over 30 years of knowing what works, to provide that help. Because it's important to attract the right candidate, not just any candidate: someone who has a heart for service and who's going to be comfortable in that type of community."

Which is where the Rural Kansas Photography Contest comes in.

"Photos are attention-getters," Yuza says. "It's saying, 'Here's the community, the schools, the people. Here's the hospital. Can you picture yourself living here?'"

A photograph alone is unlikely to sway anyone's career choice, of course, but could connecting a visual image to a distant community—a face to a place, if you will—constitute a first step to overcoming preconceived notions about what life in a small town might hold?

Yuza and colleagues who host Kansas Career Opportunities, the state's largest career fair for health care professionals, have some data to back up that notion. A 2019 survey of nurses, physician assistants, residents and medical students browsing among more than 50 booths manned by Kansas health care facilities at the annual event found that 83% of attendees had not considered rural practice before the career fair, but would consider it after meeting and talking with the rural health providers.

[3]

"That's our goal," Yuza says, "to at least open their minds to thinking about the possibility" of serving a rural community.

Once the contest opens, on Sept. 1, and entries start rolling in, Yuza's job gets tougher.

"Every picture that comes in we look at, and you get so excited because you swear you just found the winner within the first 25 entries," she says, laughing. "And then maybe it doesn't even wind up being a finalist."

Which is to say there's lots of good stuff. Last year 288 professional and amateur photographers entered 1,197 photos in a half dozen categories. Narrowing down this embarrassment of riches to six finalists per category—for which Yuza gets help from a handful of campus colleagues—ain't easy.

"It's awful!" she says. "So tough! It's fun to look at all the great pictures; it's not fun to narrow them down. But when it comes down to it, I'm like, 'Here's the deal: There can only be two winners in each category. It's going to get down to two somehow.'"

1] "Milky Way at Castle Rock"
By Chris Williams, Chase County, 2020

2] "Snow Fun"
By Amanda Franklin, Rawlins County
2018
Finalist: State of the Storm

3] "Racing the Storm"
By Kevin Kirkwood, Leavenworth County
2020
First Place: Hometown Kansas

[4]

Finalists are put to a public vote on Rural Health Day, a national celebration of rural health care providers, state offices of rural health and other stakeholders observed each year on the third Thursday in November (this year, Nov. 18). Rural Health Education and Services hosts a reception in its Wichita office, where visitors can view the photos and vote in person, and there's also online voting—which proved to be a godsend in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of mission trips, career fairs, recruiting visits and almost all of the office's other initiatives. In a stormy year the photo contest was a welcome burst of sunshine.

Aside from the cash prizes awarded by Rural Health Education and Services,

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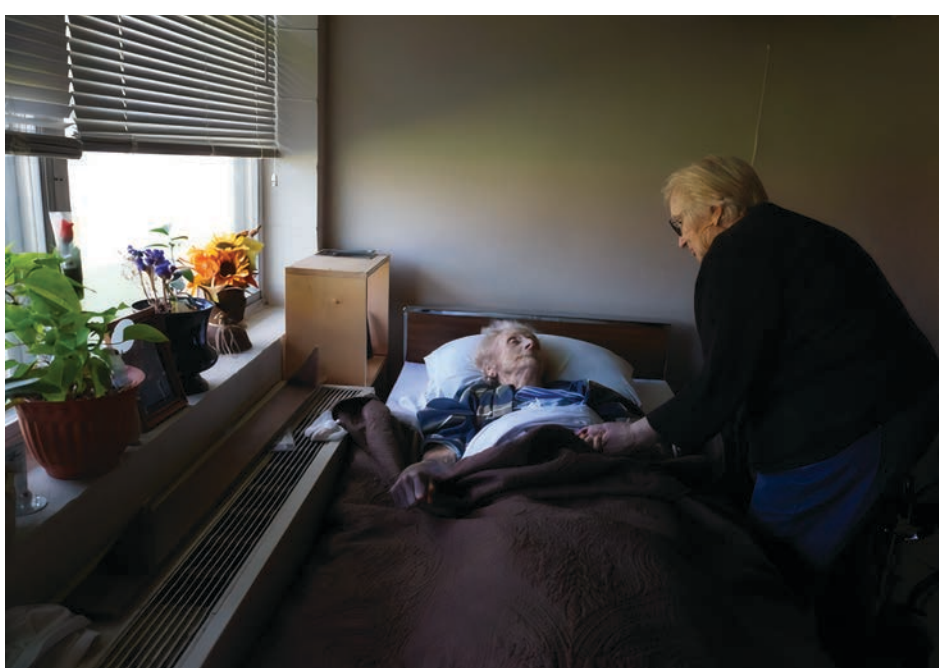
[6]



[7]

4] “Racing the Sunset”
By Collin Forrest, Sumner County, 2019
First Place: Friday Night Lights & Weekend Highlights

5] “She is a Storm”
By Tessa Blood, Finney County, 2020
Finalist: Kansas in Black and White

6] “Late Summer at Wilson Lake”
By Joshua Holland, Ellsworth County, 2013

7] “Ruth”
By Randall Ford, Dickinson County, 2018
First Place: Health Care Heroes

“My 93-year-old aunt fell and broke her hip. Her longtime friend and neighbor, Ruth, was by her side. Truly a BFF.”

[8]

entries also qualify for a grand prize from Kansas Country Living magazine, which chooses one photo to be published on its January cover.

Even those who don't win a prize see their photographs put to good use in giveaways, calendars, note cards, recruitment brochures and other marketing materials; the photographs hang in KU waiting rooms, hospitals and administrative offices across the state.

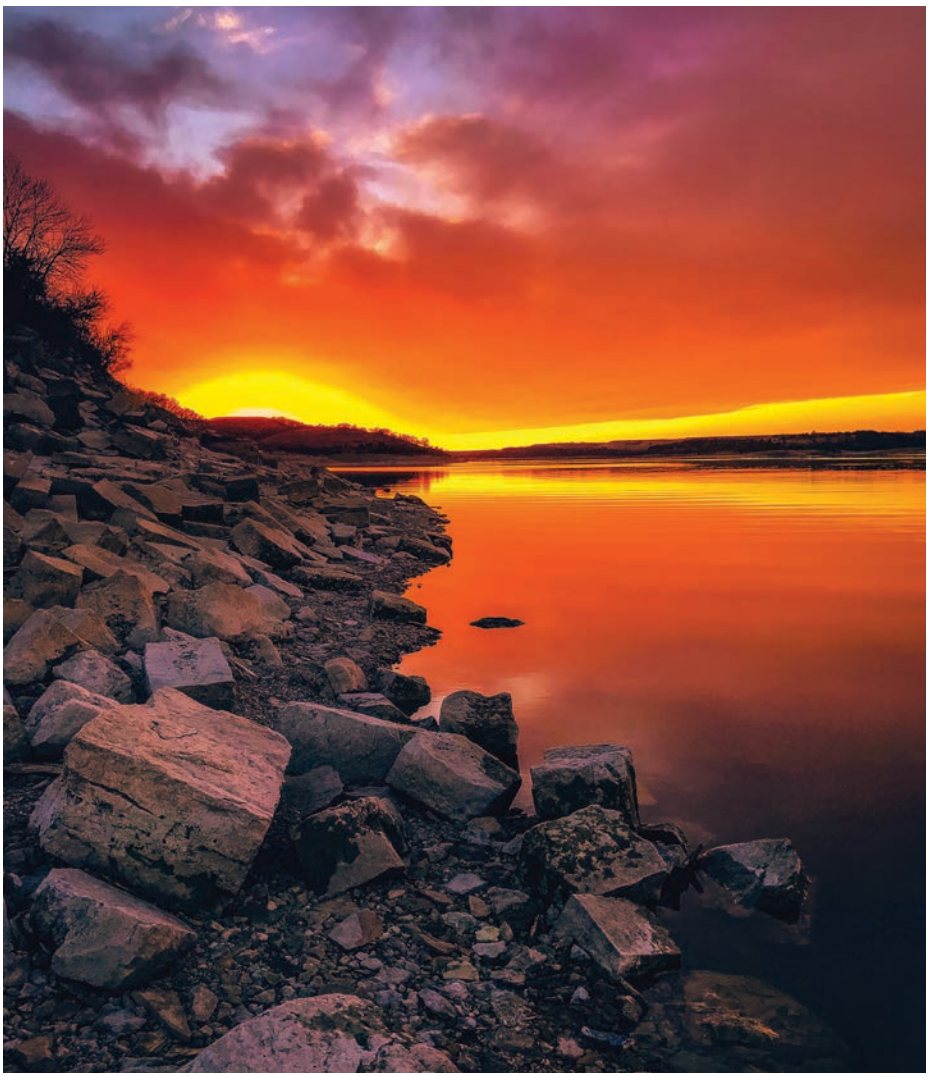
When Yuza fields an inquiry from a KU-affiliated office or clinic about displaying a photograph they've seen in the contest, "they're wanting it because it's beautiful," she says. "The photos we get *are* beautiful, and they show how beautiful Kansas can be. We love to showcase this work of Kansans who are out there taking pictures of what it's like here, because that's who we're recruiting for, the people of Kansas."

A stunning sky, a delighted child, a health care hero might spark an image that opens a door to a new adventure for a doctor, a town, a patient—or an image that opens eyes to the little wonders that await us all, even on roads we've traveled many times.

Journeys through familiar terrain take on a different feel, now, Yuza says.

"When I'm driving home and the sky is orange and purple and yellow, I'm thinking, 'Yep, this is the time when the photographers are out taking pictures.'"

[9]



[10]

A call for Kansas photographs

The Rural Kansas Photography Contest accepts entries from Sept. 1 to Oct. 18 in six categories:

- Best in Show
- Health Care in Kansas
- Wildlife and Critters
- On the Move
- Road Trip
- Sun, Wind or Rain

All entries qualify for a special Grand Prize selected by Kansas Country Living magazine's editorial team. The grand prize photograph will earn $100 and be featured on the magazine's January cover.

Public voting for winners takes place on National Rural Health Day, Nov. 18. To sign up for online voting, read contest rules, or learn where to submit photos, visit **bit.ly/KSPHOTO21**

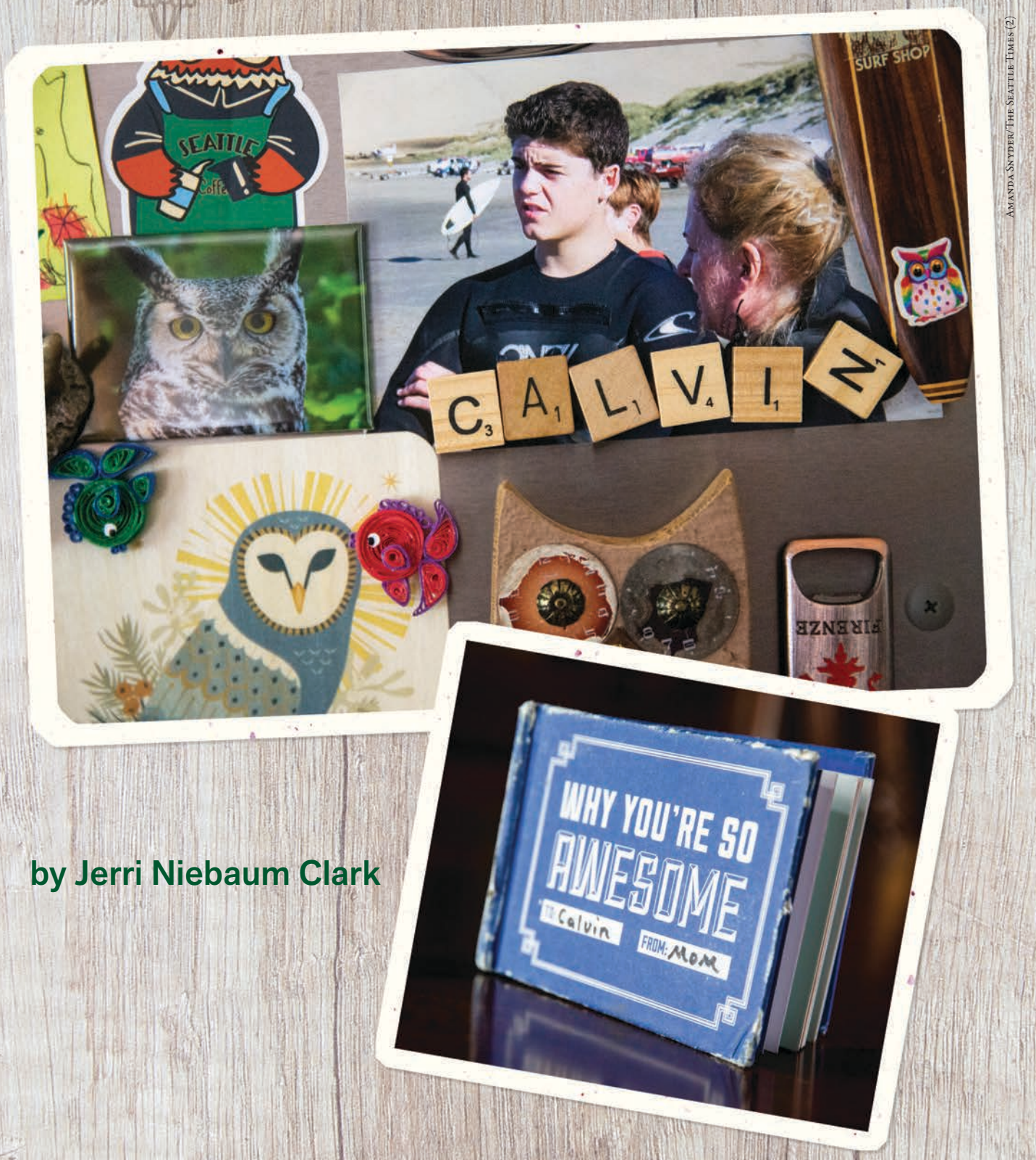
[11]

8] "Kayaking the Kaw"
By Brian Goodman, Douglas County, 2018
Finalist: Kansas Landscapes

9] "Peeking at the Cowboys"
By Stacie Nichols, Ford County, 2020

10] "Blazing Sky"
By Lydia Huninghake, Riley County, 2020

11] "Four Toms"
By Darcy Daniels, Butler County, 2020
Finalist: Wildlife and Critters



Amanda Snyder/The Seattle Times (2)

by Jerri Niebaum Clark

My Son's Story

A mom's journey through mental illness, suicide and advocacy

Courtesy Jerri Clark

I studied journalism with no idea that the most important story I would ever tell would be the tragedy of my own family.

My son, Calvin, was a happy baby, a solid student, a successful athlete. He grew into a clever, curious, compassionate person. He also developed a serious mental illness in his teen years that devolved into psychotic episodes. A mental health care system in disarray meant that instead of helpful care, our family met heartbreak.

In disbelief, I watched my son's world tilt away from a bright future punctuated by academic accolades and toward incarcerations, suicide attempts and hospitalizations in locked wards that didn't make him better. Along the way, the everyday bad news cycle got personal. I'm not at all surprised that homelessness and suicide rates are rapidly rising or that so many police encounters end tragically. These are preventable social ills, but our service systems are not built to prevent them.

Families like mine strive to keep loved ones from hitting rock bottom, discovering that there really is no bottom and that help doesn't prevent but instead requires a radical freefall. I watched my son delivered into society's underbelly by design. He spent months homeless, met law enforcement again and again, and tried multiple times to die. These traumas are part of a tragic inventory of the requirements for public assistance when someone has a serious mental illness. Calvin was 23 when he died from suicide March 18, 2019.

As I try to reconcile what happened to my son and our family, I have been compelled to dust off my journalism skills to write and holler my way into public view. While I work, the title of a book by Ron Powers spins me like the stanza of an unlikable but unshakeable song: *No One Cares About Crazy People.*

Amanda Snyder/The Seattle Times

Powers fathered two sons who developed schizophrenia and lost one to suicide. His book is among a dozen or so by family members whose children have gotten sucked into the void of serious mental illness. I've contacted most of those writers, including Pete Earley, who wrote *Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness.*

Like Powers, Earley and other families in this fight, I refuse to let people not care.

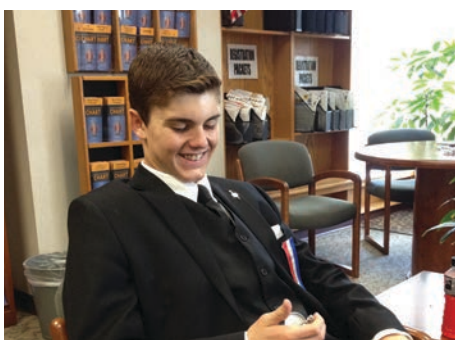
I also refuse to slink away in despair. When I was new to advocacy, I posted a quote from Anne Frank above my computer: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." When I doubt whether my voice will ever matter, I consider that quote, take a breath and get back to work.

I testified in the Washington State Senate for the first time January 18, 2019, when I believed there was still time to influence changes that might save my son. Lawmakers were reconsidering the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA), a state law that determines criteria for behavioral health intervention. (Washington passed a new ITA law in 2020—see story, p. 55.)

My hands were shaking as I held my printed speech. I leaned toward the microphone, made eye contact with the senators and tried not to cry as I began: "ITA law in Washington State traps an individual in an illness state so that the only way out is through violence."

This statement was not hyperbole. A scene that haunts me still is a night when Calvin was on our back deck in the dark, swinging a large stick and "preaching." On the patio table he had assembled bizarre altars built with playing cards from the Magic: The Gathering game, sticks and bits of food. He was interacting with unseen individuals, speaking words that were loud but not really intelligible. I encouraged him to come inside. His eyes were wild and dark. He didn't hit me, but I was afraid when he blocked me with the stick and said, "Stop!" He was there, but not there. As I slipped inside to call for help, his manic raging continued.

The disinterested county crisis responder on the phone suggested I lock my bedroom door and use earplugs to sleep. "It's not illegal to be psychotic," she said, clearly



Courtesy Jerri Clark

PAGE 48: On the family refrigerator, a collage of owls surrounds a photo of Calvin preparing to surf. A book of handwritten notes from his mom was always with Calvin, even when he was homeless.

ABOVE: Jerri, pictured in Calvin's room, holds a hat her son wore in Seattle. At a national debate tournament, Calvin,16, treasured a pocket watch from his grandparents.

RIGHT: Even before he could walk, he enjoyed the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Calvin, Jerri and Matt hiked near Lake Sammamish on Christmas Eve 2017. Calvin body surfed in Hawaii in 2016. His tattoo says, "Surf Your Waves."

A mental health care system in disarray meant that instead of helpful care, our family met heartbreak.

reciting something she had said many times. She explained why she wouldn't do anything to help: "We're protecting your son's civil rights." If he hurts someone or himself, she went on, then call police. I connected the dots in my head: My son had the civil right to avoid the hospital, but protecting that right put him at risk for arrest and possibly jail. To restore him to sanity, we would have to catch him in a narrow window between violence and crime.

There were so many times that the madness of mental illness policy crashed full force into my family. Calvin's treatment took many wrong turns because of systemic disorganization, discrimination and underfunding. Still, I often circle back to the brokenness of that pivotal moment when we had no idea how to help our super-sick son and were told that violence and crime were the missing elements for intervention. Most infuriating was the smug crisis responder's position that this lack of help served my son's best interest—to protect his "civil rights."

Civil libertarians who might be reading, please settle down. I'm one of you. I believe in the right to agency and self-determination. What I have learned in the harshest way possible is that when someone is that sick, agency is already gone—stolen by the disease. Involuntary treatment is the only kind. A mind so unwell cannot see its illness or a need for care. A person as sick as Calvin was that night is not saying "no" to treatment but instead is leaning into an alternate reality where Magic: The Gathering characters come to life and the world is on fire with excitement and opportunity. Of course, I suggested we go to the hospital that night. My offer made absolutely no sense to my delusional son.

Years later I learned the term anosognosia—a symptom of brain-based disease when a person is unable to "see" the illness because of disordered connections in the brain itself. When he was symptomatic, Calvin had no idea he was crashing toward disaster. As his mother, I saw clearly what was coming, just like knowing a small child who darts into the street is going to get hit one day. I had no power to prevent any of it.

I remember a time when happiness and health felt normal. I left Lawrence and my position as an assistant editor for *Kansas Alumni* in 1995, newly married and five months pregnant. My husband, Matthew Clark, g'92, settled into a career with Hewlett-Packard. I became mother to baby Calvin and Michelle, 10 years older than he. I taught yoga and children's ballet, work that blended well with parenting. We loved our Pacific Northwest home in Vancouver, Washington, where through the years we surfed off the Oregon coast and skied down Mount Hood.

Calvin became a state-champion debater and earned a scholarship to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Midway through his freshman year, he called in a rambling, tearful rant about being abandoned by fellow debaters. The details did not make sense. We brought Calvin home. Well past midnight, on February 16, 2015, I realized my baby boy had lost his mind.

Calvin's speech was alarmingly disorganized and frantic. He did not sleep and was convinced a bathroom in our house was possessed and should never be entered again. A family doctor prescribed lithium. Calvin was at first relieved to

Courtesy Jerri Clark (3)

Amanda Snyder/The Seattle Times

have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, like his paternal grandfather. This explained some of his confusion, so he agreed to take the medication. He got a job at the local farmer's market selling cookies. He bought a Cookie Monster T-shirt. We were rearranged, but we were a family and happy to be together. There was even a magical day of surfing that spring when we all successfully caught overhead rides.

We came up for air, but the dangerous waves we would try to ride were just setting up. Events in the years to come tossed me around enough to reorder my understanding about what it means to be a parent, a compassionate person and an activist.

That first year ended badly, when Calvin got tired of the jitters and mind fog that were side effects of the medication and stopped taking it. His mind exploded with life plans—tour with a rap band, sponsor a homeless benefit on the lawn of the Oregon Capitol, travel the world, join a commune, become a minister and drive, drive, DRIVE! It was like watching a train speed up just as the track started to crumble. A crash was soon to follow.

Calvin's disinterested "provider" (medical doctors rarely work with someone this sick—see story, p. 55) warned in a monotone that stopping the medication would be unwise. The choices were up to Calvin, and he felt no motivation to stay in "treatment" when the callings of mania were much more enticing. The first big crash happened in January 2016, when Calvin was hospitalized for suicidal ideation wrapped up in manic psychosis. While he was there, my father died. Jerome Niebaum, d'61, who retired in 2004 after a long KU career in academic computing, died on my 50th birthday, January 5, 2016.

While grieving the death of my dad and my son's worsening mental health, I found life support from yoga. My practice went beyond physical postures into the philosophical underpinnings. I trained in a meditation technique called iRest (Integrative Restoration), which helped me understand the possibility of being with many emotions at once. I could find joy in the ocean while dripping salty tears onto my longboard. While my dad was in hospice, I wrote a poem for Thanksgiving that ended with this stanza:

The thanks I am giving this year is deep, and dirty. Thank you, world, for showing me what it feels like to be. In all its complexity. The raw, red-eyed reality of love and loss. I am grateful for the opportunity to feel. Grit/Great. Full. Real.

Pema Chodron, a Buddhist nun, advises in one of her books, "Give up hope." As my son fell through rock bottom, this direction helped. My thoughts formed an essay published by a website for mental-health topics, "Brave Expressions." Here's a segment:

I started to consider that giving up hope might help me heal and continue to function. Hope is stuck in the future. Agency is right now. I decided to focus on what I could do instead of waiting with hope for things to sort themselves. I also had to give up hope that doing the right thing would get me what I wanted. Seeking right action was worth it either way.

I started Mothers of the Mentally Ill (MOMI) in May 2018. At the time, Calvin lived in Seattle, unstably housed and often unwell. Calling for crisis intervention always took me back to that earlier phone call, when I learned that being psychotic was "not illegal" and that my son's civil rights meant he had to be dangerous to get help. He did prove dangerous

on several occasions, but hospitals barely kept him long enough for the "imminent" threat to pass.

Calvin's final arrest happened after a hospital released him into homelessness. After wandering the streets for a week, he hallucinated that he had found his "true home" and broke into a stranger's apartment through a window. He called his grandmother with the address, wanting her to visit or write. Police already had him in custody when we called 911.

He was incarcerated for six weeks in the downtown Seattle jail. Matt and I had the surreal experience of locking up our personal effects, going through metal detectors and riding a clanky elevator to the seventh floor, where psychiatric inmates were housed. We told our shackled son we loved him, through Plexiglas. His eyes were not tracking. I knew delusions and hallucinatory voices were pulling him deeper inside himself.

Jail is often viewed as a better access point to services than an emergency department. Calvin's case manager encouraged me to celebrate his incarceration. "This could be good news," she exclaimed. "Maybe now he can get more help." These words infuriated me. Somewhere around that time I learned that individuals with severe mental illness are 10 times more likely to be incarcerated than treated in state hospitals.

Calvin's first incarceration for being sick was while he lived with us in Vancouver, not long after that night on our back deck. Unable to see his illness, Calvin leaned into mania. The highway beckoned. He loaded up with Halloween decorations, cat food and other random items but didn't fill the car with gas, believing his own energy would be fuel enough. Out of gas with his car halfway onto the shoulder, he was discovered by a law enforcement officer who took him to a hospital for a toxicology test, presuming he was on drugs. Hospital staff determined him to be dangerously unwell and he was detained to a psychiatric facility. The court held a hearing related to the DUI charge and issued a bench warrant when he didn't show up because of being in the hospital. (Explaining this obvious conflict to the court didn't matter.) When he was discharged—still unwell—and encountered police, he was taken to jail on the bench warrant.

During that debacle, I joined a support group at the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), which became the first place I felt solidarity. I started sharing my story in a NAMI Southwest Washington training, "See Me," which spreads understanding about psychiatric conditions for first responders and others who encounter the mentally ill in their work. I found myself merging my journalism training with skills I learned judging speech-and-debate contests during Calvin's high-school days.

As I found my voice, I started to network. A series of contacts led back to Kansas, and a kind NAMI Kansas director was the first person to explain Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) as perhaps the most evidence-based option for outpatient care. That smart tip was frustratingly difficult to apply, as were other snippets of advice that never manifested a coherent strategy. "Evidence-based" doesn't mean available or well-funded.

Losing my son in such a tragic way has galvanized me to inspect key moments where something could have gone differently. I'm forced to relive our traumas as I unpack them for advocacy. Along the way I've decided that happiness isn't my most important mission.

That's not to say I haven't met happy moments through the work. I've enjoyed connecting with grassroots advocates nationwide who are moved by their own awful experiences to speak out and demand change. We befriend one another through local networks and social media. Many have united around a pivotal book by D.J. Jaffee, *Insane Consequences: How the Mental Health Industry Fails the Mentally Ill.* Jaffee, who died in 2020 from cancer, derided systems that promote "mental health for all" over care for the seriously mentally ill.

I read Jaffee's book while Calvin was in the Seattle jail. I struggled to find a specific direction for my own finger of blame. The governor seemed to oversee most systems that had failed Calvin, so I called Gov. Jay Inslee's office.

Courtesy Jerri Clark

LEFT: A family member built a collage of Calvin's young years for his memorial. RIGHT: Jerri sat down with Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in 2018 to talk about gaps in the mental health care system.

I learned that Inslee preferred to meet with groups. About a dozen friends and I quickly bonded under the name MOMI and met with Inslee for the first time on June 26, 2018. Since then, I have been invited by public officials into work groups and press conferences. Calvin died during the 2019 legislative session, while I was actively testifying on various bills. Lawmakers sent flowers and mentioned Calvin during hearings. The governor has been kind and sent our family a personal letter. At a bill signing, he privately encouraged, "Tend your heart."

When MOMI began, I sponsored several public forums that got press attention. Austin Jenkins, a reporter from a National Public Radio affiliate in Olympia, interviewed Calvin and me for an Aug. 27, 2018, broadcast. Calvin talked about his first serious suicide attempt, when he jumped from a highway bridge into the Columbia River, and he expressed disbelief that such an extreme cry for help was needed.

Jenkins connected me with Steve Goldbloom, who produces "Brief but Spectacular" for PBS NewsHour. Goldbloom interviewed me for a segment that aired Jan. 11, 2019. On March 21, three days after Calvin's death, anchor Judy Woodruff honored Calvin on the show.

My work to help scaffold mental health care and detangle it from homelessness and criminal justice has put me on legislative work groups, advisory committees, coalitions and more. The day after the second anniversary of Calvin's death, I testified in the Senate Subcommittee on Behavioral Health. The lawmakers were considering a bill to improve the state's crisis response system as part of implementing a new 988 behavioral health crisis line. The 988 number goes live nationally in July 2022 to replace the hard-to-remember National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255).

Washington passed HB 1477 to establish the 988 system. I will press to participate in a work group that will oversee how that goes. My March 19, 2021, testimony included a key story from Calvin's life: "In the spring of 2018, my son's landlord in West Seattle called with grave concerns. Calvin was bizarrely confrontational with other tenants in the house where we paid to rent him a room. He had dug up the landlord's garden and would scream and mutter in the street. They wanted to evict our son but also were kind people who wanted to make sure he was OK. The landlord asked me what she should do next. Should she call the county?"

In my testimony, I described the confusion about which number to call, what to demand, and how that entire process of "crisis response" took more than a week. "The crisis system *requires* a severe level of illness," I said to lawmakers, "yet responds in a slow, underserved and disorganized manner."

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that 5% of the U.S. population experiences serious mental illness (SMI), which severely impairs daily living. Common SMI diagnoses are schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The 2019 data estimate that only 65% of individuals with SMI received treatment, and those numbers do not capture detail about treatment scope or outcomes.

RIGHT: Jerri commissioned artist Todd Fischer to depict an owl in flight in homage to the owl she saw shortly after Calvin died.

Shortly after Calvin's death, a great horned owl swooped low over my head and landed in a treetop nearby. We gazed at each other for several minutes before he flew away. In this grieving moment, I believed I was experiencing something spiritual. I told my cousins about it on the day of Calvin's memorial service. At twilight, we stood in my backyard garden, which backs up to the wooded greenspace where I first saw the owl. A cousin asked why I believed the owl carried a message from Calvin. Because, I said, with awe and wonder, "He's right there!" In that moment, a great horned owl flew by, low and closer than I have ever seen.

Owl iconography seems to find me. In a town hall to discuss mental health care access, an owl mural adorned a wall. A fellow parent giving testimony had an owl tattooed on her arm. Sitting down with a state senator, I noted an owl calendar in her office. I have the wisdom to know this is the story I am responsible to keep telling. Calvin's spirit guides me.

Jerri Niebaum Clark, j'88, works from her home in Vancouver as a resource coordinator for PAVE, a Washington State nonprofit organization that supports families dealing with disability. She is grandma to two little boys.

Courtesy Jerri Clark

What can be done?

Serious mental illness policies and priorities

Here are a few key learnings from my long, strange trip through the chaos of mental illness law, policy and practice:

■ The private-pay medical system fails to serve really sick people. During my son's first year of illness, 2015, I called 25 to 30 psychiatrists and was turned down by all but one, who offered an appointment in nine months. The insurance network provided a list, but most refused care or were retiring.

■ State insurance is better and covers some case management, but a determination of disability is required if an individual is not eligible based on income. Getting Social Security took years, with multiple appeals. Calvin's initial access to Medicaid happened in tragic, traumatic fashion when he was arrested and involuntarily hospitalized. His discharge included a court order for public-health case management, so the hospital fast-tracked his Medicaid application.

■ Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) is the highest-level of outpatient care in Washington, but it's a fail-first model. Calvin's eligibility was determined from a history that listed jail time, homelessness, involuntary hospitalizations, suicide attempts and state commitment. He completed that tragic inventory too late, qualifying for PACT with housing six months before he killed himself. Another helpful option would have been Assisted Outpatient Treatment, a therapeutic court protocol for helping individuals with persistent, disabling mental health conditions maintain stability and/or sobriety.

■ Calvin's symptoms included anosognosia, which presents as lack of illness awareness. A person with this symptom is not in denial; the brain is blocked from seeing its impairment. This symptom can occur due to stroke or brain injury and is present in many patients with the most severe forms of mental illness, including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Dr. Xavier Amador's book, *I'm Not Sick, I Don't Need Help,* taught me about this complication, which was never explained by providers.

■ States have a variety of laws to "protect" individuals unable to care for themselves due to psychiatric impairment. Most Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) laws rely on a standard of "imminent threat." In other words, they require violence. Our family learned this in the harshest ways possible, and this issue feeds controversy about the role of police in deciding what to do when someone finally gets sick enough to meet a threshold for commitment. I testified to support a new Washington State ITA law that lowers the threshold a modicum for someone who is "gravely disabled" due to mental impairment. The new law might save lives. My testimony began, "My son met criteria for involuntary treatment the moment that he stepped off the roof of a hotel and fell to his death."

■ Advocacy families are coalescing to promote a national agenda, which is included in the appendix to *Tomorrow Was Yesterday,* by Dede Ranahan and 64 co-authors, including me. One goal is to lobby Congress to repeal a 1965 law that forbids Medicaid reimbursement for inpatient stays at psychiatric hospitals with more than 16 beds, known as Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD). Intended to discourage institutionalization, the IMD Exclusion instead has resulted in fewer hospital beds for treatment, leaving more people with mental illness unhoused or incarcerated. The pandemic has worsened their plight.

■ From the start of his illness, Calvin wanted to live independently. Unfortunately, he was too sick to do that safely. There is no pathway into supportive housing that does not include significant time spent on the streets; homelessness is required, not prevented. I remember a night in October 2017 when Calvin called from a copse of trees near the University of Washington campus. He was wrapped in a tent we had used for camping before he was born. He had lost the poles and his coat. Using the cell phone that was still on our family plan, he called to say goodnight. "I love you to the moon and back," I told him, before crying myself to sleep. No system would help unless I let this disaster play out. I have recently joined the steering committee of Hope Street Coalition, led by Paul Webster, a former director at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. We are shining light on the unsheltered mentally ill and the changes needed to reverse this humanitarian crisis.

—J.N.C.

Billings

Dan Storey

Cohen

Dan Storey

Robinson

Courtesy Jane Robinson

AWARD

Fred Ellsworth Medallion

Dedicated Jayhawks to receive highest honors for service to KU

Three alumni will receive the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for their decades of extraordinary service to KU and higher education. Beverly Smith Billings, Lawrence; Howard Cohen, Leawood; and the late Reggie Robinson will be honored Sept. 17 in the Burge Union, in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors.

The Association established the award in 1975 to commemorate Fred Ellsworth, c'22, executive director and secretary for 39 years. He retired in 1963.

Billings, c'68, g'70, is president of Alvamar Development Corp. and president and managing broker of Alvamar Realty Inc. She earned her KU bachelor's degree in French and psychology and her master's in psychology, serving as an assistant instructor and research assistant while she completed doctoral coursework.

She currently serves as a KU Endowment trustee and a member of Endowment's property management committee. She is a member of Chancellors Club and Jayhawk Faithful. She is a longtime member of the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity, which she also led as president, and she helped found the Emily Taylor and Marilyn Stokstad Women's Leadership Lecture, continuing her service on the advisory board. She also is a member of the KU Women's Hall of Fame. She is an Alumni Association Life Member and Presidents Club donor.

Derek Kwan, executive director of the Lied Center of Kansas, met Billings in 2013. He recalls her insatiable curiosity. "She has a voracious appetite for knowledge, and it has served her well through her life and career," he said. "What makes her a true Jayhawk is that she cares not only about everything that is happening at KU ... but she cares just as much about Lawrence and Douglas County."

Billings helps guide the Lied Center's Performance Fund as a member of its board of governors; she also served on the 25th anniversary advisory committee and the executive director search committee.

For the School of Business, she volunteers as a member of the Center for Ethics in Business advisory board. She led the Hall Center for the Humanities Friends Council as president and was a founding advisory board member of KU Endowment's Women Philanthropists for KU. She continues to volunteer for and support numerous programs across the University, including the Dole Institute of Politics, School of Music, Spencer Museum of Art, University Theatre and KU Libraries. For Kansas Athletics, she is a longtime Williams Education Fund member and a season ticket-holder for several men's and women's teams.

For Lawrence and Douglas County, she helps guide the LMH Health Foundation, for which she co-chaired a pivotal capital campaign and served as president. Her other volunteer activities include the United Way, for which she also led the campaign; Lawrence Rotary Club; Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center; and the Lawrence Public Library Foundation. For her longtime efforts as a business and civic leader, she received the Athena Award from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and Crown Toyota.

Cohen, b'79, retired in May 2020 as a partner in Deloitte Touche, where he spent his entire career and led many national initiatives, most recently strategic organization planning for U.S. audit practice. After joining the firm in 1979, he rose steadily through the ranks to become audit partner in charge of both the Kansas City and St. Louis offices.

He often combined his dedication to both Deloitte and his alma mater, mentoring numerous accounting students and leading Deloitte's recruitment at KU. He also guided School of Business students to a second-place finish in a national case-study competition hosted by Deloitte, and he leads the school's biannual Audit Symposium, which includes faculty from leading universities and leaders of global accounting firms.

"Howard always stands up and stands out for the School of Business," said Dean L. Paige Fields, who cited the symposium among many examples of Cohen's dedication. "He really grasps the research mission as well as the teaching mission. The symposium helps attract faculty as well as students. You get very high-quality faculty, good faculty research, higher rankings, and that's going to translate into getting more and better students. Howard gets that."

For the school, Cohen led the capital campaign that raised more than $60 million to build Capitol Federal Hall. He continues to serve on the school's advisory board and the Accounting and Information Systems Advisory Council after chairing both groups. In 2005 the school honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served as president of KU Hillel, and he founded KU's chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

Cohen also served five years on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors and chaired the Audit Committee, which he continues to serve as a member. He and his wife, Debra, assoc., have attended every Alumni Association Rock Chalk Ball since the Kansas City tradition began in 1996; they co-chaired the event in 2013. They are Alumni Association Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

As a KU Endowment trustee, Cohen serves on the executive commitee and the campaign steering committee. The Cohens also belong to Endowment's Chancellors Club and Jayhawk Faithful; they are longtime donors to the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics.

Robinson, c'80, l'87, devoted his career to public service, higher education and philanthropy, most recently as CEO of the

KU Kickoffs return to KC, Wichita

Steve Puppe

Steve Puppe

Dan Storey

Baby Jay, the pep band and the Spirit Squad entertained about 2,000 Kansas City-area Jayhawks who gathered Aug. 13 for the KU Kickoff at Corinth Square in Prairie Village. On Aug. 9, the Wichita rendition drew more than 300 Jayhawks. Summer stops in the Hawks & Highways series included Salina, Hays, Pittsburg, Topeka, Garden City and Dodge City.

Kansas Health Foundation. He died Sept. 19, 2020, at age 63.

He served in numerous leadership roles, beginning as a student at KU, where he was student body vice president and editor of the Kansas Law Review for the School of Law. Between his undergraduate and law-school years, he served four years as a field artillery officer in the U.S. Army, honorably discharged as a captain.

He began his teaching career as a faculty member in the School of Law before earning distinction as a White House Fellow in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served as deputy associate attorney general and special assistant to Attorney General Janet Reno. After returning to Kansas, he served as chief of staff to KU Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway, CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, faculty member at the Washburn University law school, director of the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration and KU vice chancellor for public affairs. The KU Black Alumni Network named him a Mike and Joyce Shinn Leader and Innovator in 2017.

Gov. Laura Kelly appointed Robinson as facilitator for the Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission, and he served on several state juvenile justice advisory groups. He was a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet for nine years.

Kelly, who first met Robinson when she was a senator and he chaired the Regents, described him as "wicked smart" and a thoughtful listener who could bring people together to forge solutions. "Both Reggie's heart and mind were aligned with Kansas and KU in particular. He had many opportunities and he chose to come back to Kansas ... and really invest and engage with the entire state," she said. "He was willing to offer his particular expertise and skill set to make it better. ... Reggie should be revered by all Kansans."

His volunteer roles included service on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors, the KU Endowment board of trustees and boards for the Friends of the Spencer Museum of Art, Hall Center for the Humanities, Kansas Leadership Center, Douglas County Community Foundation, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, National Academy of Public Administration and National Organization for Victims Assistance.

With his wife, Jane McGarey Robinson, g'10, DNP'17, he was a Life Member of the Alumni Association, a Presidents Club donor and a member of KU Endowment's Chancellors Club and the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics.

AWARD

Leaders & Innovators

Nine alumni to receive honors from Black Alumni Network

The KU Black Alumni Network on Oct. 14 will honor nine alumni as Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators. The celebration will highlight the first evening of the network's biennial reunion, Oct. 14-17, during KU's Homecoming weekend.

The nine recipients are:

Luke Bobo, Shawnee
Phyllis Stevens Chase, Kansas City, Missouri
Patricia Weems Gaston, Lawrence
Denise White Gilmore, Hoover, Alabama
Darren James, Lewisville, Texas
Mark E. McCormick, Leawood
Clantha Carrigan McCurdy, Natick, Massachusetts
Aaron Thomas, Overland Park
Irvetta J. Williams, St. Louis

Since 2007, the network has recognized outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions and their communities through their careers. In 2015, the Leaders and Innovators were renamed to honor the late Mike Shinn, e'60, one of the founding members of the Black Alumni Network, and his wife, Joyce.

Bobo, e'82, is a nationally recognized speaker and writer on apologetics and public theology. He serves as vice president of strategic partnerships for Made to Flourish, an organization that provides resources and engagement opportunities to a national network of pastors. He is also a visiting professor at the Institute of Biblical Studies and a visiting instructor at Covenant Theological Seminary.

For his community, he serves on the boards for Carver Baptist Bible College, the Center for Public Justice and HustleUSA. For KU, he has served on the School of Engineering's Diversity & Women's Advisory Board and is a trustee for the Department of Religious Studies. He also served on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors, and he led the KU Black Alumni Network as president.

In addition to his KU electrical engineering degree, he earned a master's degree in engineering, a master's of divinity and a doctorate in education leadership.

Chase, d'71, EdD'87, is a professor and the PK-12 EdD Program coordinator for Baker University. During her career she has served in numerous leadership roles, including superintendent for the public-school districts in Topeka and the cities of Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia and North Kansas City, Missouri.

She also has volunteered as a board member for many organizations, including Mercantile Bank, the United Way of the Ozarks and the Topeka Symphony.

Gaston, j'81, returned to KU in 2018 to become the Lacy C. Haynes Professor of Journalism after her career as an award-winning journalist. She served in many editorial roles for The Washington Post, where she helped produce the national, foreign, features, editorial and opinion sections. Before the Post, she was assistant international editor for the Dallas Morning News and part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team that reported on violence against women.

Gaston advises the staff of the University Daily Kansan, mentors students through the Rising Scholars Program and serves on the KU Faculty Senate executive committee.

Gilmore, b'77, is an advocate and leader on issues of social and racial justice and equitable community development. She

is the senior director for the Division of Social Justice & Racial Equity in the Office of Mayor Randall L. Woodfin of Birmingham. She leads multidisciplinary efforts to serve marginalized communities, and helps preserve, rehabilitate and share areas of cultural significance. She worked closely with President Barack Obama's administration to create the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument.

She also serves on the strategic planning committee for the Alabama African American Civil Rights Sites Heritage Consortium and has served on the board for the Kansas City Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Gilmore is also an active and proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

James, a'92, is president of KAI Enterprises, a design and construction services firm with eight offices across six states. Prior to KAI, James served as the architect and assistant director for construction at Texas Woman's University.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he serves as the president of Fair Park First, a nonprofit group that oversees equitable growth and development of a historic neighborhood in South Dallas. He also chairs the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, one of the oldest black chambers in the United States. He has served on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dallas and the Dallas Citizen's Council and the advisory board of the KU School of Architecture & Design. He was recently was named to D CEO Magazine's "500 Most Influential Business Leaders in North Texas."

McCormick, j'90, serves as the director of strategic communications for the ACLU of Kansas. He also serves on Gov. Laura Kelly's Racial Equity & Justice Commission, on the board for the Association of African American Museums and as a trustee of the William Allen White Foundation at the KU journalism school. He has worked as a reporter for The Wichita Eagle, The Louisville Courier-Journal and the Springfield News-Leader. He is the author of *Barry Sanders: Now You See Him...His Story in His Own Words*. McCormick holds five gold medals from the Kansas City Press Club and was recognized as the club's "Best Columnist" in 2009. He also served as the executive director of the Kansas African American History Museum.


Bobo


Chase


Gaston


Gilmore


James


McCormick


McCurdy


Thomas


Williams

McCurdy, EdD'95, is the senior deputy commissioner for access and student financial assistance with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, where she manages the legislative budget for scholarships, grants, tuition waivers and student loans for current and prospective students.

She also serves as president of the National Association of State Student Grant

Austin

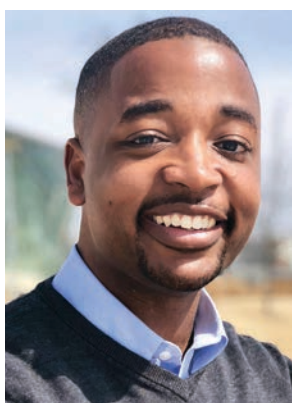
Hollinger

Humphrey

Jackson

Pierce

Pruitt



Robinson

and Aid Programs and on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee of the KU School of Education and Human Sciences.

Her honors include the Massachusetts Performance Recognition Award and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Service Award. The Eos Foundation recently named her one of the "50 Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education."

Thomas, c'00, is executive producer and CEO of Wyandotte Entertainment Inc. and an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. He is also the executive producer of the popular TV show "S.W.A.T.," airing on CBS. He has written for numerous other shows including "Soul Food: The Series," "Friday Night Lights" and "CSI: New York."

He mentors the next generation of writers and is a frequent guest speaker for the CBS Writers' Program. He also helped create a mentoring program for television writers of color in the Los Angeles area.

Williams, a'87, is the founder and lead consultant for iJay Enterprises, a firm that helps developers navigate municipalities' pre-construction and building code processes. She also is an expert in leveraging Tax Increment Financing and Community Development Block Grants to develop residential and commercial projects across the Greater St. Louis area.

She has helped lead several professional organizations, including the Missouri Workforce Housing Association, the National Association of Minority Architects, the Missouri Association of Code Enforcement and the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials.

She is an adviser to the KU School of Architecture & Design, and she served on the board of the St. Louis Community Builders Network and the Foreclosure Intervention Taskforce of the Urban League of Metro St. Louis.

AWARD

Emerging Leaders

Jayhawks earn early recognition from Black Alumni Network

The KU Black Alumni Network this year begins a new tradition of honoring young alumni for their professional achievements and community service. Seven Jayhawks will receive the inaugural Emerging Leaders awards during the network's reunion Oct. 14-17. They are:

Michael Austin, Lawrence
Marcus Hollinger, Atlanta
Nicole Humphrey, Coral Gables, Florida
Craig Jackson Jr., Sacramento, California
Paul Pierce II, Lawrence
Dr. Margaret Pruitt, Silver Spring, Maryland
Joshua Robinson, Cedar Park, Texas

Austin, g'16, Lawrence, is a public-sector economist and policy researcher and president of Knowledge & Decisions Economic Consulting LLC. He previously

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directed fiscal policy for the Kansas Policy Institute and as the chief economist for two governors. He volunteers as a high school tutor and debate coach.

Hollinger, j'14, is senior vice president for marketing of Reach Records and co-founder of Portrait Coffee Roasters, an award-winning company that seeks to use coffee as a mechanism for doing good across Atlanta.

Humphrey, c'16, PhD '20, is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Miami who researches the impact of organizational structures and processes on gender and racial inequities. She also chairs the Student & New Professionals Section of the American Society of Public Administration.

Jackson, g'14, is senior director of development for the University of California-Davis School of Engineering. He also co-chairs the diversity, equity and inclusion committee for development and alumni relations at UC Davis. For the KU School of Education and Human Sciences, he serves on the dean's advisory board.

Pierce, j'16, former assistant athletics director for compliance with Kansas Athletics, in July was promoted to associate athletics director for inclusive excellence to lead all diversity and inclusion efforts for staff, coaches and athletes. He participates in the Multicultural Excellence in College Athletics and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association.

Pruitt, PhD'17, m'19, completed a fellowship at the Milken Institute's School of Public Health and now serves as a resident physician at the George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and a member of the departmental council for diversity, equity and inclusion at the GW School of Medicine. She also guides high school students as a mentor and tutor.

Robinson, j'16, g'18, is the equity & inclusion program coordinator with the City of Austin. He also is an active member of the Austin Area Urban League.

New Life Members

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

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Michael L. & Meredith Bayles Bell
Gregory T. & Helen E. Benefiel
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Jayhawk Profiles

Steve Puppe

LARKIN SANDERS

Clarinetist seeks new audiences for classical music

by Steven Hill

When Larkin Sanders left Branson, Missouri, to attend the KU School of Music, the clarinetist with hopes for a career in classical music figured her days of performing for hometown audiences were done.

"I never thought I would be able to return to Branson to play music," says Sanders, u'10, who lives in Kansas City. "I graduated, got out and was like, 'There's basically nothing for me here because I am a classical musician.'"

Unable to envision a place for her music in a town where "classic" evokes big-name country music stars, not great composers, Larkin eventually decided to create her own, founding the Taneycomo Festival Orchestra, a summer series that attracts classical musicians from around the country to perform free concerts for Branson residents and tourists. TFO celebrated its 10th season in June, with five outdoor concerts at a local park.

The vibe, in keeping with Branson's vacation spirit and Sanders' personality, is decidedly unstuffy.

Performers don't pay to participate, as they do at the biggest summer festivals, and local families volunteer to house and feed musicians, eliminating another financial hurdle to attendance. Audiences are not required to buy tickets but are encouraged to make donations instead. "And," Sanders says, "there's the no-shoes thing."

During TFO's first season, Sanders was rushing around before the debut performance, filling multiple roles as festival manager and orchestra performer. Slowed by high heels, she kicked off her shoes "like a good Ozark girl." Midway through the orchestra's performance, she looked up to see her forgotten footwear—"my 6-inch, platform, color-block shoes"—on prominent view at stage center.

Concertgoers loved it, and now the shoes are part of the show.

"We have a ceremonial de-shoeing at the beginning of all concerts, where I have to come onstage and take my shoes off and welcome everyone," she says, laughing. "Other musicians kick off their shoes, too. It's encouraging the audience to relax and just enjoy the experience, and not holding them to any old, outdated pretentious rules."

The boundary-breaking appeals to musicians, too, many of whom—Sanders included—have felt shut out by the major summer festivals.

LEFT: "The tradition of making it an exclusive, expensive and highbrow event is what I'm trying to break free from," says Sanders, who believes ticket prices, fancy dress codes and a perceived need to be "educated in a certain way to enjoy the music are the three main things preventing people from enjoying classical music today."

While completing her master's degree at Michigan State (she also earned a doctorate in music at Florida State), Sanders was invited to attend Chamber Music Midwest, a summer festival in a small Wisconsin town.

"I'd been applying to summer music festivals for years at that point, and I'd been first alternate at three or four major festivals, just on the brink of getting in," she recalls. "After years of trying and not securing a spot, I was basically table-flippin' mad about it. Then I went to CMM and felt validated once again that I did belong in classical music."

The Wisconsin festival allowed each musician to take charge of their own artistic decisions rather than working with a teacher, which Sanders loved. She wanted to adapt the model and thought it could work in her hometown. "It started as a hunch and as a response to being rejected a lot and watching my friends get rejected and wanting to create more opportunities not only for myself, but also for them. The icing on top was being able to bring my music home to Branson."

The same air of informality that guides TFO concerts led Sanders to co-found Porch Music with two next-door neighbors in Kansas City, who also happen to be classical musicians. Feeling isolated during the pandemic, they gathered in their front yards to play. Their second concert drew 50 people. "It wasn't just us musicians who were starving for music," Sanders says, "it was the whole neighborhood." The group expanded to nine musicians and now books concerts on porches, patios and lawns throughout the metro.

Larkin also operates her own music store, the Clever Clarinetist; gives private lessons through her clarinet studio; and teaches clarinet at Washburn University in Topeka and band at Liberty High School in Missouri. She has written a pair of music-related books as well.

That multi-pronged approach to making a life in music she credits to her father—a classically trained musician who made his living playing drums for R&B bands like Earth, Wind & Fire—and her KU clarinet teacher, Stephanie Zelnick, who encouraged students to create their own opportunities rather than waiting for good things to happen.

"I knew when I got to college that every time somebody told me it was going to be hard, they were right," she says of her father's influence, "and that the only way to make sure I had a fighting chance was to work as hard as I possibly could to be the best musician I could be. And once this concept of seeking your own opportunities came into my mind, thanks to Stephanie, there was no stopping."

HEATHER DENNÉ

Outreach involves health, education and history

by Steven Hill

While earning her undergraduate degree in women's studies at KU, Heather Wilcox Denné traveled to Turkey to gather research for her thesis. Her topic: the essential importance of clean water for women running a household.

"My argument was that access to clean water is an issue all women can agree on," says Denné, c'06. "Women from all generations, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds need clean water to bathe their children, to cook, to clean. All the domestic work that women do, you need access to clean water."

After moving to Jackson, Mississippi, in 2009 to earn master's and doctoral degrees in urban planning at Jackson State University, she took a similar trip to Africa. But she soon learned that what she believed was a problem primarily of the developing world was a very real issue in the United States. Frequent advisories to boil water, along with increasingly cold winters that froze pipes and disrupted the water supply in Jackson and other American cities changed her focus from international to local.

"I realized that even here in the richest country in the world we still are dealing with basic human rights and quality of life issues," says Denné. "This is an issue that needs attention right here."

The Topeka native decided to stay in Jackson, taking a job as director of community engagement at Jackson State, one of America's largest historically Black colleges and universities, where she works to build good relationships between the school and its neighbors. Her partners in that endeavor include the university's 7,000 students and 2,000 faculty members, along with roughly 15,000 residents, 300 businesses, 50 churches and 15 neighborhood associations within a 1-mile radius of a campus that's "the hub" of Jackson's central city.

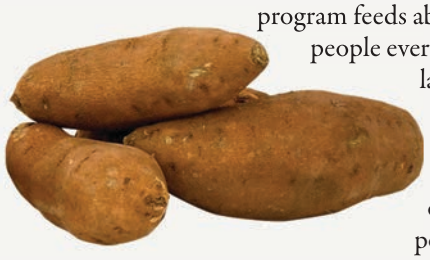
"The needs vary, but we are in a pov-

Courtesy Heather Denné

Denné

erty-stricken area," Denné says. "We're roughly 99% African American and about 30% are below the poverty line. We're a food desert, so there's not a lot of access to fresh fruits and vegetables. And we're always dealing with water concerns due to our failing infrastructure. So we're constantly trying to help the community of not just our students, but the community right outside our gates."

Denné launched a program called Crop Drop, which gleans excess produce from farmers across the state and taps student labor to help prepare and distribute it to neighbors. The extraordinarily popular program feeds about 1,000 people every year, and last year shared 20,000 pounds of sweet potatoes in three hours. She also oversees a partnership with a local middle school near campus that grows vegetables in a learning garden and sponsors an annual greens cook-off in the school gym. During the pandemic, when online students were missing out on school lunches, Denné and Jackson State's football coach, former NFL star Deion Sanders, helped organize a giveaway that distributed 1,500 boxes of bottled water and nonperishable food items donated by the online retailer Amazon.



"Normally we do one or two events where we give away fresh fruits and vegetables with our partners," Denné says, "but because of the pandemic we've had an overwhelming need for people to get food and water."

Now in her 11th year in the job, Denné has broadened her focus to tackle education, mental health advocacy and historic preservation, among other issues. She secured $2 million in grants in 2020 to support pop-up library events such as the Little Free Library, which gives away 500 to 1,000 new children's books annually; drug and alcohol education; suicide prevention for K-12 students and various historic preservation projects identified as priorities by neighborhood groups. More often than not, it's still women's issues that she hears about.

"At our neighborhood association meetings, we rarely see a lot of men," Denné says. "It's mostly prominent Black women who are at the table making the case, so it's women's issues that come to the forefront."

Denné, who also serves on the Jackson Historic Preservation Committee, says her proudest moment was securing a $500,000 grant from the U.S. National Park Service in 2019 to restore historic Mt. Olive Cemetery, a project driven by strong advocacy from neighborhood residents, not the university.

"The community has been very clear that what they want in our role as an HBCU and with our students is to tell their story," Denné says. "They're not saying, 'We want historic preservation.' They're talking about their aunties, their daughters, the juke joint, the only hotel where African Americans could stay.

"Our goal is to try and save the spaces and places that represent African American stories and heritage within this 1-mile radius," she says—a historic roll call that includes iconic Civil Rights monikers like Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer and the Freedom Summer. "We believe that if we can do that, then we will have a prideful community where people will want to live, visit and tour."

"I realized that even here in the richest country in the world we still are dealing with basic human rights and quality of life issues. This is an issue that needs attention right here."—Heather Denné

JENNIFER BACANI McKENNEY

Family physician focuses on community, care of rural hometown

by Heather Biele

As much as Jennifer Bacani McKenney enjoyed growing up in the rural community of Fredonia, Kansas, she was certain she would one day move away from the Midwest, a plan she hoped to realize right after high school—or at the very least, once she graduated from college.

"I actually thought every step of the way that I would leave Kansas, quite honestly," she admits.

Not only did McKenney stay in the Sunflower State and earn her bachelor's and medical degrees from KU, but she also returned to her beloved hometown to practice family medicine alongside her father, Dr. O.C. Bacani. "I was born in the hospital where I work today," McKenney, c'02, m'06, says with a laugh. "I guess I loved it so much that I decided to move back."

The idea of returning to Fredonia, a quiet town of about 2,500 people, didn't cross McKenney's mind until midway through her residency, when she called her father to express surprise that no one in her hometown had reached out with employment opportunities. As she explained to him that she was considering out-of-state options, "He kind of freaked out," McKenney recalls. "The hospital CEO called me the next day and said, 'I thought you were just going to come here.'"

In the 12 years since joining her father in private practice, McKenney has established strong roots in her southeast Kansas community, serving as a family physician, health officer for the city and Wilson County and school board president. She created the Fredonia Medical Academy, a two-week program that introduces high school students to the medical profession, and founded the Fredonia Area Community Foundation, a charitable organization

Courtesy Jennifer McKenney (2)

Most of Jennifer Bacani McKenney's fondest memories include trips to her father's medical office, where as a young girl she helped file charts and tagged along as he visited with patients. Today, she works alongside her father as a physician. "It's just great to be able to say, 'Dad, I need your help,'" McKenney says of their relationship. "It's wonderful."

that funds vital programs and services. In recognition of her community spirit, McKenney in March was named Rural Health Practitioner of the Year by the National Rural Health Association, an honor that celebrates health care providers who dedicate their lives to improving the well-being of those in rural communities.

"I think it's an important thing to happen to someone like me," McKenney says of the distinction. "I hope that people see that someone like me—a young Filipino-American, the daughter of immigrants and a small-town girl—is not your stereotypical small-town doctor. I hope they realize that anybody can do this and be someone who makes a difference."

Though McKenney is grateful for the recognition, she admits that at times she felt like an outsider in her hometown as community support wavered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, as she and local health department officials planned Fredonia's pandemic response, some residents grew increasingly angry at the recommendations she made, such as wearing masks, remaining physically distant from others and limiting the size and location of social gatherings. McKenney remembers hearing calls for her resignation, as well as receiving harassing messages on social media.

"It became hard because those same people that were saying things on social media or saying things in the community, those were people that I knew growing up and people I had taken care of in the office," she says. "They let me take care of them and their families for the last decade, but all of a sudden they didn't trust me anymore to keep them safe."

McKenney is quick to point out that the majority of residents were understanding of her role during the pandemic, which fueled her determination to continue leading the community as its health official. "That was the reason I kept going," she continues. "Those were the people that I kept fighting really hard for, even when there were those angry voices out there. It was a tough time for everybody. Some people have to be angry at someone because they can't be angry at a virus. I was the obvious target."

While McKenney remains committed to keeping everyone safe as new COVID threats emerge, the physician who jokingly refers to herself as "a people-connecting family doc doing cool stuff for the future of Fredonia" hasn't lost sight of her ultimate goal: to break down the stereotypes of rural areas and highlight Fredonia as an innovative, growing community with a promising future.

"There's so much that's good about a rural community that I refuse to fall into the idea that all small towns are just going to wither away and die," she says. "I can't let it happen because that's my home. I see the love and the power and the passion of all the people in our community, and I know that's not our fate. And if I can help it be something even better, if we can continue growing, then that's what I want to do."

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by Heather Biele

1955 Mary "Hankie" Haines Holefelder, '55, in March received the Distinguished Service Award at the annual Wellington Chamber of Commerce banquet. A 60-year resident, she serves on several boards and is the community's longtime piano instructor.

1956 Forrest, e'56, and **Sally Roney Hoglund,** c'56, in June were honored with the VolunteerNow Lifetime Achievement Award for their philanthropic efforts in the Dallas area. In 1989, the couple created the Hoglund Foundation, which has contributed more than $55 million in grants to support families and education causes.

1960 Trudy Gier James, c'60, lives in Seattle, where she is retiring in September after many years as a hospital chaplain and founder of Speaking of Dying, an organization that helps people think about and communicate how they want their end-of-life care managed.

Delano Lewis, c'60, former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, has joined New Mexico State University as a visiting senior fellow for global affairs. He and his wife, **Gayle Jones Lewis,** '58, live in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1963 David, c'63, m'67, and **Carolyn Parkinson Gough,** d'63, live in El Paso, Texas. David is a retired associate professor of cardiology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and continues to work part time with residents and fellows in the School of Medicine. Carolyn, who was named 2004 Woman of the Year by the El Paso Times, is retired from teaching entrepreneurship at the University of Texas at El Paso. She has been honored by several organizations for her entrepreneurial efforts. The Goughs celebrate their 80th birthdays this year.

1966 Ronald Hirata, e'66, retired in January after nearly three decades as a pediatric dentist and orthodontist in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

1967 Beatrice Osgood Krauss, g'67, lives in Tucson, Arizona. Her first book of poetry, *Strong Medicine*, which draws on her career as a health psychologist and hospice harpist, was published in August by Casa Urraca Press.

1968 Raymond Baird, f'68, lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he's an oil painter. His work was featured this spring at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery.

Dennis Pruitt, j'68, wrote his first novel, *Do-Overs*, which was published in October. He lives in Olathe.

1970 Gary Davis, p'70, is a pharmacist and owns Sterling Drug in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. In April he celebrated his 50th anniversary with the business.

1971 Arthur Black, e'71, in February was included in Marquis Who's Who in the World. He lives in Sunnyvale, California, where he is an electrical engineer and retired as manager of the discrete applications department for the Fairchild Semiconductor.

Mark, d'71, and **Karen Guese Snyder,** c'70, g'72, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They met as resident assistants in Oliver Hall and live in St. Louis, where Mark is a retired school counselor and Karen is a retired psychologist. The Snyders have two children and two grandchildren.

1972 Mark Amin, c'72, is founder and CEO of Sobini Films in Los Angeles. His latest movie, "Emperor," which he co-wrote and produced, was released in 2020.

Rich Elliott, c'72, who was a member of the KU track & field team, in February published *What Mad Pursuit: Short Stories About Runners*.

1973 Roger Barnes, c'73, g'76, g'78, PhD'83, received Distinguished Alumnus honors at the Dodge City Community College commencement in May. He received his associate degree from DCCC in 1971 and is now professor and chair of sociology at the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, where he lives with **Karin Kessinger Barnes,** f'75, g'79, associate professor of occupational therapy at UT Health San Antonio.

1974 Michael Boman, c'74, l'78, retired as director of the Low Income Tax Clinic at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. He and **Elizabeth Ervin Boman,** d'75, make their home in Kansas City.

Albert Fisher, d'74, lives in Kansas City, where he retired as principal engineer at Haldex.

1975 Jonell Farver Schenk, s'75, s'76, is a retired hospice social worker and lives in Shawnee with her husband, Jerald. Their son, **Cameron,** '91, manages the gross anatomy laboratory at KU Medical Center, and their

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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
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- **(no letter)** Former student
- **assoc** Associate member of the Alumni Association

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1 Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from theinterngroup.com/career-fields/sports-management-internships/

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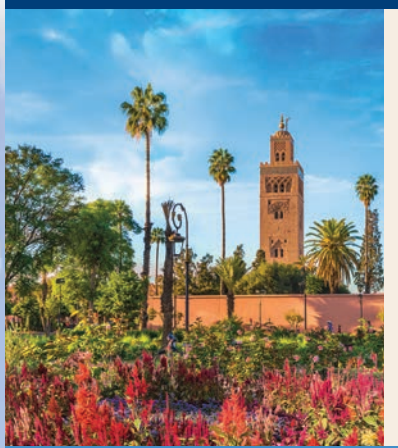

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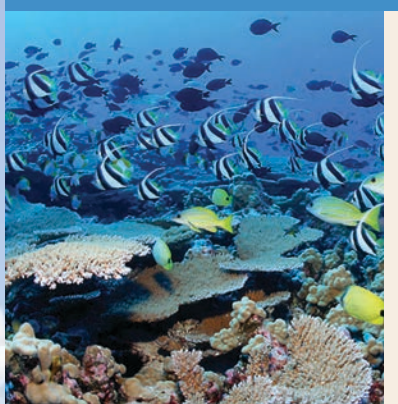
Board this 10-night cruise through Denmark, Norway and Scotland on Oceania Cruises' Marina. Discover majestic fjords, cascading waterfalls, stunning glaciers, imposing mountains, idyllic islands and lighthouses.



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Machu Picchu's enigmatic ruins and the fascinating Galapagos Islands rank among South America's greatest treasures, and a small group tour is the ideal way to experience both.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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Trip dates are subject to change.
For the latest dates and detailed trip descriptions, visit **kualumni.org/travel** or call **800-584-2957**.

granddaughter, Lillian, is a junior at KU who's majoring in sociology and Spanish.

Cathy Wright Thrasher, p'75, retired in December from Watkins Health Services, where she worked for nearly 37 years and ran the pharmacy for 27 years. A scholarship was created to celebrate her retirement, for which $5,800 was raised. Cathy continues to make her home in Lawrence.

1977 **Mark Denison,** c'77, m'80, in April received the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award during a ceremony at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the Edward Claiborne Stahlman Chair in pediatric physiology and cell metabolism and professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology. He also directs the division of pediatric infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Melody Rankin Gatti, d'77, g'88, '03, is an adjunct lecturer at KU. She lives in Lawrence with **Joseph,** c'79, a dentist at Lawrence Dental Studio.

1979 **Nasir Mohajir,** c'79, c'81, lives in Richmond, Texas, where he's a retired exploration system consultant at Saudi Aramco.

1980 **Rex Archer,** m'80, who has directed the Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department for the past 23 years, retired in August. He played a key role in the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stephen Grindel, p'80, m'90, a physician at Ascension Via Christi Health System in Wichita, is president of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County.

G. William "Bill" Quatman, a'80, a'83, retired in March as senior vice president and general counsel at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

Anne Simpson, g'80, lives in Reston, Virginia, where she's a biologist and information scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey.

1981 **Marni Jameson,** j'81, lives in Winter Park, Florida, where she is a home and lifestyle columnist and author of six books, including *What to Do with Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want*, which was published in June by The Experiment.

Douglas Nelson, b'81, is a municipal credit analyst at Hilltop Securities. He lives in Arvada, Colorado.

1982 **Walt,** j'82, and **Julie Downs Bettis,** d'82, live in Wichita, where Julie retired after nearly 35 years as a principal in Wichita Public Schools.

Paul Dorrell, '82, is president of Leopold Gallery, a gallery and art-consulting business, which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary in Kansas City. He and his wife, **Ann Griffith Dorrell,** c'85, live in Roeland Park and have two sons, **Joshua,** c'14, and **Dennis,** c'15.

Paula Graves, f'82, g'97, a'02, lives in Tucson, Arizona, where she is semi-retired and works for an estate sales company. She's happy to be near her sister, **Gina Graves Lloyd,** '79, and daughter, **Lacy Adams,** '10, both of whom live in Arizona.

1983 **Tom Gawlick,** p'83, is principal at Quad4Strategy in Overland Park, where he lives with his wife, Gina.

Allison Baker Hammond, d'83, g'86, founded Respons-Able People and Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

John Keeling, f'83, is an artist in Kansas City. He specializes in watercolor paintings and pet portraits.

1984 **Janet Baker,** g'84, PhD'91, lives in Phoenix, where she's curator of Asian art at the Phoenix Art Museum.

Jeff Bollig, b'84, wrote *The Dream is Real* with former KU broadcaster and Voice of the Jayhawks Bob Davis. The book, which was published in October, details Davis' 48-year broadcasting career.

Elizabeth Fast, l'84, is a partner at Spencer Fane Britt & Browne in Kansas City, where she represents financial institutions and heads the firm's training division.

Jeff Sigler, p'84, PharmD'12, who owns Sigler Pharmacy in Lawrence, was honored July 17 at KU Day at the K for his pharmacy's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. He watched the Royals take on the Baltimore Orioles from the Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat, which is reserved for people who have made significant contributions in their communities.

1985 **Michael Bassham,** c'85, is a senior litigation attorney at Bass Berry & Sims in Nashville, Tennessee. He specializes in complex litigation, contract disputes and business torts.

David Beuerlein, e'85, is operating partner at Khosla Ventures. He makes his home in Menlo Park, California.

Carey Gillam, j'85, wrote *The Monsanto Papers: Deadly Secrets, Corporate Corruption, and One Man's Search for Justice*, which was published in March by Island Press. She is a reporter and data researcher for the public health research group U.S. Right to Know.

Karen Nichols McAbee, a'85, e'85, in April achieved the rank of Sandan (3rd-degree black belt) in Okinawan Kobudo from the Olathe Karate Academy.

Stephen McAllister, c'85, l'88, former U.S. attorney for the District of Kansas, has joined Dentons in Kansas City. He is counsel in the firm's litigation and dispute resolution practice.

David Wiens, c'85, lives in Portland, Oregon, where he manages product marketing at Mentor.

Scott Williams, b'85, is CEO of Batteries Plus. He lives in Overland Park.

1986 **Kevin Akins,** e'86, g'88, is a senior systems engineering manager at Northrop Grumman Space Systems. He lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Kristy Lantz Newport, j'86, lives in Hot Springs, South Dakota, where she's digital product owner at Caterpillar Inc.

1987 Donna Luehrman, c'87, lives in Overland Park, where she's a senior business analyst at UMB Bank.

1988 Deborah Anderson, j'88, c'89, g'93, vice chancellor for student success at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, Indiana, received the 2020 Innovation Award for Technology Research, Assessment and Evaluation from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Joni Craig, g'88, is a real estate agent at HomeSmart Realty West in San Diego.

David Pruitt, m'88, is a radiation oncologist at CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs Cancer Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

1989 Sergio Abauat, e'89, is an independent oil and gas professional in Bogota, Colombia, where he lives with his wife, Natalia.

Christine Fleek, c'89, is a business development executive at Ogden Publications in Topeka. She lives in Lawrence.

Katherine Heiny, c'89, makes her home in Bethesda, Maryland, where she's a writer. Her latest novel, *Early Morning Riser*, was published in April by Knopf.

1990 Thomas Clark II, c'90, j'90, in February was appointed by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson to the Court of Appeals, Eastern District. He previously served as a judge in Missouri's 22nd Judicial Circuit, which includes St. Louis.

Donna Stokes, j'90, manages content marketing at the CONNECTIVE Agency in Dallas.

1991 **William Colgan,** c'91, lives in Littleton, Colorado, where he's regional director of operations at Indigo Golf Partners.

1992 **Andrew Esparza,** j'92, works in business development and procurement at CenturyLink. He lives in Olathe.

Cory Lusk, c'92, in April was promoted to brigadier general of Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Division. He and his wife, Amy, have three children, Alex, Laurel and Mikhail.

Paula Birkbeck Taylor, j'92, is CEO and chairwoman of the board of Denison State Bank in Holton, where she makes her home.

1993 **Ivan Graack,** '93, directs IT and vendor management at Post Holdings in St. Louis.

1995 **Stephen Long,** PhD'95, wrote *The 7 Deadly Sins of Youth Sport: How to Raise Happy, Healthy and High Performing Kids*, which was published in October. He lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1996 **Jeremy Bezdek,** b'96, is managing director at Koch Investment Group in Wichita, where he lives with his wife, **Emily,** assoc.

Angela Nielsen Elam, c'96, is a pharmacist at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she lives with her husband, Brett. They have four children.

Pamela Sasse Whitten, PhD'96, in April was selected as the new president of Indiana University in Bloomington. She previously served as president of Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

1997 **Jenni Carlson,** j'97, a sports columnist at The Oklahoman, recently was honored as the 2021 Ann Miller Service Award winner for her contributions to the Association for Women in Sports Media. She makes her home in Oklahoma City.

James Hughes, f'97, lives in San Antonio, where he's a life insurance agent at American Income Life Insurance Company.

Colleen McCain Nelson, j'97, is executive editor of The Sacramento Bee and McClatchy regional editor for California. Most recently she was national opinion editor for McClatchy and vice president and opinion editor for the Kansas City Star. She and **Eric,** j'93, senior editor at The Compass Experiment, make their home in Sacramento, California.

Jennifer McCullough Nigro, j'97, '21, directs employer relations and internships at the KU School of Business. She and her husband, David, live in Lawrence.

Jennifer Grube Straumins, g'97, serves on the board of directors for Calumet Specialty Products Partners and is chair of Maverick Performance Products. She lives in Greenwood, Indiana.

Tucker Trotter, f'97, is CEO of Dimensional Innovations in Overland Park. He and **Mandi Conyers Trotter,** f'96, live in Leawood.

1998 The Rev. **Phillip Blackburn,** c'98, in March was named director of the Thriving in Ministry program at the University of the Ozarks. He also serves as co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Matthews Chacko, m'98, is assistant professor of medicine at Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kelly Ross, c'98, lives in San Diego, where she's a senior environmental planner at ICF.

Brian Runk, s'98, is a social worker at Villa St. Francis in Olathe. Brian and **Kristin O'Connor Barkus,** PhD'07, a scientist at Catalent, live in Lawrence.

Steffani Tomson-DeGreeff, c'98, c'11, s'13, is a school social worker at Reno

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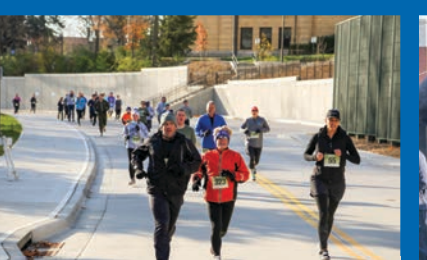

Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the end of Desert Storm

All proceeds from the KU Vets Day 5K support the KU Veterans Alumni Network, the KU Student Veterans of America chapter and the Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center.

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County Education Cooperative in Hutchinson.

1999 Candace Mason Dunback, d'99, g'02, directs partnerships at the Athlete Network in Lenexa.

Stephanie Kelley-Romano, PhD'99, is an associate professor of rhetoric, film and screen studies at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Chris Thompson, b'99, is head golf professional at Lawrence Country Club. He was a two-time All-American at KU. Chris and **Jessica Wachter Thompson**, c'00, have two children and live in Lawrence.

2000 Joshua Cox, d'00, '01, is dean of students and athletics director at Windsor Middle School in Windsor, Colorado, where he lives with his wife, **Carrie Moore Cox,** n'99, and their sons. Joshua received the 2020-'21 Colorado Athletic Director's Association Honored Middle School Administrator of the Year Award.

Adam Espinosa, c'00, in May was appointed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis to the 2nd Judicial District Court. Adam has served as a Denver County Court judge since 2015.

Terry Nooner, c'00, g'03, in April was promoted to associate head coach of the KU women's basketball team. He'll begin his second season with the team this fall.

David Pickering, g'00, DMA'02, is professor of music and chair of the keyboard division at Kansas State University.

Zachary Schneiderman, c'00, a Farmers Insurance agent in Granada Hills, California, was named to the company's Presidents Council, its highest honor. He makes his home in Simi Valley.

Christopher Willits, c'00, is a scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb in Brisbane, California. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Half Moon Bay.

2001 Rebekah Gaston, b'01, l'05, is director of agency and community collaboration at the Kansas Department for Children and Families in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

John Kennyhertz, b'01, is an attorney and managing partner at Kennyhertz Penny in Mission Woods.

T.J. Killan, j'01, is founder and president of KJO Media in Westwood.

Jeffery Lichtenhan, c'01, g'03, PhD'07, is an auditory neuroscientist at Frequency Therapeutics. He lives in St. Louis.

Erika Payne Miller, h'01, is an occupational therapist at Encompass Healthcare in Coralville, Iowa. She and her husband, Jesse, live in Fairfax.

2002 Matthew Hastings, c'02, m'07, is a neurologist at Specialty Care in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Jacy Hurst, b'02, l'07, a partner in Kutak Rock in Kansas City, in March was confirmed as a Kansas Court of Appeals judge. She lives in Lawrence.

Ignacio Ibarguren, g'02, is vice president of mergers and acquisitions and finance at Global Energy Generation in Overland Park.

Michelle Sherwood Li, j'02, is a reporter and anchor at KSDK 5 On Your Side in St. Louis.

Scott Massey, b'02, directs global product launch at Intel Corp. in Portland, Oregon.

Dianne Lord Miller, g'02, lives in Eagan, Minnesota, where she's assistant city administrator. She recently received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association.

Andrew Moddrell, a'02, is an architect and founding partner at PORT. He lives in Westwood Hills.

Laura Rodts, j'02, is senior learning designer at Cerner in Kansas City.

Amy Smith, b'02, g'03, lives in Overland Park, where she's vice president of finance at the United Way of Greater Kansas City.

2003 Carl Atwell, g'03, owns Gempler's, an outdoor clothing and equipment store in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin.

Adam Charlsen, c'03, makes his home in Omaha, Nebraska, where he's managing partner at Husch Blackwell. He's a member of the firm's real estate, development and construction industry group.

Stephanie Pasas Farmer, g'03, PhD'04, owns Ariadne Software in Lawrence, where she lives with **Shawn,** c'96, l'05.

Beau Jackson, c'03, l'09, has been selected to join the 2021 class of Leadership Kansas. He's a partner at Husch Blackwell in Kansas City, where he specializes in technology, manufacturing and transportation law.

James Steinkamp, c'03, lives in Colleyville, Texas, where he's vice president and senior regional adviser consultant at Invesco.

Amy Wong-Thai, c'03, is a cytotechnologist at Deepcell. She and **Binh,** e'02, principal project engineer at Impossible Foods, make their home in San Mateo, California, with their daughter, Mia.

2004 Lynn Buehler, c'04, lives in San Marcos, Texas, where she's a CPP coordinator at Adams & Associates.

Jesse Henkensiefken, f'04, g'06, g'11, is a cellist and program manager at Kansas City Harmony Project. He lives in Lawrence.

Andrew Hillin, e'04, is mission systems engineer manager at KBR in Houston.

Roger McVey, g'04, a pianist and professor of piano at the University of Idaho, in May released two new albums. He makes his home in Moscow, Idaho.

Jay Quickel, g'04, lives in Overland Park, where he's CEO of Agway Farm & Home.

Tyler Whetstine, h'04, is senior vice president and chief information officer at Adventist Health in Roseville, California.

2005 Ellyn Angelotti Kamke, c'05, j'05, is general counsel at Trellance in Tampa, Florida.

Emily Werner Peterson, j'05, lives in Lawrence, where she owns Merchants Pub & Plate with her husband, **Thomas "TK,"** '04.

Lindsey Stephenson, s'05, s'07, is president of KVC Missouri in Kansas City.

Michael Tedesco, g'05, is president and CEO of Vision Together 2025. He lives in Spokane, Washington.

Nathan Wu, c'05, is a dentist at Louisiana Dental Center in Slidell, Louisiana, where he lives with **Lan Dang,** c'05, m'09, m'13, and their two children, Olivia and Grayson.

Born to:

Brandon Snook, f'05, and his wife, Jenna, son, Cooper David, March 16 in Livingston, New Jersey. Brandon is a classical and contemporary singer and real estate agent in New York City.


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2006 **Danielle Litt Jurisz,** j'06, was promoted to director at Padilla, a public relations and communication company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2007 **Megan Trear Emerton,** l'07, is corporate counsel at New Belgium Brewing Company in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she lives with her husband, Andrew.

Melanie Guse, c'07, j'07, owns Gist Wine Shop in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Michelle Tran Maryns, c'07, in May received a Bush Foundation fellowship and $100,000 grant. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she is founder and CEO of We Sparkle, an organization that connects up-and-coming entrepreneurs with AI-powered technology.

Ashley White Sadowski, a'07, is executive director of Kansas City's Building Energy Exchange.

2008 **Ardalan "Ardy" Dehdasht,** c'08, '10, in April was named the new principal at Topeka West High School. He has been a teacher and administrator in several school districts throughout Kansas and Missouri.

2009 **Kelsey Hayes,** j'09, c'10, is an assistant policy editor at Politico Europe. She lives in Lenexa.

Darrell Stuckey, c'09, in March returned to KU as director of football relations. He was a safety and defensive back for the Jayhawks from 2006 to '08 and was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in 2010. Darrell is a member of KU's Ring of Honor.

Married

Lacey Anderson, g'09, to Timothy Blaufuss, Oct. 3 in Fargo, North Dakota. Lacey is a behavioral health therapist at Sanford Health.

Born to:

Ali Hansen Stow, f'09, and her husband, Ryan, son, Harrisen Eddie, Jan. 13 in Austin, Texas, where they make their home. He is their first child.

2010 Steven Bower, b'10, g'11, is a tax supervisor at Patillo, Brown & Hill in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jennifer Beck Doty, c'10, a'16, lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she's a senior designer at Madwell, an advertising and marketing agency.

Marie Nolan Fiala, s'10, s'11, wrote *When The Lost Seek The Lonely*, which was published in November by Christian Faith Publishing. She makes her home in Raymond, Nebraska.

2011 Sheryl Craig, PhD'11, is professor emerita of English at the University of Central Missouri. Her article, "Teaching Persuasion in a Women's Studies Course," was published in June in the anthology *Approaches to Teaching Austen's Persuasion*. She continues to lives in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Melissa Peterson, g'11, in May was named KU's director of tribal relations. A native of Navajo Nation, she previously served as associate director at KU TRIO supportive educational services and STEM.

Born to:

David, b'11, g'12, and **Carolyn Battle Cohen,** c'11, j'11, daughter, Arielle Rose, May 6 in Overland Park, where she joins a brother, Myer, 2. David is an assurance director at PwC, and Carolyn is a senior marketing manager at H&R Block.

2012 Brendan Franz, g'12, is district manager at Fast N Friendly Stores-Dairy Queen in Olathe.

Catherine Spencer Reinhart, g'12, a textile artist, was awarded an Iowa Artist Fellowship by the Iowa Arts Council. She lives in Ames.

Seth Robinson, e'12, is a network engineer at Kraft & Kennedy in Houston.

2013 John-Michael Angotti, j'13, is a senior account executive of modern workplace at Microsoft. He lives in Leawood with **Erin Inciardi Angotti,** j'11, and their twin sons, Roman and Benjamin, who are almost 2.

Stephanie Johanning, c'13, manages office administration at Snapshot Interactive in Nashville, Tennessee. She makes her home in Hermitage.

Nicholas Kleiger, b'13, g'13, manages global accounting policy at LKQ Corp. in Chicago. He and **Colleen Young Kleiger,** s'13, live in Carol Stream, Illinois.

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1. Retrieved on July 1, 2021 from usnews.com/education/online-education/university-of-kansas-155317
2. Retrieved on July 7, 2021 from usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-business-schools/mba-rankings?location=Kansas
3. Retrieved on July 7, 2021 from business.ku.edu/school-business-launches-online-mba-program-fall-2015

Laura Lyons, PhD'13, is the principal at Seaman High School in Topeka. She's been an administrator in the school district since 2004.

Douglas Mowery, s'13, lives in Chicago, where he directs residential programs at Ignite, a nonprofit organization that works with unstably housed youth.

2014 Matthew Agnew, l'14, is a senior attorney at Bradley Arant Cummings in Dallas. He's a member of the firm's health care practice group.

Jennie Ashton, g'14, is a museum specialist at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C.

A Ram Kim, e'14, PhD'18, is an autonomous vehicle engineer at Optimal Inc. in Plymouth, Michigan. She and her husband, Hun, live in Novi.

Kaitlyn Winkler, d'14, lives in Kansas City, where she's U.S. network director at Drug Free Sport International.

Hannah Wise, j'14, social strategy editor at The New York Times, has been selected as a 2021-'22 Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute fellow. She works remotely from Kansas City.

2015 Stefanie Carnahan, c'15, is an implementation manager at C2FO, a financial technology company in Leawood.

Taylor Hanna-Peterson, c'15, g'17, is an academic advisor for behavioral neuroscience and psychology in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at KU. In March she received the 2021 National Academic Advising Association Region 7 Excellence in Advising-New Advisor Award, the first KU advisor to be honored with such an award.

Niq Howard, e'15, l'18, is of counsel at Vondran Legal. He lives in Kansas City.

Stephen Wojcehowicz, b'15, lives in Milwaukee, where he's a customer service and supply planning analyst at Molson Coors.

2016 Brian Fairchild, e'16, g'20, is a petroleum engineer at Olsson. He's part of the water resources team in Overland Park.

Brennan Keller, d'16, coordinates outreach at Provision Fund in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Kevin Ryan, b'16, lives in San Francisco, where he directs the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation. In April he joined the board of directors of CATCH Global Foundation.

Devan Shihata Swiontkowski, g'16, is a project planner at BWBR, an architecture firm in St. Paul, Minnesota.

2017 Amanda Woodward Davis, g'17, g'18, g'19, is program lead for global strategy initiatives at IFTO Communications. She lives in Lawrence.

Andrew Horn, g'17, is a logistics officer and currently serves as executive officer to the commanding general of the 8th Theater Support Command in Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Ryan Leary, d'17, directs volleyball operations at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Ja'Juan Smith, s'17, lives in Austin, Texas, where he's a victim services counselor for the Austin Police Department.

2018 Kathryn Bauguess, e'18, is a crude process engineer at ExxonMobil Refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Margoth Mackey, b'18, c'18, lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she's a transactional analyst at Lockton Companies.

Travis Toon, g'18, is business director at Global Finance Group in Newport Beach, California.

2019 Vanessa Delnavez, g'19, manages the invertebrate zoology collection at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in Santa Barbara, California.

Kaitlyn "KT" Maschler, b'19, is a marketing assistant and podcast engineer and producer at Blue Tangerine in Lawrence. In October she launched her own podcast, "The Quest for New Inspiration."

Carissa Hanschu Miles, EdD'19, lives in Lawrence, where she's the principal at Southwest Middle School.

Madeline Musil, s'19, is a social work case manager at KC Pet Project in Kansas City.

2020 Kathryn Blaser, g'20, lives in Lenexa, where she's an activities therapist at Cottonwood Springs.

Morgan Coonce, a'20, is a hotel development manager at NOUN Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma.

Gabby Foster, g'20, is a building information modeling coordinator at McDonald Electrical Corp. in Hingham, Massachusetts.

Jack Fowler, b'20, is a graduate associate in supply chain management at XPO Logistics Inc. in Ontario, California.

Kaitlyn Krueger, j'20, coordinates projects at Superhuman in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Kylie Personette, e'20, is a NASA International Space Station flight controller at KBR. She and **Zachary Hall,** e'20, live in Alvin, Texas.

Andrew Rosenthal, j'20, was a finalist for the Michigan Press Association Rookie Writer Award and took second place in the statewide competition. He's a general assignment and sports reporter at the Traverse City Record-Eagle in Traverse City, Michigan.

Meredith Short, l'20, is an associate at McCausland Barrett & Bartalos in Kansas City. She specializes in casualty and personal injury and insurance defense.

2021 Maggie Mahr, j'21, is a digital media intern at MAKE Digital Group in Kansas City.

Susan Soltwedel-Carey, g'21, teaches in Hugoton Public Schools. She and her husband, **Adam,** assoc., live in Elkhart and have two sons, Declan, 9, and Conor, 4.

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1940s Nancy Welker Bruce, c'48, 93, Dec. 29 in Juno Beach, Florida. She was an administrative assistant and a deacon. Survivors include a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Mary Jane Zollinger Byers, f'48, 94, Jan. 13 in Boulder, Colorado, where she was a singer and voice instructor. A son, two daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Mary Beth Dodge Engleman, '42, 100, June 14 in Salina, where she was an accomplished golfer and active in her community. She served on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1967 to '72. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a son, H. Dodge, c'66, m'70; two daughters, Ann Engleman North, d'69, and Mary Engleman Kemmer, c'76, g'79; and three grandchildren.

Elizabeth Beard Evans, c'46, 96, March 27 in Great Bend, where she was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. Survivors include two daughters, Pat Evans Davis, s'73, s'79, and Cathy Evans, c'78, g'90; two sons, one of whom is Bill Jr., f'77; eight grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Mary Ward Gilmore, c'44, 98, May 19 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Harold Grindle, e'49, 98, Dec. 21 in Wasilla, Alaska. He owned a general contracting business for nearly 40 years. Surviving are a son, a daughter, a sister, four grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

Richard Hitt, b'49, 94, Dec. 6 in Lenexa. He worked in sales management. A daughter survives.

Betty Huffman, c'47, c'49, 95, Dec. 16 in Beloit. She retired as a medical technologist.

Beverly Hyde, n'48, 95, March 28 in Belleville. She was a registered nurse.

Wallace Keene, b'44, 98, March 26 in Kansas City. He had a long career in accounting and financial management. Surviving are a daughter; a stepson, Philip Broaddus, '82; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandsons.

Eloise Hodgson Lynch, PhD'49, 93, April 1 in Olathe. She lived for many years in Salina, where she was a teacher and received the Kansas Master Teacher Award in 1987. She later was elected to three terms in the Kansas House of Representatives. Survivors include three sons, Jack, c'71, Matt, d'75, l'79, and Will, b'79; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Barbara Hall Marshall, c'45, 97, April 21 in Kansas City, where she was a member of Hallmark's product review committee and a longtime trustee for the Kansas City Art Institute. Surviving are three daughters; a brother, Donald Hall, assoc.; two grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Marilynn Konantz Miller, d'41, 100, Dec. 7 in Hastings, Nebraska, where she taught music and performed in the Hastings Symphony Orchestra. She is survived by two daughters, Mary Miller Koepke, d'68, and Annie Miller Young, d'72; a son, Martin, '75; four grandchildren; two step-grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

Dale Oliver, b'49, 96, Sept. 26, 2020, in Great Bend, where he retired as CEO and vice chairman at Security State Bank. He is survived by his wife, Donna; two sons, Daniel, c'78, g'81, and David, b'79; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Sarepta "Sari" Pierpont Ostrum, f'44, 98, May 25 in Rochester, New York. She was a homemaker and travel agent. Surviving are a daughter, Karna Ostrum Hanna, c'70; three sons; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Lina Spencer, c'48, 97, Aug. 28, 2020, in Hillsborough, California, where she was a retired teacher. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

Virginia Marshall Starkweather, f'43, 99, Jan. 2 in Cohoes, New York. She lived for many years in Clay Center, where she was active in her community. Surviving are a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Leroy Steinke, b'49, 96, March 16 in Chicago, where he was a retired CPA. He is survived by his wife, Betty; a son; a daughter; a sister, Marge Steinke Whisnant, d'56; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

Sherman Steinzeig, c'49, m'52, 95, Dec. 4 in Kansas City. He was a physician.

Frances Raw Vaughan, c'44, g'65, 99, June 26 in Olathe, where she taught home economics for 26 years in the Shawnee Mission School District. She is survived by three daughters; a sister, Gloria Raw Giles, '48; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Virginia Lineberger Woodcock, b'49, 94, Nov. 10 in Green Valley, Arizona, where she was a homemaker. Survivors include a son, Neil, a'74, e'74; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1950s Jeanette Bolas Ashby, c'50, 91, April 14 in Albany, Oregon. She was an office assistant at the University of Washington. She is survived by three daughters; a son; and a sister, Julie Bolas Berry, c'53.

Herbert Beauchamp, c'56, 88, May 13 in South Hutchinson. He retired after more than 20 years as chief virologist at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Surviving are his wife, Donna, a son, two daughters, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Richard Blackburn, p'59, 83, Dec. 28 in Manhattan. He retired as a pharmacist at Fort Riley.

John Blair, '53, 92, Jan. 26 in Phoenix. He practiced law for nearly 50 years in Wichita. His wife, Donna, and a daughter survive.

Barbara Korn Blasi, d'56, 86, Nov. 8 in Bella Vista, Arkansas, where she was an interior decorator and partner at B&B Interiors. Survivors include a daughter, a son and five grandchildren.

Shirley McAfee Dorr, '55, 87, Dec. 3 in McKinney, Texas, where she was a CPA. Surviving are her husband, Russell; a son; two sisters, one of whom is Doris McAfee, g'89, PhD'98; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Harold Ehrlich, d'51, 92, April 22 in Ocala, Florida. He retired after nearly 40 years with Boeing. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Fern.

Joseph "Smokey" Ensley, '59, 83, May 25 in Leawood, where he retired as principal at Lott Ensley Marketing. A

memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include two sons, Michael, '92, and Christopher, '93; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Janet Allen Fithian, '54, 88, March 26 in Springfield, Missouri. She was a homemaker. Two daughters, a son, two stepdaughters, a stepson, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Clinton Foulk, c'51, 90, Dec. 22 in Newark, Ohio, where he retired after 28 years as associate professor of computer science and engineering at Ohio State University. Surviving are a daughter, three grandsons and 10 great-grandchildren.

Donald Freely, '52, 90, March 19 in Overland Park, where he owned Don Freely Auto Clinic. He is survived by his wife, Norma Haase Freely, c'52; a daughter, Debbie Freely-Hall, '97; a son; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Virginia Copp Gleason, p'52, 90, Dec. 17 in Kinsley, where she worked at her family's business, Copp Pharmacy. She is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Edward Haith, m'59, 88, May 7 in Overland Park, where he was a retired surgeon. Surviving are his wife, Rickie, a son, two daughters, 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Charles Hall, b'51, 91, May 13 in Lake Forest, Illinois. He had a long career in the banking industry. Survivors include his wife, Helen Persson Hall, '53; three sons; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Hans Hansen, c'55, l'66, 88, Feb. 27 in Midland, Texas, where he retired as an oil and gas attorney. Surviving are three sons, Jon, c'74, l'77, Chris, '76, and Noel, g'87; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Ann Cuthbertson Hotchkiss, d'52, 90, Feb. 15 in Kansas City. She was a teacher and homemaker. Survivors include her husband, Jim, b'49; a daughter, Liz Hotchkiss Middleton, f'79; a son, John, a'93; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Beverly Chaffin Jameson, b'52, g'79, 90, May 10 in San Antonio. She lived in Overland Park for many years, where she was an instructor at Johnson County Community College. Two daughters, one of whom is Elaine Jameson Surya, f'83, survive.

Ferris "Bob" Kimball, c'57, 85, April 24 in Lake Quivira. He worked at his family's company for his entire career. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Ferris III, g'03, PhD'06; and three grandchildren.

Donald Kuenzi, m'53, 94, March 14 in Kansas City, where he was a physician and worked in private practice and at the VA Medical Center. Surviving are his wife, Martha, assoc.; three sons; two daughters; and 10 grandchildren.

Robert Learned, c'51, p'54, 96, March 28 in Manhattan, where he had a long career as a pharmacist and owned Learned's Prescription Shop. He is survived by his wife, Iona, assoc.; three daughters; a son; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Herbert Lewis, e'50, 93, Nov. 9 in Clinton, Mississippi, where he was an electrical engineer. Surviving are two daughters, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sam Lord, e'50, 94, Feb. 27 in Kansas City. His wife, Dorothy, and a son survive.

Marion Manion, '53, 93, Feb. 21 in Topeka. He served for 36 years in the U.S. Army and retired as colonel. He later was vice president at Capitol Federal Savings. Survivors include his wife, Charlene; three daughters, two of whom are Daylene Manion Marshall, '92, and Vanessa Manion Roller, '01; and two sons, one of whom is Marion Jr., g'06.

Mervin Martin, b'59, 89, Dec. 28 in San Diego, where his career as a CPA spanned more than 40 years. Two daughters, a son, a brother and five grandchildren survive.

James Moddelmog, b'50, g'52, 93, Jan. 25 in Fallbrook, California, where he retired after a long career in finance. He is survived by three daughters, a son, a sister, seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Jack Mohler, c'54, m'61, 89, April 17 in Groveland, Massachusetts, where he was a retired physician. Surviving are his wife, Jean Scupin Mohler, d'54; a son, Kendall, c'77; a daughter; a sister; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Thomas Moravansky, b'59, 92, March 2 in Boca Raton, Florida, where he retired after 25 years at IBM. He is survived by three sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

C. Stanley Nelson, c'50, l'50, 96, May 31 in Salina, where he practiced law for more than 60 years at Hampton & Royce. Survivors include four sons, three of whom are Jeff, b'77, l'80, Mike, b'78, and Kendal, b'86; and four grandchildren.

Anna Lou Pope Parker, '51, 91, Feb. 27 in Houston, where she was active in her community. Three sons, a daughter and five grandchildren survive.

Cecilia Medved Rinehart, g'50, 93, May 28 in Overland Park. She worked at Phillips Petroleum Company for 30 years and retired as personnel analyst. A sister, Helen Medved Cobb, '57, survives.

Richard Roberds, c'56, g'63, 86, Sept. 11 in Tullahoma, Tennessee. He was a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and acting dean and professor of engineering science at the University of Tennessee Space Institute. Surviving are his wife, Marcy; a son; two daughters; a brother, Don, c'55, g'65; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Hillel Samisch, c'52, 90, July 15 in Seneca, South Carolina. He served in the U.S. Army for nearly 25 years and retired as lieutenant colonel. Surviving are a son, a daughter, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frances Doutt Smith, c'56, 84, July 10, 2020, in Sullivan, Missouri. She was a homemaker. Survivors include four daughters, one of whom is Christine Smith Stratmann, '87; five sons; 21 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jacob Sperry, d'50, g'55, 95, May 12 in Pittsburg, where he was associate professor of mathematics at Pittsburg State University. He is survived by three daughters, one of whom is Mlee, '82; three sons, one of whom is Kyle, e'85; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Edwin Stene, c'54, l'59, 89, Feb. 22 in Roy, Utah, where

he retired after a long career with the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife, Sally Cheyne Stene, d'59; two sons; two grandsons; and two great-granddaughters.

Thomas Stewart, j'54, 87, Dec. 11 in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He was a journalist at the Associated Press and Reuters and retired as senior adviser at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Surviving are his wife, Carolyn Keys, j'60; three daughters; a stepson; a stepdaughter; a brother, Robert, j'53; two grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Jack Stonestreet, j'54, 89, Feb. 27 in Gig Harbor, Washington, where he worked in insurance sales and also officiated high school sports. He is survived by his wife, Janice Perry Stonestreet, c'54; two sons; a daughter; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Howard Sturdevant, c'56, l'62, 86, Dec. 31 in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. He was an attorney and a real estate agent in Kansas City. Survivors include his wife, Gail, three sons, a stepdaughter, a brother and eight grandchildren.

Frank Taylor, b'53, l'57, 89, April 30 in Fort Myers, Florida. He was an attorney and specialized in transportation law. Surviving are his wife, Betty Denny Taylor, '56; a son; a daughter; a brother; and two granddaughters.

The Rev. **Robert Terrill,** b'58, 84, April 5 in Overland Park. He served as pastor at churches in Kansas, Illinois, Colorado and Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Judy; three daughters; three sons, one of whom is Chris Coates, c'88; a sister, Martha Terrill King, '63; and 12 grandchildren.

Marilynn Lee Vietti, d'50, 93, Feb. 23 in Girard, where she was a retired office assistant and a 60-year member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Leigh Friggeri, n'77; a son; a stepson; three grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and 15 step-great-grandchildren.

Michael Walker, b'58, 85, May 8 in Copley, Ohio, where he retired from Alcan Aluminum Corp. and later opened The Metal Store. He is survived by his wife, Linda, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a sister, three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Larry Welch, c'58, l'61, 85, April 7 in Olathe. He had a long career with the FBI and later served as director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are two sons, Ladd, j'79, and Lanny, c'84; a daughter, Laurie Welch Brown, c'86; a sister, Jana Welch Williamson, '60; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jack Williams, b'57, 85, Feb. 26 in Mission. He was president of Heritage Financial Services. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is David, b'88; a daughter; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Herman Woodcock, b'57, g'62, 86, March 21 in Chesterfield, Missouri, where he was a CPA and retired as controller at J.S. Alberici Construction Company. His wife, Mary Ann, a son, a daughter, two sisters and four grandchildren survive.

1960s

Edward Moore Anderson, d'64, 78, May 10 in Fairfield, Iowa. He was an artist and graphic designer. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis Antrim Anderson, d'65; a son, Wynn, '02; and a daughter.

Richard Baker, b'65, 78, May 5 in Terrell, Texas. He was a retired CPA. Survivors include two daughters, Amy, '94, and Tiffany, PharmD'01; a son; and three grandchildren.

Nancy Leatherman Batchman, '63, 79, Jan. 31 in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, where she was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood and active in her church. She is survived by her husband, Theodore "Ted," e'62, g'63, PhD'66; a son, Timothy, '87; two daughters; and three grandsons.

Carl Bernofsky, PhD'63, 87, Feb. 12 in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was a research professor at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Surviving are his wife, Shirley Goodman Bernofsky, g'62; two daughters; and two grandchildren.

Bruce Brient, c'61, m'65, 81, June 10 in Gainesville, Florida, where he was a retired surgeon. He is survived by his wife, Collette, two sons, a daughter and eight grandchildren.

Marcia Alexander Cambern, '60, 83, June 27 in Overland Park, where she was active in her community. Surviving are her husband, Ted; a daughter, Catherine Cambern Schons, c'84; two sons, one of whom is Christopher, '95; and eight grandchildren.

Frederick Carothers, c'69, 77, April 16 in Prescott, Arizona. He was an artist. Survivors include two sons.

Charles "Chuck" Curry, c'68, 75, Nov. 27 in Grandview, Missouri, where he was an attorney and judge. Surviving are his wife, Barbara, two sons, four stepchildren, 16 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Robert Dall, p'60, 82, April 25 in Kansas City. He was a pharmacist at Osco and Miller Pharmacy. Survivors include his wife, Roberta Laughery Dall, c'87, s'91; two daughters, one of whom is Christie Dall Schroeder, p'85; a son; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Dorothy Trickett D'Anna, f'61, 81, Dec. 29 in Bellingham, Washington. She was an artist and freelance design consultant for magazines and apparel lines.

Eugene "Mike" Der Manuel, d'66, 78, Nov. 9 in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he was a retired pilot at Delta Airlines. His wife, Nancy, survives.

Patricia Williamson Dill, d'62, 80, Feb. 16 in St. Joseph, Missouri. She was a teacher and volunteered in her community. Surviving are a son; two brothers, one of whom is Robert Williamson, e'68, e'73; two grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

Betty Coleman DuPaul, '68, 74, May 23 in Kansas City. She worked at TWA Club Credit Union for nearly 30 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Ronald; three sons, one of whom is Keith Wynne, '93; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John Fergus, d'66, 75, Feb. 3 in Enterprise, Alabama. He served for nearly 25 years in the U.S. Air Force and later became dean of instruction at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama. His wife, Betty, a son, a daughter, a sister and two grandchildren survive.

Robert Foster, j'65, 80, Aug. 24, 2020, in Arkansas City, where he owned Foster's Furniture. He is survived by his wife, JoLynn, '66; three daughters, two of whom are Karen Foster Shockey, '84, and Stacy Foster Michener, j'89; a brother, Aubrey, b'58; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Kirk Hagan, b'63, 80, Feb. 21 in Dallas. A longtime resident of Oklahoma City, he was an executive at several freight companies. Survivors include his wife, Kendall Waggoner Hagan, d'63; a daughter, Kelly Hagan Jennings, c'91; and two sons, one of whom is Keith, c'01.

Wynne Luskow Hansen, d'60, 82, May 18 in Prairie Village, where she taught at Santa Fe Trail Elementary School and later worked at the Village Toy Store. Surviving are her husband, Donald; two sons, one of whom is Mark, c'91; a sister, Mary Ann Luskow Brock, d'64; and two granddaughters.

Frederick Horne, PhD'62, 87, April 21 in Corvallis, Oregon, where he was dean of science at Oregon State University and received the College of Science's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is survived by his wife, Clara Ann Johnson Horne, '59; a son; a daughter; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Fred Kaul, c'62, 80, Feb. 27 in Shrewsbury, Missouri. He had a 40-year career at IBM. Surviving are his wife, BJ; a son, Kendall, c'86; a daughter; a stepson; a stepdaughter; and seven grandchildren.

John Lastelic, e'65, 78, Jan. 29 in La Conner, Washington. He lived for many years in Seattle, where he taught physics at Seattle Pacific University and managed real estate. Survivors include his wife, Joleen; two sons; two daughters; two brothers, Joseph, j'52, and Robert, b'67, l'70; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Diane Klassen Leisy, d'64, 78, June 13 in Wichita, where she was a high school English teacher. Surviving are her husband, Jerry, c'64, m'68; three daughters, one of whom is Elizabeth Leisy Stosich, '01; four brothers, one of whom is Ronald Klassen, c'73; and three grandchildren.

Larry McKown, j'60, 87, Dec. 20 in Wichita. A retired investment banker, he worked for 31 years at First Securities and served on the board of directors as executive vice president. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; two sons Mike, a'87, and Greg, j'91; a daughter; two sisters; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Janeth Mauk Miller, d'63, 80, April 4 in Berryton. She taught for nearly 30 years at Shawnee Heights High School in Topeka. Survivors include her husband, Edbert, f'61, d'63; a daughter, Susan Miller Dyer, c'85; a son, Rick, e'88; two brothers; and four grandchildren.

Denton "Denny" Morse, e'62, g'64, 83, Jan. 31 in Houston. He worked for Exxon and later taught computer science at Booker T. Washington High School. Two sons, a daughter, a brother, a sister and five grandchildren survive.

Carol Immer Nicholson, c'60, 82, April 30 in Topeka, where she was a retired physical therapist. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Brent Medley, c'86, and Richard "Cordy" Medley, '91; a daughter; a sister, E. Joy Immer Walker, d'57; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Keith Ott, c'60, 83, May 24 in Mountain View, California. He was a retired U.S. Navy captain and later served as director of general services for Yolo County in northern California. Survivors include two daughters and two grandsons.

Patricia Herbin Peterson, '63, 83, July 20 in Salina, where she volunteered in her community. She is survived by her husband, Don, b'62, g'64; a daughter; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Lebert "Lee" Shultz, b'64, l'67, 78, Feb. 6 in Olathe. He was an attorney. Survivors include his wife, Merrily Tribble Shultz, c'65; a son, David, f'92; a daughter; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Roberta "Bobbye" Cunningham Straight, d'62, 80, March 22 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where she was a faculty member at the University of New Mexico. She is survived by her husband, Jim, e'62, g'63; a daughter; a son; and a brother.

Robert Thomas, c'62, 80, March 28 in New York City, where he had a 40-year career as an attorney and partner at Sullivan & Cromwell. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Becky Myers Thomas, d'62, g'65; a daughter, Brooke, '01; a son; and a sister, Virginia Thomas Arthur, s'67, s'69, g'06.

Thomas Thompson Jr., a'66, 78, Feb. 7 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He had a long career in finance. Survivors include his wife, Janet Neal Thompson, d'65; a son Thomas III, b'94; a daughter, Amy Thompson Brookover, '94; and six grandchildren.

Kenneth Timmerman, e'60, 88, May 8 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was a retired mechanical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories. He is survived by his wife, Joni Parman; two daughters, Susan, c'79, and Amy, c'92; a son; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Leman Turrell, b'67, g'69, 75, May 2 in Cincinnati, where he retired at Fidelity Investments. His sister, Laurie Turrell Ward, d'69, survives.

James Weis, '67, 81, July 12 in Olathe, where he was a retired teacher and administrator. He is survived by his wife, Linda Large Weis, d'62; a son, Doug, c'91; a stepdaughter, Julie Holiday Jones, j'92; two stepsons; and 12 step-grandchildren.

Mary Lou Morris Wolsey, g'61, 85, April 7 in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, where she retired as professor of French at the University of St. Thomas. Surviving are her husband, Wayne, PhD'62; a daughter; a son; and three grandchildren.

1970s

Michael Colton, b'78, 64, Dec. 15 in Hollywood, Florida. He owned MC Consulting. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; two daughters; a brother, Mitch, c'80; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Gayle Umberger Cornwell, d'75, f'75, g'81, 68, March 1 in St. John, where she taught music. Surviving are her husband, Rick; two daughters, one of whom is Casey Cornwell Forsyth, c'08, l'11; a son; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

Robert Craig, f'71, 80, Jan. 7 in Germantown, Tennessee. He received several patents

for die-casting design, including one for a silver dollar vending machine acceptor. He is survived by his wife, Judith; two sons; three daughters; and a sister, Carolyn Craig Ohmart, f'65.

Wayne Hartley, EdD'79, 76, Jan. 30 in St. Augustine, Florida, where he taught history and established high school academies in St. Johns County. His wife, Mary Lynn, two daughters, two sisters, a brother and three grandchildren survive.

Richard Henley, EdD'70, 93, May 28 in Leawood. He retired as an elementary school principal. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; two daughters, one of whom is Cindy Henley Frewen Wuellner, a'77, PhD'09; a son; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Frances Hurd Herman, c'79, 65, Feb. 8 in Topeka. She was a legal assistant at Sloan Law Firm. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are two sons, J. Alex Herman, c'07, l'10, and Zach Jeffries, '18; two daughters, Carly Herman Slattery, '09, and Maddie Herman Walker, '10; and five grandchildren.

Beth Enz McClenahan, g'71, 77, Aug. 7, 2020, in Plainfield, Illinois. She had a 36-year career as a teacher. Surviving are her husband, David, g'69, PhD'74, and a daughter.

Stephen Nelson, l'73, 73, June 21 in Lawrence. He had a 30-year career in government service in Washington, D.C. and retired as senior counsel for the House Intelligence Committee. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Dianna Johnson Nelson, d'69; a daughter, Donna Binns, g'94, PhD'04; a son, Chris, c'05, '12; and a brother.

Glenn Nyberg, '79, 63, April 20 in Wichita, where he retired as senior vice president at IMA Financial Group. Surviving are his wife, Camille Bribiesca Nyberg, c'96, g'98; a daughter, Morgan Nyberg Orlando, d'13; a son; his mother; and two sisters, one of whom is Kristi Nyberg Goetting, g'90.

Steve Opdyke, p'75, 68, Nov. 30 in Shawnee, where he retired as a pharmacist at CVS. Survivors include his wife, Myra, a son, a daughter, a sister and three granddaughters.

Roberta Reynolds, b'72, 69, Oct. 24, 2019, in St. Louis. She was a computer programmer at McDonnell Douglas and also taught adult basic education courses. Surviving are her husband, Greg, b'72, and a sister.

Jay "Bob" Swetnam, c'78, 65, Oct. 10 in Kansas City, where he had careers in real estate and merchandising. He is survived by his wife, CJ Bastian; a son, Alex, c'14; a daughter; a sister, Sally Swetnam, f'73; and four grandchildren.

Kenneth Washington, j'70, 72, Jan. 19 in Cape May, New Jersey, where he was a writer and published two books. A daughter, a sister and two granddaughters survive.

Donald Wilson, EdD'75, 88, April 11 in Prairie Village, where he was a teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, assoc.; a daughter, Leigh Wilson Neal, '96; and two brothers.

1980s

Nan Porter Borden, '82, 88, March 9 in Overland Park. She was a homemaker and 20-year volunteer at Research Medical Center in Kansas City. Surviving are her husband, Raymond, b'54; four daughters, Linda Borden Bridges, c'79, Lisa Borden Burton, c'82, Leslie Borden, d'86, g'94, Leigh Borden Knubley, c'90; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Kunkel, c'87, 67, March 15 in Boulder, Colorado, where she was a retired professor of psychology and a therapist for underserved populations. She is survived by her husband, David Krawitz, and two stepsons.

Jane Billingsley Maier, c'83, 84, Oct. 7 in Kansas City, where she retired as a community prevention specialist at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College. Survivors include two sons, Daron, e'83, and Stephen, '94; a daughter, Susan, '86; and three granddaughters.

Christopher Orlando, c'84, e'90, g'00, '01, 60, April 7 in Kansas City. He was founder, president and chief design engineer of CEO Structural Engineering in Mission. Surviving are two sisters, one of whom is Elizabeth Orlando Reinig, d'94; and a brother, Thomas, e'00.

Susan Wesche Todd, c'80, g'97, '99, 64, March 3 in Lenexa, where she recently retired as a special education coordinator after teaching for nearly 30 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Timothy, d'79, PhD'05; three daughters, Rebecca Todd Forbis, '05, Sara Todd Way, '09, and Katherine Todd, c'14; two brothers, one of whom is Jeffrey Wesche, c'79; and four grandchildren.

1990s

Curtis Froehlich, c'97, m'01, 47, March 29 in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where he was a pediatrician and critical care ECMO director at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. He is survived by his wife, Kendra; his parents; and a brother, Christian, e'00.

2010s

Krishnaswami Azad, u'16, 27, May 20 in Denver. He was a musician and played with several bands in Colorado. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. His mother survives.

Samuel Davidson, b'10, l'13, 33, April 10 in Newton. He was an attorney at Wolters Kluwer in Wichita. Surviving are his wife, Bo Zhang; his parents, Terry, and Ann Barsamian Davidson, n'78; a brother, Myles, c'10, '11; and his grandmother.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Carolyn Boldt Anderson, h'65, 78, Nov. 27 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was a medical technologist for nearly 50 years at KU Medical Center. Two sons, a sister and four grandchildren survive.

Ronald Aust, 69, Jan. 21 in Bellevue, Washington. He was associate professor emeritus of education. Survivors include his mother and two sisters.

Ruth Bowman, g'82, 69, May 22 in Kansas City. She was an artist and professor in the department of visual art. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A son and three sisters survive.

Robert Clark, 69, July 4 in New York. He was vice chancellor of the Edwards Campus from 1997 to 2013 and proposed legislation that led to the Johnson County Education Research Triangle sales tax, which provided necessary

funding to KU and K-State. He also taught leadership and strategy courses to graduate students. Survivors include his wife, Cindy; and two stepdaughters, one of whom is Rae Anderson Nicholson, c'05, l'08.

Kurt Ebner, 89, Jan. 29 in Overland Park, where he was professor emeritus of biochemistry and chaired the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at KU Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy; three sons, Roger, e'83, Michael, c'87, and Paul, e'91; a daughter, Colleen, '87; and nine grandchildren.

Ruth Gennrich, g'75, 84, June 12 in Lawrence, where she was director of public education at the Natural History Museum.

Monte Johnson, b'59, g'67, 84, May 25 in Lawrence. He held many roles at Kansas Athletics, including promotions director, academic counselor, business manager, assistant athletic director and director of athletics. He received the Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2010. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Kay Rathbone Johnson, d'60; a daughter, Jackie, b'85; a son, Jeff, b'88; a brother; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Charles Kahn, 95, April 3 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He was the first dean of the School of Architecture & Design. Survivors include his wife, Annette Lee Kahn, s'73; two daughters, one of whom is Kathryn, g'87; a son, Benjamin, '95; and five grandchildren.

Larry Keating, 76, May 25 in Southport, North Carolina. He was senior associate athletics director and special assistant to the athletics director, overseeing the men's basketball schedule for 16 years. He is survived by his wife, Jaime; a daughter, Katharine, '09; and a son.

Jimmie Kelso, n'71, h'73, 81, April 9 in Kansas City. He was a retired nurse anesthetist at KU Medical Center. Surviving are a daughter, Jada Kelso Hayes, c'90; and a son, Jerrèll, d'94.

Lynne Larsen, m'84, 74, April 14 in Aurora, Colorado, where she retired as an inpatient psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry at KU Medical Center. Survivors include two sisters, one of whom is Kathy Larsen Bruner, j'75.

Dorothy Henry Maxwell, c'44, 98, May 30 in Lawrence, where she was an office assistant at the Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum. Surviving are a daughter, Janet, s'76, s'77; a son; two grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Melinda Wells McKnight, g'02, 78, March 30 in Lawrence, where she was a research associate at the Center for Research on Learning. She is survived by her husband, Phil c'63; a son, Philip, c'93, l'96; two daughters, Laura McKnight Barker, l'94, and Caroline McKnight Hexdall, c'97, g'00; a brother; and nine grandchildren.

Donna Keppler Neuner, '76, 80, June 4 in Lawrence. She had a 30-year career at the Alumni Association, serving as director of membership services and leading the Flying Jayhawks program. A sister survives.

Dennis Owens, m'78, 67, March 18 in Overland Park, where he was associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at KU Medical Center. Surviving are his wife, Deborah, three sons and three granddaughters.

W. Keith Percival, assoc., 90, Dec. 6 in Seattle. He was professor of linguistics.

Carol King Starling, 73, Jan. 4 in Kansas City, where she taught nursing at KU Medical Center. Survivors include her husband, Conley; a son, Keith, '08; four brothers; a sister; her stepmother; and a granddaughter.

James Thomas, m'76, 79, March 15 in San Marcos, Texas. He was professor of surgery and chief of vascular surgery at KU Medical Center. A son, a daughter and a sister survive.

Ron Wroczynski, 74, March 4 in Lawrence. Affectionately known as "The Hot Dog Man," he was a manager at KU Dining Services. Surviving are his wife, Marian; three daughters, one of whom is Caroline, c'00, '17; a son; a brother; and 10 grandchildren.

Tudy Youngberg, d'59, 84, July 4 in Lawrence, where she retired as a planned giving coordinator at KU Endowment. She is survived by a son, Scott Stuart, c'83, m'87; a daughter, Kerry Stuart Sutorius, c'89; a brother, Irvin Youngberg, e'66, g'67, DE'73; and five grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Sue Anderson, assoc., 79, Feb. 20 in Lawrence. She was on the board of trustees at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri. Surviving are her husband, Dana, b'56; three sons, one of whom is Justin, b'95; and eight grandchildren.

Nancy Balsbaugh, assoc., 66, May 22 in Kansas City. She was a retired nurse. Survivors include her husband, Robert, g'98; two sons, Joel, c'11, and Michael, e'12; and a sister.

Brenda Farha, assoc., 79, Feb. 16 in Wichita, where she was active in her community. She is survived by four daughters, one of whom is Joan, '84; six grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Bob Hawks, assoc., 101, June 14 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was a photographer. Surviving are his wife, Janet Shipley Hawks, f'63; a son; a daughter; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ruth Anne Polk, assoc., 94, Sept. 8, 2020, in Lawrence, where she taught piano. She is survived by two sons, three grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Robert Simpson, assoc., 94, March 17 in Lawrence. He retired as a sociology professor at the University of Nebraska. He is survived by a son; a daughter; two stepsons, Sean Williams, j'78, and Todd Williams, 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Donald Swender, assoc., 77, April 28 in Newton. He was a retired teacher. Surviving are his wife, Sue Stauffer Swender, n'67; a daughter, Sharilyn Swender Thiessen, g'17; a brother; two sisters; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Octavia Truehart, assoc., 93, Sept. 7, 2020, in Katy, Texas. She was a homemaker and medical lab technician. Survivors include her husband, Robert, c'47, and three children.

H. Curtis White, assoc., 89, March 20 in Seminole, Florida, where he retired as president of an investment brokerage company. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, '60; a son; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

Limestone grotesques, alumni-sponsored replacements for weather-weary originals, are now on view in the Natural History Museum's Panorama gallery, awaiting their perches atop Dyche Hall. A century of deterioration claimed countless details on Joseph Roblado Frazee's whimsical menagerie (issue No. 6, 2017), so, before putting chisel to stone, sibling sculptors Karl, '82, and Laura Ramberg, f'81, first filled gaps in the fossil record, as it were, with their own freehand sketches and digital modeling assistance from architecture faculty Keith, a'04, and Amy Van de Riet, a'03, and students in their historic preservation class.

Photograph by Meg Kumin


collection of mammals and birds
Kansas has been an ambition
Lewis Lindsay Dyche
J
HAWK
?
KU

TRADITION

The Big 5-0?!

Sweet Baby Jay skips into her golden years

She wears her five decades well, bounding up and down the field, waving at the crowd, always eager to hug fans of all ages. You'd never guess that she first appeared on Oct. 9, 1971, when she emerged from a giant papier-maché egg to the oohs and ahs of the surprised crowd in Memorial Stadium.

Months earlier, freshman Amy Hurst had shared her scheme—to create a younger sibling for Big Jay—with Dick Wintermote, j'51, Alumni Association executive director. "I'm sure he thought he'd never see me again," Hurst, c'74, recalled in 2011, when she returned to the Hill for Baby Jay's 40th (see video, rockcha.lk/BabyJayBirthday). But, with her parents' help, Hurst brought her vision to life over the summer and fastened the fledgling to the family station wagon for the trip back to Lawrence. When she informed Wintermote she intended to hatch at halftime of the Homecoming game, he was all in.

Since that fateful day, life's been mostly good to Baby Jay, who has cheerfully rebounded from any setback—even her kidnapping in 1978, when evil-doers spirited her away for a tense few weeks in the fall. Thankfully, the culprits saw the error of their ways and sent a note to the University Daily Kansan, leading rescuers to find Baby Jay perched atop the observation tower at Wells Overlook, 5 miles south of town. She and Big Jay reunited in time for Homecoming.

Birds of a feather, pals forever.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

KU Archives (3)

Hatching from a big blue egg (above) or cruisin' with the chancellor, Baby Jay always arrives in style.

Steve Puppe

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