

# KANSAS ALUMNI

No.2, 2011 ■ \$5

## Life Saver

*Nick Shields makes the most  
of a second chance*

- ATOMIC POWERS
- MRS. WATKINS



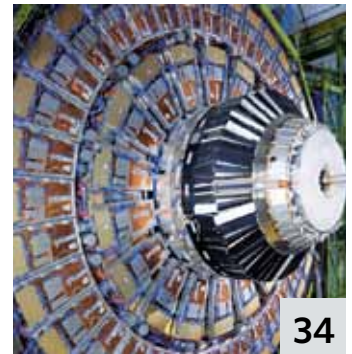
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### COVER STORY

#### **Rescued**

When Nick Shields saved a 7-year-old boy from drowning last summer, it wasn't the first death-defying chapter in this nursing student's remarkable life story.

*By Steven Hill*

*Cover photograph  
by Steve Puppe*

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#### **Better to Give**

A diminutive doctor's daughter who was shunned in her own time stands today as a towering figure in KU history. Meet Elizabeth Miller Watkins: KU's most generous friend.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

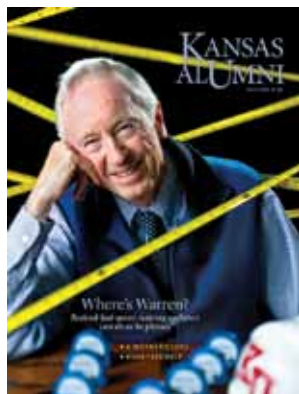
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#### **The Atom Smashers**

Using the most sophisticated lab equipment ever devised, KU physicists and their students are helping unravel the deep mysteries of the universe.

*By Don Lincoln*

# Lift the Chorus



## Good for what ails you

■ I just wanted to send a note to commend you for your efforts in putting together such a wonderful publication in *Kansas Alumni*.

I stayed home sick from work one day last month and read the magazine cover to cover. When my boyfriend came home, I couldn't stop telling him about stories I had read, and I actually pushed the magazine into his hands to read two of the stories in particular.

I found reference to many people I knew, an article on my beloved KU theatre depart-

ment, and really impressive and inspirational stories about Jayhawks doing good, smart things out in the world.

Thank you for being thorough in your coverage and coming at this project with what I believe is exactly the right spirit.

Emily J. Randel, c'03  
Portland, Ore.

## Tornado terrors

■ *Editor's note: Robert Campbell submitted this remembrance of the Topeka tornado of 1966, memories spurred when he read our coverage of Bonar Menninger's new book, And Hell Followed With It ["Judgment day," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 1].*

That evening, I was working at my summer job as a salesman at the Jack Boring appliance store. There were rumors about tornadoes south of town and the early evening's twilight atmosphere certainly felt like "tornado weather." The store manager was closing the store in anticipation of trouble.

A fellow salesperson, who was also a part-time police-

man, asked if I wanted to "go look for the tornado." Without hesitation (or rational thought), I said, "Sure!"

We drove toward the southwestern side of town, toward "the mound"—the hill that, according to legend, was supposed to protect Topeka from harm, as long as no one built anything on top of it. Unfortunately, we Topekans built a water storage tank on top of it.

I looked to the northeast, where Topeka lay below us. I will never forget the sight: A nearly pure white tornado was cutting a 15-block swath through town. It was surreal; it was enormous. Where homes, apartments and trees had been before, I saw cement foundations and debris.

My policeman friend declared that he had to go on duty. It was getting dark fast. We both knew that we could not drive back to the appliance store to my car. Power lines were down everywhere; traffic was a mess. So he worked his way toward my home, near Burlingame Road, but had to give up about a mile away.



## Your opinion counts

Please e-mail us a note at [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org) to tell us what you think of your alumni magazine.

I asked him to let me out so I could walk home. But first I picked an intersection and directed traffic for about an hour. My mom was both furious and proud by the time I finally walked through the front door that night.

Although my car had been hit by debris in the storm, that inconvenience paled in comparison to the enormous property damage suffered by others, and, of course, the 15 lives lost.

I will never forget watching Bill Kurtis, j'62, WIBW News, on a TV set in that appliance store just before I jumped into the policeman's car to chase a tornado. My youthful mind could not imagine the scope when Mr. Kurtis pleaded, "For God's sake, take cover."

Robert Campbell, j'68  
Encinitas, Calif.

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March 2011

# KANSAS ALUMNI

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KANSAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE (ISSN 0745-3345) is published by the KU Alumni Association six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. \$55 annual subscription includes membership in the Alumni Association. Office of Publication: 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169. Periodicals postage paid at Lawrence, KS.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kansas Alumni Magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169 © 2011 by Kansas Alumni Magazine. Non-member issue price: \$7**

## Letters to the Editor:

*Kansas Alumni* welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169. E-mail responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org). Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free gift of the KU Magnet Game, a \$15 value.



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Scene on campus



**We've discovered a new way  
to restore faces after cancer surgery.**

**It also prevents broken arms.**

Cancer specialist Terry Tsue, MD, is part of a team that treats over 450 patients a year for cancer of the head and neck. He often performs surgery to remove tumors, which can disfigure areas of the body central to self-image.

Historically, these areas had been restored with living tissue and bone from the patient's forearm. But the extractions weakened arms, resulting in fractures. Dr. Tsue and the research team discovered a permanent replacement for the harvested bone. The result: natural reconstructions without the unintended side effects.

Dr. Tsue is always advancing. We think research like his, which leads to the latest in clinical advancements, is a big part of why more patients who choose to come here...live.

Listen to Dr. Tsue discuss the new options this research is giving cancer patients at [kumed.com/newhope](http://kumed.com/newhope). Or for more information, call (913) 588-1227.

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JILL HUMMELS



Jack Pelton, CEO of Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, has a good reason for optimism about Kansas' recovery from the brutal recession. "Our engineering needs in the next 24 months will be something we have not seen in three years. We're coming back," he said March 10. Pelton made his declaration in the Kansas Senate chamber, as Senate leaders unveiled a proposal to increase by 60 percent the number of engineering graduates produced by the University of Kansas and Kansas State and Wichita State universities.

Surrounded by an all-star cast that included higher education leaders and captains of industry, Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, explained the urgent need, as confirmed by a task force he appointed in 2008. Kansas faces a shortage of engineers, "and every year that we delay, we put our state's future at risk," he said.

Engineering-intensive industries represent one-third of the state's payroll and two-thirds of the state's exports. The task force, which included Stuart Bell, KU dean of engineering, and his K-State and Wichita State colleagues, had recommended a five-year plan to increase the number of undergraduate engineering degrees from 875 per year to 1,365. The recession intervened.

But now that signs of resilience abound, leaders are ready to move forward. Along with aviation, the sectors of technology, energy and bioscience—all areas that require more engineers—are surging, and lawmakers, including Sen. Carolyn McGinn,

**"We are ready to meet the state's need," said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. The chancellor, President Kirk Schulz of Kansas State and President Don Beggs of Wichita State joined business leaders in endorsing the proposal to increase the number of engineering graduates.**

R-Sedgwick, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and Senate Vice President Sen. John Vratil, d'67, l'71, R-Leawood, have pledged to lead the effort, praising the collaboration of the three universities and industry partners.

The Senate proposal builds on Gov. Sam Brownback's recommended \$1 million in funding for fiscal year 2012 and relies on revenue from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Fund for future years. The three universities would match every \$1 from the fund with \$2 from private industry. McGinn estimated that the engineering fund, to be administered by the Kansas Board of Regents, would grow to \$4 million in fiscal year 2013 and \$7 million in fiscal year 2014.

When KU graduate Jim Lewis, e'74, chief administrative officer of Black & Veatch, began his career in 1974, the company had 800 employees. Now the staff includes 8,000 worldwide. "We rely on the state for our global growth," Lewis said, adding that the firm, founded by KU graduates, looks especially to sources such as KU's Self Engineering Leadership Fellows program, which helps students develop managerial as well as technical skills.

Self fellows made their presence known at the Senate announcement. The program, funded by Madison, e'43, and Lila Self, sponsors 55 students across all disciplines in the School of Engineering. Students can apply for the program before their freshman and junior years. Standing together in the historic Senate chamber in their white KU shirts, the young men and women symbolized the high hopes of the leaders behind the proposal.

KU's dean Bell said the investment would yield big returns. "This initiative is an important step forward for Kansas," he said. "It

demonstrates support for the young people of our state by giving them access to strong engineering programs that will lead them to rewarding careers. It also helps ensure the state's economic engine has access to the talent it needs to thrive and grow."

Although the press conference demonstrated strong support in the Senate for the proposal, KU will need the help of alumni advocates to secure approval in the House of Representatives. If you are a Kansas resident and have not joined Jayhawks for Higher Education, please add your voice to the chorus by visiting [kualumni.org/jhe](http://kualumni.org/jhe).

# On the Boulevard

COURTESY KU NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (4)



It's time to start thinking about one-day Summer Science Camps at the KU Natural History Museum. Participants explore nature and science through demonstrations, creative activities and experiments in the museum and in the field.



## Exhibitions

Master's of fine arts student exhibitions, Art and Design Gallery, through April 15

"Cherry Blossom Festival," Spencer Museum of Art, through April 10

Department of visual art student exhibitions, Art and Design Gallery, April 24-May 23

"That Invisible Dance: Art & Literature under the British Empire from the 1800s to Beyond," Spencer Museum of Art, through May 22

"Jin Shan Central Court," Spencer Museum of Art, through April 30

"Glorious to View: The KU Campus Heritage Project,"

Spencer Museum of Art, through spring

"Nature/Natural," Spencer Museum of Art, through spring

"Roots and Journeys," Spencer Museum of Art, through spring

## University Theatre

### APRIL

**7-10, 14-16** "Man Equals Man," by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Mechele Leon, Inge Theatre

**29-May 1, 3, 5, 7, 8** "Hansel and Gretel," an opera by Engelbert Humperdinck, featuring the KU Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Neely;

directed by Kathleen Belcher; Crafton-Preyer Theatre

## Lied Center Events

### MARCH

**29** KU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs perform "Elijah"

### APRIL

**1** KU Wind Ensemble

**8** Alpin Hong

**13** Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band

**14** American Legacies: The Del McCoury Band and The Preservation Hall Jazz Band

### MAY

**2** KU University Band

**6** KU Symphonic Band

**10** KU Wind Ensemble

## Murphy Hall Events

### APRIL

**5** Mu Phi Epsilon

**8** Helianthus Chamber Operas

**14** Kevin Sanders and Dennis Nulty, tuba

**22** Composer's Guild

**23** Peter Henderson, piano, and William James, percussion

**25** Men's Glee, Women's Choral and University Singers

**26** World Choir, Collegium and Oread Consort



## MAY

- 8** Instrumental Collegium Musicum
- 9** KU Choirs: Chamber Choir and Concert Choir

## Special Events

### MARCH

- 29** Life After College Alumni Panel, Adams Alumni Center

**31-April 1** J-School Generations, Lawrence campus

### APRIL

- 2** University Women's Club Scholarship Luncheon and annual business meeting, Kansas Union

**10** Just for Kicks! Kickball Tournament, Lawrence

**16** 16th-annual Rock Chalk Ball, Overland Park Convention Center

**28-May 1** Class of 1961 Golden Anniversary Celebration, Lawrence

**30** Gold Medal Club Annual Meeting and Reunion, Kansas Union

## MAY

**6** Hispanic Alumni Chapter Graduation Banquet and Reunion, Lawrence

**12** Grad Grill, Adams Alumni Center

**16** Student Alumni Association Finals Dinner, Adams Alumni Center

**22** Commencement Open House, Adams Alumni Center

## JUNE

**6-9** KU Mini College, [www.minicollege.ku.edu](http://www.minicollege.ku.edu)

## Lectures

### APRIL

**6** Brenda Tinnen, Leadership and Globalization in Sports, Dole Institute of Politics

**14** Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Humanities Lecture Series, Kansas Union

**20** Alex Heard, "The Eyes of Willie McGee: A Tragedy of Race, Sex and Secrets in the Jim Crow South," Dole Institute of Politics

## Academic Calendar

### MAY

- 12** Last day of spring classes
- 13** Stop Day
- 16-20** Final exams
- 22** Commencement

## Alumni Events

### APRIL

- 1** Portland: KU Night with the Trailblazers
- 5** Houston: KU Night with the Rockets
- 7** Wichita: Engineering and Computer Science Reception
- 9** Chicago: KU Amazing Race
- 9** Colorado Springs: Wine Tasting at the Air Force Academy Press Box
- 9** Dodge City: Jayhawk Stampede
- 17** Manhattan: Flint Hills Chapter Wine Tasting
- 20** Manhattan: KU vs. KSU Baseball tailgate
- 23** Arlington, Texas: KU Night with the Rangers
- 27** Wichita Chapter: "Abraham Lincoln, the Sunflower State and the Election of 1860," Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture Series
- 30** Omaha: Family Fun Day at Sempeck's Bowling and Entertainment

### MAY

- 6** Dallas: Jayhawk Lone Star Classic Golf Tournament

## Kansas Honors Program

### MARCH

**30** Atchison

### APRIL

- 6** Chanute
- 6** Oberlin
- 7** Logan
- 13** Kingman
- 13** Scott City



## Directory

- Adams Alumni Center ..... 864-4760
- Athletics 800-34-HAWKS
- Booth Hall of Athletics ..... 864-7050
- Dole Institute of Politics ..... 864-4900
- Kansas Union ... 864-4596
- KU Info ..... 864-3506
- KU main number ..... 864-2700
- Lied Center ..... 864-ARTS
- Natural History Museum ..... 864-4540
- University Theatre Tickets ..... 864-3982
- Spencer Museum of Art ..... 864-4710

# Jayhawk Walk

## Name that TV tune

**AFTER A TIKI-THEMED** concert at Liberty Hall celebrating their 500th episode proved a smashing success, the folks at The Retro Cocktail Hour began hosting more public-radio parties in downtown Lawrence. The latest, a February gig with Kansas City jazz musician Stan Kessler and his band Television, featured TV theme songs from the 1950s and '60s.

"It's a great way to get out into the community and remind people that we are more than a radio station," says Kansas Public Radio program director Darrell Brogdon, host and creator of the Saturday night program of space-age pop, bachelor pad music, exotica, lounge tunes and cocktail jazz. "The show is such a strange mix of music that it's a challenge to find live events to put on. But they're always a lot of fun."

In the ballroom at Pachamamas restaurant, the concert featured witty jazz arrangements of TV tunes both familiar ("Meet the Flintstones") and elusive (the theme from "Rocky and Bullwinkle").

"It's kind of like a TV trivia quiz and a concert at the same time," Brogdon says.

And a dance party.

"I guess you can dance to the Flintstones," he says. "I don't know; I've never tried."

Yabba dabba doo, ski-bop bee-doo.

**Senior Julia Guard and Alumni Association employee Ryan Perry cast their votes in the great Rock Chalk/Jayhawk debate.**



## Rock Chalk! Say what?

**W**e admit we're jealous that ESPN chose Alabama's "Roll Tide" as the centerpiece of the "It's not crazy, it's sports" commercial. After all, "Rock Chalk" is every bit as collegiate cool as "Roll Tide, y'all."

Our pouting soon turned to pondering. Maybe "Roll Tide" got the nod because loyal Crimson Tide fans utter their expression more often in daily life than Jayhawks use "Rock Chalk." But if we're going to increase our recommended daily dose of Rock Chalk, what is the proper parlance?

Should the greeting/farewell/exclamation "Rock Chalk" be met with a response of "Jayhawk" or another "Rock Chalk"?

As KU's official keeper of traditions, we posted the question three times on Facebook. While "Rock Chalk" gained plenty of support, the "Jayhawk" response triumphed. Basketball legend Calvin Thompson, c'94,

and former NFL lineman Keith Loneker, '94, endorsed "Jayhawk" in our Facebook poll, as did a slew of other alumni.

Corey Stone, f'97, University Relations' associate director of digital media services and head cheerleading coach for KU athletics, replied, "I think we should try to standardize 'Jayhawk' as the appropriate response." Mary Courtney, d'78, a junior-high teacher in Rolla, summed it up well with, "I always greet with 'Rock Chalk,' and 'Jayhawk' is the reply, followed by handshakes and stories."

'Hawks have spoken: The call/response is hereby standardized (cue trumpet fanfare) as "Rock Chalk"/"Jayhawk." Now y'all need to put it into practice, never again to be outdone by "Roll Tide."

After all, it's not crazy, it's sports. And so much more.



## Rock around the clock

**KICK OFF YOUR SUNDAY** shoes. But only if you're prepared to keep them off until morning. KU's Dance Marathon lasts for 12 hours.

In February hundreds of energetic, philanthropic students shook and shimmed for a good cause. The third-annual event drew 420 registrants—almost twice as many as last year—and raised more than \$37,000 for KU Pediatrics and the Children's Miracle Network. From 5 p.m. until 5 a.m., students took shifts dancing, competing in relay races and getting to know children and families in the Miracle Network. KU athletes stopped by to join the games and help the kids in a talent show. Participants had to stay on their feet for the 12-hour duration; lest energy lagged, the Morale Committee kept spirits high. Every participant learned the "Morale Dance" for a performance in the wee hours of morning.

Hilary Ferguson, Lawrence junior, has helped coordinate the Dance Marathon all three

years. The point, she says, is "to stay on our feet all night and dance for the kids who can't, in hope that one day they'll all be able to dance with us."

They won't stop 'til they get enough.

## Best of all, no brittle gum

### "WHADDYA SAY I TRADE

you the Pluto guy for Ford's CEO!"

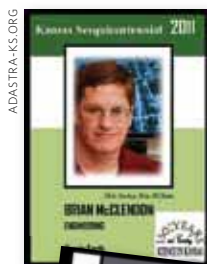
"No way! How 'bout the helium discoverer for the Styrofoam inventor and a KU professor of physics?"

"Deal!"

Thanks to a set of more than 150 online trading cards created by the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative (adastraks.org), Kansas

scientists past and present can generate the playground enthusiasm normally reserved for star athletes.

Designed for Kansas schoolchildren and their teachers, the science trading cards celebrate the state's 150th birthday and its long history of scientific innovations that



have changed the world.

Among featured scientists in monthly sets are Judy Wu, University Distinguished Professor of physics and astronomy; alumni and former faculty Hamilton Cady (co-discoverer of helium), Walter Sutton (genetics and X-ray pioneer), Otis Raye McIntire (Styrofoam), Alan Mulally (Ford's president and

CEO), and Brian McClendon (Google Earth).

"I hope my experience," Wu says, "provides some inspiration for students and encourages them to pursue their dreams in science."

Their own trading cards without hitting .300, shooting a game-winning three-pointer or scoring a single touchdown? Now that's innovation.



Skoch, Feagan, Quick and Epperson

## Have guitars, will travel

**F**our KU students with musical ties to a schol hall won a nationwide battle of the bands in January.

The Louisiana Street Band, named for the location of Grace Pearson Hall, where some members live, took first place in the General Mills Foodservice URock! Battle for the Best Contest. They topped two bands in a campus battle, then bested nine in online voting. The top three vote-winners flew to Los Angeles to play for music industry judges at the famous Troubadour club. The grand prize: a session at L.A.'s Firehouse Recording Studios and a four-song EP.

"To be standing out on Santa Monica Boulevard calling our mothers and telling them we'd won was overwhelming," says guitarist Evan Epperson.

Before the competition, he and his Jayhawk bandmates—Brad Feagan, bass; Austin Quick, keyboards; and John Marc Skoch, guitar—polished their songs within earshot of schol hall housing authorities. "There's a piano in the Pearson lobby, and we'd sit around jamming or writing," Epperson says. "Friday nights when everybody was out we'd plug in our amps and make some noise."

The band (including a drummer and saxophonist from Baker University) hopes to win more gigs and a summer tour. No, General Mills didn't sweeten the deal with a lifetime supply of Lucky Charms. Epperson says, "But we did ask if we could be on a Wheaties box," Just for Kix.



Team Morale demonstrated dance steps to get the party rolling for the KU Dance Marathon held at the Student Recreation Center.

SUSAN YOUNGER

STEVE PUPPE



Amin



Carroll



Jackson



Smith

COURTESY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES (4)

## With distinction

### Four distinguished alumni to receive College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' highest honor

The watchword of the 2010-'11 Alumni Distinguished Achievement Awards from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is that hallmark of a liberal arts education: breadth.

A Hollywood producer. A Fortune 500 CEO. An environmental leader. A Nobel Prize-winning economist. The wide range of endeavors represented by this year's winners seems fitting for a school that, with more than 18,000 students and 50-some departments, is by far the University's largest and likely its most broad-based.

"As dean, it is exhilarating to watch the difference graduates are able to make in the world with a liberal arts and sciences education from KU," says Danny Anderson, g'82, PhD'85. "These outstanding four individuals represent the breadth of the College and serve as inspiration for liberal arts and science students who want to help shape our future."

The Alumni Distinguished Achievement Awards, which will be presented at the

annual CLAS banquet April 9 at the Kansas Union, recognizes professional achievement, dedication to community and involvement with the University. It is the highest honor the College bestows on its graduates.

Honorees for 2010-'11 are:

- Mark Amin, c'72, Los Angeles. Founder of Trimark, which developed into one of the entertainment industry's leading publicly traded distribution and production independents, Amin completed his KU degree in economics. He has earned credit in more than 50 feature films and was executive producer of "Frida," which attracted six Academy Award nominations. In 1997 he established the Mark Amin Scholarship in Film for Iranian students in KU's Department of Film and Media Studies.

- Cynthia Carroll, g'82, London. CEO of Anglo American since 2006, Carroll re-established one of the world's largest independent mining companies as a global leader. Known for her focus on corporate social responsibility, she has lectured on the topic at KU. She is also a perennial player on Forbes magazine's annual list of the world's most powerful women. Carroll earned her master's degree in geology at KU and started her career as a petroleum geologist at Amoco.

- Wes Jackson, g'60, Salina. After establishing and chairing one of the first environmental studies departments in the country at California State University-Sacramento, Jackson left academia in 1976 to found The Land Institute, a Salina-based research, education and policy organization that works to develop an agricultural system with the stability of the prairie and a grain yield comparable to that of annual crops. His visionary work on environmental sustainability has attracted numerous awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship. His KU degree is a master's in biology. He won the Distinguished Service Citation from the KU Alumni Association and the University in 2007.

- Vernon L. Smith, g'52, Orange, Calif. KU's first Nobel laureate, Smith won the 2002 Nobel Prize in economics for his pioneering work using laboratory experiments to study economic theory. A Wichita native, Smith got interested in economics while completing an engineering degree at the California Institute of Technology; he earned his master's in economics under Richard Howey, whom he credits for teaching him "what scholarship is really all about." Smith teaches at Chapman University and is a research scholar at the George Mason

University Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science. He received KU's Distinguished Service Citation in 2003.

## White House winner

### Architect of Haskell partnership receives presidential award for mentoring

Marigold Linton, director of American Indian outreach at KU, traveled to Washington, D.C., in January to accept the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

Established in 1996 by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation, the Presidential Award recognizes individuals and organizations that increase participation of women, minorities and people with disabilities in the sciences. Eleven people and four organizations were selected this year for the honor, which comes with a \$10,000 grant for their respective projects.

*"I believe that one of the most important things anybody can do at this point is work to educate the minorities, the underrepresented people in our country, that it's absolutely essential for the health of our nation."*

—Marigold Linton

President Barack Obama, whom Linton and her fellow winners met with in the Oval Office, praised the awardees for going "above and beyond the call of duty" and called the prize "a small token of our enormous gratitude."

Since she joined the University's office for diversity in science training a decade ago, Linton has worked to secure grant funding for programs benefitting American Indian students, at both KU and Haskell Indian Nations University.

"When I came to KU, my job description was 'Do good for American Indians,'" Linton says. "In a sense that's been my big picture concern: Try to find a way of doing something that would make a difference for the American Indian population.

"The question became, 'How the heck do I do it?' And the answer was, bring money."

Director of American Indian outreach at



COURTESY MARIGOLD LINTON

Marigold Linton was congratulated by President Barack Obama in the White House upon winning a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring for her efforts to help American Indian students succeed in the sciences.

## CLASS CREDIT



SUSAN YOUNGER

Alawrence senior in Geography who created digital maps of Greenland and Antarctica for KU's Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets has landed a prestigious internship with the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

Julia Guard will begin a three-month internship in September with the society, which selects from

hundreds of outstanding seniors, college graduates and master's students who vie annually for five to eight slots. Interns work on National Geographic magazine, the website, special projects or education.

Guard graduates in May after an active KU career that included competing on the varsity rowing team and study abroad in Northern

Ireland and South Africa. Just as study abroad advanced her research (the South Africa trip inspired Guard's undergraduate thesis on HIV transmission in Sub-Saharan Africa), she expects the internship to boost her career.

"It will give me a little substance," Guard says. "It validates everything I've been working on."

# Hilltopics

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## Room for debate

KU's debate team ended the regular season ranked 3rd in the nation and became one of only two teams nationwide to place two debate squads as automatic qualifiers in the National Debate Tournament held in Dallas in late March. KU debate has won the tournament (the oldest and most prestigious national championship debate tournament) five times, most recently in 2009.

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KU since 1998, Linton won several federal grants that have helped strengthen a KU-Haskell collaboration that aims to increase the numbers of underrepresented students in the sciences.

Funded projects include Bridges to the Baccalaureate, which “smooths the road,” Linton says, for two-year-college students who want to transfer to KU or other four-year schools in the sciences; the

Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMDSD), which helps American Indian and other minority students succeed in the “gateway” science courses and places Haskell students in the labs of KU researchers; the Institutional Research Academic Career Development Awards, which attracts minority postdoctoral students who study at KU and teach at Haskell; and PREP, which gives American

Indian college graduates one or two years to improve their science, math and writing skills before applying to graduate school.

All together the grants have generated more than \$13 million in research support from the National Institutes of Health for KU and Haskell. As important as the dollars, Linton says, is the way the money is applied.

For example, Linton pointed to the creation of a five-day calculus class that was part of the IMSD grant. Finding that many struggling American Indian students were hesitant to seek out the tutoring available to students in the traditional three-day class, the office for diversity in science training built the extra help into an expanded five-day format. Students who struggled with the subject (minority or otherwise) were directed to the five-day class, and within a couple of years success rates started to rise.

Respecting cultural differences that can stand as barriers to success is a big part of Linton's philosophy.

“What we are doing is trying to widen the pathway, to prevent the dropouts, but also to be sensitive to the fact that not everybody wants to run out and become a white man. A lot of the people in fact are going back to work on their reservations.”

Linton's Washington visit included an awards ceremony at the National Science Foundation and a meeting with Vice President Joe Biden, as well as a chance to give a presentation outlining her work at KU. “But the big excitement, of course, was to shake the hands of a president who is deeply committed to science education,” Linton says. She found Obama “very nice, extremely gracious and warm.”

She got an extra thrill when it came time to pose for a group photo.

“After he gave us his little talk of welcome and how important what we're doing is and how important science is and how we must continue what we're doing, he stepped in [for the photo] and put his arm over my shoulder—much to the envy of everyone else,” Linton laughs.

“If they hadn't been shooting the picture, I would have been doing a fist pump: ‘Yes, I've done it!’”



Linton was among the 15 national honorees who met with Obama in the Oval Office before accepting their awards from the National Science Foundation.



**Celina and Marina Suarez recently learned that a new dinosaur species they discovered in 2004 will be named for them.**

## Dinosuarez!

### Twin sisters will lend their name to raptor species they discovered

Celina and Marina Suarez knew from the beginning that the bones were a big find.

“We paleontologists tend to measure the value of certain discoveries based on beers,” Celina says. “This was definitely a case-of-beer type day.”

It wasn’t until six years later that the KU doctoral graduates realized just how important the discovery would be to their lives.

The twins were working on their master’s degrees at Temple University in 2004 when they went on a fossil-hunting expedition in Utah. They spotted a bone sticking out of the side of a hill and, after further examination, realized they had found a complete specimen.

“One of the first words out of my sister’s mouth was, ‘Jackpot!’” Celina says.

Laboratory testing later determined the dinosaur was a new genus and species—a 6- to 7-foot-long meat-eating raptor that lived around 125 million years ago.

In December, the journal of the Public Library of Science, *PloS One*, announced the dinosaur would be named

*Geminiraptor suarezarum* in honor of the Suarez sisters.

“Finding a dinosaur is something every kid dreams of,” Marina says, “so it was really exciting to be the first people to see the remains of animals that have been gone for millions of years.”

The sisters grew up in San Antonio and have been fascinated by dinosaurs since elementary school. They dreamed of hunting fossils while digging in the dirt, and they loved going to museums to look at bones.

“Everybody goes through a dinosaur phase when they are kids,” Celina says. “With geology and the sciences in general, there aren’t a lot of women and minorities. But Marina and I had each other to talk to about this. We were able to hang on to that interest.”

The twins are both doctoral graduates in geology: Marina completed her PhD in fall 2009, with Celina earning hers a semester later. As they continue their careers—Celina is a postdoctoral researcher at Boise State University, and Marina is a postdoc at Johns Hopkins—they say they’ve already fulfilled a goal they never expected would be possible.

“We—and I mean all of us paleoneers—always dream about such a thing happening,” Celina says, “but never think it will.”

—Terry Rombeck

## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **A \$780,000 bequest** from career educators Ward L. and Irene Neis Kiestler will create three endowed scholarships for students. Ward, c’30, g’32, was a longtime school administrator in Basehor, and Irene, d’41, taught high school there for 25 years. Two of the scholarships bear their names and a third honors their only child, Ward L. Kiestler II, d’72, who died in a car accident shortly after graduating from KU.

■ **Former KU director of bands Robert Foster** in December was presented the 2010 Outstanding Bandmaster Award, the highest honor given by Phi Beta Mu, the International School Bandmasters’ Fraternity. Now a professor of music, Foster directed KU bands from 1971 to 2002.



Foster

■ **University of Kansas Hospital** received the Outstanding Nursing Quality Award for academic medical centers from the American Nurses Association. The hospital and four others in separate categories received the award from a field of 1,700 hospitals nationwide. The award is based on nursing performance measures tracked by the ANA.

■ **The School of Architecture, Design and Planning** ranked among the top five in the “Construction Methods and Materials” category for *DesignIntelligence* magazine’s “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools 2011.” The ranking is based on the magazine’s survey of hiring managers, who rate a school’s ability to produce workplace-ready graduates.

# Hilltopics

JACLYN LUPPEMANN



## FUNDRAISING

### Three alumni couples to lead upcoming capital campaign

A UNIVERSITYWIDE FUNDRAISING effort now in the planning stages will be led by three couples with deep Mount Oread ties and 11 KU degrees among them.

Chairs Kurt and Sue Watson will head the leadership team for the capital campaign now being planned by KU Endowment Association.

Kurt, d'75, and Sue Watson, d'75, of Andover will serve as campaign chairs. Co-chairs will be Tom, c'76, g'80, l'80, and Jill Sadowsky Docking, c'79, g'84, of Wichita; and Mark Parkinson, l'84, and Stacy Abbott Parkinson, c'81, c'81, l'84, who live now in Potomac, Md., where the former Kansas governor recently became president and CEO of the American Health Care Association.

The couples will recruit steering committee members, rally support for priorities and provide guidance throughout the public phase of the campaign, which is expected to kick off in 2012.

"As KU alumni, all of them have climbed Mount Oread and graduated to excel in their lives and careers," said Dale Seuferling, j'77, president of KU Endowment. "We're fortunate to have such dynamic and visionary campaign leaders."

## RESEARCH

### Warren's autism discovery hailed as top 10 achievement

RESEARCH BY VICE CHANCELLOR for Research and Graduate Studies Steve Warren has determined that autism has a unique vocal signature that can be detected by a new automated technology that analyzes the vocal patterns of infants and children.

The finding, published in July by Warren, c'74, g'75, PhD'77, and co-author D. Kimbrough Oller of the University of Memphis, was named a top 10 research achievement for 2010 by Autism Speaks, the largest North American autism advocacy and science organization.

The LENA (Language Environmental Analysis) system uses a pocket-size digital language processor to perform acoustic analysis of children recorded in their natural environments. Researchers using the device were able to identify children who have autism spectrum disorders with 86 percent accuracy. Identifications were based on an analysis of vocal

## VISITOR

### Life in the key of blues

Clarence Lang, the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor, gave a talk titled "At the Margins of Black Freedom Studies: Working-Class Representation and the Blues Idiom," outlining his research on the role of working-class African Americans in the Black Freedom Movement.

**SPONSORS:** The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship Committee and the Office of the Provost

**WHEN:** Feb. 24

**WHERE:** Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union.

**BACKGROUND:** An associate professor of African American studies and history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Lang is the author of several scholarly books, including *Grassroots at the Gateway: Class Politics and Black Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, 1936-'75*.

**ANECDOTE:** Lang's scholarship seeks to reclaim the dominant narrative of the Black

Freedom Movement, which he says focuses on the role of the middle class, by shedding light on the efforts of working class blacks in social movements and in everyday life.

**QUOTES:** "Most people do not participate in social movements, so the focus on resistance and social movements alone is not enough," says Lang, who also is

interested in "mundane activities that occurred beyond the gaze not only of whites, but of middle-class blacks."



STEVE PUPPE





Warren

development characteristics developed by the researchers.

The findings could lead to fundamental changes in the study of language development and screening for autism spectrum disorders and language delay.

“A small number of studies had previously suggested that children with autism have a markedly different vocal signature, but until now we have been held back from using this knowledge in clinical applications by the lack of measurement technology,” Warren said.

The ultimate potential of the system as a screening device, he cautions, will need to be tested by further research.

## JOURNALISM

### White Foundation awards Pulitzer-winner WAW citation

**JOHN S. CARROLL, WHO DIRECTED** news coverage that won Pulitzer Prizes at four different newspapers, accepted the William Allen White Foundation’s national citation Feb. 11 at the

Kansas Union.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Baltimore Sun all won journalism’s top prize during Carroll’s stints as editor. In the five years he served as editor of the Los Angeles Times, the paper won 13 Pulitzers.

In his remarks, Carroll noted that although he was making his first visit to campus, “I feel as though the University of Kansas has visited me many times.” An admirer of the late KU journalism professor John Bremner, he recounted a visit Bremner made to the Herald-Leader newsroom. Carroll had invited him to Lexington because he was impressed with a young intern, Ellen Iwamoto, j’81, who credited her professor for her considerable skills as a copy editor.

“He was exactly what I’d been imagining,” Carroll said, recalling Bremner’s reputation as a fearsome protector of the language. “No sooner had he arrived than he commenced to ridicule everything in sight, including me. He did make an exception, though, for the copy desk.

“What he said to them in essence, was this: You are heroes. You are the embattled defenders of a great but crumbling cultural heritage.”

Carroll, who served as Knight Visiting Lecturer at Harvard and led the Pulitzer Prize Board from 1994 to 2003, said he afterward made a point of hiring Bremner-trained copy editors when he could. “Truly, he was a great teacher.”

Surveying the current media landscape, Carroll bemoaned the dismantling of copy desks at traditional news organizations and the failure of online media to create new copy desks.

“Can you imagine how [Bremner] might fulminate about that?”

## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Barbara Ballard**, associate director for civic programming and public outreach at KU’s Dole Institute of Politics, was elected president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Ballard will serve a two-year term as the leader of the nonpartisan organization, which includes more than 600 legislators from 45 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She has been a member of the Kansas House of Representatives since 1992 and has worked at KU since 1980 in a variety of leadership positions, including stints as associate vice provost for student success and director of the Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center.

■ **Marilyn Stokstad**, the Judith Harris Murphy Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art History, donated \$250,000 to KU Libraries to create reception



STEVE PUPPE

Stokstad

space and remodel the reading room at the Spencer Research Library. The Marilyn Stokstad Reading room will open in time for the fall semester.

■ **A \$5 million U.S. Department of Energy Grant** will allow the Kansas Geological Survey to continue testing the feasibility of storing carbon dioxide underground in Kansas and using CO<sub>2</sub> to produce more oil from nearly depleted fields. The grant follows a 2009 grant of nearly \$5 million for the project, which is a collaborative effort between government and industry. Survey researchers Lynn Watney, PhD’85, and Saibal Bhattacharya, g’97, g’05, are lead investigators.

“Blacks’ daily determination to make a way out of no way is also informative of who they were.”

—Clarence Lang

## ‘Kansas math’

**Despite setbacks, remarkable formula for success adds up to another 30 wins**

Right from the start, it wasn't easy. Or expected. When the Kansas State Wildcats were anointed the near-unanimous preseason Big 12 favorite, KU guard Tyshawn Taylor let it be known that after last season's crucible, when it seemed everyone from President Obama on down was picking the top-ranked Jayhawks to storm the NCAA Tournament, the change of scenery would be welcome.

"It was just a lot of pressure," Taylor said at preseason media day, recalling the second-round NCAA loss that ruined a spectacular season. "We put pressure on ourselves, just like everybody in the country was putting pressure on us. We were the No. 1 team so we've got to hold that, you know? Now it's a weight off our shoulders. We don't have to be uptight; we don't have to think so much. We can just play."

Even coach Bill Self acknowledged that the apparent snub—K-State, without Denis Clemente, better than KU? Really?—was OK by him, because KU had lost point guard Sherron Collins, the winningest player in program history, as well as center Cole Aldrich and athletic

forward Xavier Henry, both NBA lottery picks.

"How could you expect to be better?" Self asked. "I do think that 33-3 is a pretty good win percentage, and I don't think this team will do that, to be quite candid with you. ... [But] we've been picked not to win the league before and won it. It really doesn't make much difference to me."

After closing the season 29-2, with its seventh-consecutive Big 12 championship (a streak unmatched in big-time basketball since the glory days of John Wooden's UCLA Bruins), the Jayhawks entered the Big 12 Tournament (which got underway just as *Kansas Alumni* went to press) ranked No. 2 in the country. Self calls it "Kansas math" when a team is expected to be right back on top despite losing NBA-quality players in bunches, but yet again, the seemingly impossible formula somehow worked out.

And right from the start, the adversity wasn't about replacing Collins, Aldrich and Henry as much as it was a test of endurance and patience as KU weathered a string of setbacks, embarrassments and injuries.

Superstar recruit Josh Selby started his career on a nine-game suspension, and his debut Dec. 18 against Southern Cal was electric, but his progress slowed, then halted when he was lost to an ankle injury. He returned for the final six games of the regular season, and the most points he scored in that span was seven, Feb. 21 against Oklahoma State.

Senior guard Mario Little, expected to finally step up with a big year after taking a redshirt season after his junior year, served a six-game suspension for a late-night fight

in December. Taylor was hit with a two-game suspension late in the season for violating team rules, and when he returned, March 2 vs. Texas A&M, he discovered that he'd lost his starting spot to the suddenly effective Elijah Johnson, a sophomore.

And, of course, there was the tragic death of sophomore forward Thomas Robinson's mother, Lisa, 43, who also left behind a 7-year-old daughter, Thomas' sister Jayla. Robinson lost his grandmother in late December, and his grandfather died only days before his mother. Lisa Robinson died Jan. 21, the day before KU, then 18-0 and ranked No. 2 in the country, played Texas in Allen Field House. Players spent most of the night consoling one another, with help from team mothers in



STEVE PUPPE (2)

**Marcus Morris (22) slammed home Big 12 Player of the Year honors, Elijah Johnson (15) provided a late-season spark at point guard, and conference Coach of the Year Bill Self calmly guided the Jayhawks through another 30-win season.**



town for the game, so it was understandable that their energy sagged after a fast start. Texas snapped KU's 69-game home-court winning streak, 74-63.

Robinson missed only one game, and in his next four he averaged nearly 13 points and eight rebounds, but then sustained a knee injury that required surgery. Expected to miss at least two weeks, Robinson missed only three games, and closed the season at Missouri with his third double-double, 15 points and 13 boards.

Individual setbacks were compounded by team humblings: The day the Jayhawks earned their first No. 1 ranking, they got hammered by 16 at K-State.

"I want to be ranked No. 1," sophomore forward Marcus Morris had said two days earlier. "I want to have that chip on our shoulder every time we go out. I want to get everybody's best shot because I think we can take it." To which Self responded, after the K-State loss, "If [leaders] put

*"I want to have that chip on our shoulder every time we go out. I want to get everybody's best shot, because I think we can take it."* —Big 12 Player of the Year Marcus Morris

points over the final five games.

After the Texas loss, Self conceded that the Longhorns were a deserving leader and might turn out to be the best the team in the country. But Texas faded badly, losing three of its last five, and KU pounced. The Jayhawks clinched a share of the conference title March 2, at home vs. Texas A&M, and snared it outright two days later, with a 70-66 win at Mizzou.

Self was named Big 12 Coach of the Year for the third time, an honor never more deserving, and Marcus Morris was named conference Player of the Year, KU's first since Wayne Simien in 2005.

As the Jayhawks faced down a determined Oklahoma State in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, three players who had contributed to the craziness stepped up big: Selby made a clutch three to close a big OSU lead late in the first half, and, on the game's final play, literally as emergency sirens wailed across Lawrence (for a statewide preparedness test), the defense of Taylor and Little kept OSU's ballhandler from even getting to the arc. A weak shot didn't hit the rim, securing a one-point KU victory—the Jayhawks' 30th of the season.

Should we have expected anything less? —

—Chris Lazzarino

## Level playing field

### New turf helps KU compete with warm-weather foes

Don't expect the smell of freshly cut grass to greet you at Hogleund Ballpark, and don't anticipate seeing any dirty uniforms after a slide into second.

But nobody affiliated with the KU baseball program is complaining. The completion of a \$1.4 million artificial turf installation at the ballpark means KU can level the playing field with its warm-weather foes—even if players can't look to their soiled uniforms as marks of accomplishment.

"I always pride myself on trying to get my uniform dirty and things like that," senior outfielder Jimmy Waters says. "It takes a little away from that, but as long as you play hard, people will know."

The installation of the new surface, Astroturf Gameday 3D, was made possible through donations from fans, alumni and former players. It was completed in time for fall practices.

The real dividends, however, started rolling in this January and February, when Lawrence received 27 inches of snow. The team was outside six times in the first two



STEVE PUPPE

something out there, they better make sure everyone is there to back it up."

And through it all, the 30-win express still chugged right on down the tracks. Markieff Morris followed up his three-point, zero-rebound waste-of-a-game at KSU with 26 points, 15 rebounds, two assists and two blocks in an 89-63 clubbing of Colorado. The following game, Markieff Morris and Johnson kicked in 15 apiece to nicely complement Marcus Morris' 27. Senior shooter Tyrel Reed clocked 11 against OU, 12 vs. A&M and 15 at Mizzou, and his senior backcourtmate Brady Morningstar had his own late-season surge, averaging more than eight



STEVE PUPPE

## Sports

weeks of practices, which began Jan. 28. Coach Ritch Price said that with the previous grass field, the team would have been confined to indoor practices because the ground would have been too muddy.

“If you’re not outside and you’re inside, obviously you’re taking a step backward,” Price says. “Schools in Texas and Oklahoma are further ahead.”

Price expects the new turf to have other benefits. Players won’t have to spend much time putting the tarp over the infield, since only the pitcher’s mound is dirt. The field can absorb up to 3 inches of rain an hour, making play during spring showers more plausible.

And with other improvements made to Hoglund Ballpark in recent years—including a new clubhouse and indoor workout facility—the turf will help KU recruit better talent.

“It has taken our recruiting to another level,” Price says. “Guys who were telling us no in the past are now signing with the University of Kansas.”

The new turf, and the ability to be outside earlier during practice, showed results during the first weekend of the



LAURA JACOBSEN

### Record breaker breaker

Junior Stephanie Payne opened the Big 12 swimming championships by shattering KU’s 400-yard individual medley record time by more than a second, at 4 minutes, 12.18 seconds. And that was only for starters.

After the preliminaries, she went 4:11.94 in the finals, good for fourth.

“I feel pretty happy,” Payne said at the Austin, Texas, meet. “And tired. This is one Big 12 Championships that I won’t forget.”

season, when KU knocked off top-ranked TCU in Fort Worth in the finale of a three-game series.

And while Price says his team’s equipment manager loves the new turf—there are far fewer stains to take out of uni-

forms—Waters says he’ll be looking for other options to get dirty to prove how aggressive he is on the basepaths.

“Not everybody has turf,” he says. “We’ll prove it on the road.”

— Terry Rombeck

## UPDATES

Second-year coach **Megan Smith** guided the softball team to its best start in program history, opening the season 10-0 before a 5-4 loss to Minnesota in Greensboro, N.C. In the championship game of the Stetson Hatter Invitational, sophomore **Alex Jones** struck out eight in KU’s 8-0 victory over Stetson in Deland, Fla. ... The women’s basketball team won its opening Big 12 tourney game, a 71-45 rout of Colorado, before losing to top-seeded Baylor, 86-51. As of press time, the 20-12 Jayhawks were awaiting possible NCAA or NIT tournament bids. Season highlights included a 75-70 overtime victory at Missouri and First Team All-Big 12 honors for sophomore forward **Carolyn Davis**. ...

Senior **Kendra Bradley**, freshman **Diamond Dixon**, sophomore **Denesha Morris** and junior **Shayla Wilson** broke the KU record for the 4x400-meter relay by two-tenths of a second March 5 at



Smith

COURTESY KU SPORTS INFO

Notre Dame. A week earlier, Dixon broke the school record in the 400 with a time of 55.1 at the Big 12 meet. Other Jayhawks who qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships were sophomores **Mason Finley**, in the shot put, and **Andrea Geubelle**, in the triple jump. ...

**David Beaty** joined coach **Turner Gill**’s football staff for his second stint as wide receivers coach. Beaty, a highly regarded Texas recruiter, last year was offensive coordinator at Rice. While at KU in 2008 and ’09, he helped develop **Kerry Meier**, d’10, and **Dezmon Briscoe** into the top receivers in team history. ... Quarterback signee **Brock Berglund**, who enrolled early to participate in spring practice, instead returned home to Colorado. Berglund said he’ll return for summer training. ...

The Lawrence City Commission approved a request for the KU Relays’ shot put and two other events on the streets of downtown Lawrence. A throwing area will be built on Eighth Street, between Massachusetts and New Hampshire streets, for the April 20 shot put, and world No. 1 **Christian Cantwell**, the Beijing Olympics silver medalist, has already committed to compete, as have six other shot put stars ranked among the world’s top 25.



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Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Big Jay flies high; coach Bill Self helps his team celebrate another Big 12 tourney trophy; Selah Simien smiles sweetly at daddy Wayne's jersey retirement; Josh Selby, Tyrel Reed, twins Marcus and Markieff Morris, and Thomas Robinson in game action; and Reed, Brady Morningstar and Mario Little during Senior Night ceremonies after a win over Texas A&M, which clinched KU's seventh-consecutive Big 12 title.



**“As fellow Jayhawks,**

we understand the lifelong passion and commitment our alumni feel for KU.

Our job is to harness that energy—in areas such as student recruitment and academic excellence—to serve as a positive force in advancing KU.”

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*Jay Howard, b'79  
KU Alumni Association  
Board of Directors Chair  
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Kitchenmates (l-r) Emily Katz, Kayla Eddins and Sarah Greenup have lunch in a defining feature of their hall: seven-woman kitchens, which Mrs. Watkins thought would encourage newly independent residents to learn to cook. Miller and Watkins both have seven kitchens; their alumnae group is "Kitchen 8."





# Better to Give

**Birthday milestone renews interest  
in the remarkable Mrs. Watkins**

**by Chris Lazzarino**

**M**RS. ELIZABETH MILLER WATKINS was the kind of friend we all hope to have. Not because she was wealthy and generous—both of which she most certainly was, at levels not seen in Lawrence before and probably even since—but because she was that rare sort, the person who stood by those close to her, who cared for others more than herself, who looked for ways to help and then did exactly that.

The 150th anniversary of Mrs. Watkins' birth was Jan. 21, and the testament to her sincerity, vision and action is that young women born more than a half-century after her death consider her a friend and mentor and threw her a birthday party, and the university that continues to

benefit from her unequalled generosity is planning celebrations in her honor throughout April.

Outside of basketball, there is no larger figure in the history of KU than the diminutive doctor's daughter who saw to it that thousands could pursue the passions denied her, dreams so simple yet, for so many, elusive: an education.

A KU education.

Sarah Greenup, a Wichita senior studying genetics, noshes on the last bite of her lunch on a recent afternoon, curled up in a comfy chair in the scholarship hall invented, designed, furnished, decorated, funded and maintained by Elizabeth Miller Watkins and explains, quite matter-of-factly, "This is home."

*Photographs by Steve Puppe*

*Archival photographs courtesy Spencer Research Library*



**Women of Miller and Watkins halls—Molly Karleskint (l-r), Kayla Eddins, Qiao Yi Chen, Hilary Schloemer, Dana Diec and Sarah Greenup—in front of a portrait of “Lizzie,” in the Watkins TV room. The neighboring halls emphasize shared purpose and history while also maintaining many of their own unique traditions.**

Of the countless words of thanks justly directed toward Mrs. Watkins during her lifetime and since, it seems certain that none could mean more to her. She wanted the women of Watkins and Miller scholarship halls to find nurturing sanctuaries where girls become women and good students become formidable scholars.

She wanted much for them not because the opportunity was denied her but—and this is perhaps the key to the life and legacy of Elizabeth Miller Watkins—because she loved them so.

“She did her own thing,” Greenup says of the woman current and former residents of Watkins and Miller lovingly call Lizzie. “She was forward thinking. She was able to assess the world around her and think of ways that she could make it better. Her whole life, she and Jabez gave to individual students to help them get that education, to help them succeed in life, and as she got older she realized, ‘I can help more than one person at a time. I can help 50 people, or 100 people. More.’

“Her ability to figure out a way to do that and to set up this home for me and the thousands of other women who have

come through these halls is ... well, amazing.”

On the 150th anniversary of her birth, it seems appropriate to do more than merely celebrate. Anyone who ever comes to KU, to teach or study or work, has heard Elizabeth Miller Watkins’ name, maybe knows a tiny sketch of biography, perhaps has heard that some old lady way back in the day invented the whole concept of “scholarship halls,” where good students could live for reduced rates in exchange for a few hours each week cooking and cleaning.

It’s time now to go deeper, to learn about a person, consider ideas she held dear, look for insight into the values she lived with and acted upon.

She is not a name, she is not a scholarship hall, she is not an estate. She was so much more than money, and yet she guarded it zealously, disbursed it generously, used it wisely, and made advantages for others because of it.

Lizzie Miller was 11 when her family moved to Lawrence, in 1872, and 13 when

she enrolled in KU’s preparatory high school. It was the dawn of her lively interest in education and achievement. Two years later, family finances halted her formal education, cut short her KU dreams.

Her father, a Civil War physician from Ohio named Valentine Miller, was a doctor whose clients tended to be poor farmers who, when they had money to pay the bills, generally paid the doctor last, according to a contemporary account. Regardless of payment, Valentine Miller made his rounds, tending the sick of Douglas County.

“They came to Kansas,” newspaper editor W.C. Simons later wrote of the Miller family, “at a time when money was a luxury.”

Just 15 years old, Lizzie left KU Prep to help her family pay its bills. She found an entry-level clerk job at the J.B. Watkins Land and Mortgage Company, and the work apparently suited her. She rose within the company, eventually becoming secretary to the firm’s founder, a Pennsylvania native named Jabez Bunting Watkins, a self-made man who put himself through law school at the

University of Michigan.

J.B. Watkins was a successful, even visionary, business man—and a bachelor.

“Unmarried women typically didn’t work outside the home, and if you did, you certainly didn’t work for a bachelor,” says Norma Decker Hoagland, c’75, a Leavenworth County rancher and treasurer of the Watkins-Miller alumnae society known as Kitchen 8. “And, she traveled with him, which was of course quite scandalous.”

Simons recalled in a Lawrence Journal-World article that the Millers were “beautiful souls and dearly beloved by the people of Lawrence.” If true, that changed for Lizzie after she married the boss in November 1909, in New York City, the news of which was breathlessly reported back home as “the most startling [announcement] that has been made in Lawrence in several years.”

Lizzie and Jabez had traveled to New York on business, with another employee of the company. One afternoon they hit the town while the third member of their party stayed behind for a nap. When he

awoke, the new Mrs. Watkins said to him, “Look what we found while we were shopping.”

A marriage certificate.

Freelance writer Julie Mettenburg, a Watkins Hall alumna and regular contributor to *Kansas Alumni*, in 1989 researched and wrote about her hall’s benefactor. Mettenburg, j’91, quotes historian Steve Jansen, g’78, PhD’85, then director of the Watkins Community Museum, hypothesizing that because the Millers were “strict prohibitionists,” J.B.’s alleged drinking habits made marriage impossible for Lizzie until after her mother’s death, in 1909, when Lizzie was 47 and her groom 64.

And yet Mettenburg also quotes the late Charles Stough, c’36, l’38, a friend of one of Mrs. Watkins’ student chauffeurs, speculating that it was Jabez who had dodged the altar for years.

Regardless, their marriage, by all accounts a loving and devoted union, scandalized Lawrence.

Married to “one of the wealthiest men in the West,” owner of a financial and real



## 150th birthday celebrations

- April 16: “Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess: A Conversation with Elizabeth Watkins,” a play by Professor Emeritus Ronald Willis, sponsored by KU Endowment’s Women Philanthropists for KU, 2 p.m., Swarthout Recital Hall
- April 19: Birthday cookies and treats, 11:30 a.m., Kansas Union
- April 21: “A Conversation About Elizabeth Miller Watkins,” led by historian Mary Burchill, c’62, 6:30 p.m., Watkins Community Museum
- April 26: Watkins Society Luncheon, noon, Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center, KUMC



Alumnae officers Norma Hoagland and Beverly Runkle Benso, f’58, next to a prized photograph (l) of Eleanor Roosevelt’s visit on Oct. 22, 1938, and Mrs. Watkins’ newly restored personal desk. Kitchen 8’s scholarship fund, raised by alumnae who feel indebted to Mrs. Watkins, this year will award \$40,000 in scholarships.



Jabez and Lizzie gaze at each other's portraits across the Watkins Hall living room, where other treasures include an original chandelier (opposite) and a glass-topped coffee table, both with wheat-stalk motifs.

estate empire with offices in London, New York and Dallas, hundreds of thousands of acres of Louisiana, more than 200 Kansas farms on 26,000 acres, two banks, and 100 miles of railroad that her husband sold for \$1 million, Elizabeth Miller Watkins was shunned.

Faculty wives did not invite her to their teas and events. Noticing that coaches' wives were similarly marginalized, those were the women Mrs. Watkins invited to The Outlook, the glorious home she and J.B. built in 1919, on five acres they had purchased atop Mount Oread.

She spent money on books—receipts for their purchase fill her collected papers stored in Spencer Research Library—and sat reading on The Outlook's porch, always saying hello to students who scurried down her driveway, late for class.

That she saw students every day was hardly an accident: Not only had she and her husband chosen to build their home on the KU campus, but she also left a gate open so the kids wouldn't have to walk around.

"That open gate says so much about her," Hoagland says. "She made her own life, her own happiness, and found people to involve in her life who she cared about."

When a black employee became ill, in the 1920s, the doctor's now-wealthy

daughter was horrified to learn that no physician or hospital would treat him. So she wrote a check for \$200,000 to build Lawrence Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1929, just two years before Watkins Memorial Hospital, funded with her \$175,000 gift, opened on Mount Oread.

And yet ... there was loneliness. At the very least, solitude.

Jabez Watkins died in 1921, just two years after they had moved into The Outlook. There Mrs. Watkins remained, without family, her only children those who walked past her porch by the dozens every day. It was said that she was invariably the only passenger during frequent drives around Lawrence in her 16-cylinder Cadillac sedan, the most recognizable car in town. (Her chauffeurs were always

handsome KU men, and Mrs. Watkins noted in her will that the students so employed at the time of her death be given \$500 a year to complete their educations.)

"I think she was rather solitary," Norma Hoagland says. "I don't think she ever really was truly accepted."

Charles Stough told Mettenburg, "She was a rather lonely person. ... At the same time, she knew a lot of people." The Journal-World once noted that Mrs. Watkins "lived a somewhat cloistered life [but] expressed herself in gifts." Said historian Steve Jansen, "She's a bit of a mystery lady to us. The stories we have are all about the things she's done, but we know just about nothing of what she was actually like."

What mattered to Elizabeth Miller Watkins, it seems safe to conclude, was her family, her husband, her faith, the business, and, in equal measures, education and young people. All available accounts describe Jabez Watkins as a kind and generous man who frequently, and quietly, helped KU students in need. After his death, in 1921, the widow Watkins began to formalize the arrangement.

In a rare interview, she told the Kansas City Star, "We had no children, and our plan was to give it all for the good of humanity, chiefly here in Lawrence. ... We planned many things, but my husband died before all our plans were made."

As it became clear that the University needed organized housing for women students, Mrs. Watkins settled on the idea of building a "scholarship hall," in which women could provide their own labor,



When in the 1970s a resident didn't have money to fly home to Peru for Christmas, housemates chipped in to buy her tickets. The stuffed llamas she brought back to campus became Watkins mascots, representing unity in a hall proud of its diversity.



cooking and cleaning, while living and studying within the embrace of a close-knit community.

“My sympathy has always been with the girls who must travel uphill,” she once said, and she wasn’t referencing the hike up Mount Oread. “It has been my dream to aid self-supporting girls to get an education.”

On July 1, 1925, the Kansas Board of Regents accepted her offer of \$75,000 and a piece of The Outlook’s original five-acre parcel to construct the country’s first scholarship hall.

“I have never done anything into which I have put more of myself,” Mrs. Watkins said, as related in an article on [kuhistory.com](#). “It is my dream come true.”

Watkins Hall opened for the fall semester of 1926 and was an immediate hit. Ten years later she gave another \$75,000 to build a virtually identical hall next door, named for her brother, Frank Miller, who had bequeathed \$50,000 to the University’s student loan fund.

The two scholarship halls, The Outlook and Watkins Memorial Hospital (now Twente Hall, home of the School of Social Welfare) are the visible evidence of Mrs. Watkins’ generosity, but it was her will that is perhaps her most enduring legacy. Signed in December 1938, the massive document left gifts of thousands of dollars to more than a hundred friends, dispersed household goods and personal effects to friends across the country, and, most crucially, provided a fortune in money and



## Watkins’ generosity

Enduring gifts of Elizabeth Miller Watkins:

- 26,000 acres of western Kansas farmland, proceeds from which have benefited countless projects (including Danforth Chapel and the Campanile carillon’s largest bell), scholarships, international studies, distinguished faculty chairs
- Watkins Hall, opened 1926, \$75,000
- Watkins Memorial Hospital, opened 1931, \$175,000
- Miller Hall, opened 1937, \$75,000
- Watkins Nurses Home, opened 1937, \$41,000
- Watkins & Miller maintenance endowment, \$250,000
- Watkins Hospital maintenance endowment, \$175,000
- The Outlook, chancellor’s residence
- Lawrence Memorial Hospital, opened 1929, \$200,000

land to the KU Endowment Association, which she had served as a trustee and vice president for 13 years.


“The Endowment Association, as a result, is the envy of every similar foundation or endowment association in the country,” Irvin Youngberg, c’42, a longtime Endowment official, said in a 1971 speech. “In fact, several other state universities have used, successfully, the Watkins bequest as an example for potential donors, to illustrate what can be achieved with substantial unrestricted resources as a supplement to legislative appropriations.”

Youngberg closed with, “Kansans will be forever indebted to a good and generous lady for her wise and farsighted philanthropy at their state university.”

Elizabeth Miller Watkins died June 1, 1939, in her beloved Outlook. In a scrapbook completed a year earlier, she included a Methodist hymn, on which she wrote, “My creed also.”

*I will be pure for there are those who care. I will be strong for there is much to suffer. I will be brave for there is much to dare. I will be a friend to all, to foe, to friendless. I will be giving and forget the gift. I will be humble, for I know my weakness. I will look up and love and laugh and lift.*

In his eulogy, the Rev. Theodore Aszman said, “Mrs. Watkins expressed the best that was in her, in the finest way she knew.”

On further consideration, Elizabeth Miller Watkins was not the kind of friend we hope to have; she is the friend we do have, and always will. 

**2** happy endings, **13** years apart, with **1** connection:  
a young man's determination to pay it forward

# Rescued

**N**ick Shields was enjoying a rare day off when it happened.

A student in the School of Allied Health and a registered nurse with more than 10 years' experience in health care, most of it in critical care, Shields was at his brother's house in Kansas City last summer, at a birthday party for his 3-year-old nephew, Hayden.

It was June 26, a Saturday.

"Hot, hot," says Bob Shields, Nick's brother. "A hundred degrees out, and we're playing basketball in the driveway. Nick, me, my cousins. We were finishing our last game when a little girl runs out from the house across the street. She was crying, and she said a little boy had drowned."

Exactly what happened next depends on who you ask. Bob Shields remembers Nick reacting immediately. "He pointed at someone and said, 'You, call 911.' Then he took off like fricking Speed Racer."

Nick believes that by the time he understood what the girl was saying, the others had already bolted across the street and he ran after. But all seem to agree that he reached the neighbor's backyard first.

A 7-year-old boy lay on the deck, "limp and blue—very ominous looking," Nick recalls. He had just been pulled from the family pool, where he'd been submerged for at least a minute or two. A man was trying to give the child CPR.

by Steven Hill

Photograph by Steve Puppe



Shields is softspoken and humble and quick to say he doesn't feel like a hero. Stainless steel studs in both ears bookend a boyish face, and colorful tattoos spill from the left sleeve of his green hospital gear. Tired from a long day in the OR, where he's doing clinical training in the nurse anesthesia program, he recounts what happened matter-of-factly, with none of the gravity of a TV medical drama. With his quick laugh and "no-big-deal" mien, his manner is more "Scrubs" than "ER." But behind the easy smile and quiet self-assurance a sharper steel is held in

reserve. His girlfriend, Shawna Ferguson, says Shields is the funniest person she knows—and one of the strongest. "He has the best sense of humor, always joking and laughing, but he's also very motivated," says Ferguson, a nurse at KU Hospital. "If he sets his mind to something he will absolutely follow through and get it done."

That June day he explained that he's an RN, trained in CPR, and asked if he could take over. "Quietly asked," are his exact words, but it's clear that Shields—whose work in intensive care units in several states has familiarized him with death—had no intention of standing quietly by on this day. "No offense," Shields says, "but he was doing it incorrectly."

While the boy's family and his own looked on, Shields checked the boy out:

No breath sounds, no pulse.

Shields guesses that he has performed CPR hundreds of times on the job. But Donna Nyght, director of nurse anesthesia education at KU Medical Center, where Nick is in the first year of an intense three-year master's degree program, says giving CPR outside of the hospital is much more difficult. "As a critical care nurse, he'd been involved in a lot of code situations, where you're trying to save a patient's life," says Nyght, n'77, g'93, PhD'11. "But in the hospital you're part of a team; you get help immediately." There are drugs, advanced equipment and algorithms—checklists that outline step-by-step procedures. "Those algorithms don't mean anything when you don't have the drugs and equipment and



Nick Shields was 16 years old when a head-on collision north of Lawrence on Mother's Day 1997 nearly took his life. Transported by air ambulance to KU Hospital, he and his friend and passenger Frank Vardijan (below right) underwent open-heart surgery on the same night and then shared a room during their months-long recovery. The Shields family and others familiar with his case credit the availability of a top-level trauma facility with saving his life. As the region's only nationally verified Level 1 Trauma Center, KU Hospital provides the most advanced emergency care to about 1,400 trauma patients annually.



COURTESY MARY SHIELDS (4)





all you can do is CPR. All you have then is your training and instincts, and you can only do so much.”

Shields began chest compressions on the boy. “It seems like an eternity when you’re doing it, but they said it was a minute or two,” he says, before the child began coughing up blood and water.

“At that point I turned him on his side, and as I turned him he took a big deep breath—” and here Shields’ voice tightens and he stops talking, as if the memory of that moment takes his own breath away. “And he actually started to breath on his own and he had a pulse. He was breathing on his own when the EMTs arrived and loaded him in the ambulance, but he was still unconscious.

“The next day I got word through my brother that the kid made a full recovery. He doesn’t remember a thing about it.”

The road that led Nick Shields to this point runs back to Linwood, to Mother’s Day 1997.

Shields and his friend Frank Vardijan had spent the day hauling rock and building flowerbeds for Nick’s mother, Mary Shields, and now they wanted to go bowling in Lawrence. “At first I didn’t want to let them go,” Mary recalls. “But they’d worked hard, they were 16, and I thought, ‘You’ve got to kind of loosen the strings and let them be independent.’ So I said OK. But I had a really weird feeling.”

Her unease was so great that when Bob came home from his job at a Tonganoxie barbecue joint, she urged him to join them at the bowling alley.

“Thank God he didn’t,” she says now, “because he’d have been the first one at the scene.”

On their way to Lawrence, about a half mile east of Teepee Junction, a driver swerved into Nick’s lane. The two cars collided head-on at 70 miles per hour. Mary Shields says the other driver called family but never called 911. Not until a passerby happened upon the crash 30 minutes later were emergency crews summoned. Firemen used the jaws of life to remove Nick and Frank from the wreckage.



STEVE PUPPE

The medical resources rallied to nurse Nick Shields back to health inspired him and his mother, Mary, to make their careers in health care. Mary now works at KU Hospital, along with Nick’s girlfriend, Shawna Ferguson.

“I got a phone call saying they had been in a wreck, had been life-flighted to KU, and try to get there as soon as we could. We had no idea where it was. We just headed toward Kansas City and followed the signs.”

At the hospital, Nick’s medical team briefed the family on his injuries: His left elbow was shattered. Both legs were broken, the right one a compound fracture at the shin that left his lower leg dangling by tendons and tissue. He’d sustained a head injury and was bleeding internally. Most seriously, the terrible force of two cars colliding head-on had torn his aorta—a catastrophic injury that is fatal 90 percent of the time.

“They told me he had beat the odds just making it to the hospital, because most people with that injury die at the scene,” Mary Shields says. Aortic dissection, as it’s

called, occurs when a tear in the body’s largest artery allows blood to seep between the three layers of the aortic wall, further forcing them apart and potentially causing a full rupture. “His aorta was the thickness of an onion skin,” Mary says. “Had that little bitty thickness ruptured, he would have bled out instantly.” As it was, Nick faced a 10 percent chance of survival, and an 80 percent chance of permanent paralysis if he survived the 12-hour surgery.

Shields did survive, but several days later he was still on life support, still unconscious. “Every time they would try to take him off it he would die,” Mary says. “So the doctors came out to the waiting room and said they were going to try one more time to get him off life support, but if we can’t get him off this time we’re not very hopeful of the outcome, and we want to

know if you want to donate his organs.”

She asked to see her son.

“I told him, I said, ‘They’re going to try to take that machine off you again, and this time you’ve got to open your eyes buddy.’ I said, ‘You’ve got to try your hardest, you’ve got to try to open those pretty eyes of yours. You’ve got to stay alive.’”

That was 13 years ago; recounting it still brings her to tears.

“And he says he heard me. So he did it. And he gradually got better from there.”

The idea that Nick Shields would someday run across the street to save a drowning boy—like *fricking Speed Racer!*—would have seemed impossibly hopeful back then.

“He was like a puppet,” Mary says. “He had a limb in traction, one in an external fixator and one held together by mesh and screws. But he was so strong and brave; he never complained about anything. He just set small goals and tried to get a little better every day.”

As it turned out, doctors discovered that Frank, too, had a dissected aorta and they rushed him to the OR while Nick was still in surgery. The two boys—who looked so much alike that their own families sometimes mistook one for the other—roomed together at KU Hospital during

much of their recovery.

After Frank went home, Nick started bugging the doctors to cut him loose too. They finally made a deal with him: Learn to dress yourself and you can do your rehab as an outpatient.

“He practiced and practiced all night,” Mary recalls. “The next morning when the doctor came in he said, ‘I’m ready to go home.’” Not until you can dress yourself, the doctor reminded him. He did it—and earned his discharge.

At home, the immense task they faced hit the family full force.

“The incisions,” Mary says. “He was cut front to back, top to bottom. One arm and both legs were messed up. We all looked at each other like, ‘Oh, Lord, how are we going to move him without killing him?’”

His brother’s employer and friends and neighbors pitched in to build a wheelchair ramp and an accessible shower. Mary set up an intercom between her room and Nick’s. Bob would lift him from his wheelchair into the backyard pool for water therapy.

Six months into Nick’s recovery, Bob, then 18, was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Mary took him to the KU Cancer Center for treatment. When Bob’s hair began falling out from the chemotherapy, Nick, gripping his new walker in one hand and clippers in the other, shaved his brother’s head and his own. At one point the two were in surgery the same day.

“We just looked forward and looked at what we had to do to get through this,” Mary says. “You don’t look at what it is while you’re in it, because it would be overwhelming.”



Nick sized up the vast medical resources—the whiz-bang technology and the teams of doctors and nurses rallying to his cause and his brother’s—and found a calling.

“In the hospital I got to the point where I didn’t necessarily have a lot of motivation,” Nick says, “and I looked at these people taking care of me and most of them seemed to be enjoying their job. Somehow it just clicked in my head.”

Says Mary, “I remember him saying, ‘If I can get through this and I’m able, I want to go into health care, because look at everything everybody is doing for me.’ He just wanted to give something back.”

She found a calling too. Haunted by the hopelessness she felt as doctors began describing Nick’s injuries, she quit her printing job, went back to school and trained as an MRI technician.

“It bothered me that somebody I loved would be hurt so badly and I wouldn’t even know what the doctors were talking about. There was no way I could help if I didn’t know what they were talking about. I decided I never wanted to be in that position again.”

Two years after the accident, Mary Shields came home to find Nick in her room, walking on her treadmill. “Watch this,” he said. Then he sped up the machine and began to run.

“It was the first time I’d seen him run since the accident,” Mary says. “He’d been home on the treadmill when I was at work, pushing himself to where he could run again.”

Nick—a self-described adrenaline junkie—bought a Mustang 5.0 and began

COURTESY MARY SHIELDS (3)



Shields and his brother, Bob (a cancer survivor whose diagnosis came just months after Nick’s brush with death), celebrated their good health with a moment in the California sun in 2005. That same year Nick tried skydiving (top right) for the first time.



going with friends to Kansas City International Raceway to run the quarter-mile drags. Sea kayaking, hot-air ballooning and skydiving followed. “He’s jumped twice and had to use the reserve shoot both times,” Bob observes wryly. “He’s a roller coaster freak. Oh, yeah, and he’s got a crotch rocket”—a low-slung, high-powered motorcycle built for speed.

Maybe he was making up for lost time, or maybe he had something to prove. Bit by bit he had climbed back. “He decided his life wasn’t going to stop at that point, after the wreck,” Mary says. “He’d do whatever he had to do to have a full life—there was no stopping him.”

Shields also followed through on his determination to give back, earning credentials as a certified nursing assistant before finishing an associate’s degree at Kansas City Kansas Community College and a bachelor’s degree in nursing at UMKC. He worked at KU Hospital as a radiology nurse before starting Allied Health’s nurse anesthesia program.

“I feel like this place has not only given me direction in life, but has helped me survive to the point where I am today able to do this,” he says. “And not only myself, but my brother as well. So I was really drawn to KU.”

Mary Shields did her training at Fort Hays State, and one of the sites offered for

## *“Nick sized up the vast medical resources—the whiz-bang technology and the teams of doctors and nurses rallying to his cause and his brother’s—and found a calling.”*

clinical rotations in MRI technology and radiology was KU Medical Center. She did everything she could to get assigned there. After finishing clinicals she got a job at KU Hospital and has worked there ever since. When Nick was still in radiology, they sometimes worked cases together.

“Every one of his patients said he’s just amazing as a nurse,” she says. “They send him cakes; they trust him with anything. He puts them at ease by being himself. I think a lot of that comes from knowing what it’s like to be in that bed.”

In October the Kansas City, Mo., police department honored Nick Shields with a certificate of appreciation for his lifesaving actions. EMTs told the family that without Nick’s help, the boy would probably have died.

Nick says he was only doing his job, what he was trained to do, what he’d want anyone to do for him or his family.

“It gives you a little bit of affirmation that you can impact someone’s life, you really do have a chance to make a difference,” he says. “This is why I do what I do.


I didn’t get into nursing to let life pass me by. I want to make as much of an impact as I can.”

Mary Shields believes that if Nick hadn’t ended up at KU that Mother’s Day, he would not be alive now. “There’s not a lot of hospitals that could take him in and correct the things they had to correct. I just don’t believe he’d have lived if he’d gone anywhere else.”

Donna Nyght, the nurse anesthesia director, is inclined to agree. “If it hadn’t happened close to a medical center like KU, that has the trauma facilities we have, he probably would not have lived.” Most people with this type of injury don’t survive, she notes.

But Nick Shields did survive, and he made good on a promise to himself: When the time came, he’d return the favor. That’s how it works with a second chance at life: You don’t pay it back, you pay it forward.

As Nyght says, “He’s been in the right place at the right time more than once in his life, I think.”

Nick Shields is lucky that way. 

COURTESY NICK SHIELDS (2)



Cy Ritter, acting chief of the Kansas City Police Department, presented Shields a certificate of appreciation for his role in saving the life of a 7-year-old boy. On hand for the October ceremony with Shields were (left to right) his sister-in-law, Lisa; brother, Bob; Shawna Ferguson; father, Roscoe; and mother, Mary.



# The Atom Smashers

KU physicists and their students join the high-energy chase for solutions to science's fundamental mysteries

by Don Lincoln, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

**T**here are two ways to study the birth of the universe: The first is to stare at the clear midnight sky, using an array of increasingly larger telescopes and peering ever deeper into the cosmos. But there is a more active approach. Rather than passively studying the heavens, physicists can now re-create the conditions of the early universe in laboratories, using the most sophisticated equipment ever devised, to establish with great certainty the nature of the universe just tiny fractions of a second after it began 14 billion years ago.

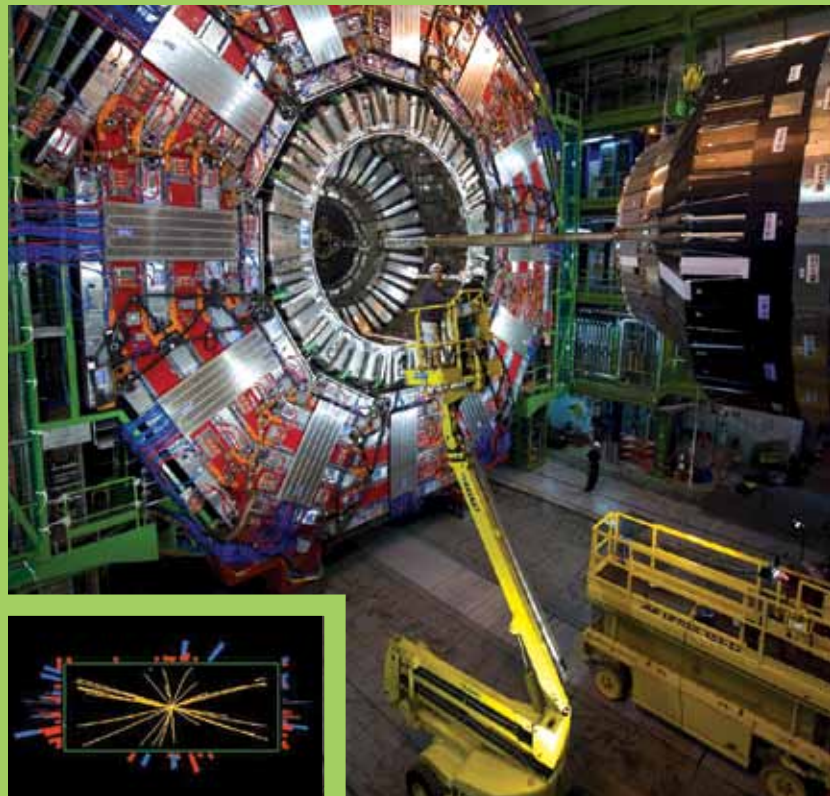
These scientists are, in fact, closer than ever before to understanding the very moment of creation itself.

Using particle accelerators to fling beams of subatomic particles to nearly the speed of light inside huge detectors, physicists examine what happens when, after colliding, these particles are torn apart and heated to the mind-boggling temperature of a thousand trillion degrees.

KU physics and astronomy professors Phil Baringer, Alice Bean and Stephen Sanders and associate professors Michael Murray and Graham Wilson play pivotal roles in this ambitious effort.

Baringer, Bean and Wilson are experts in smashing together beams of protons.

As members of both the DZero collaboration, based at the



Views of the massive CMS machinery, at the CERN particle accelerator near Geneva, and a particle collision “event display” (inset). KU physics faculty and students develop detectors that capture and process such data.

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory outside Chicago, and the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, they have co-authored hundreds of papers detailing the results of their measurements.

Baringer and Bean are trying to better understand “bottom” and “top” quarks, the most ephemeral of subatomic particles created from the pure energy of accelerator collisions. Evanescent ghosts, bottom quarks exist for about a trillionth of a second and the top quarks far less (a trillionth of a trillionth of a second).

Many theories of new physical phenomena will be confirmed or rejected by studying bottom quarks, and it is thought that studying the bottom quark might explain why our universe is made mostly of matter. (Given that we believe that matter and antimatter were made in equal quantities in the creation of the universe, the fact that the universe consists only of matter is a rather perplexing mystery.)

Baringer was a collaborator in the discovery of the “top” quark, the heaviest subatomic particle ever found. More than 1,000 times smaller than a proton, top quarks weigh about as much as an entire atom of gold. Just why this particle should be so heavy is not yet known, and it is believed that studying it further might shed light on the origins of mass itself.

Wilson’s research interest is somewhat different. He looks for subatomic particles called leptons to search for new phenomena.

“Modern particle physics collider experiments allow us to

perform a variety of measurements,” Wilson says. “We are able to pursue a number of different ideas and then combine our measurements to get an even deeper understanding of the universe.”

Murray and Sanders take a different path in their studies of the microrealm. They collide nuclei of gold or lead to understand the behavior of nuclear matter under extreme conditions.

These studies investigate an entirely different state of matter; in addition to the familiar states of solid, liquid and gas, scientists

## Physics primer

**T**o get a better idea what is going on in high-energy particle collisions, it is perhaps worth taking a moment for basics:

All matter is made of atoms. Atoms have a nucleus at their center, which contains protons and neutrons, themselves made of smaller particles called quarks. As far as we know, quarks are the smallest

building blocks of matter, the things that make up the entire universe.

The most common quarks are called “up” and “down.” The other four types of quarks have similarly silly names—“strange,” “charm,” “bottom” and “top”—and are unstable, existing for a very short time before decaying into more ordinary particles. —D.L.



Graduate student Danny Noonan, seen here in Malott Hall laboratories, is one of about a dozen graduate and undergraduate students working alongside faculty on new components for KU's CMS detector.



Baringer

are now investigating a state with the colorful name of “quark-gluon plasma.”

With enough concentrated energy, they heat the matter to extreme conditions, melting the protons and neutrons themselves, like dropping ice cubes into a pot of boiling water. The kinds of collisions they study are incredibly complex, with thousands of particles leaving the collision.

“The earlier experiments already told us that we have created a strongly interacting plasma,” Murray says, “but the very nature of the plasma made it difficult to understand its structure. The higher energy of the LHC and new detectors we have to study it mean we will be able to look deep inside this subatomic soup.”

**T**hese faculty all have an extensive experience in collider physics, having done experiments at particle accelerators across the globe. However, their common goals have recently brought them together to work on a single experiment—“Compact Muon Solenoid,” or CMS, one of four detectors arranged around the largest particle accelerator in the world, Europe’s Large Hadron Collider.

The main purpose of CMS is to record the highest-energy collisions ever attempted between two beams of protons. Approximately 2,500 physicists explore the origin of mass, investigate whether quarks are themselves composed of even smaller objects, and, just for good measure, check to see if something totally unexpected might be observed.

The experiment’s huge piece of machinery is 50 feet high, 50 feet wide and 70 feet long, weighs 14,000 tons and consists of 100 million distinct detector elements.

In essence, it is a 100 megapixel camera, and KU is involved with the detector at the heart of the apparatus, a detector made of

silicon that makes up two-thirds of the electronic channels.

While large, 100 megapixels isn’t that much more than in the cameras we can all buy. However, this “camera” can, while operating in a harsh radioactive environment, look at 40 million pictures a second.

Custom software sifts through those images virtually instantly, and, of the millions taken each second, saves perhaps 100 to a massive database.

“We’re trying to figure out what the smallest pieces of matter are and how they interact with each other,” Baringer says. “Those interactions are what you would call the forces of nature: gravity, electricity, all that kind of stuff. That’s how the particles interact.

“So what we want to capture with our pictures are some interesting new players, or some interesting new interaction among the players, ideas theorists have dreamed of but that we’ve never seen.”

**W**hile the presence of KU physics faculty at the research frontier is a testimonial to their impact on important scientific questions, KU’s particle physics program also emphasizes teaching opportunities created by their research.

At most universities, research of the type described here is usually limited to third- or fourth-year graduate students. At KU, faculty share a commitment to involve students in research as early as possible. Every year, as many as six undergraduates work on all aspects of the experiment, from testing electronics to looking at raw data; some are even flown to Fermilab, CERN or other laboratories to do their research.

“This kind of research experience is invaluable for undergraduates considering a career in physics research,” Baringer says. “KU students who have had this opportunity have gone on to such prestigious graduate schools as Johns Hopkins, Cornell and Caltech.”

Professors Baringer and Bean take their commitment to educating young people one step further with the Quarknet program, which brings high school teachers and even a few exceptional students into their laboratory.

KU has the distinction of introducing one of the youngest students ever to frontier particle physics research: 14-year-old Eilish Gibson, a sophomore at Lawrence’s Bishop Seabury Academy, spent last summer testing electronics that KU will supply to universities around the country to test upgrades envisioned for the CMS detector.

“I have been interested in particle physics, especially involving the LHC, for a couple years now,” Gibson says, “and I was thrilled to have a chance to participate in the Quarknet program at KU and work on testing electronics from the LHC. Because of my experiences working at KU this summer, I now know that I want to become a particle physicist.”

The future of particle physics is bright. The Large Hadron Collider began colliding beams of protons in March 2010, switched to beams of lead nuclei in November, and data already taken is being studied for hidden mysteries. The plan is to run the LHC at current energy levels through 2012 (allowing for a two-month break in December and January). The collider will then be shut down to fix a design flaw, and in 2014 resume operations with double the beam energy, making possible a huge increase in the number of collisions recorded.

The possibility of a discovery is always there, tantalizing us. And if something is found, KU will be well represented as physicists explore the quantum frontier.

—Don Lincoln is a senior scientist at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and an adjunct professor at the University of Notre Dame. He collaborated with KU’s Phil Baringer in the discovery of the top quark, and he has written two books, including the recently released *The Quantum Frontier: The Large Hadron Collider*.



Bean

## CERN history

Known worldwide as CERN, the European laboratory’s formal name is Organisation Européenne pour la Recherche Nucléaire, or European Organization for Nuclear Research. The acronym formed

by the laboratory’s original name, which used French words for “council” rather than “organization,” was retained after a name change, avoiding the awkward “OERN.”

—Editors

## Quarked!

The idea started with a conversation between Alice Bean and her cousin’s 5-year-old daughter.

Bean, professor of physics and astronomy, asked her young, space-obsessed relative a question: “Which planet is your favorite?”

Her response: “I don’t know. I haven’t been to them all yet.” Something clicked for Bean.

“Kids are dying for knowledge about planets and dinosaurs,” she says. “Why not particle physics?”

So Bean gathered a team of collaborators and set out to create a curriculum for teaching about quarks, the building blocks of matter.

The resulting Quarked! website, which launched in 2003, features cartoon characters representing the six types of quarks, each with a personality to match its corresponding particle.

Ushi, for instance, represents an up quark. She has a lot of friends, doesn’t like to date and gets stressed out when she makes mistakes. Danny (a down quark) is laid back, independent and a dreamer.

There are videos and games starring the characters, and a section to help parents and teachers understand the science.

“When we first started talking about this, we had a lot of push-back from the educational community,” Bean says. “Elementary teachers are freaked out by particle physics.”

That’s changing over time, Bean says, though there still are challenges in getting the physics lessons into classrooms, especially considering many of the lessons aren’t included in national science standards.

But Bean says many parents and teachers use the Quarked! site to help teach about other topics, such as size, scale, atoms and electricity, which are included in typical science curricula. Plus, two Quarked! presentations at the KU Natural History Museum have been popular among teachers and children.

Bean hopes Quarked!, which gets 50,000 to 60,000 visitors a year, can inspire a new generation of children to want to be physicists. Her dream is to have an animated PBS show

based on Quarked!, complete with action figures.

“In the beginning, we had to sell people on the idea that elementary kids could learn about particle physics,” she says. “Now, when they see the site, there’s no question.”

—Terry Rombeck

[www.quarked.org](http://www.quarked.org)



# Association



## Dedicated duo

### Jayhawk couple adds to support for growing Association outreach

As Wichita Jayhawks, Scott, c'54, and Carol Swanson Ritchie have long been ringleaders for local KU events. "When we were newlyweds," Carol, d'54, recalls, "we would just get a list of alumni from the Alumni Association and start making phone calls." They kept handwritten rosters and tracked reservations on an adding machine.

Through the years, the Ritchies expanded their KU involvement to keep pace with their varied interests in geology, education and the arts. And as they watched the Jayhawk community in Wichita grow, they yearned for more varied local events that connected alumni

The Ritchies' vision inspired the Association's dramatic growth from 77 programs and events annually to more than 500. Kevin Corbett, Association president, says "Carol and Scott were the true pioneers of building one of the most active and powerful alumni associations in the nation."

with many aspects of the University.

Carol joined the Association's national Board of Directors in 1993 and throughout her 11 years of service she often reminded fellow volunteers and staff members of the need to offer more vibrant programs for Wichita. With her enthusiasm came determination. "Ever since we first had the Rock Chalk Ball in

Kansas City in 1996, I wanted to have one in Wichita," she says. And she knew that Wichita's version would need to suit the community: "The formal event wouldn't work for us, especially for younger alumni. We wanted to keep prices low so we could attract younger graduates."

Carol became national chair of the Association in 1999, and she stressed the importance of recruiting members throughout Kansas. In 2001, the Ritchies donated \$250,000 to the Association to create the Carol and Scott Ritchie Alumni

Programming Fund, and they continued to advocate for improved outreach.

When fellow volunteer Sue Watson, d'75, called Carol to help establish a new KU event, the Jayhawk Roundup, Carol eagerly agreed to meet with Watson and Lynn Loveland, who then worked for KU Endowment part time in Wichita, to create a jeans-and-boots celebration that since 2003 has attracted larger and younger crowds each year to the Murfin Stables on the eastern edge of Wichita.

In 2005, under the leadership of new president Kevin J. Corbett, c'88, the Association re-established formal alumni chapters throughout the state and, with the help of new staff members and volunteers, began an all-out blitz to raise KU's visibility in every corner of Kansas. The Ritchies, of course, approved, and in 2006 they challenged the Association to do even more by adding a pledge of \$100,000, which they recently completed.

Their total giving has helped the Association increase the number of annual events from 77 to 500 annually. In addition to the Roundup, the Wichita alumni chapter now hosts Hall Center for the Humanities lectures, appearances by the KU debate team, family picnics and arts activities, along with the traditional athletics events and the Kansas Honors Program for high school seniors, which the Ritchies have supported for decades.

Visual reminders also increase awareness of KU. "If you drive the state," Corbett says, "you see Alumni Association billboards serving as evidence that active alumni are helping to strengthen the value of the KU degree."

*"Carol and Scott had a vision of what local programs could offer for alumni, and they never wavered from that goal."*

—Kevin Corbett, president



Corbett credits the Ritchies' wisdom and generosity as critical to the Association's turnaround. "Scott and Carol had a vision more than a decade ago to build stronger KU networks throughout Kansas and the nation," he says, "and they never wavered from that goal." The Ritchies also inspire other volunteers. Fellow Jayhawk Roundup founder Sue Watson eventually became a national Board member for the Association, serving as national chair from 2009 to 2010. Lynn Loveland now is the Association's assistant director for Kansas Programs in Wichita.

The Ritchies continue their involvement as Life Members and Presidents Club members of the Association and through KU Endowment, where Scott is a trustee and Carol advises Women Philanthropists for KU. Scott also serves on the board for the Spencer Museum of Art and as a benefactor and adviser to the KU geology department. The Association has honored both Ritchies for their service: Scott received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2005 and Carol received the medallion in 2008.

Resisting retirement, Scott continues as chairman of Ritchie Exploration Inc. and maintains business interests in ranching. They both volunteer for arts organizations, and Scott works to preserve the Tallgrass Prairie, the site of their beloved ranch, where they have hosted many KU events. The diehard Wichita Jayhawks are now just as devoted to the Flint Hills. "I love driving through Chase County with my KU license plate," Carol says. "I just want people to know I'm a Jayhawk."

## Job well done

### Kansas Alumni and website win praise among peers

Association communications received honors in the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VI awards, a competition that includes a nine-state region.

The 2010 calendar received the gold award in special publications, and *Kansas Alumni* won the silver overall award among alumni magazines. Individual accolades went to Associate Editor Chris Lazzarino and Creative Director Susan Younger for their work on the magazine. "Love Story" (issue 3, 2010) received a silver award in the feature writing category; "Antarctic Ice" (issue 1, 2010) and "Love Story" (issue 3, 2010) won for editorial design.

The Association's website also placed among the best in the district, winning a bronze award.



STEVE PUPPE

There's still time to sign up for the Gold Medal Reunion and Class of 1960 50-Year Reunion, April 28-May 1.

## Honor a Loyal JAYHAWK

### NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE Fred Ellsworth Medallion

Since 1975 the Fred Ellsworth Medallion has honored individuals "who have provided unique and significant service to KU."

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

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

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

To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by March 31 at 800-584-5397 or visit [www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org).

# Association

TERRY ROMBECK (4)



## Jayhawk Tumble 2011

The Southwest Kansas Chapter hosted its second Southwest Tumble Feb. 5, drawing 70 alumni and friends to the Baker Arts Center in Liberal. The event included a silent auction and dinner, along with entertainment by pianist John Frederick, a doctoral student in the KU School of Music. Presidents Club member Kevin Colvin, assoc., and Rocky Ormiston (left below) were among the Jayhawk faithful, along with Southwest Kansas stalwart and former chapter president Erick Nordling, c'79.



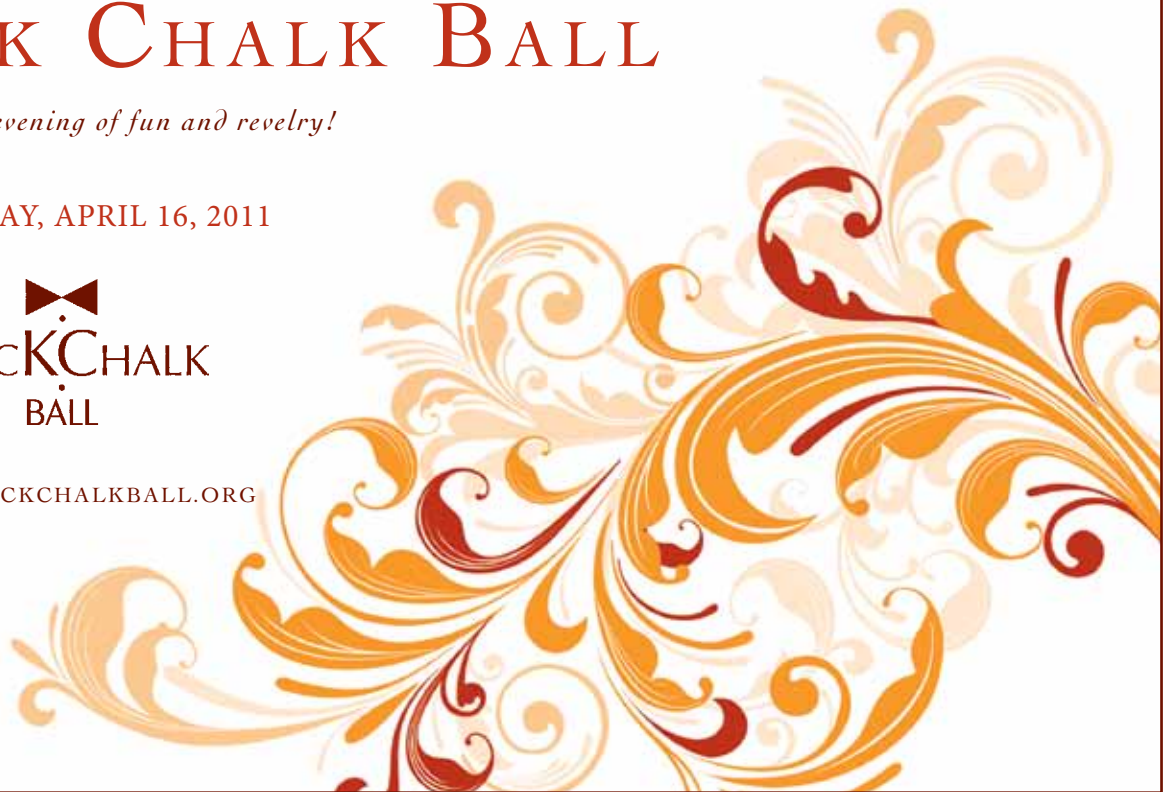
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# Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Jan. 1 through Feb. 28. For information, visit [kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org) or call 800-584-2957.

Richard D. Babcock	Nathan A. McCaffrey
George H. Baldwin Jr.	Brian A. McClendon
Adam B. & Amy Sullivan	Glen W. & Jane Pollock
Balentine	Meinershagen
Les G. Begay	Alan J. Meitl
Matthew J. Bellinger &	Joel R. & Andrea F. Mosher
Kathleen A. Carey	Juan L. Munoz
Chrissy Berling	Cathrine C. Nodgaard
Arden E. Bicker	Tim & Mary Pawlenty
John C. Burdett Jr.	Catherine L. Powell
Ace A. Cossairt	Bill Reetz
Linda R. Crain	David P. Reinfelds
Ronald O. Daly Jr. & Carolee S.	Michael W. Riedel
Daly	Ben M. Robertson
Chip S. Elliott	Chad J. & Lindsay Putnam
Brian C. Fassold	Roesler
Sean P. Flynn	Brian J. Rourke
Steven C. Frazier & Elizabeth A.	Sheryl K. Schamaun
Leech	Rae Sedgwick
Richard K. & Bethany K.	Brett M. & Amalia Kokoruda
Friesner	Standard
Robert J. Friesner	Lindsey K. Stinson
Kenneth W. Fry	Deanna Wallace Thomas
Robert Fuladi	Kyle L. Thompson
Ryan S. Harms	James A. & Joyce McKoon
Eric A. Hartenstein	Trower
Erin Underwood Heidebrecht	Chris S. Tschirhart
Marshall E. Hollis	James L. Unger
Olivia N. Iway	Eric M. Wiebe
Michael F. Kennedy	Steven E. & Jackie J. Wyman
Craig C. Lang	Carl J. Yaeger & Sheila A.
Delano E. Lewis Sr. & Gayle	Everhart-Yaeger
Jones Lewis	Julia K. Young
James E. Mason	



**S**pecial thanks to Life Member **Connie Patterson, f'92**, who has created a flock of wooden Jayhawks for the Association. She makes her special birds out of wood and felt, adding accessories and personality to boot. Catch a glimpse of these fun feathered friends in Class Notes.

*Everything we do strengthens KU. Your membership in the KU Alumni Association is the single most powerful way to make all of KU stronger, including the value of your own degree.*

## Board of Directors

### CHAIR

**Jay Howard**, b'79, Austin, Texas

### CHAIR-ELECT

**Jeffrey P. Briley**, d'74, Overland Park

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**Howard E. Cohen**, b'79, Leawood

**Ray D. Evans**, b'82, g'84, Leawood

**Sheri Welter Hauck**, b'81, Arroyo

Grande, California

**Jay Howard**, b'79, Austin, Texas

**Bradley G. Korell**, l'97, Austin, Texas

**Sue Shields Watson**, d'75, Wichita

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**Howard E. Cohen**, b'79, Leawood

**Jay Howard**, b'79, Austin, Texas

**Bradley G. Korell**, l'97, Austin, Texas

**Curtis R. McClinton, Jr.**, d'62,

Kansas City, Missouri

**Winifred S. Pinet**, c'80, g'82,

Plymouth, Michigan

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**Ray D. Evans**, b'82, g'84, Leawood

**Karen M. Humphreys**, c'70, l'73,

Wichita

**James A. Trower**, b'77, Salina

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Grande, California

**Jeff Kennedy**, j'81, Wichita

**Henry Menghini**, c'87, Pittsburg

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**Richard E. Putnam**, c'77, l'80,

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**Larry D. Stoppel**, c'73, Washington

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**Scott R. Seyfarth**, b'83, Hinsdale, Illinois

**Brenda Marzett Vann**, c'71, g'72,

Kansas City

**Jeff L. Wolfe**, b'83, Meridian, Ohio

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**Kevin J. Corbett**, c'88, President

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**Timothy E. Brandt**, b'74, Director of Adams Alumni Center

### ALUMNI, STUDENT & MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

**Michael Davis**, d'84, g'91, Senior

Vice President for Alumni, Student and Membership Programs

**Nikki Epley**, Director of Reunion Programs

**Heath Peterson**, d'04, g'09,

Assistant Vice President for Alumni and Student Programs

### COMMUNICATIONS

**David Johnston**, j'94, g'06, Director of Internet Services and Marketing

**Chris Lazzarino**, j'86, Associate

Editor, *Kansas Alumni Magazine*

**Jennifer Sanner**, j'81, Senior Vice

President for Communications and Corporate Secretary

**Susan Younger**, f'91, Creative Director

### DEVELOPMENT

**Ellen Chindamo**, f'92

Senior Development Director

### FINANCE

**Jodi Nachtigal**, Controller

**Dwight Parman**, Senior Vice

President for Finance and Human Resources and Treasurer

### HOSPITALITY SERVICES

**Bryan Greve**, Senior Vice President for Hospitality Records

**Bill Green**, Senior Vice President for Information Services

**Stefanie Shackelford**, Vice President for Alumni Records

# Class Notes by Karen Goodell



**41 Leo Horacek**, f'41, f'47, g'49, PhD'55, makes his home in Morgantown, W. Va., where he continues to study, lecture and perform.

**48 Desmond Gibson**, p'48, g'50, recently received an honorary alumnus award from the University of Nebraska's Medical Center College of Pharmacy, where he served as dean from 1961 to 1972. He lives in Lincoln.

**49 Robert McClintick**, b'49, is retired in Indian Wells, Calif.

**53 Marilyn Champion Booker**, c'53, practices physical therapy part time in Bolingbrook, Ill.

**June DeVall Hartell Garcia**, b'53, a retired teacher and marketing coordinator, makes her home in Merrifield, Va.

**55 Stewart Doty**, g'55, wrote *The Journal of Ann McMath: An Orphan in a New York Parsonage in the 1850s*, which was published by SUNY Press. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M., and is a professor emeritus of history at the University of Maine.

**60 Alan Forker**, c'60, m'64, directs outpatient lipid diabetes research at St. Luke's Hospital's MidAmerica Heart Institute and is a professor of medicine at UMKC. He lives in Leawood with Sharon Sue Stout Forker, c'59.

**62 Norman Martin**, m'62, recently retired after 40 years on the faculty at the KU Medical Center. He lives in Leawood.

**64 Richard Young**, g'64, recently retired after 15 years as president of Welch & Forbes. He lives in Arlington, Mass.

**65 David Richwine**, c'65, owns Richwine Consulting in Burke, Va. He's a retired U.S. Marine Corps major general.

**66 Henry Brzyski**, c'66, g'71, retired last year. He lives in Dennisville, N.J.

**John Butler**, PhD'66, is a professor of microbiology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

**Kent Huston**, c'66, m'70, has a private rheumatology practice at the Center for Rheumatic Disease in Kansas City.

**68 Frank Janzen**, c'68, g'05, recently completed a year teaching English in Yemen. He know lives in Mission.

**70 David Aikins**, d'70, co-owns Lawrence Decorating Center in

Lawrence, where he and Linda Noland Aikins, '82, make their home.

**Thomas Washburn**, e'70, is executive vice president at Basin Tek in Houston. He lives in Cypress, Texas.

**71 Steve Angell**, c'71, directs business development in North America for ENVIRON, worldwide environmental services consultants. He lives in Glenview, Ill. His son, **Darren**, is a KU law student.

**Linda Hales**, c'71, j'74, is collaborating on a book about the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed landscape at the U.S. Capitol. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**Nicholas LoBurgio**, c'71, l'74, serves as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. He lives in Littleton, Colo.

**72 Carol Ann Adams Brown**, c'72, makes her home in Alexandria, Va.

**Richard Elliott**, c'72, edited *Runners on Running*, which was published last fall by Human Kinetics Publishers. He lives in Winnetka, Ill.

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## Jayhawk Generations

*If your Jayhawk is ready to leave the nest for KU, let us know! Your family's legacy of KU students will be featured in "Jayhawk Generations," KU Alumni Association's annual salute to crimson-and-blue heritage.*

### To be included, the student must:

- be a freshman in fall 2011
- have at least one parent who is an Alumni Association member
- have at least one parent who attended KU (that parent need not have graduated)

### Second Generations

Please mail in your son or daughter's resumé and high school name. Please do not send student photographs for second-generation Jayhawks.

### Third Generations and beyond

Mail in your son or daughter's resumé, along with information detailing high-school activities. Please provide information about your KU ancestors. Mail a photograph of the student and college-era photos of parents who attended KU. Photos of grandparents should be sent for fifth-generation students only. We will return all photos after the feature is published online in September 2011.



### Deadline for all materials is July 15.

Mail materials to Jayhawk Generations, KU Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169.

### Questions?

Contact Whitney Eriksen at 800-584-2957 or [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org).



[www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org)

**Robert Grabill**, b'72, e'72, is president and CEO of the Chief Executive Network in Lawrence.

**Susan Jordan**, j'72, g'86, lives in Los Angeles, where she is retired. A screenplay she wrote recently had a staged reading at the Midwest Entertainment Connection.

**Marty Paulson Pope**, c'72, g'76, works as a medical billing/coding specialist at Infectious Disease Consultants in Wichita.

**Patrick Williams**, c'72, is president and founder of the Institute for Life Coach Training in Palm Coast, Fla.

**73 David Meredith**, f'73, is retired in Lenexa.

**74 Brenda Borron Taxeras**, c'74, is a county extension agent at K-State Research and Extension in Lansing. She lives in Leavenworth.

**75 Jonell Farver Schenk**, s'75, s'76, is a social worker at Continua Hospice in Kansas City.

**Don Nottberg**, c'75, and his wife, Leslie Goldstein Nottberg, '75, live in Overland Park, where they own Elite Feet, named

for the sixth year as one of the 50 Best Running Stores in America by Running Insight magazine.

**Richard Zimmerman**, c'75, serves as pastor of the United Methodist Church in Burdett, where he lives.

**77 Michael Bradley**, e'77, is CEO of Regency Energy Partners in Dallas.

**Bruce Mallonee**, c'77, l'80, recently became a judge of the district court of Maine. He and LeeAnne Plumb Mallonee, d'77, g'80, live in Bangor.

**Julie Johnson Montague**, j'77, owns

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Final Kodachrome film rolls out from Parsons lab

It was Kodak, not Mama, who took Kodachrome away—the nice bright colors, the greens of summers—and the iconic film's departure hardly made anyone at Dwayne's Photo think all the world's a sunny day.

In fact, processing requests deluged the world's last remaining Kodachrome lab, Dwayne's Photo in Parsons, run by vice president of operations Grant Steinle, c'84, g'86. The rush more than cured weary employees of a nostalgic reverie that had swept up photographers and news outlets worldwide.

"It's been a wild ride, and we tried to have fun with it along the way," Steinle says, "but we were tired, and happy to have it done."

Kodak closed its last Kodachrome lab in 2007, leaving the job to independents such as Dwayne's Photo, and two years later announced plans to discontinue both the film, an instant hit after its 1935 debut as the first reliable color film, and its processing chemicals. (Kodachrome had no embedded dye, as do all other color films, making the developers so complex a chemist had to supervise each batch.)

Kodak and Dwayne's Photo, by then the

film's last lab, agreed processing would end Dec. 30, 2010. As deadline neared, the surge began.

Daily deliveries were stacked everywhere. Professional photographers flew in from as far away as London to hand over their final rolls of Kodachrome. An Arkansas railroad buff hauled in more than 1,500 rolls of train pics he'd never gotten around to developing.

The numbing run of 12-hour days ended Jan. 18; the final roll was images of family and friends taken by founder Dwayne Steinle.

"And that," Grant Steinle says, "was the end of Kodachrome."

Steinle came to the family business with a background in computer science and business management. After a few years selling corporate computers in Topeka, Steinle returned to Parsons when his father moved the lab toward specialty processing—such as color slides and black-and-white film that huge retail outlets didn't want to handle.

Together they secured accounts with the likes of Walmart and Walgreens, and in the early 1990s added Kodachrome processing.

Digital photography is changing, not ending, the family business. The Steinles launched Meridian Professional Imaging to process digital files into prints for



Grant Steinle and his daughter, Megan, stand near the world's last Kodachrome machine on the last day of its operation, wearing Dwayne's now-collectible T-shirts. The image is from the penultimate roll of processed Kodachrome.

wedding photographers and other professionals. Plus, they have one last bit of Kodachrome business to tend to: a commemorative T-shirt whose initial run of 200, intended as a keepsake for the Dwayne's crew, has since reached worldwide sales of 3,000 and counting.

"New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Israel, you name it," Steinle says with a laugh. "So I guess we're in the T-shirt business now, too."

## Class Notes

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Montague Design & Interiors in Mesa, Ariz.

**78 Thomas Marshall**, e'78, recently marked his 20-year anniversary with Elm Street Development, a residential development firm in Maryland and Virginia. He lives in Laytonsville, Md.

**John Nachbar**, c'78, g'80, is city manager of Culver City, Calif.

**Trish Rose**, l'78, serves as Reno County Division 1 district judge. She lives in Hutchinson.

**Gerald Seib**, j'78, leads the combined newswires and journal teams at the Wall Street Journal in Washington, D.C. He lives in Chevy Chase, Md.

**79 Mark Copeland**, b'79, manages IT operations and support for the Air Evac Lifeteam in West Plains, Mo. He lives in Wauconda, Ill.

**Leonard Sophrin**, a'79, a'83, is president of Leonard Sophrin Architect Inc. in Wilmington, Del.

**Christopher Tucker**, p'79, is national

program director for the Veterans Health Administration in Topeka.

**80 John Jackson**, c'80, manages programs for the International Business Machines Corp. in Austin, Texas, where he and Lisa Edmund Jackson, p'82, make their home.

**81 Keri Fitzpatrick**, c'81, coordinates juvenile standards for the state of Colorado and is a criminal justice consultant trainer for the Northpointe Institute for Public Management. She and her husband, Bruce Durbin, live in Denver.

**Charlie Podrebarac**, '81, an illustrator for Art To Go, draws a daily comic strip, Cowtown, that runs on GoComics.com, and is a freelance contributor to *Kansas Alumni*. He lives in Westwood.

**82 Mark Hamrick**, '82, recently was elected president of the National Press Club. He's business editor of Associated Press Broadcast in Washington, D.C., and he lives in Potomac, Md.

**83 Tracy Ashlock Barton**, d'83, directs marketing for TRS Group Inc. in Lake Oswego, Ore.

**Stephen Flood**, j'83, directs dealer development for Hyundai Motor America. He and **Sharon Bodin Flood**, j'86, c'87, g'87, live in Trabuco Canyon, Calif.

**Lori Clintsman Joseph**, j'83, is vice president of marketing and communications for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in Kansas City. She lives in Olathe.

**James Slough**, p'83, co-owns Free State Glass in Lawrence.

**Brig. Gen. Charles Taylor**, c'83, serves as assistant division commander of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

### MARRIED

**Linda Wilson**, b'83, to Keith Stokes, Oct. 23 in Lenexa, where Linda is business administrator at Lenexa United Methodist Church.





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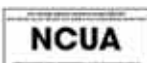
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**84 Richard Baumeister Jr.**, b'84, is managing partner of Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier in Fort Worth, Texas. He lives in Weatherford with his wife, Allyson.

**Steve Bausch**, e'84, lives in Denver, where he's a senior acquisitions engineer for Williams Production.

**Bonar Menninger**, j'84, wrote *Hell Followed With It: Life and Death in a Kansas Tornado*, which was published last year by Emerald Book Co. He and **Ann Cain Menninger**, '83, make their home in Countryside.

**85 Tom Flood**, j'85, is general sales manager at Lexus of Richmond. He lives in Midlothian, Va.

**Katherine Glaude-Bolte**, c'85, works as a gifted-resource teacher at Rockwood South Middle School in Fenton, Mo.

**Robert Merritt**, j'85, owns Merritt Wines in Downes Grove, Ill.

**Gina Thornburg**, j'85, c'85, edits copy for the Journal of Rural and Community Development. She lives in

Woodland Hills, Calif.

**Barbara Stovalal Torgerson**, b'85, s'07, is a therapist at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence, where she and her husband, Eric, e'86, make their home. He manages corporate lease audits for Payless ShoeSource.

**86 Kelly Allender**, c'86, is assistant manager of FlightSafety International in Wichita.

**Kristy Lantz Astry**, j'86, works as a technical writer for Vestas Technology R&D Americas in Louisville, Colo.

**Christine Davis**, b'86, g'87, is vice president of treasury and tax management for Endo Pharmaceuticals in Chadds Ford, Pa. She lives in Newtown Square.

**John Shaw**, c'86, m'93, and his wife, Letty, live in Hutchinson with their children, Molly, 8, Emily, 6, and Ian, 1. John is a general surgeon at Hutchinson Clinic.

**Mark Weis**, c'86, m'91, is lead civilian primary care physician with the U.S. Army's RESPECT-Mil program. He lives in Silver Spring, Md.

**Paul Winslow**, f'86, works as a consulting sales specialist with the International Business Machines Corp. He lives in Arlington, Va.

**Evan Wooton**, b'86, is chief operating officer for the Hilb Group in Glen Allen, Va. He lives in Henrico.

**87 Brett Murphy**, c'87, j'88, is digital product director for CL Inc. He lives in Chicago.



**88 Perry Franklin**, l'88, works as an attorney adviser for the Social Security Administration. He lives in Park City.

**Carrie McAdam**, p'88, is a research assistant professor in the University of Utah's college of pharmacy in Salt Lake City, where she lives.

**89 Lori Betts-Harrison, c'89**, owns First Place in Wichita.

**Frank Housh, c'89**, practices law in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Carol Kleweno, c'89**, manages field accounts for Bimbo Bakeries in Kansas City. She lives in Lenexa.

**David Owen, d'89**, is general sales manager of Enterprise Fleet Management in Centennial, Colo. He lives in Littleton.

**Lori Ingram Stussie, d'89, g'92**, works as a counselor at Lawrence High School in Lawrence, where she and her husband, Lawrence, c'90, make their home.

**Anne Joseph Walsh, h'89**, works as a senior physician assistant at Hertz & Associates in gastroenterology and as interim program director of the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California's Primary Care Physician Assistant Program. She lives in Westminster.

**90 Douglas McLeod, l'90**, is Maui County energy commissioner. He lives in Makawao, Hawaii.

**Maj. Gen. Gary Patton, g'90**, was promoted to major general in the U.S. Army. He serves in Afghanistan.

**MARRIED**

**Patricia Kensinger, j'90, g'92**, to Brian Rice, Oct. 9 in Lawrence. Their home is in Overland Park.

**91 Kimberly O'Neal Hertach, b'91**, is a management information analyst in the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. She and her husband, Justin, '00, live in Lawrence.

**Michael O'Connor, c'91**, is district director of the Mid Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He lives in Ankeny.

**PROFILE** by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

**Jayhawk leads national institute for deaf**

When Gerard Buckley took his driving test as a St. Louis high school student, he came away with much more than his license. The instructor also steered him in the right direction for college.

As a deaf student, Buckley attended mainstream elementary and secondary schools, but in the early 1970s his options for college were limited. "I could pursue a mainstream education and 'read my way' through college, or I could look for a college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students," he recalls. Luckily, the driving instructor, whose brother was deaf, told Buckley about the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), which in 1968 had begun "experimental" programs at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York as part of an initiative led by President Lyndon Johnson. "I was fascinated by the opportunity to be part of a new national program designed to meet the educational needs of deaf students in a mainstream setting," Buckley says. "Back in the early 1970s this was still a dream."

Three decades later, NTID's experiment has become a thriving community that incorporates deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing students in numerous fields.

NTID also includes one of the nation's most extensive training programs in American Sign Language interpreting and captioning. And Buckley, EdD'90, is the first NTID alumnus to lead the school as president. After 20 years as a faculty member and administrator, Buckley on Jan. 1 became president; he also is a vice president and a dean of RIT, a campus of 17,000 students. More than 1,500 students are enrolled in NTID.

After earning his NTID degree in social work, Buckley returned home to Missouri for a master's degree in social work before choosing KU for his doctoral work in special education. "Social workers are trained to empower their clients, and the most potent form of empowerment that I have witnessed is when individuals are educated and become self-advocates," he says.

Through the years, Buckley has witnessed many changes in deaf education, including the growing presence of deaf students in mainstream classrooms, the increased acceptance of American Sign Language, and a larger number of deaf students who have other disabilities. In addition, medical and technological devices have expanded the communication choices for deaf students and their hearing classmates, and NTID prides itself on meeting communication needs across



COURTESY GERARD BUCKLEY

As president, Buckley wants to continue NTID's successful co-op program, which matches students with businesses to gain work experience. More than 90 percent of NTID alumni find jobs within one year after graduation.

the spectrum. American Sign Language classes are filled to capacity with hundreds of hearing students, and the school provides services to more than 300 deaf students who use cochlear implants. Buckley uses the cochlear device, which he describes as a wonderful tool, but he cautions that spoken language still can be difficult for cochlear users. "Deafness will remain a part of their identity," he says.

Collaboration among diverse students enriches the campus, says Buckley: "Our community rocks. The bold experiment of President Johnson's Great Society has proven itself a noble success story."

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**Christopher Palmer**, c'91, works as a commercial real estate and business broker for Kansas Commercial Real Estate Services in Topeka.



**BORN TO:**

**Michael**, c'91, and **Jennifer Lasky Dalke**, j'92, daughter, Allison Elise, Oct. 19 in Frisco, Texas, where she joins a sister, Madeline, 9, and a brother, Benjamin, 6.

**92 Gregory Ballew**, c'92, l'95, is a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Fisher & Phillips.

**Jason Bryan**, c'92, serves as a sergeant in the West Des Moines Police Department. He lives in West Des Moines, Iowa.

**Julie Novak Curtin**, j'92, is a partner in Development Counsellors International. She and her husband, Steven, '89, live in Aurora, Colo.

**Michelle Cereghetti Neal**, c'92, owns mybiogime.com, a skincare company. She lives in Glendale, Ariz.

**Matthew Otto**, b'92, is an account executive with Key Information Systems in Woodland Hills, Calif. He lives in Agoura Hills.

**Amy Timmerman**, c'92, directs marketing at Winchester Savings Bank in Boston.

**93 Andrew Hodges**, j'93, l'96, is assistant solicitor in the 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office in Greenwood, S.C., where he and **Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges**, s'92, s'96, l'96, make their home.

**Denise Margalski Northrup**, c'93, is chief of staff for Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin. She makes her home in Oklahoma City.

**94 Rachelle Luther Grace**, d'94, teaches language arts and chairs the English department at McAllen Memorial High School in McAllen, Texas. She lives in Edinburg.

**Katherine Korte**, j'94, manages marketing communications for AT&T in Dallas.

**Lee Schwartz**, l'94, and his wife, Kristin, celebrated their first anniversary Feb. 17. They make their home in Chicago, where Lee works in human resources.

**95 Paul Broughton**, b'95, is assistant portfolio manager for Forward Management. He lives in Walnut Creek, Calif.

**Cynthia Bryant**, l'95, recently was named senior legal adviser for the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau in Washington, D.C. She lives in Chevy Chase, Md.

**John Leifer**, c'95, is chief of marketing and innovation for the St. Luke's Health System in Kansas City. He and **Jo Ann Marinelli Leifer**, j'69, live in Shawnee.

**Jeffrey Nichols**, c'95, l'99, is a partner and shareholder in the Overland Park law firm of Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs. He lives in Lenexa.

**96 Joseph Hemmer**, b'96, is chief financial officer for the Solomon Corp. He lives in Salina.

**Guy Kaulukukui**, PhD'96, was named deputy director of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. He lives in Volcano.

**Christina Kulp**, c'96, works as a sciences

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## Class Notes

librarian at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, where she lives.

**Sarah Hendrix Mahlik**, c'96, is an emergency management program specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She lives in Seattle.

**Derek Moscato**, g'96, directs marketing and communications at Siemen Fraser University. He lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Robert Rodriguez**, g'96, PhD'06, is an assistant professor of political science at Texas A&M University in Commerce.

**Andrew Wickless**, c'96, b'96, is associate director of Navigant in Boulder, Colo.

**James Zimmerman**, c'96, manages programs for Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. He lives in Canal Winchester.

**97 Donald Wacker**, e'97, is an engineer for the U.S. government. His home is in New Market, Ala.

### MARRIED

**Daniel Philipps**, b'97, to Athena Kennedy, Aug. 28. They live in Seattle, where he's a business analyst and she's an environmental and energy law attorney.

### BORN TO:

**Matthew**, c'97, and **Arwen Dickey Moore**, g'01, son, Jackson Ryan, June 2 in Overland Park. Matthew works for the Cerner Corp., and Arwen manages corporate finance for Associated Wholesale Grocers.

**Stephanie Spratt Schmidt**, d'97, m'05, and **Kenneth**, c'03, daughter, Alexandra Carrigan, Sept. 29 in Lawrence, where Stephanie is a staff anesthesiologist at Lawrence Anesthesia Associates.

**98 Catherine Hogan**, j'98, coordinates marketing and events for Hilton Worldwide in Dallas.

**Jesse McGrath**, a'98, works as a consultant for @Properties-Lakeview in Chicago.

**Erin Veazey**, j'98, directs business

development for Vedder Price in Chicago, where she lives.

**99 Lynley Budinas**, c'99, m'06, and Richard Holman, April 20. They live in Junction City, where Lynley is an OB-GYN.

**Kendee Wyer Schroeder**, c'99, directs the Inman Wellness Center in Inman, where she and her husband, Dennon, c'99, make their home. He's vice president of Farmers National Bank.

**Paul Voiles**, e'99, received the Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members from the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is project manager at Brown & Gay Engineers in Houston, where he and **Lisa Bessinger Voiles**, e'01, make their home.

**00 Jill Sullivan Drucker**, c'00, is a researcher at the Virginia Commonwealth University medical school, and her husband, **Capt. Charles Drucker**, c'01, serves on the U.S. Army's military transition team. They live in Richmond.

**Frederick Patton**, l'00, practices law in Topeka, where he also owns Topeka Escrow Service.

**Sarah Starr**, j'00, manages Deloitte Consulting in Washington, D.C. She lives in Arlington, Va.

### MARRIED

**Fermin Santos**, c'00, m'05, and **Melissa Hooks**, c'04, Sept. 4 in Kansas City. He practices at the Dickson-Diveley Midwest Orthopaedic Clinic, and she works at Children's Mercy Hospital.

### BORN TO:

**Denise Birkholz**, c'00, and Martin Lecholat, son, Alexander Finn, July 16 in Lolo, Mont., where he joins a sister, Avery, 4.

**01 Richard Christy**, e'01, works as an assistant area engineer for the Colorado Department of Transportation. He lives in Longmont.

### MARRIED

**Carrie Chasteen**, n'01, to Jean-Phillipe Huguet, May 28 in Sceaux, France. They live in New York City, where Carrie works for Pfizer, and Jean-Philippe works for HSBC Bank.

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**Joshua Fry**, c'01, and **Leena Phadke**, f'07, May 22 in Lawrence. They live in Kansas City, where Leena is an attorney with the Social Security Administration.

**Karen Hahn**, j'01, to Jeffrey Otto, Sept. 18 in Kansas City. She works for the American Academy of Family Physicians, and he works for American Century Investments. They live in Prairie Village.

**Andrea Lambert**, c'01, to Mark South, Oct. 9 in Kansas City. They live in Highland Heights, Ky., and Andrea is a profes-

sor at Northern Kentucky University.

**BORN TO:**

**Brendon Allen**, c'01, and Peony, daughter, Larissa Bailie, Sept. 4 in Lawrence. Brendon is senior global support manager for Motorola, and Peony is a program assistant at KU's Center for Research on Learning.

**02 Roger Boatwright**, m'02, practices medicine with York OB-GYN Specialists in York, Pa.

**Michael Johnson**, c'02, practices

dentistry at Frankenbery and Johnson in Wichita.

**Clinton Kabler**, d'02, does marketing consulting for Gym Technik. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Michael Longhofer**, g'02, works as an athletics trainer at Kansas Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Topeka.

**Robert Warren**, c'02, owns PPW Consulting in Leawood.

**MARRIED**

**Melissa Reinhard**, c'02, to Chad Griffith, Dec. 18 in Dallas, where they live.

**PROFILE** by Tom King

**Nelson knows where the big things are**

You might not be surprised to encounter the World's Largest Pineapple in Hawaii, or the World's Largest Baked Potato in Idaho, but where would you expect to find the World's Largest Lava Lamp? Icosahedron? Detached arm? Cuckoo clock? (See below for answers.)

Erika Nelson, g'01, who titled her MFA thesis "Driving Around Looking at Big Things While Thinking About Spam," found her calling in knowing what's big where.

"I study outsider art," she says, "and iconic roadside vernacular architecture known as 'World's Largest Things.'"

Nelson is a hunter and gatherer of outsized, offbeat public art: the water tower transformed into a gigantic ketchup bottle (Collinsville, Ill.), the massive boll weevil (Enterprise, Ala.), the monstrous cootie (Lakeville, Minn.), the hyperbolic pecan (Sequin, Texas) and the colossal skillet (to which several states lay claim). Once Nelson visits and authenticates a World's Largest Thing, she recreates it in miniature and displays the model in her traveling museum, the "World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things"

(hereafter, WLT).

In the early days, the museum operated out of a brightly decorated Ford Econoline 350 van, and later a refurbished bookmobile, both of which were also Nelson's home. In 2007 she incorporated her traveling attraction and based it in Lucas, in a house she bought for "less than the price of a used car." Now she travels with a sideshow tent, setting up and breaking down each exhibition, and the van stays in Lucas.

While the kitsch appeal is undeniable, Nelson takes a broader view of the World's Largest Things. She sees them as community emblems and economic engines, attracting tourist dollars to small towns on the brink of extinction.

"I find that people who discover these roadside attractions feel personally attached to them," she says. "World's Largest Things are generally not made for art, but out of love for the community. They are made to tell a story. They are made to leave a mark."

Nelson's attention to Internet metrics paid off handsomely last summer when a



STEVE PUPPE

After retiring her original Mobile Museum to display at her home in Lucas, Erika Nelson travels the country in her "Daily Driver Art Car," festooned with fanciful drawings and plastic toys, with a pair of spring horses galloping along in the truck bed.

producer at Conan O'Brien's new show did a Google search for "world's largest." WLT was on the first page of results, which landed Nelson, and the World's Largest Cow Hairball, on Conan's couch. Back in Lucas, a TV was hauled into the theatre so locals could watch together. "They say the crowd went wild when Conan addressed them directly," Nelson says. "It was the best payoff of the whole event."

—King is a Lawrence freelance writer.

*Answers: Lava Lamp, Soap Lake, Wash.; Icosahedron, Lexington, Mass.; Detached Arm, Rumford, Maine.; Cuckoo clock, Wilmot, Ohio.*

# Class Notes

She's a law student at Texas Wesleyan University, and he works at Hunt Oil.

## BORN TO:

**Dulcinea King Rakestraw**, s'02, and Dallas, c'03, l'06, daughter, Brynn Marie, Aug. 11 in Wichita, where she joins a brother, Thatcher, 2.

**03 Zachary Dyer**, b'03, g'05, l'07, recently became an associate at Polsinelli Shughart in Kansas City.

**Tina Tsinigine Hatathli**, g'03, is a staff attorney for the Tuba City Judicial District in Tuba City, Ariz.

**Shalini Shanker**, c'03, l'06, is assistant athletics director for compliance at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

**Jason Shumaker**, d'03, lives in Omaha, Neb., and is offensive coordinator and associate head football coach at Midland University.

**David Tarverdi**, e'03, g'06, is a senior engineer at Nilco. He lives in Sugar Land, Texas.

**Amy Wong-Thai**, c'03, is a cytotechnologist at Veracyte in San Francisco, where her husband, **Binh**, e'02, is a bio process engineer at Genentech. They live in San Mateo.

**Daniel Zmijewski**, l'03, recently joined the Kansas City law firm of Miller Schirger.

## MARRIED

**Tanner Brownrigg**, c'03, to Kara Bowen, Oct. 30 in Kansas City. He is an anesthesiology resident at UMKC, and she's a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital. They live in Overland Park.

**Jason Charay**, b'03, to Justis Cook, Sept. 5 in Excelsior Springs, Mo. They live in Orange County, Calif.

**Laura Gold**, '03, to Luke Zeleznak, e'04, June 27 in Schaumburg, Ill. Their home is in Peoria, Ariz.

**Amber Huntzinger**, j'03, to Jeffery Randel, Aug. 28 in Riviera Maya, Mexico. She works for the American Academy of Family Physicians in Fairway, and he works for GSR Construction in Lawrence. They live in Mission.



**Christopher Larsen**, m'03, to Allison Lewis, June 26 in Lawrence. They live in Fairway.

**Brent Larson**, e'03, and **Sarah Marquart**, '11, Oct. 2 in Kansas City. He works for Burns & McDonnell, and she works for the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging.

**Marsha Schmitt**, s'03, to Casey Fulton, Oct. 9 in Topeka, where they live.

**04 John Harty**, g'04, works as a reference librarian at the Miami-Dade County Public Library. He lives in Miami.

**James Menge**, '04, owns JKAM Hood Service. He lives in Topeka.

**Benjamin Robbins**, b'04, is president of Robbins Acquisitions in Tonganoxie. He lives in Mission.

**Diane Covington Shideler**, g'04, owns Train with Diane in Littleton, Colo.

**John Shoemaker**, c'04, directs product management for UBS AG in Zurich, Switzerland. He and **Kelli Springs Shoemaker**, assoc., have a home in Olathe.

## MARRIED

**Jacob Albers**, e'04, b'05, to **Andrea Rails**, j'07, Nov. 19 in Kansas City, where they live. He's lead mechanical engineer at Kiewit Power Engineers, where she's a marketing coordinating specialist.

**Cara Herbison**, d'04, g'09, and **Ian Ramirez**, a'05, g'07, July 17 in San Antonio. She teaches third grade at Arbor Creek Elementary School, and he's a geographic information systems analyst at Spatial Data Research in Lawrence. They live in Olathe.

**Jenny McKee**, d'04, g'j06, and **Jack Donham**, '07, Oct. 9 in Lawrence, where Jenny works as a coordinator at KU's Student Health Service Administration.

**Kari Zimmerman**, j'04, and **Benjamin Cohen**, c'06, Oct. 9 in Kansas City, where she's a project analyst at Service Management Group. Ben co-owns New School Catering in Lawrence. They live in Overland Park.

## BORN TO:

**Brian Cobb**, m'04, and Jo Ellen, son, Lincoln Benny, Aug. 13 in Grants Pass, Ore., where he joins three brothers, Jack-

son, 11; Ike, 7; and Harrison, 2. Brian is an OB-GYN at the Women's Health Center of Southern Oregon.

**Michael**, c'04, and **Emily Peterson Dalbom**, c'04, j'04, daughter, Madelyn Grace, Oct. 15 in Olathe. Michael is a territory consultant for Cardinal Health, and Emily is a corporate event manager at Sprint.

**05 Daniel Gibb**, l'05, practices law with SNR Denton in Kansas City. He lives in Lawrence.

**Roxanne Longenecker Kos**, c'05, is a senior systems analyst for Randstad Professionals. She lives in Alpharetta, Ga.

**Adam Meile**, e'05, is a telecom design engineer for Sprint Nextel. He lives in Olathe.

**Nathan Tritsch**, g'05, works as a structural engineer with Burns & McDonnell. His home is in Overland Park.

**Chelsea Demars Young**, a'05, is a transportation planner for the Houston-Galveston Area Council. She and her husband, **Bryan**, b'06, live in Houston.

## MARRIED

**Sarah Parkinson**, c'05, g'j07, to Matthew Forshee, Sept. 11 in Overland Park. Their home is in Manhattan.

**Heather Pilshaw**, c'05, to Anthony Ruggles, July 3 in Shawnee Mission. She owns Brooklyn Willow Design, and he works for Heubel Material Handling. Their home is in Lawrence.

## BORN TO:

**Kristen Prosser Walker**, c'05, and Rick, son, Gunner Clark, Oct. 20 in Lawrence. Kristen is an advertising specialist at the Lawrence Journal-World, and Rick works for Kansas City Power and Light.

**06 Amy Alfredson**, j'06, is assistant director of alumni relations for the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association. She lives in St. Charles.

**Jeffrey Christy**, j'06, works as an account executive for Cox Media. His home is in Wichita.

**Lissa Kivisto**, '06, owns Gallery KH in Chicago.

**Emily Reimer**, b'06, is an associate



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buyer for Ballard Designs. She lives in Atlanta.

**Joey Richmeier**, b'06, works as a consultant for Deloitte Consulting. He lives in Arlington, Va.

**Stephen Sicinski**, g'06, serves as a colonel in the U.S. Army in Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Alexis Bannwarth Zayas**, c'06, j'06, f'09, is an attorney adviser for the U.S. Department of Labor. She makes her home in Arlington, Va.

#### MARRIED

**Benjamin Gleeson**, c'06, and **Kate**

**Shipley**, j'07, June 19 in Lawrence, where they live. He's a paramedic for Johnson County Med-Act, and she studies law at KU.

**Brooke Goetz**, c'06, j'06, to Greg Moore, Nov. 20 in Kansas City. They live in Kingman.

**Chad Philhour**, a'06, and **Amanda Naff**, f'06, Aug. 21 in Kansas City, where they both work at TK Architects. She's an interior designer, and he's an architect.

**Scott Unger**, '06, and **Jenny Wilson**, h'08, g'10, Oct. 16 in Leawood. He's a simulations systems engineer at Northrop

Grumman at Fort Leavenworth, and she's an occupational therapist at Research Medical Center. They live in Overland Park.

**Katherine Wells**, j'06, to James Booth Jr., July 31 in Lawrence. Their home is in Littleton, Colo.

**07 Brooke Budke**, j'07, c'07, is a senior copy editor at Silpada Designs. She lives in Olathe.

**Mark Cagle**, e'07, works as an analog engineer for Thales ATM. He lives in Kansas City.

## PROFILE by Whitney Eriksen

### Former KANU reporter leads National Press Club

Mark Hamrick's last trip to Lawrence was a pilgrimage in the late '80s to show his new Northeastern wife his Kansas roots. But in all this time as an expatriate, those roots were not forgotten.

On Kansas Day, Hamrick, '82, was inaugurated as the 104th president of the National Press Club. In a tribute to his upbringing, the Washington, D.C., event featured a keynote address from noted newscaster and Hamrick's hero, Bill Kurtis, j'62. Other Kansas bigwigs and President Obama offered their congratulations.

Hamrick began his one-year term in the company of his wife and son; colleagues from the Associated Press, where he has worked in broadcast for 25 years; and former journalism professors who mentored him at KU. "It was one of the happiest evenings of my life," he says.

A Coffeyville native, Hamrick worked his way through college writing radio packages for the public station KANU and student-run KJHK. During his sophomore year, a professor encouraged him to enter a competition held by the Society of Professional Journalists. Hamrick sent stories that ran on KANU: a spot about a gas explosion south of Lawrence and a

documentary on the farm economy. Both won nationally and the young journalist received a congratulatory telegram from Paul Harvey. He had entered the world of professional journalism.

Before he could complete his KU degree, he got an offer he couldn't refuse from a public radio station in Buffalo, N.Y., and he began as anchor. In 1986 he joined the AP in radio, and his career evolved to include online video production.

Hamrick now brings his Midwestern mindset and years of experience to the National Press Club. As a longtime business reporter, he knows the importance of a sustainable finance model for the 104-year-old club and its 3,500 members.

The club offers professional journalism training and hosts high-profile luncheon speakers, a program that began when FDR was president. Hamrick's first guest was Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. "We were really strong off the starting block," he says.

In his first month as president, he also



Hamrick (right) invited Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke as his first guest at the press club, continuing the tradition of high-profile speakers. When then-Sen. Barack Obama and George Clooney visited in 2006 to discuss Darfur's refugee crisis, Hamrick says, it was tough to pinpoint which guest caused more excitement: "Different people had different answers."

formed a diversity committee and addressed plans to use more social networking—steps that reflect journalism's changing environment.

With empathy for journalists around the country and abroad, Hamrick hopes to provide relevant training for members and make the club's voice heard on press freedom issues.

And, of course, he dutifully will follow March Madness. "My son [a Villanova freshman] and I are jockeying for position of whose basketball team will do better in the postseason." Relevant and newsworthy, indeed.

COURTESY MARK HAMRICK

# Class Notes

**Andrea Wolf**, c'07, is a physician assistant at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.



## MARRIED

**Kelly Galloway**, n'07, and **Brian Huntington**, b'08, Oct. 16 in Leawood. She's a pediatric nurse at Children's Mercy Hospital, and he's a senior business analyst with the Cerner Corp. They live in Prairie Village.

**Alison Lomas**, b'07, and **Robert Figueira**, f'09, c'09, Aug. 15 in Lawrence. She works for Systems Material Handling in Olathe, and he studies for a master's of fine arts in lighting design at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama in Pittsburgh, Pa. They divide their time between Lawrence and Pittsburgh.

**Caroline Williams**, c'07, to Clay Turner, Oct. 2 in Tonganoxie. She's a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and he's a major in the U.S. Army. They live in Alexandria, Va.

**08 Kesa Swadley Herlihy**, n'08, lectures at the Beth El College of Nursing. She lives in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Kristin Howard**, b'08, coordinates celebrations for Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. Her home is in Fairway.

**Bradley Ingber**, b'08, is an associate recruiter for Target. He lives in New Hope, Minn.

**Matthew Lindberg**, j'08, works as sports editor for the Montrose Daily Press. He and **Sarah Strathman Lindberg**, c'09, live in Montrose, Colo.

**Jessica Stelzer**, j'08, c'08, owns Just Simple by JS in Evanston, Ill.

**Laura Sutton**, b'08, is an associate with Venn Strategies in Washington, D.C.

## MARRIED

**Laura Crowe**, b'08, g'10, to Brett Hartley, Sept. 18 in Lawrence, where they live. She works for CBIZ MHM in Topeka, and he's an automotive technician

at Dale Willey Automotive.

**Denise Kunze**, g'08, to Jordan Farmer, Oct. 2 in KU's Danforth Chapel. She's a graduation adviser at KU, and he's an automotive technician at Ed Bozarth Chevrolet. They live in Lawrence.

## BORN TO:

**Mark**, c'08, and **Emily Bogard Boedeker**, f'08, daughter, Adelaide Jean, Oct. 4 in Lawrence, where Mark and Emily are managers at Applebee's.

**Joseph Bradley**, m'08, and Abbie, daughter, Ainsley Olivia, Sept. 14 in St. Louis, where Joseph is a resident at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

**09 Abigail Cunningham**, j'09, recently was promoted to external marketing coordinator for Newcomer Funeral Service in Topeka.

**Kyle Flinn**, d'09, manages rehabilitation services at St. Louis Physical Therapy. He lives in Columbia, Ill.

**Stuart Hembree**, e'09, is an objective engineer and subjective performance evaluator for Continental Tire. He lives in Uvalde, Texas.

**Joy Lawson**, c'09, manages advanced leadership and alumni programs for YP4. She lives in Lanham Seabrook, Md.

**Joseph Pattison**, e'09, is a civil engineer with Burns & McDonnell. He lives in Overland Park.

**Nathan Pirie**, b'09, works as a senior financial analyst for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City. He and **Sally Doyen Pirie**, c'09, live in Olathe. She's a case manager for Paces.

## MARRIED

**Lauren Fry**, n'09, and **Jaimes Perez**, '10, Oct. 9 in Lawrence, where they live. She's an ICU nurse at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where he's a senior laboratory assistant.

**Devan Jones**, '09, and **Brett Urban**, c'10, July 9 in Cancun, Mexico. They live in Lawrence.

**Melissa Rufenacht**, p'09, to Chad Gilkinson, Aug. 7 in Edgerton. She's a pharmacist at Auburn Pharmacy, and he's a greenskeeper at Blue Hills Country Club. They live in Overland Park.

**Jesse Trimble**, j'09, and **Andrew Kratz**, '10, Oct. 9 in Louisburg. She works at the Miami County Republic in Paola, where they live, and he works for Beckman-Coulter.

## BORN TO:

**Ben**, d'09, and **Michelle Khan Engle**, c'10, daughter, Brenna Blake, Nov. 9 in Lawrence.

**Melissa Denny Sindt**, g'09, and Leland, daughter, Ella Suzanne, Aug. 2 in Lenexa. Melissa is a physical therapist at Mid-America Rehabilitation Hospital in Leawood.

**10 Jill Aspleaf**, c'10, coordinates appraisals for Nations Holding. She lives in Overland Park.

**Jacob Cornett**, g'10, is a research analyst for SRI International's policy division. He lives in Washington, D.C.

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

<b>a</b>	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
<b>b</b>	School of Business
<b>c</b>	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
<b>d</b>	School of Education
<b>e</b>	School of Engineering
<b>f</b>	School of Fine Arts
<b>g</b>	Master's Degree
<b>h</b>	School of Allied Health
<b>j</b>	School of Journalism
<b>l</b>	School of Law
<b>m</b>	School of Medicine
<b>n</b>	School of Nursing
<b>p</b>	School of Pharmacy
<b>PharmD</b>	School of Pharmacy
<b>s</b>	School of Social Welfare
<b>u</b>	School of Music
<b>DE</b>	Doctor of Engineering
<b>DMA</b>	Doctor of Musical Arts
<b>EdD</b>	Doctor of Education
<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy
<b>(no letter)</b>	Former student
<b>assoc</b>	Associate member of the Alumni Association

**John Elias**, g'10, works as a policy analyst for the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in Washington, D.C., where he lives.

**Kelsey Eriksen**, b'10, recently moved to Philadelphia, where she's associate city director for the Center for Student Missions.

**Elise Grosdidier**, j'10, coordinates marketing for Media Services. She lives in Olathe.

**Nolan Kellerman**, e'10, is an electrical engineer at Kiewit Power Engineers in Lenexa. He lives in Kansas City.

**Tara Scarce**, s'10, is a social worker for USD 481 in Hope. She lives in Council Grove.

**Kevin Sterk**, f'10, recently became an associate with Querrey & Harrow in Chicago. He lives in Oak Lawn.

**MARRIED**

**Drew Diedel**, c'10, to Jennifer Denny, Nov. 6 in Lawrence, where he's a supervisor at Runza and she is an accounting clerk at Cottonwood.

**Lauren Taylor**, p'10, and **Mark Olberding**, p'10, May 22 in Kansas

City. They live in Lenexa.

**BORN TO:**

**Matthew Odom**, f'10, and Renee, daughter, Kylee Elizabeth, Sept. 18 in Lawrence.

**ASSOCIATES**

**Bill Self**, assoc., head coach of KU's men's basketball team, was nominated for the inaugural United Nations NGO Positive Peace Award in the Coach category. Bill and his wife, **Cindy**, assoc., make their home in Lawrence.

# March maNia!

## SPIRIT CLEARANCE SAVINGS

Sale prices good through April 30, 2011.



▲ **Save \$5** on the NCAA National Championship Postal Cachet. Issued by the USPS, the unframed commemorative cachet (decorative envelope) is postmarked with the date and location of KU's 2008 championship win. Originally \$15, now **\$10**.

◀ **Save \$25 on this super deal** for a set of 3 prints from the classic book *The Three Little Jayhawks*. Each print measures 16" x 20". Originally \$10 each, now **3 for \$5!**

▼ **Save \$5** on a set of Hamil notecards, featuring the classic seasonal scenes of campus by artist Jim Hamil. Originally \$10 per set of 8 cards (2 cards each of 4 seasons), now **\$5**.



Quantities on all items are limited.



◀ **Save \$10** on the "In the Paint" spirit kit. This kit features a custom-designed paint can, a royal blue "In the Paint" T-shirt, face tattoo, sticker and KU Silly Bandz. Originally \$20, now **\$10**.



▲ **Save \$25** on the book *Spring Day on the Hill*. More than 60 artists participated in a "plein air" painting event on campus, capturing the beauty of KU. Originally \$35, now **\$10**

◀ **Save \$55 on this super deal** for "Gridiron Glory," a giclee print by artist Cyndi West. This limited-edition print honors KU's football successes, with icons from several bowls, including the 2008 Orange Bowl. Originally \$75, now **\$20!**

**More deals:**

- Hawaiian shirts, size small only, originally \$65, now \$5.
- Legends Golf Jackets, originally \$36, now \$15.
- Bike Helmets: Originally \$25, now \$15.
- KU Ties, two styles: Originally \$35, now \$18.

**To order, visit our online shop at [www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org), or call 800-KU-Hawks**

# In Memory

**20 Frances Henkes Bodde**, c'29, 102, Aug. 12 in Leavenworth, where she taught junior-high literature. A son, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

**Margret Craver Withers**, f'29, 102, Nov. 22 in Cambridge, Mass., where she was a silversmith and a teacher. Her jewelry and hollowware are in the permanent collections of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. A stepdaughter and a sister survive.

**30 John Bondurant**, e'34, 102, Dec. 9 in Bartlesville, Okla., where he was a retired geophysical laboratory supervisor for Phillips Petroleum. He is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Bondurant Anderson, d'63, g'70; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

**Betty Lindas Lamme**, '39, 94, Dec. 14 in Wichita, where she was active in many cultural and charitable organizations. She is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Ralph Means**, e'38, 94, Oct. 20 in Winston-Salem, N.C., where he was retired from a 35-year career as a U.S. Navy architect. He is survived by two daughters, two sisters, eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

**40 Verna Ashland Adams**, c'41, 89, Dec. 12 in Lawrence, where she was a retired microbiologist. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. She is survived by a daughter, Linda Adams Liles, '69, and a grandson.

**Betty Allen Alloway**, c'42, 89, Jan. 11 in Kansas City, where she was retired after a 30-year career at the Kansas City Public Library. She is survived by her husband, Curtis, b'42; two sons, Lee, e'70, and Gordon, j'72, g'10; a daughter, Patricia

Alloway Clement, c'68; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Ron Bales**, g'43, 91, Oct. 30 in Greensboro, N.C. He owned businesses selling park and school equipment in Emporia and in Fairfield Bay, Ark. Survivors include his wife, Katharine Kufahl Bales, f'45; two daughters; and four grandchildren.

**Herman Barkmann**, e'41, 92, July 10 in Santa Fe, N.M., where he was a retired engineer. He had helped design and test the first hydrogen bomb. Surviving are his wife, Fran, two daughters, a son and four grandchildren.

**Richard Bertuzzi**, c'49, 82, Dec. 17 in Houston, where he was retired from Sun Country Distributors, which sold resins and related items to the cultured marble and fiberglass industries. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. He is survived by a daughter; a son, Richard, '81; a brother, Andrew, e'48, g'52; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Dwane Billbe**, b'47, 87, Nov. 6 in St. Louis Park, Minn., where he was retired from a career with Cargill. Survivors include his wife, Shirley; a son; four daughters; a sister, Joan Billbe McRae, assoc.; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Laurel Case**, m'49, 89, Oct. 25 in Portland, Ore., where he practiced medicine and was former chairman of the department of family medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jean, two sons and five grandchildren.

**Ray Culbertson**, b'48, 84, Dec. 12 in Lawrence, where he was former senior vice president of operations for Capitol Federal Savings. He is survived by his wife, Frieda Wray Culbertson, '48; a daughter, Susan Culbertson Pitcher, c'75; two sons, one of whom is Jerry, f'91; four grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and seven stepgreat-grandchildren.

**Charles Curry**, c'40, 92, Dec. 13 in Key Largo, Fla. He was a business and civic leader in Kansas City, where he was president of Charles F. Curry & Co. Real Estate, served as a presiding judge of the Jackson County Court, and was president of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. He had been treasurer of the Democratic National Committee and was a "favorite son" candidate in the 1984 presidential election. Surviving are his wife, Charlotte; six daughters, one of whom is Laura Curry Sloan, l'87; a son, Charles, '88; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Robert Daniel**, b'47, 86, July 10 in San Luis Obispo, Calif., where he was former Western regional sales manager for Proctor-Silex. Three daughters, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

**Robert Fish**, '42, 89, May 4 in Eureka, Calif., where he was retired manager of First Interstate Bank. His wife, Jeanne Spencer Fish, c'42, l'45, survives.

**Dean Harding**, c'43, m'43, 95, May 9 in Grants Pass, Ore. He had been a clinical professor of family medicine at the University of California in Davis. Survivors include his wife, Goldie, a son, two daughters, two stepsons, four stepdaughters, 20 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

**Frances Richert Johnson**, c'49, 83, Nov. 5 in Elbert, Colo. She is survived by two daughters and a sister, Florence Richert Williams, c'46.

**Marjorie Tibbets Kendall**, c'45, 86, Nov. 8 in Wichita, where she was active in civic affairs. Two daughters and two granddaughters survive.

**E. O'Thene Huff Leonard**, c'41, 91, Dec. 31 in Topeka, where she was active in community and church activities. She is survived by three daughters, two of whom are Nancy Leonard Dietz, '00, and Jodi Leonard Kaigh, c'81, m'88; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**David McKee**, b'42, 90, Dec. 10 in Lawrence, where he was retired from a career in the grain industry. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Snyder McKee, b'43; a daughter, Kathryn McKee Stover, d'66, g'67; a son, Douglas, c'69; and four grandchildren.

**Frank Pattee**, b'48, 86, Jan. 5 in Westlake Village, Calif. He lived in Lawrence for most of his life and was a retired deputy regional director for the U.S. Department of Transportation. He is survived by a son, Frank Jr., '70; two daughters, Jodi Pattee Knight, '72, and Erin Pattee Brockovich, assoc.; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**K.E. Paxton**, p'49, 86, Nov. 15 in Wichita, where he was a retired pharmacist and pharmacy owner. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Wiley Paxton, '48, and two sons.

**Warren Snyder**, e'43, 88, Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City, where he was a retired engineer. He also had taught at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Surviving are his wife, Jean Hull Snyder, c'43; a son; two daughters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Harold Warwick**, b'49, 83, Dec. 29 in Mission Hills, where he was president of Warwick Paper Co. He is survived by a son, Hadley, c'77; a daughter, Linda Warwick Manco, b'80; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Donald Widner**, c'40, l'43, 90, July 1 in Pittsburg, where he owned and operated Tri-State Building and Supply and was a director of the National Bank of Pittsburg and Pittsburg Broadcasting Co. He is survived by a son, Victor, c'70, m'74; two daughters; a brother; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Jerome Wildgen**, c'45, m'49, 85, May 23 in Wilsonville, Ore., where he was a retired family-practice physician. He served as the first president of the Academy of Family Practice. Survivors include three sons, a daughter, a brother and six grandchildren.

**Calvert Winter Jr.**, c'44, m'47, 88 in Kansas City, where he was a retired pediatrician. He is survived by his wife, Charlene, assoc.; four sons, two of whom are Michael, c'71, g'84, and Jason, c'96; a daughter, Rachel Winter, '01; and six grandchildren.

**50 Stanley Adams**, b'58, l'61, 77, Oct. 15 in Gresham, Ore., where he practiced law and served as a municipal court judge. He is survived by his wife, Lee, two daughters, a brother, four grand-

children and two great-grandchildren.

**Joe Baker**, g'59, 91, Nov. 13 in San Antonio. He was a coach and director of athletics at Turner High School in Kansas City for 37 years before retiring. He is survived by his wife, Anna; a son; a daughter; Joanna Baker Grogan, g'92; a brother; a sister; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Jon Bergstrom**, j'58, 74, Dec. 31 in Brentwood, Calif. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. He is survived by two daughters and a sister, Catherine Bergstrom Katz, c'65.

**Marilyn Beach Bowen**, n'56, 77, Oct. 30 in Merriam. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, assoc.; two sons; a daughter, Christina Bowen, '86; a brother; and three granddaughters.

**Francis "Miki" Bowers Jr.**, g'56, 83, Jan. 1 in Honolulu. He was a retired colonel with the U.S. Army National Guard and had taught math at the Punahou School for many years. Surviving are his wife, Mary Blake Bower, assoc.; a daughter; four sons; a sister; a brother; and four grandchildren.

**Walter Carolan Jr.**, e'54, 78, Dec. 28 in Kansas City, where he was a former chemical engineer. Among survivors are two sons, one of whom is Charles, '88; and a granddaughter.

**William Chalfant**, c'50, 82, Jan. 7 in Hutchinson, where he practiced law with Branine, Chalfant & Hill. He is survived by his wife, Martha; a son, David, l'83; a daughter; a brother; and two grandsons.

**Melvin Hall Clingan**, b'51, 81, July 12 in Carefree, Ariz. He was former CEO of R.L. Sweet Lumber and had been president of the Greater Kansas City Home Builders Association. Survivors include his wife, Genevieve; three daughters, one of whom is Sandra Clingan Smith, '81; a son, Scott, '81; and nine grandchildren.

**Margaret Doll Crahan**, '50, 82, Dec. 1 in Larned. She is survived by her husband, Jack, b'50; three sons, one of whom is Steven, b'74; a sister; two brothers; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Paul Dibble**, b'58, 77, Dec. 15 in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he owned Interchem,

an industrial and janitorial supply company. He later worked in real estate and property management. Surviving are his wife, Caralee Turner Dibble, '59; two sons; two daughters; and 12 grandchildren.

**Nancy Lane Dinneen**, g'55, PhD'72, 78, Jan. 5 in Lawrence. She was a professor of Spanish at Washburn University in Topeka for many years. Surviving are her husband, David, g'54; two daughters, Barbara, '96, and Kate, c'80; a son, Steven, '10; and three grandchildren.

**Marcia Horn Docking**, j'53, 79, Jan. 8 in Olathe. She lived in Kansas City most of her life and was active in the Junior League. She is survived by three sons, Gordon, j'77, Griffith, j'80, and Kent, c'82; a daughter, Laura Docking Fischer, '86; two sisters, one of whom is Janice Horn Ferguson, d'52; six grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

**Glenna Anderson Fearing**, c'51, 81, Dec. 31 in Stillwater, Okla., where she had been a homemaker. A son, a daughter and 10 grandchildren survive.

**Glenn Gore**, c'53, 78, July 13 in Leesburg, Fla. He lived in Lady Lake and had been an obstetrician and gynecologist in St. Louis for many years. He is survived by a son, Grant, '88; a daughter; and six grandchildren.

**Jack Howard**, b'51, 82, Oct. 21 in Salina, where he was retired vice president of Smoot Grain. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Rice Howard, d'51; a daughter, Janice Howard Denning, d'76; a son, Jay, b'79; two sisters, Judy Howard Billings, d'57, and Joan Howard, d'66, g'69; and three grandchildren.

The Rev. **Walter Krech**, c'50, 87, Sept. 28 in Champaign, Ill., where he had helped establish New Horizon United Methodist Church, which he served as visitation pastor. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, two sisters and three grandchildren.

**Charles Lane**, d'55, 78, Nov. 24 in DeRidder, La., where he taught civics and history and coached basketball at DeRidder High School. He later worked as Beauregard Parish school-bus supervisor and as a truant officer and maintenance supervisor. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, a son, a daughter, two brothers,

## In Memory

three grandsons and a great-grandson.

**Norman "Gene" Linton**, '51, 81, Dec. 22 in Kansas City. He lived in Holyrood, where he was former superintendent of USD 328. Surviving are his wife, Martha White Linton, assoc.; two daughters, one of whom is Shelley Linton Rippen, h'76; two sons, Monte, p'75, and Mark, b'83; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Althea Owen Lovitt**, d'52, g'66, 79, Dec. 12 in Kirkland, Wash., where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by her husband, Tom, d'52, g'60, EdD'66; a daughter; three sons; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Marimae Voiland McDonald**, c'54, 78, Dec. 24 in San Mateo, Calif., where she had been a piano teacher. She is survived by her husband, Ted, c'57; a daughter; a son; a sister, Fredrica Voiland Everett, d'56; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Theodore McNutt**, m'55, 81, Dec. 10 in Overland Park. He practiced family medicine in Dodge City and in Kansas City. He later was a psychiatrist at the Gillis Home for Boys and chief of psychiatry at the Veterans Administration in Leavenworth. Surviving are his wife, Cynthia Vereka McNutt, assoc.; a daughter, Ann McNutt Thompson, n'81; and two grandchildren.

**Vernon Michael**, c'51, EdD'68, 96, Dec. 23 in Lawrence. He was longtime professor of education at Baker University in Baldwin City. Surviving are a son; a daughter, Barbara Michael, g'86, PhD'87; a brother; and five grandchildren.

**Carson Rockhill**, '50, 83, Nov. 20 in Wichita, where he was a retired petroleum landman. Surviving are his wife, Virginia Gargis Rockhill, '50; three daughters, Juhree Rockhill Ring, j'71; Suzanne Rockhill Axon, d'79, g'92, and Rochelle Rockhill Kroshus, '98; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Richard Schmidt**, c'54, 78, Nov. 28 in Las Vegas. He had been chairman, CEO and president of the Newport Corp., and later he was a consultant for Sundstrand. Survivors include his wife, Beth Lowell Schmidt, '54; two daughters; a son; and seven grandchildren.

**William Turpin**, l'50, 91, Nov. 26 in

Liberty, Mo., where he practiced law with Wheritt and Turpin for 55 years. He also served as Liberty city attorney and as a municipal judge. He is survived by his wife, Ann, two daughters, six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Leslie Wenger**, b'55, 77, Dec. 13 in Garfield, Ark. He had a 27-year career with Waddell & Reed, where he retired as a regional vice president. Surviving are his wife, Mary Gay Wenger, c'61; a daughter; two brothers, Bruce, c'57, m'61, and Virgil, b'53; and two grandchildren.

**60 Dorothy Smith Anderson**, '65, 100, Nov. 19 in Lawrence, where she was active in community and church activities. She is survived by two sons, Peter, f'60; and Philip, e'63, g'72; a brother; four grandchildren; and four great-granddaughters.

**Vincent Angotti**, g'65, PhD'67, 69, Sept. 22 in Indianapolis. He was a teacher and administrator for 35 years at Florida State University, the University of South Dakota, Auburn University and the University of Evansville and had held leadership positions in the American Theatre Association. Surviving are his wife, Patricia, and a sister, Christine Angotti Hoffman, g'79.

**Charles Bondurant**, c'62, g'63, 71, Sept. 6 in Fredericksburg, Texas. He was a geologist with Garrison Oil and Gas in San Antonio. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; two sons; a daughter; two stepdaughters; a stepson; and a sister, Marilyn Bondurant Anderson, d'63, g'70.

**Mary Strong Brennan**, d'60, 71, Jan. 7 in Overland Park. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence, e'54, l'61; a daughter; a son; a brother; and four granddaughters.

**Elizabeth Svoboda Brune**, d'60, 86, Dec. 27 in Lawrence, where she was a retired elementary school teacher. She is survived by three sons, Daniel, c'67, c'68, Stuart, '70, and Albert, '75; a daughter, Marilyn Brune, c'84; a brother, Charles Svoboda, e'49, l'51; a sister; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**James Dechant**, s'64, 76, Jan. 4 in Lee's Summit, Mo., where he was a social worker, counselor and co-founder of the

Sexual Abuse Treatment Network. He is survived by his wife, Judy Phelps Dechant, s'79; four sons; three daughters; three sisters; and 16 grandchildren.

**Susan Pinet Flood**, j'64, 68, Oct. 10 in Rochester, N.Y. She had a 31-year career with Career Systems Development, where she was a director, senior executive and part owner. Three nieces survive.

**Maxine Clark Gover**, g'65, 91, Dec. 10 in Lawrence, where she was a special-education teacher for many years. Two daughters, six grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren survive.

**Louis Karlen**, m'64, 78, Sept. 6 in De Smet, S.D., where he practiced medicine for many years. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three sons, a daughter, a brother and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Robert Kimbrough III**, c'63, m'69, 68, Nov. 24 in Lubbock, Texas, where he was a professor of infectious diseases at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He is survived by his wife, Susan; three sons; a daughter; three sisters, one of whom is Victoria Kimbrough, c'64, g'68, d'70; and four grandchildren.

**Phillip Knouse**, e'60, 73, Nov. 29 in Loudon, Tenn. He was an engineer and had taught electronics technology at Black Hawk College in Moline, Ill., and at Virginia Highlands College in Abingdon, Va. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two daughters.

**Roger Kroth**, EdD'68, 83, Nov. 17 in Albuquerque, N.M. He is survived by his wife, Jane Majors Kroth, g'66; two sons; two daughters; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Jerry Mathis**, m'62, 75, Dec. 21 in Salina, where he practiced medicine for many years. He also had a private practice in State College and Altoona, Pa. Survivors include his wife, Audrae; a daughter, Janette Mathis Rivetti, '87; a stepson; a stepdaughter; and five grandchildren.

**Virginia Melchior McCready**, d'62, g'64, 81, May 10 in Carlsbad, Calif. She taught Spanish at Pasadena City College and later worked as a residential real estate broker. A son, a brother and three grandchildren survive.

**Janice Jensen Reaster**, n'63, 70, Nov. 7



in Leawood, where she was a nurse. She is survived by a son, David, c'87; a daughter; and a brother, Robert Jensen, b'70.

**Donald Shorock**, b'68, 66, Dec. 2 in Great Bend, where he was an employment specialist for the state of Kansas and a former social-studies teacher. He is survived by his wife, Nora Jean; a son, Thomas, e'04, g'09; and two brothers.

**Mack Schwein**, g'67, 79, Aug. 2 in Wichita, where he was a retired business administrator. Two nieces and a nephew survive.

**Marcella Nodurft Stitt**, g'66, 94, Nov. 28 in Hutchinson, where she was a retired Latin teacher at Ellinwood High School. She is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**70 Michael Anderson**, c'77, 55, Dec. 10 in Lawrence. He had been director of planned giving for several charitable organizations. A daughter and a son survive.

**Christopher Brewer**, j'77, 60, Dec. 27 in Lee's Summit, Mo., where he was director of public affairs for the city of Lee's Summit. He also had been a reporter, news editor and editor of the local newspaper. Survivors include his wife, Linda, two children and two brothers.

**Peggy Thorne Childs**, d'71, 61, Dec. 26 in Hutchinson, where she was former Christian education director at Trinity United Methodist Church and a member of the USD 308 School Board. She is survived by her husband, Steven, s'72; three daughters, Stephanie Childs Casey, d'96, g'01, Heather Childs Woelk, d'99, g'03, and Emily Childs Shipley, c'03; her mother; two sisters; and six grandchildren.

**Virginia Fetters**, s'70, 95, Oct. 15 in El Paso, Texas, where she is survived by several nieces and nephews.

**Frances Ginsberg**, f'79, 55, Dec. 24 in Brooklyn, N.Y. She sang with the New York City Opera during the 1980s. She later sang with opera companies in San Diego, Houston, Fresno, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Nice, France. A brother survives.

**Patricia "Paddi" Berger Hubbard**, d'72, 66, Dec. 3 in Kansas City. She lived in Blue

Springs, Mo. Surviving are her husband, Robert Boyd; a son, Richard Hubbard, c'97; and a granddaughter.

**Burlene Hoggatt Mackey**, d'70, 84, Jan. 1 in Kansas City, where she was a retired teacher and school librarian. Two sons, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive.

**Margaret Gregory Pearce**, d'73, 64, Jan. 4 in Overland Park, where she lived. She had been a law librarian at Kansas State University, George Washington University, the Appellate Court in St. Louis and the Federal Court in Kansas City. Surviving are her mother; a sister, Patty Gregory Skahan, s'88; and a brother, Paul Gregory Jr., d'66.

**Gloria Goodrich Vobejda**, j'70, 83, Dec. 31 in Overland Park, where she was a journalist. She is survived by her husband, George, two daughters and a son.

**80 Gregory Antey**, a'81, 52, Jan. 4 in St. Louis. He is survived by a daughter, his mother, two brothers and three sisters.

**Marlene Rubin Gasser**, s'88, 74, Nov. 21 in Overland Park, where she was retired from the Comprehensive Mental Health Center. She is survived by her husband, Max, assoc.; two sons, Kevin, b'86, and Jonathan, c'87; and four grandchildren.

**James Gerton**, e'87, 67, Dec. 10 in Indian Land, S.C. He was retired from the Charlotte water department. Surviving are two sons, a sister, three brothers and three grandchildren.

**90 P. Kay Ingersoll Duncan**, EdD'93, 67, Dec. 17 in Americus. She had been a professor of educational administration at Emporia State University. She is survived by her husband Don, '89, a son, a daughter, her mother, a sister, a brother and five grandchildren.

#### THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**Jean Saffell Allen**, f'45, g'54, 87, Nov. 26 in Lawrence, where she had been a member of the KU design faculty from 1947 until 1954. She is survived by her husband, Roger, e'50; four sons, Chad, '77, Charles, b'75, Timothy, '82, and Thomas, '84; a sister, Patricia Saffell Siemens, s'70;

seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Ross Beach**, 92, Nov. 12 in Lawrence, where he was president of Kansas Natural Gas and chairman of the board of Douglas County Bank. He had been named Kansan of the Year in 2001 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas, and he and his wife, Marianna, received citations for distinguished service from KU and from Fort Hays State University. He also had received the 1989 President's Award from Kansas State University. Through the Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation, he benefited KU's Beach Center for Disability and the Lied Center and created an endowed professorship in special education at KU. He and his wife were recipients of the Bob Dole Humanitarian Award from KU's special-education department. He is survived by Marianna, assoc.; three daughters, Mary Beach McDowell, d'65, g'68, l'84, Terry Beach Edwards, c'67, and Jane Beach Hipp, d'73, l'77, g'77; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Ermal Garinger**, 88, Nov. 19 in Shelbyville. He was a professor of foreign languages at KU for 22 years, retiring in 1989. The KU foreign language laboratory is named for him. Survivors include his wife, Betty, a son, two stepsons, a stepdaughter, a brother and seven grandchildren.

**Lorraine Carpenter Hammer**, c'48, 86, Dec. 21 in Lawrence, where she was a retired electron microscopist in KU's physiology and cell biology department. She is survived by her husband, Lou, b'48; two sons, one of whom is Gary, g'83; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Jocelyn Hulsebus**, 59, Dec. 22 in Overland Park. She had been a professor of laboratory sciences at the KU Medical Center until retiring in 2003. A cousin survives.

**Evelyn Velasquez Schmidtberger**, 59, Jan. 10 in Lawrence, where she was a senior administrative associate at the KU School of Business. She is survived by her husband, Gary, c'71; two daughters, Kristine Schmidtberger Vogt, d'92, and Karen Schmidtberger Ingersoll, d'96; and four grandchildren.

# Rock Chalk Review



COURTESY BARRY FITZGERALD

“Spring,” a pair of acrylic paintings, won Barry Fitzgerald recognition among the world’s best illustrators.

## Full bloom

### Professor among 'Best Illustrators Worldwide'

Barry Fitzgerald’s artwork has been included in many juried exhibitions and printed collections, but there’s something about his newest honor that has a ring to it: “Best Illustrators Worldwide 2010/2011.”

“The title’s great,” he says. “I like the title a lot.”

The associate professor of design was one of 200 artists selected in the competition organized by Luerzer’s Archive Inc., a publishing company devoted to visual communications. Luerzer’s will produce a volume of the winners’ works this spring.

Fitzgerald’s winning submission, “Spring,” is a pair of acrylic paintings depicting flowers sprouting from the ground. He produced the works to promote the opening of Collinson Gallery in Weston, Mo.

For Fitzgerald, a former full-time newspaper illustrator who has taught at KU since 1993, entering contests keeps his art fresh and helps him advise students.

“It takes some time, it takes some effort and it takes some money to enter into

competitions,” he says. “Really, it’s a gamble. You want to submit your best works, but there’s still personal preference among the judges. Sometimes pieces get in, and sometimes they don’t.”

Fitzgerald maintains a busy freelance art career in addition to teaching at KU. Clients include the American Medical Association, the Boston Globe, the Chicago Tribune, General Motors, the New York Times, the St. Louis Post Dispatch and Sonic drive-in.

But as the economic downturn leads publications to slash freelance budgets, he uses the opportunity to do more of his own art and exhibit in galleries.

“I tell my students it’s really important to keep working and keep doing your stuff,” he says. “When I’m working for myself, I take more chances because nothing’s at stake. For me, it’s a way to satisfy my curiosity.”

Fitzgerald has spent much of the spring semester doing just that. He will open his own show at the Collinson Gallery in mid-May—his first individual show since graduate school.

And who knows? Maybe something from the show will win an award next year.

“You just keep working and get your work out there,” he says. “You just have to stay in the game.”

—Terry Rombeck



STEVE RUPPE

## Wichita lines

### Nelson sets her latest novel in the city of her youth

Antonya Nelson’s sublime new novel, *A Bound*, explores the aftereffects of an intensely devoted teenage friendship, with all its sharp joy and harsh peculiarities. Coming of age in late 1970s Wichita, Catherine and Misty have more than the requisite madcap adventures of wild-hearted youth everywhere; the girls’ shared world is characterized by the asterisks they carve on each other’s shoulders with a shoplifted pocket knife. The small stars are not mere youthful self-aggrandizement, but tough, tangible symbols of their friendship, that signify, as Nelson writes, “the idea of extra content, footnoted character not readily available to the

average, casual eye.” Nelson’s characters look back at the drama of youth from the perspective of adulthood and its attendant responsibilities and terrors, a breathlessness of a different sort.

The 40-something Catherine might still feel the asterisk’s divot on her skin, but she struggles with the problems of middle age: an ill, elderly parent, a possibly dead-end May-December marriage to a devoted philanderer, the loss of ambition and optimism. Though they hadn’t kept in touch since high school, Catherine receives a letter notifying her that Misty has died in a car crash, leaving behind her teenage daughter. Misty not only named her daughter after Catherine but also named her old best friend as guardian. Catherine’s potential motherhood sends her thoughts back to life with Misty.

*Bound* is a dark valentine to Wichita, the hometown of both Nelson, c’83, and BTK, the serial killer at large during Catherine and Misty’s youth and apprehended during the present time of the novel. His teasing missives to the newspaper and horrific crimes added a peripheral though authentic danger to the girls’ already perilous adventures. Catherine, the daughter of professors, had been enamored with Misty’s hardscrabble upbringing and all its pre-punk rock underpinnings. As an adult, she knows, of course, that her best friend’s life had been “a frightening specter, grubby and violent,” whereas she was the “privileged tourist dunked briefly

MARION ETTINGER



Nelson

into the third world but in possession of a round-trip ticket out.” But here Nelson gives us an asterisk of her own, a footnote of sorts, because the middle-aged Catherine still invests Misty’s childhood squalor with a vague, reluctant glamour: “It seemed that that life, and the girl who lived it, had been

real. Misty had a personality unlike anyone else’s, peculiar and earned.”

Nelson has published six short story collections and four novels. In 1999 the *New Yorker* presciently named her one of the young writers to watch in the new millennium. Her awards include the Guggenheim Fellowship and an NEA grant and she holds the Cullen Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Houston. She brings her gorgeously distilled prose—a hallmark of her short fiction—to the wintertime Wichita of *Bound*: “Snowflakes had begun falling outside in festive complicity, covering the ugly, muting the unpleasant.”

BTK, the most notorious Witchitan, emerges as the prototypical church-going monster next door, but Nelson’s innocent and not-so-innocent fictional characters are complicated and specific: real. Catherine’s husband, Oliver Des Plaines, knows that his philandering has hurt his two daughters—one from each of his previous marriages—and he thinks that his current affair would devastate Catherine, yet even at 70, perhaps especially at 70, he is passionate about new romance. And his self-justifications about cheating are not the standard deluded fare, but a heartfelt lament about the limited narrative of life: “How was it that anyone could be satisfied with only one story? With the surface and nothing beneath it? With the familiar and repetitive, routine equaling the death of any plausible adventure?”

This same longing for the world to crack open is what united the teenage Cath-

erine and Misty, but as the adult Catherine cares for Misty’s daughter—another lost teenage girl—we see that what binds Antonia Nelson’s characters is ultimately not so much their indulgent quests, their delicacy or their utter failings, but a surprising and valorous kindness.

—Mary O’Connell

O’Connell, c’94, wrote *Living with Saints*.

Her novel *The Sharp Time* will be published Nov. 8 by Random House.

## A writer who gives us hope

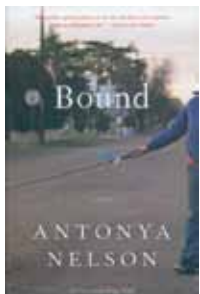
### Fame finally finds Woodrell

Daniel Woodrell’s literary career was six novels long when *Kansas Alumni* featured him in issue No. 5, 1998. Even then, we wrote, Woodrell “has had a reputation for more than a decade as a writer’s writer,” and we hoped that his latest, *Tomato Red*, and the Ang Lee movie “*Ride With the Devil*,” based on *Woe to Live On*, would mean Woodrell “might no longer be the best writer you’ve never heard of.”

The ex-Marine’s literary career—which explores the unique Americana of Missouri’s Ozarks—has since marched forward ceaselessly, yet only now is Woodrell, c’80, enjoying adulation of the wider world.

“*Winter’s Bone*,” based on his novel of the same title, was honored as a nominee for Best Picture at the Feb. 27 Academy Awards. *Esquire* magazine recently featured Woodrell in its project “The Brightest: 16 Geniuses Who Give Us Hope.”

Woodrell joined the Marines at 17. He was 23 when he made his way to KU, “plowing through the classics,” we wrote in 1998, “while furiously writing about people who are never in the classics.” As Woodrell settled in West Plains, Mo.—his family’s home turf since the 1840s—his writing was already rooted in an Ozarks enclave to which no outsider would ever gain admittance.



*Bound*

by Antonia Nelson

\$25, Bloomsbury

## Rock Chalk Review

“The irony of these characters is that it is their very foreignness that makes them incisive,” Tyler Cabot wrote in *Esquire*. “There is no artifice to judge, no cultural baggage to get distracted by. Woodrell’s characters are unmarred, elemental, not of our world. In them we can see our essential selves.”

—Chris Lazzarino

COURTESY ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS



Jennifer Lawrence earned one of four Oscar nods for “Winter’s Bone.”

## Make some noise

### Drummer wins accolades for storytelling

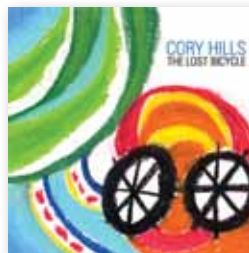
Like many good stories, this one began in Italy. In 2005, percussionist Cory Hills was on a research fellowship at Institute Fabbrica in Treviso. There he wrote a children’s story, accented it with various percussion instruments and recorded an animated spoken-word track. The first story, “The Lost Bicycle,” led to another; soon he was performing a set of original fables and adapted folk tales in schools, libraries and hospitals.

The collection includes simple stories with moral messages and colorful characters, often identified by their own percussive sound. Hills composed original tracks to accompany each story and included a couple of beloved tales from his childhood.

Back in the United States five years later, 30-year-old Hills has earned national recognition and multiple awards for his children’s album, “The Lost Bicycle.”

“The external reaction has blown me away a little,” says Hills, who is pursuing a doctoral degree at KU. “I know what the kids think. What I really care about is that they have a good time and get to hear these instruments and learn where they come from. But the success of the CD in the arts and parenting world encourages me to keep going.”

Released in May 2010, “The Lost Bicycle” received gold in the National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA),



a silver honor in the Parents’ Choice Awards and recognition from World Storytelling Honors. NAPPA also named the album one of 13 top children’s products, and it was on the Grammy short list.

The CD grew from the Percussive Art of Storytelling, a program Hills created in 2009 after he moved to Kansas. With the help of private funding and grants from the Kansas Arts Commission, he has performed for more than 9,000 children and adults in underserved communities around the state.

“The instruments get kids listening to sound in interesting ways,” says Hills, who got his start as a seventh-grade drummer in his school band. “The best part is afterward when the kids are walking out



When Cory Hills performs his children’s stories, he highlights hand-held percussion instruments from around the world. For more information, visit [www.coryhills.com](http://www.coryhills.com).

tapping things, listening to what sound possibilities exist.”

Now the grant money that runs the Percussive Art of Storytelling is in danger; Gov. Sam Brownback, I’82, eliminated the Kansas Arts Commission in his budget proposal. Hills emphasizes the great need for private arts funding to provide outreach programs that have lost state grants, and he advocates for new music and music education.

“Whether it’s the art of cello playing or a vocalist singing,” he says, “just create and get out there to these underserved communities that don’t get a lot of art.”

—Whitney Eriksen

## Home, but not alone

### Professor helps adapt robots to in-home care for elderly

The oldest baby boomers turn 65 this year, and over the next two decades 10,000 people a day will join their ranks, according to the Pew Research Center. By 2030, when the last boomers cross that threshold, 18 percent of Americans will be 65 and older, up from 13 percent today.

The trend is similar in many Western countries and parts of Asia, notes James Juola, who’s working on a technological solution for one of the developed world’s biggest health care challenges: how to help the growing population of elderly people stay independent as they age.

“We’re going to have more people over the ages of 65 and 85 around the world than ever existed,” says Juola, a psychology professor at KU and Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. “Half the people over 65 will have serious physical disabilities, and half the people over 85 will suffer some kind of mental disability. They need help, but at the same time the number of people in lower age echelons who are able and willing to do this kind of work is decreasing.”

Juola is a lead investigator on Knowledge Service Robots for the Aging (K-SERA), an effort to program robots to monitor and assist the elderly in their homes. The project’s 2-foot tall humanoid robot, called Nao, is designed to provide the kind of 24-hour assistance that’s tough for families to manage on their own.

“Permanent care—on a daily basis, for many hours—can be extremely draining and expensive,” Juola says. “Rather than replacing human caregivers, we see these as an adjunct. A robot is always there, it’s always on, it’s always alert, in a way that no human can be all the time for every possible emergency.”

The robot can remind a client when it’s time to exercise or take medication, check vital signs such as blood sugar and blood pressure, and use smart phones, video links and infrared cameras to connect the elderly with family members and caregivers. Nao even lets clients play interactive games with its computer or with other people.

In an emergency like a stroke or a fall, the robot can alert family members and summon an ambulance. Something as subtle as not waking up on time will cue

Nao to ask if a person needs help. “The robot looks for abnormal behavior of any kind, assesses the situation through intelligent algorithms that we’re programming, and then tries to contact the patient first and then caregivers if necessary.”

With a four-year, \$4 million grant from the European Commission, Juola and his team in the Netherlands are training the robot to follow elderly people through a cluttered home while maintaining a respectful social distance. The robot—which responds to voice commands and issues verbal prompts and questions in several languages—should be available, but not intrusive.

“If it goes haywire, if it doesn’t behave properly, if it feels like it’s always following me and I don’t like that—those things will have to be adjusted,” Juola says.

Testing will begin within the year and the K-SERA robot could be widely available within five to 10 years. The \$25,000 cost will decrease as more are produced, but even that price is a bargain compared to the \$50,000 price tag of a year of nursing home care, Juola notes. Also valuable is the peace of mind gained by remaining at home.

“Being able to stay in one’s home is very important for one’s social and mental health. Often when people are moved to a nursing home you see a sudden downturn in their ability to deal with just about everything.

“The longer we can keep people at home, the better off our society will be, from an economic and a social perspective.”

—Steven Hill

## Grand prize

### Sara Paretsky earns mystery genre’s top honor

On learning she’d been named the 2011 Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America, Sara Paretsky thought of the first awards banquet she attended, after her 1982 book, *Indemnity Only*, introduced her female private eye V.I.

Warshawski to the mystery genre.

“I knew no one, and people whose work I had read for years—giants in the field—were up on the podium, chatting, joking with one another,” recalls Paretsky, c’67. “I was seated in the remote stretches of the hotel ballroom, and a waiter starts hitting one of my tablemates because the man wasn’t ready to relinquish his salad plate. It could not have been a more lonely or bizarre evening.”

Paretsky will enjoy a better seat at the Edgar Awards Banquet April 28 in New York City, where she’ll join the likes of Agatha Christie, Alfred Hitchcock, Ellery Queen and P.D.

James as the winner of a lifetime honor the MWA calls “the pinnacle of achievement” in mystery writing.

“It feels so odd to me,” she says. “It’s been 30 years, but it feels like this sudden change from outsider at the back of the room to receiving this award. It’s amazing company, and you look at it and say, ‘I don’t really belong with them.’ But I’m not going to fight them giving it to me.”

It certainly won’t be the first time at the head table for the creator of one of the genre’s first and most innovative female investigators. Paretsky’s 14 V.I. novels and other books have garnered many prizes. But the Grand Master Award is special.

“When a writer’s body of work is recognized, it feels like you really have made a difference on the planet—and as you get older that becomes something you long for,” she says. “An award like this is a way of saying, ‘Yes, you really did make a difference. It’s not just about the sales or the marketplace but about the impact you had on people.’”

Paretsky, who grew up in Lawrence and lives in Chicago, also received a Governor’s Arts Award from the Kansas Arts Commission March 3. She said her message to both audiences would be the same: “the importance and the value of writing and the arts in people’s lives.”

—Steven Hill



Paretsky

STEVE PUPPE



Juola

STEVE PUPPE

# Glorious to View Photograph by Susan Younger



Winter Phog



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