

KANSAS ALUMNI

No 5, 2016 ■ \$5

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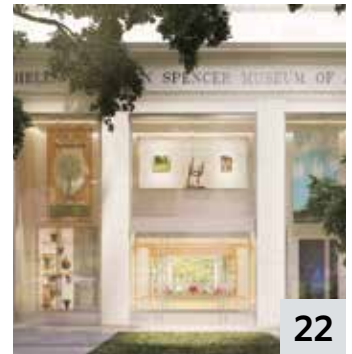
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22

The Big Reveal

The \$8 million renovation of Spencer Art Museum, to be unveiled in October, features an inviting new design that puts teaching and learning front and center.

By Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Cover illustration by Susan Younger; architectural rendering by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners

30

Born to Be Blue

Actor and percussionist Ethan Golub found the role of a lifetime as a member of the world-renowned performance troupe, Blue Man Group.

By Steven Hill

34

The Letter

For more than 40 years, five women who met in Miller Hall have kept their faith and friendship strong through the pages of a round-robin letter.

By Chris Lazzarino

Lift the Chorus



Food, glorious food!

I LOVE THE JULY ISSUE of *Kansas Alumni* and have read it from cover to cover! And this time I started reading from the front instead of looking first at Class Notes and In Memory!

The theme of food, fresh and locally grown ingredients, good Lawrence restaurants and sustainable farming is a terrific and fascinating one.

And I loved the restaurant “ghosts” story [“Ghosts of Gastronomy,” issue No. 4]. I can go back to The Dine-A-Mite, The Stables, The TeePee and The Castle Tea Room, and I certainly remember Campus Hideaway!

What a great compliment (so deserved!) to you and *Kansas Alumni* staff [“Friend and Foe,” Lift the Chorus] by the alumni director of the Florida school! But, of course, the top two journalism schools *should* have the top two alumni magazines. *Kansas Alumni* has gotten better and better and better for the past 30 years. (I’ll bet it’s a little better than Mizzou.)

Sue Harper Ice, d’56
Newton

YOUR “GHOSTS of Gastronomy” article listed a series of Lawrence restaurants but left out the Colonial Tea Room, 936 Kentucky St., the most famous and largest restaurant from the 1930s until 1955. The restaurant was operated by my grandmother and other members of my family. It provided fine dining (the specialty was fried chicken) and hosted virtually every significant guest of the University.

I even remember the entire Don Cossack Chorus from Moscow having dinner before their evening performance in Hoch Auditorium. And many civic clubs, including Rotary and Kiwanis, hosted luncheon meetings at the Colonial. KU band director Russell Wiley would bring all the guest conductors at the Midwestern Summer Music Camps to dinner, and many others in the winter concert series dined there. My mother, Meta Murphy Clarkson, f’29, a KU music graduate, would revel in who we were serving.

The Colonial was a favorite of chancellors, and among those having apartments at the house were future Kansas governor George Docking, c’25; Joseph M. Kellogg, head of the architecture school; and Nellie Barnes, c’16, g’20, professor of English.

Docking’s son Robert, b’48, also became governor, and he was an “ex-officio resident,” running up and down the back stairways and through the kitchens—and getting into trouble with me.

Typical dinners were served

to some 100 persons and the Sunday noon after-church crowd would draw more than 200. People lined up on the sidewalk in front of the house, often waiting for an hour or more. Guests drove from Kansas City and many other towns and cities in Kansas.

My grandmother, Fanny Murphy, ran the restaurant through World War II and several years afterward before retiring and remodeling the house into apartments—as it remains today. My mother was the hostess and watched over the three dining rooms, and my father, Maurice, b’29, was the accountant. (He also worked as division auditor for the Kansas Power and Light Company.) And it took some 25 employees to operate this landmark Lawrence restaurant.

Rich Clarkson, j’55
Denver

KUDOS ON THIS ISSUE! It is a fun and memorable read, especially First Word and “Ghosts of Gastronomy.” I would add, however, The Bierstube, The Wheel, Stables and Rock Chalk Cafe. I still cook up Truck Stops (grilled hamburger, hash browns, cheese and onions) for an old-fashioned KU yum.

When the Alpha Chi Omega sorority house was located where the Adams Alumni Center now is, we used to cross the street to the Rock Chalk and eat Truck Stops late at night in our hair curlers. Imagine.

Sandra Smith, j’70, g’72
Santa Fe, New Mexico

YOU CANNOT KNOW how much I always treasure the alumni magazine and, especially, this July issue.

All of the food news is so inspiring and important and you make us very proud of our community and the University.

Thank you, thank you.

Diane Simpson, c’57, l’83
Lawrence

I LOVED THE ARTICLE “Ghosts of Gastronomy.” I managed Allen’s Drive-In while a master’s student in special education at KU. We were about 400 yards east of Griff’s. We hired a few clients from Kansas Neurological Institute who had the condition of intellectual disabilities to work the curb, as well as students from Haskell. Obviously we hired a lot of KU students too.

Jim Payne, g’67, EdD’70
Oxford, Mississippi

Good for what ails you

I PLAN TO SHARE the article “A Farm in the Family” from the July issue with others. I am particularly interested in spreading its information about restoring grasslands. It is too important to keep to ourselves.

By the way, I never throw the magazine away. I take it along when I visit my doctor and leave it in the waiting room for other people to read.

Pepper Hume, f’61
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

September 2016

KANSAS ALUMNI

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2 Lift the Chorus

Letters from our readers

5 First Word

The editor's turn

6 On the Boulevard

KU & Alumni Association events

8 Jayhawk Walk

Healthy humor, a bike that books, scrapbook memories and more

10 Hilltopics

News and notes: Celebration caps Endowment campaign; Baldwin Woods gains ground.

16 Sports

Football starts with a win; volleyball builds on NCAA tournament success.

38 Association News

Millie and Wintermote awards recognize loyal local volunteers.

44 Class Notes

Profiles of a top cop, a furniture master, a teaching innovator and more

60 In Memory

Deaths in the KU family

64 Rock Chalk Review

Books explore wild Kansas, a Dylan classic and hard times in Leavenworth.

68 KU 150

Scenes from the sesquicentennial

BRAVO!

t h a n k u

THE SUCCESS OF FAR ABOVE: THE CAMPAIGN FOR KANSAS

ELEVATED THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
TO NEW HEIGHTS.

TO ALL LOYAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
WHO RALLIED BEHIND THIS CAMPAIGN:
WE SEND YOU A HEARTFELT JAYHAWK
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

**FAR
ABOVE**

*The
Campaign
for
Kansas*

**TOGETHER, WE ROSE
FAR ABOVE.**

TO LEARN ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PLEASE VISIT FARABOVE.ORG.

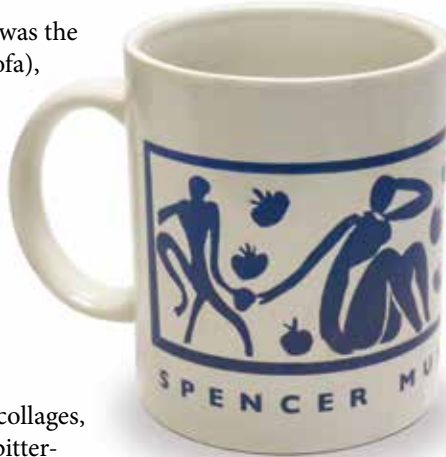
My favorite spot in Granny's house was the davenport (she never called it a sofa), where I slouched for hours, poring over her stacks of magazines and well-worn books on famous artists. I meandered through *The New Yorker's* cartoons and the lush photo features in *Life* and *Look*, and I lingered over her art books, especially her volume on Henri Matisse, whose bold colors and playful shapes held my gaze.

An artist and teacher, Granny painted watercolors, oils and acrylics. She made collages, and she adored driftwood and sprigs of bitter-sweet. One year she gave me my own sets of acrylics and pastels, which I cherished. After my lack of talent became abundantly clear, she taught me to make candles and voodoo dolls (just for fun, I swear).

Whenever my folks drove Granny from Topeka to Clay Center to visit her equally ornery sister, Virginia, my brother and I never missed the chance to see Aunt Ginia and Uncle Severt. Unlike Granny's beloved traditional home, where three generations of Jacksons had lived, Aunt Ginia and Uncle Severt's house was modern, with limestone inside and out, a vaulted ceiling of burnished wood and giant windows facing their backyard. An artist and teacher like her sister, Aunt Ginia favored oils and textiles, which filled her home, along with works by other Kansas artists.

Granny and Aunt Ginia did not live to see me finish KU, but I find solace in the fact that I never had to confess to them one of my biggest mistakes: I dropped *Art History* because the course didn't fit my senior-year schedule of playing more and studying less. Restless to leave the Hill, yet still obsessed with my GPA, I took the coward's way out.

When I returned a few years later, I soon found a favorite spot that I had overlooked as a student. The Spencer Museum of Art offered not only refuge from my office but also the chance to learn a few tidbits of what I'd missed when I abandoned *Art History*. Even as I played hooky, I suspected Granny and Aunt Ginia would approve. Sure enough, while rummaging through the kitchen cabinets at the office one day, I found proof positive: a Spencer Museum mug adorned with Matisse's "Femmes et Singes (Women and Monkeys)," one of the images I first saw in a book at Granny's house. Call it voodoo, but to this day, the Matisse mug makes my tea taste better and my day seem less daunting.



The Spencer opened during my freshman year, in 1978. Its neoclassical architecture and limestone exterior mimicked Mount Oread's first Spencer structure, The Kenneth Spencer Research Library, which had opened in 1968. Kansas City philanthropist Helen Foresman Spencer, who provided funds to build the library and named it for her late husband, envisioned the new art museum as the library's mate.

Over the past 18 months, the museum's first major renovation has transformed the stately rooms into sparkling, vibrant spaces. This summer, I've been lucky to get a preview, guided by Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94. Her title, Marilyn Stokstad Director of the museum,

honors Stokstad, Judith Harris Murphy Distinguished Professor Emerita, who died March 4. Stokstad was perhaps best known for writing *Art History*, the definitive textbook now in its fifth edition. She began her KU career in 1958 and presided over the University's art collection from 1961 to 1968. In addition, she was a generous patron, supporting both of Mrs. Spencer's buildings. Her gifts revitalized the reading room of the library, rendering it more hospitable to visitors, and affirmed Reece Hardy's commitment to making the museum a more welcoming place. The museum will host a memorial celebration of Stokstad's life Oct. 14.

Fittingly, the next day, the Spencer Museum will open its doors to begin a new era, mindful of the enduring legacy of two visionary women. —



COURTESY PET COBB FREED & PARTNERS

On the Boulevard

VALERIE SPICHER



The Alumni Association hosted its first Home Football Friday for students Sept. 2 with free food, beverages, cookies and giveaways on the front lawn of the Adams Alumni Center. This year's events are sponsored by Truity Credit Union, which will also sponsor TGIT receptions for KU faculty and staff during the fall and spring semesters.



Exhibitions

“Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia,” Spencer Museum of Art, Nov. 10 through March 12

“From State to Nation: Dole for VP, 1976,” Dole Institute, through January 2017

Spencer Museum of Art events

OCTOBER

15-16 Grand reopening

Lied Center events

SEPTEMBER

24 An Evening with Judy Collins

27 KU Wind Ensemble

30 KU Symphony Orchestra with Caroline Goulding, violin, and Jung-Ho Pak, guest conductor

OCTOBER

1 The Blind Boys of Alabama

8 The Capitol Steps

12 Josh Blue

14 The Shanghai Acrobats of the People's Republic of China

16 Zorá Quartet

20 KU Symphonic Band & Chamber Winds

22 Clint Black

26 The Rend Collective: As Family We Go Tour (with Urban Rescue)

28 KU Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert

NOVEMBER

4 Jake Shimabukuro

5 Ira Glass: “Seven Things I’ve Learned”

9 KU Wind Ensemble with Joey Tartell, trumpet

11 AXIS Dance Company

13 Charlie Albright, piano

20 The Music That Unites Us: KU Symphony Orchestra & Choirs

29 Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella”

30 University Band & Symphonic Band

University Theatre

SEPTEMBER

30, Oct. 1-2, 5-6 “Picnic,” directed by Jack Wright, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

OCTOBER

21-23, 25-27 “Late, A Cowboy Song,” directed by Jane Barnette, William Inge Memorial Theatre

NOVEMBER

11-13, 17, 19-20 “Pooter McGraw Is Not Dead Party,” directed by Peter Zazzali, Stage Too!

Murphy Hall

OCTOBER

4 New Morse Code with Hannah Collins, cello, and Michael Compitello, percussion

6 Sergei Babayan, piano, Visiting Artist Series

16 KU Percussion Group

18 Undergraduate Honor Recital

21 KU Choirs: Concert Choir, Women’s Chorale, Men’s Glee Club

26 KU Jazz Combos

29 Steven Spooner, piano, Faculty Recital Series

30 Sarah Frisof, flute, and Ellen Sommer, piano, Faculty Recital Series

NOVEMBER

2 KU Jazz Ensemble I with Chuck MacKinnon, composer & guest director

- 6** Kansas Virtuosi
- 10** Violin Studio Recital
- 11** New Music Guild
- 14** Tuba-Euphonium Chamber Ensembles
- 15** Trombone Choir
- 17-19** KU Opera: The Impresario & The Medium
- 17** KU Saxophone Quartets
- 21** KU Tuba-Euphonium Consort
- 22** KU Choirs: Chamber Singers

Dole Institute

SEPTEMBER

- 21** Animal Welfare in America
- 27** Toss Out the Playbook: How Relevant are Debates?
- 29** Journalism and Politics Lecture: Former U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith

OCTOBER

- 3** 10 Greatest Moments in Televised Presidential Debate History
- 4** Toss Out the Playbook: Presidential Campaign Strategy
- 6** Fort Leavenworth Series: The Anglo-Irish War
- 13** Director's Series: Nick Sambaluk
- 17** American Umpire: Film Screening and Q&A
- 18** Toss Out the Playbook: Visual Communications and Advance
- 25** Toss Out the Playbook: The State of the Race
- 26** Strong Inside: The Perry Wallace Story

NOVEMBER

- 1** Toss Out the Playbook: Gearing Up for Election Night
- 3** Fort Leavenworth Series: Niagara, 1814
- 15** Toss Out the Playbook: What Just Happened?

Performances

OCTOBER

- 3** "Sarod, Tabla and Violin: A Musical Conversation Among Maestros," The Commons
- 5** Jazz Ensembles I-III, Lawrence Arts Center

NOVEMBER

- 16** Jazz Ensembles I-III, Lawrence Arts Center

Lectures

NOVEMBER

- 17** Humanities Lecture Series: An Evening with Poet Terrance Hayes, Lied Center Pavilion

Academic Calendar

OCTOBER

- 11-14** Fall break

Kansas Honors Program

SEPTEMBER

- 21** Wellington
- 21** Leavenworth
- 21** McPherson
- 26** Sedgwick
- 28** Hutchinson
- 28** Lawrence
- 28** Dodge City

OCTOBER

- 5** Garden City
- 5** Salina
- 5** Shawnee Mission
- 6** Hays
- 12** Garnett
- 17** El Dorado
- 19** Arkansas City
- 24** Emporia

NOVEMBER

- 2** Independence
- 2** Liberal
- 2** Southern Johnson County
- 7** Johnson County Blue Valley
- 7** Manhattan
- 7** Wichita
- 9** Chapman
- 15** Kansas City
- 15** Topeka

Alumni Events

SEPTEMBER

- 23** KU vs. Texas Tech women's soccer pregame, Rock Chalk Park
- 24** KU Night with the San Jose Earthquakes, San Jose, California

OCTOBER

- 6** Lorain County College Fair, Elryia, Ohio
- 8** Member Tailgate, Adams Alumni Center
- 8** KU vs. TCU watch parties
- 13** School of Architecture, Design & Planning: Fly High Banquet
- 14** School of Architecture, Design & Planning: School of 12,000 Alumni Symposium

- 15** Jayhawk Roundup, Murfin Stables, Wichita
- 15** KU vs. Baylor watch parties
- 16-22** Homecoming (for complete schedule, visit homecoming.ku.edu)
- 19** KC Network Hawktoberfest at Boulevard Brewing Company
- 19** Dallas: Jayhawks and Java
- 22** Member Tailgate, Adams Alumni Center
- 22** KU vs. Oklahoma State watch parties
- 29** KU vs. Oklahoma watch parties

NOVEMBER

- 5** KU vs. West Virginia watch parties
- 12** Member Tailgate, Adams Alumni Center
- 12** KU vs. Iowa State watch parties
- 13** Veterans Day Run, Lawrence
- 15** Champions Classic: KU vs. Duke pregame, New York City
- 17** Denver: Networking breakfast
- 19** Member Tailgate, Adams Alumni Center
- 19** KU vs. Texas watch parties
- 26** KU vs. Kansas State watch parties

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

Jayhawk Walk

Four urologists walk into a bar



STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD this one before: Men don't go to the doctor nearly as often as women do.

"Men tend to be very different that way, much more head-in-the-sand, deniers, hunter-gatherers, forever showing their strength, not their vulnerability," says Ajay

Nanjia, a University of Kansas Hospital urologist and professor and vice chair of urology at KU Medical Center.

As a result, health problems that are curable if caught early—testicular cancer, infertility, STDs—often go undetected until they reach a critical stage. But a web video series, "Urologist Nerds Drinking Beer," hopes to counter that troubling trend with irreverent straight talk from Nanjia and fellow urologists Natan Bar-Chama, Stanton Honig and Paul Shin.

Produced by the nonprofit group Path2Parenthood and introduced by Sugar Ray frontman Mark McGrath, the videos feature four docs rapping about testicular self-exams, condom use, testosterone supplements and steroid abuse while kicking back with beers. The vibe is boys' night out, not clinical med-speak.

"Talking in ways that men talk to each other about their junk," Nanjia says, "is just a different, quirky approach" to urging men to take better care of themselves. "We joke about it, because that's what guys do."

So go on: Turn your head and laugh.

Trash talk

KU FACULTY AND STAFF who successfully dodge trash duty at home won't be so lucky at work this year.

Facilities Services and KU Recycling have developed a new centralized waste collection program that will provide



LARRY LEROY FEARSON

Jayhawk jackmen on fast track to success

NFL draftniks have lately been fond of praising prospects' "high motors," a trait particularly desirable in defensive linemen such as former Jayhawks Tedarrian Johnson, c'15; Kapil Fletcher, c'16; and Corey King, '16. Now that they're tackling a NASCAR pit-crew training program, the KU trio are revving at a whole new level.

The unexpected career opportunity roared onto campus in February, when the popular stock-car racing series hosted a tryout in Anschutz Pavilion for its Drive for Diversity Crew Member Development

program. Johnson, Fletcher and King were three of 10 athletes nationwide offered slots in a coveted training program in Charlotte, North Carolina, that boasts a 100-percent placement rate for its graduates.

"It's crazy, my journey," says Johnson, who last year worked as an intern with KU Leads, Kansas Athletics' student-athlete development unit. "I never saw any of this coming. I just look at it as a blessing."

And another chance to lift their team to victory. This time, literally.

University offices with deskside 7-gallon recycling bins that have 3/4-gallon mini-trash bins attached, which faculty and staff will be asked to empty into nearby recycling and landfill containers. The practice began this summer at Capitol Federal Hall and will roll out to the rest of campus,

starting with Strong Hall, throughout the 2016-'17 school year.

"What we're hoping to do is basically make office occupants more aware of what their waste really is," says Eric Nelson, waste reduction manager at KU's Center for Sustainability and a part-time student in environmental studies. "It's going to be a big change, but it's the responsible thing for our staff and faculty to do."



COURTESY ERIC NELSON

Not only should the program raise awareness of waste generation and reduction and encourage more recycling, but KU estimates it will also divert more than 160 hours of custodial labor each week.

Here's to changing behavior on campus—and maybe at home—one bin at a time.

What memories are made of

NOAH SMUTZ GOT A TASTE of KU history this summer. KU Libraries' 2016 Ringle conservation intern spent eight weeks on campus surveying, stabilizing and conserving a collection of student scrapbooks, most of which date back to the early 1900s.

Forty-one books were donated by former students' families and will be permanently housed at the Spencer



STEVE PUPPE (2)

Research Library. According to Smutz, c'12, who recently earned a master's degree in book conservation from West Dean College in the United Kingdom, they provide a "very interesting" look at campus life through the years.

Among the most noteworthy items Smutz found were a 100-year-old cracker, a section of a bass drumhead, a dance card from a Sigma Nu fraternity party, a Red Cross bandage, a World War I draft card, a

melted birthday candle, a check for 5 cents, an illustration of an old Jayhawk mascot, and remnants of used firecrackers with the quote, "We 'shot-up' the house" written next to them in cursive.

But what Smutz savored most were images of KU's campus and student life. "The photographs are wonderful," he says, pointing to an image of Old Fraser Hall. "Being an alumnus, I appreciate all of this stuff."

Words on wheels

It's hard to imagine a more fitting tribute to the late Bob Frederick, known for his boundless passion for bikes and books, than "Freddie" the book bike, which this summer debuted as the Lawrence Public Library's cutest new delivery vehicle.

Frederick, d'62, g'64, EdD'84, assistant professor of education and, for 14 years, director of athletics, had already been honored at the city library with the Dr. Bob Reader program, which allows children signing up for their first library card to also choose a new book that they can keep. The program has distributed thousands of books, yet Frederick's family was eager to do more.

When Margey Wallett Frederick, j'69, g'78, asked

development director Kathleen O'Leary Morgan, j'83, g'95, what else the library might want, Morgan said that a hot trend in library services was book bikes. Frederick's quick response: "Great! Our family will do that."

Freddie's first outing, in June, was for story time at the Head Start Preschool in Plymouth Congregational Church, and it has since toured the downtown sidewalk sale and made regular appearances at the Saturday-morning farmers market, toting books and promotional materials.

"It gets way more attention than a regular table at an event," Morgan says. "It works on so many levels. It's been just delightful to work with the Fredericks in making this happen. They've enjoyed it, we've enjoyed it, it's fantastic."



STEVE PUPPE

Hilltopics

MARK McDONALD



Students took the stage to reveal the final tally for the *Far Above* campaign, which brought in more than \$1.6 billion for the University (left). Campaign chair Kurt Watson was all smiles as he joined Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Shade Little in celebrating the success of the eight-year campaign (right).

A time to toast

Jayhawks gather to celebrate \$1.6 billion raised for *Far Above*

As Kurt Watson addressed the crowd of more than 150 KU leaders and donors in the Lied Center Pavilion, he smiled broadly. “Welcome to a very special night that is indeed eight years in the making,” he said. “Welcome to a fitting celebration of what we can accomplish when Jayhawks come together.”

The Aug. 27 event marked the conclusion of KU Endowment’s most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, *Far Above*, which ended its eight-year run June 30 and collected more than \$1.6 billion in gifts, pledges and bequests, far exceeding its goal of \$1.2 billion.

The campaign launched in July 2008 and was led by chairs Kurt, d’75, and Sue Shields Watson, d’75, of Andover, and co-chairs Tom, c’76, g’80, l’80, and Jill Sadowsky Docking, c’78, g’84, of Wichita, and former Kansas Gov. Mark, l’84, and Stacy Abbott Parkinson, c’81, c’81, l’84, of Bethesda, Maryland, plus a steering committee of 19 other Jayhawks. In April 2012, the public phase of *Far Above* began

after hitting the \$612 million mark.

More than 131,000 donors from all 50 states and 59 countries contributed gifts to the campaign, which allocated funds toward student support, faculty, facilities and programs at KU and the University of Kansas Hospital. The campaign’s most remarkable accomplishments include 735 new scholarships, 53 new professorships, 16 major new or renovated building projects, and KU Medical Center’s National Cancer Institute designation.

“We’re here tonight because of everyone’s efforts,” Watson told the Aug. 27 audience. “I’ve said it so many times during the last eight years, but I think it’s more true tonight than ever before. It is a great day to be a Jayhawk.”

Watson recognized the efforts of Jayhawks before him and admitted the bar for fundraising had been set extremely high, thanks to the leadership of previous campaign chair Jordan Haines, c’49, l’57, and vice chair Robert Riss, b’49, who led the \$265.3 million *Campaign Kansas*, which ended in 1992; and Forrest, e’56, and Sally Roney Hogle, c’56, who guided the *KU First* campaign to a \$653 million total in 2005.

“We contemplated a goal of \$1 billion,” Watson said, “but we determined this was

a singular opportunity to step up and do something very special for the future of the University of Kansas. So we closed our eyes, crossed our fingers and set a goal of \$1.2 billion.”

That goal was exceeded, he said, in large part because of the leadership and staff at KU Endowment and the unwavering support of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who traveled over the past few years with the Watsons to 28 cities across the United States, hosting events for KU alumni and friends.

“All of us are in this room tonight because somebody helped us,” Watson continued. “Somebody reached out and touched our lives when we were at KU. What we heard on the road was that people were moved by that. That motivated them to give back.”

Gray-Little echoed Watson’s sentiments, saying, “We did hear some great stories, and for me those stories were invaluable because they gave me the opportunity to learn about the history of the University in a very different way. My knowledge of what happened here and who was here was greatly enriched by many alumni that we met and talked with.”

She outlined several ways the University has been transformed by the *Far Above* campaign, including facility improvements on the Lawrence campus and at the University of Kansas Hospital, faculty recruitment and retention, student scholarships and experiences, and advances in research and medicine.

Gray-Little also acknowledged the challenges, including cuts in state funding, KU has faced in recent years, but



expressed confidence in the Jayhawk community. “Thanks to the support that we have received from you and from so many donors, we are able to weather these challenges and to succeed,” she said.

As the evening drew to a close, 10 students in bright blue T-shirts, emblazoned with *Far Above* on the front and a single number on the back, lined up on stage to reveal the final tally of the campaign—\$1,661,458,928.

“This group represents our future leaders,” Watson said as cheers subsided, “the people who will advance medicine and celebrate future discoveries. These are the people who are going to drive economic growth; they will seize the advantages and opportunities that *Far Above* has created for them.”

With that, flutes of champagne were distributed and a hush fell over the crowd as a video detailing the campaign’s most

16—New buildings or major renovations

KU and KU Medical Center:

Capitol Federal Hall

DeBruce Center

The Forum at Marvin Hall

Health Education Building

Hill Engineering Research and

Development Center

KU Clinical Research Center

LEEP2 Engineering Center

Lied Center Pavilion

Marie S. McCarthy Hall

Ritchie Hall

Slawson Hall

Spencer Museum of Art renovation

Swarthout Recital Hall renovation

Zamierowski Institute for

Experiential Learning

The University of Kansas Hospital:

Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion

Cambridge North Tower

Far Above facts

53—New professorships in a wide range of fields

735—New scholarships, fellowships and student awards

\$58 million—Largest campaign gift, from late alumni Al and Lila Self

87 percent—Proportion of gifts \$500 or less

75 percent—Increase in faculty/staff donors

571,000—Total number of gifts

49 percent—New donors

53 percent—Proportion of gifts from Kansas residents

\$523 million—Amount raised for student support

\$451 million—Amount raised for programs

\$447 million—Amount raised for faculty

\$240 million—Amount raised for facilities

notable accomplishments played. When the final result flashed across the screen—that 53 percent of the gifts came from donors in Kansas—more cheers erupted and with two loud bursts, a cascade of crimson and blue confetti filled the room,

KU band members fired up the fight song and the celebrants raised their glasses to toast the momentous occasion.

It was indeed a great day to be a Jayhawk.

—Heather Biele



Visual art student Olivia Hernandez’s film “material girl hallelujah” was selected this summer as the overall winner of the Short Film Work-in-Progress category at the CreActive International Open Film Festival (IOFF) in Bangladesh.

Hernandez, a Miami senior, created the video in response to her original sound recording of her mother and cousins singing hymns in a one-

room church founded by her great-great-grandfather in the mountains of Virginia.

IOFF is an independent festival that aims to “explore the film with no border.” Films are selected for participation in the festival by an international jury and online viewers. Hernandez’s award-winning entry was among more than 4,000 submissions from 105 countries.

“To receive an award for

my modest attempts at art-making feels like a cosmic ‘thumbs up’ from the universe and encourages me to continue making work that reflects my taste and interests,” says Hernandez, who is now at work on a stop motion film. “It is incredible that my work has traveled from my computer to a film jury a world away and been found worthy of an award.”

CLASS CREDIT

Hilltopics



Defense designation: The United States Department of Defense (DoD) renewed KU's designation as a DoD Language Training Center through 2019. KU is one of eight higher education institutions providing language, regional expertise and cultural training to the Armed Services, Special Forces, defense agencies and Reserve and National Guard Units. The designation comes with a \$650,000 grant.

Woods smarts

Preservation of unique forest bolsters biodiversity research

A new acquisition by the Kansas Biological Survey more than doubles the Baldwin Woods Forest Preserve, an ecologically valuable expanse of old-growth Douglas County forest that is part of the KU Field Station. The purchase of 254 acres at less than market value fills important gaps in the Field Station's holdings south of Lawrence, creating a contiguous 456-acre swath of biologically diverse forest and ensuring preservation of one of eastern Kansas' most unspoiled ecosystems.

"What makes it unique and valuable is that it's close to its historical condition," wildlife biologist William Busby, associate scientist at Kansas Biological Survey, says of the site that once served as a landmark for pioneers on the nearby Santa Fe Trail. "There were forests just like Baldwin Woods all over eastern Kansas, but there are not many that have not been altered by human activity. This is one of the few that has persisted in good condition."

KU first began acquiring forested tracts in the area near Baldwin City in 1965 through private gifts and non-state grants. In 1980 the preserve was designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in recognition of its importance to the nation's cultural

and ecological heritage.

The diverse site hosts 80 species of woody plants, half of which are trees; more than 500 species of flowering plants and ferns; nearly 100 species of mosses and other spore-producing plants; 200 kinds of macrofungi and 200 kinds of lichens. Wildlife that call the forest home include species such as the southern flying squirrel and the red-bellied snake that are widely distributed throughout the eastern United States but are rare in Kansas, which marks the western edge of the deciduous forests that once covered the eastern half of the continent.

Because it lies in a transition zone between moist forests and drier grasslands, the site's flora and fauna are

susceptible to subtle shifts in climate. That enhances the forest's research value as a kind of early warning system for the effects of climate change, Busby explains.

"What kept [the eastern deciduous forest] from going farther west was primarily, we believe, rainfall. You go further west, you still have forests, but a lot of the eastern forest deciduous tree species—the oaks and hickories—most of them drop out, probably because of drought and their inability to tolerate irregular dry periods. So if climate change results in more drought stress, which is predicted, then you would expect that it might have an effect here first."

The Baldwin Woods has hosted many research projects on plants and animals through the years, including a long-term study to monitor how ecosystems respond to stress. The Smithsonian Forest Global Earth Observatory (ForestGeo) has recently invited the Biological Survey to make the preserve part of that worldwide network of forest research plots devoted to the long-term study of temperate and tropical forest function and diversity. Participation will require the survey to raise \$250,000 for the project.

"What we're hoping to do is get a grant that would allow us to provide detailed baseline measurements of tree composition and size, so that we can actually have the baseline data to measure change," Busby says.

Douglas County landowners Ray



EDWARD C. ROBISON III / WWW.ECR3.COM

Wilber, '66, and Cathy Dwigans, c'75, g'87, and John, d'74, and Gloria Thilking Hood, '71, volunteered to sell the land for the purpose of expanding the preserve. They also created a fund at KU Endowment to support natural resource land management and research at Baldwin Woods.

Others involved in the acquisition include the U.S. Forest Service and the Kansas Forest Service at Kansas State University, which designated a portion of the area as the state's first Legacy Forest; the Conservation Fund; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council; and the Kansas Land Trust.

Busby, who has conducted snake research in the Baldwin Woods, led the acquisition effort for Kansas Biological Survey and says the success of the project was very important to him.

"All of Kansas was wild 150 years ago," Busby says. "In this part of the state, very little remains of the prairies and forests that were here originally, and so many of those that do remain have been degraded by various forms of development. This is an exception. I think it's really essential that we have these links to the past and understand and protect species that have survived here for thousands and thousands of years."

—Steven Hill

New front

NIH grant establishes KU center to fight infectious diseases

A five-year, \$11 million grant from the National Institutes of Health has established a new COBRE Center at KU that enables the University to apply its research strengths toward battling infectious diseases.

The Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE): Chemical Biology of Infectious Disease is headed by Thomas Prisinzano, professor and chair of the department of medicinal chemistry.

"Our center is focused on developing chemical probes and strategies to better understand and treat infectious diseases,"

Prisinzano says. "These efforts are especially significant with the rampant rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria and the absent treatments for many emerging infectious diseases."

In 2013 the Centers for Disease Control identified the top 18 drug-resistant threats to health in the United States. On the list is carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), bacteria that are on the rise among hospital patients. Untreatable by almost all existing antibiotic drugs, CRE kills nearly half of all hospital patients who get bloodstream infections from the bacteria.

Better understanding health threats posed by CRE and the newly emerging Zika virus is a main focus for the center, which draws on KU's research strengths in the areas of high-throughput screening, computational chemical biology and medicinal chemistry. Researchers will use small chemical probes to better understand the fundamental biology of harmful bacteria, viruses and other pathogenic micro-organisms that spread disease.

Prisinzano, the principal investigator on the project, is joined by Scott Hefty, associate professor of molecular biosciences. The grant also enables collaboration among researchers at KU, KU Medical Center and Kansas State University, with a particular emphasis on developing promising research by junior faculty members.

"It increases our research infrastructure so that we're able to use some highly contemporary techniques that we didn't necessarily have," Prisinzano says. "It provides equipment and facilities to assist our investigators on campus as well as at our other Regents universities to do things they wouldn't be able to do before."

While the grant covers five years initially, it can be renewed for up to 15 years. Grants for two existing KU COBRE centers were recently renewed. The Center for Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways, led by Susan Lunte, department of chemistry, is in its fifth year. The Center in Protein Structure and Function, led by Robert Hanzlik, department of medicinal chemistry, is in its 13th year.

—Steven Hill

Milestones, money and other matters



STEVE PUPPE

■ University of Kansas Hospital

achieved a rare three-peat when the American Nurses Credentialing Center bestowed Magnet re-certification on the hospital for a third straight year. Magnet designation—given for meeting or exceeding 14 nursing standards—is achieved by only 7 percent of the nation's hospitals, and only 3.7 percent earn it three times in a row.

■ **Sara Rosen**, senior vice provost for academic affairs, ended her 25-year career at KU in August when she was named dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Rosen's KU service included stints as chair of the linguistics department, dean of graduate studies, and interim provost and executive vice chancellor. Stuart Day, associate professor of Spanish, will serve as interim vice provost of academic affairs as a search gets underway for Rosen's successor.

■ **Stephonn Alcorn** will represent the student body as president and **Gabby Naylor** will serve as vice president for 2016-'17. Alcorn was Student Senate's government relations director last academic year, and Naylor was a School of Business representative in the senate. Their platform calls for improving mental health services on campus, connecting more freshmen with research opportunities, creating peer mentoring for first-generation students, establishing a program to recruit students from inner-city schools and revitalizing Potter Lake.

Hilltopics

STEVE RUPPE



CAMPUS

Renovations bring new life to older scholarship halls

KU's **EIGHT ORIGINAL** scholarship halls are the focus of a \$15 million renovation meant to extend the life of the student residences built between 1920 and 1950.

"Really what it boils down to is infrastructure replacement," says Diana Robertson, director of student housing. "The structures are good, but we needed to get new infrastructure in those buildings to give them another 30 to 40 years of life."

Work was completed this summer on Watkins and Miller halls—the two oldest

buildings in the cooperative housing system, which grants students lower housing rates in exchange for weekly cleaning and cooking chores. Grace Pearson Hall is scheduled for renovation next summer. Battenfeld Hall will be renovated in summer 2018. Stephenson, Pearson and Sellards were renovated in 2014 and Douthart in 2015.

Improvements include remodeling each hall's communal kitchen; updating electrical, heating, cooling and plumbing systems; and adding new paint and furniture.

While many universities have largely abandoned cooperative housing, KU expanded the scholarship hall system by an additional four halls between 1992 and 2008. "Alumni have really been generous and wanted to give back to the institution," Robertson says, "and part of their fondness has been for their living experience they had there and how influential that was to their campus experience."

Student demand remains high and admission competitive, she says, with more applications than available spaces each year. The 12-hall community is home to 585 students.

UPDATE

STEVE RUPPE



Cathcart-Rake

A plan by the School of Medicine-Salina to renovate a downtown bank to serve as a new classroom building ["Salina medical school seeks room to grow in downtown move," Hilltopics, issue No. 4] got a major boost with a \$2 million grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation in August.

The Salina Regional Health Foundation purchased the 41,000-square-foot Planter's State Bank building, and a \$6.5 million

campaign is underway to renovate, furnish and equip it. The move will allow the school to adopt a new curriculum that emphasizes more active learning and small-group activities at all three of KU's medical school campuses.

"The Hansen Foundation has been incredibly supportive of the Salina campus since inception," says William Cathcart-Rake, m'74, dean of the School of Medicine-Salina. "This

major gift is just further recognition of the value KU School of Medicine-Salina has toward fulfilling their mission of providing for the health care needs of citizens in northwest and northcentral Kansas."

The Logan-based charity, which serves 26 northwest Kansas counties, previously supported the school with \$100,000 for startup costs, \$75,000 for capital needs and \$175,000 in scholarship assistance.



MEDICINE

Hospital makes it five in a row with magazine ranking

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL was ranked the best hospital in Kansas for the fifth consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report.

The annual analysis, released Aug. 2, surveys data from more than 5,000 hospitals and considers factors such as patient safety and nurse staffing. The University of Kansas Hospital achieved the highest possible rating in seven procedures or conditions and was ranked nationally in 11 adult specialties, including No. 13 in geriatrics, No. 17 in urology, No. 22 in neurology and neurosurgery, No. 25 in cancer care and No. 38 in cardiology and heart surgery.

A specialty must be ranked among the top 50 in the nation to be named to the Best Hospitals list.

U.S. News and World report also ranked the hospital as the best in the Kansas City metropolitan area for the seventh consecutive year.

“This consistency comes from the dedication of our doctors, nurses and other health care professionals,” said hospital president and CEO Bob Page. “Their commitment to providing leading-

edge academic medicine puts us regularly among the nation’s best.”

RESEARCH

Biodiversity Institute researchers map Zika risk worldwide

A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS at KU’s Biodiversity Institute has compiled the most comprehensive map to date predicting where the Zika virus will likely spread in the coming years.

Abdallah Samy, PhD’16, headed a research team that included A. Townsend Peterson, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and senior curator at the Biodiversity Institute; Stephanie Thomas of the University of Bayreuth in Germany; Ahmed Abd El Wahed of Georg-August University in Germany, and Kevin Cohoon, c’00, of the Mayo Clinic.

“It’s the first detailed map that weighs different drivers of transmission,” says Samy. “We assessed different combinations of variables to see what are the major drivers—such as climate, or socioeconomic or people’s ability to access certain areas—and in the final map we merge all the variables.”

Published in August, just before the Olympics began in Rio de Janeiro, the study used ecological niche modeling that predicts species distribution of the mosquito that spreads the virus.

Concern about Zika, which can cause illness in adults and microcephaly in infants, caused some athletes to skip the Olympics this year.

The map shows that conditions are ripe for Zika’s spread through not only South and Central America, but also through southern U.S. states such as Florida, Texas and Louisiana.

“The map can be used by public health officials and international organizations that combat disease,” Samy says. “It’s also intended for the public. If you’re going to travel to a specific area in Brazil, and you know it’s a risk area for Zika, you should consider how to reduce the chances of transmission with clothing or insect repellent.”

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **A \$4.1 million** in-kind software gift from analytics provider IHS Markit benefits engineering and geoscience students. The software is used by Reza Barati, g’06, PhD’11, assistant professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, to teach courses in which students learn to make and improve geological models. It will also be used for research by Barati and other School of Engineering faculty.

■ **Michael “Shane” McCreery** became director of KU’s Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access in September. The office investigates discrimination and harassment complaints and helps conduct anti-discrimination training across campus. McCreery formerly served as director of Illinois State University’s Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access.

■ **Fulbright grants** will send five Jayhawks abroad for teaching or research in 2016-’17: Sammy Badran, g’16, doctoral student in political science, Morocco; Jaron Castilleja, g’14, Russia; JoAnn Doll, u’15, c’15, Indonesia; Brian Turnbull, c’09, doctoral student in political science, India; and Ashley Velez, senior in global and international studies and Slavic languages and literatures, Russia. Since the international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government began in 1946, 459 KU students have earned Fulbright awards.

■ **A \$1 million gift** from Ardis and Luther Fry, c’63, m’67, will establish an endowed chair in the department of ophthalmology at KU Medical Center. John Sutphin, who was recruited to KU with the help of a \$1 million endowed professorship previously created by the Frys, will hold the endowed chair.

The joy of victory

Agony of winless season wilts as 'Hawks savor sweet success

Not long after KU's 55-6 victory over Rhode Island—the first win of coach David Beaty's career as a college head coach and the Jayhawks' first since Nov. 8, 2014—the only silent room inside the Anderson Family Football Complex was Mrkonic Auditorium, where deadline-stressed reporters had gathered for Beaty's postgame news conference.

The silence split wide open as Beaty entered the room.

"Hey how we doin'!" Beaty boomed, grinning and laughing as he floated to his lectern. "Rock Chalk!"

The happy scene was a long time coming, and Beaty cherished it. Even before he was asked a question, the amiable Texan gushed, "You're dang right I'm happy! Getting a win is a neat deal. I'm happiest for our players. They deserved that. They've been through a lot. We've asked them to do a lot. Man, that's good for them to experience that success."

Beaty held off tears, but not emotions, which ran deep.

He reserved his highest praise for quarterbacks Montell Cozart and Ryan Willis, who split playing time.

Cozart, a junior who was last year's starter until sidelined by injury, started the game and performed well, completing 18 of 25 passes for 199 yards and three touchdowns (with one interception, on an underthrown pass to the end zone).

But sophomore Willis—who took over last season after Cozart's injury but was sidelined during spring drills with an injury sustained in a basketball game—showed his own strengths, completing seven of nine passes for 144 yards and a pair of TDs, including a 71-yarder to speedy junior Steven Sims Jr.

"I thought they handled the rotation very well," Beaty said. "And they were for



STEVE PUPPE

Three days after KU's opening-day romp over Rhode Island, coach David Beaty said of his players' reaction to their first victory, "They like the taste and so do we. So we're going to keep working to try to earn another one."

one another. That was the thing I wanted to see the most, and man, it was really cool to see Ryan root for Montell when he went in there first. And to see Montell do the same thing for Ryan. Watching those guys smile on that sideline was a lot of fun."

Said Cozart, "Last year ... well, everybody knows the story. Coming off of that and coach Beaty getting his first one, it was real special. It was special for all of us and I know it's special for him. We owe it to him. He's come in and we've done nothing but follow his lead, and he's leading us to great things."

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, a much sterner test awaited Sept. 10 against Ohio, followed by road games Sept. 17 at Memphis and the start of the rugged Big 12 season Sept. 29 at Texas Tech. But, on

the night of Sept. 3, the only thing on anybody's mind was a victory still as radiant as the fields of sunflowers blanketing northeast Kansas.

Although it was Beaty's first win at KU, players refrained from the traditional water-bucket dousing. Said Beaty, "They know better. We expect to win around here. We have to learn how to do that."

Asked whether the victory was worth the wait, Beaty replied, "I've never been through what we went through last year. That's hard. That's very ... personally, it's difficult. I got emotional with those guys. It's just hard. So, obviously, I'm overjoyed for them."

Again reining in tears, Beaty paused, apologized, and continued.

"We don't want to wait. We want to win." Dang right. 🍷

"Getting a win is a neat deal. I'm the happiest for our players. They deserved that. They've been through a lot."

—football coach David Beaty

Olympic fire

Clemons wins gold; teammates gain valuable Olympic experience

Their journeys began together, when sprinter Kyle Clemons, triple jumper Andrea Geubelle and discus thrower Mason Finley all arrived at KU in 2009 from Texas, Washington and Colorado to chase the same ultimate dream: competing in the Olympics.

“What a heck of a recruiting class ’09 was,” Geubelle said Aug. 26, moments after posing for photographs on the Rock Chalk Park track with her two Team USA Olympic teammates and former Jayhawk Daina Levy, who represented her native Jamaica in the women’s hammer throw. “It was awesome.”

Clemons, ’15, returned from the Rio Olympics with a gold medal—the first men’s track alumnus to do so since Al Oerter, ’58, won his fourth discus gold in 1968—thanks to running the third leg in the semifinal heat of the men’s 4x400 relay Aug. 19. Although he was a spectator for the winning race, Clemons still earned the gold medal, in the same fashion as former KU teammate Diamond Dixon in 2012.

Competing as the youngest woman on Team USA at the London Olympics, Dixon, ’15, brought home gold after running in the qualifying round of the women’s 4x400 relay.

“I talked to Diamond,” Clemons says, explaining that he sought advice from veterans of previous Olympiads. “Everyone kept telling me it’s a bigger stage but it’s the same size track and you’ve done



Clemons

this a million times. They kept telling me I got this; I can do it; I’m here for a reason. That really helped a lot.”

Though they didn’t medal, the others returned with something nearly as valuable: Olympic experience.

Finley, ’14, competed for KU for three years before transferring to Wyoming. When his time in Laramie was done, Finley returned to Lawrence to resume training with throws coach Andy Kokhanovsky. He shed more than 80 pounds after his weight soared past 430, and wore a blue Kansas jersey when he qualified for Rio with a throw of 218 feet, 11 inches July 8 in Eugene, Oregon.

In Rio, his first top-flight international meet, Finley qualified for the discus finals

with a throw of 208 feet, 11 inches, on his third and final attempt. He finished 11th among the 12 finalists, yet his achievement was still notable: Finley was the first American man to qualify for the Olympic discus final since 2004, and, at just 25, he is still young for the sport.

When he first spied Clemons’ gold medal, Finley hesitated. But not for long.

“I said, ‘I’m not going to be superstitious. I’ve got to touch it.’ It’s cool to see the success of a teammate, and it definitely lights a fire under my butt.”

Geubelle, d’14, a three-time NCAA champion, spent much of the past two years fighting through a painful knee injury. After peaking for the U.S. Olympic Trials, her training setbacks proved too much to overcome at the Olympics, where she placed 21st.

“It’s been a long two years,” Geubelle said. “I have dealt with injuries, and there was nothing I could have changed about how my body felt that day. You have to come in and be at the top of your game on every jump that you take. But the experience itself, to go to the Olympics, is such a huge learning experience.”

Levy, ’17, placed 30th in the women’s hammer throw for Jamaica. She plans to attend medical school, so Rio might be her only Olympic experience. Also in Rio, soccer alumnae Liana Salazar, b’16, and Ingrid Vidal, ’16, both played for Colombia in a 2-2 draw against the United States. An attack by Salazar, who started all three games for Colombia, led to Colombia’s first goal after she was taken down on a hard foul and Colombia converted the ensuing free kick.

DAN STOREY (3)



Geubelle



Finley



Levy

Sports

STEVE PUPPE



Seniors Maggie Anderson, Tayler Soucie and Cassie Wait

Ready to roll

Volleyball carries momentum from first Final Four appearance

With five returning starters, including All-Americans Ainise Havili and Kelsie Payne, three-time All-Big 12 middle blocker Tayler Soucie and elite libero Cassie Wait, Big 12 Coach of the Year Ray Bechard harbored few doubts about his volleyball team's ability to build on 2015's Final Four appearance and 30-3 record.

Fans never doubted, either, selling out Horejsi Family Athletics Center before the season even started.

The Jayhawks showed that trust was justified, opening the season with five consecutive 3-0 victories. After losing their

first set of the year in the second set of the Sept. 3 home match with Arkansas, the fourth-ranked Jayhawks rallied for a 3-2 victory to run their record to 6-0.

"The question that we get is, 'How are you going to take it to the next level? How are you going to do better than you did last year?'" says Bechard, now in his 19th year at KU. "Well, it's hard—30-3, with those three losses to the two teams playing in the national championship.

"At the end of the day, if we get the closest we can to the best version of ourselves, I think we've had a great year."

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, weekend tournaments at Creighton and Purdue awaited, followed by the start of conference play Sept. 21 at home against Oklahoma and a critical road match Sept. 24 at Texas, defending Big 12 champion.

UPDATES

Freshman **Mandi Duggan** lifted soccer with first-half goals in consecutive 1-0 victories over Marquette and Colorado. Although junior goalkeeper **Maddie Dobyns** needed just one save for the Aug. 21 shutout of Marquette, she notched a career-high eight Aug. 26 against the Buffaloes. The Jayhawks last year reached the Big 12 championship game, a 1-0 loss to Texas Tech. Coach **Mark Francis**, now in his 18th season, hopes that inspires his 'Hawks to "consistently want to be playing for a championship." ...

Junior **Hannah Dimmick** won cross country's season-opening **Bob Timmons** Dual Classic at Rim Rock Farm in 18 minutes, 21.82 seconds, six seconds ahead of sophomore teammate

Riley Cooney. Redshirt freshman **Bryce Richards** ran second in the men's race to former KU runner **Jacob Morgan**, '16. ... Sophomore guard **Kylee Kopatich** scored 17 points to lead women's basketball to a 113-27 win over Nice Select Aug. 16 in Nice, France. KU went 4-0 on its 10-day trip to Switzerland and France. "This is really part of the educational experience of being a student-athlete," says second-year coach **Brandon Schneider**. ...

Men's basketball coach **Bill Self** on Aug. 20 announced the creation of men's and women's 3-on-3 student tournaments the week before the Oct. 1 Late Night in the Phog. Self is hoping the tourneys, with title games to be played in Allen Field

House before the start of Late Night, will attract 1,000 students. ... Former guard **Jeremy Case**, c'07, in August joined Self's staff as video coordinator. Case previously spent four years as an assistant coach at Houston Baptist University. ... The Champions Classic, which this year pits KU against Duke Nov. 15 in Madison Square Garden, has been extended through 2019. KU faces Kentucky Nov. 14, 2017, in Chicago; Michigan State Nov. 13, 2018, in Indianapolis; and Duke Nov. 12, 2019, in New York City. ...

Basketball players **Bill Bridges**, d'61, and **Tamecka Dixon**, c'99; track stars **Bill Dotson**, d'63, and **Scott Huffman**, j'88; and broadcaster



Duggan

MICHAEL GUNNOE

Bob Davis will be among the 12 inductees enshrined in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 2 in Wichita. ... Former All-Big 12 right-hander **Frank Duncan**, '16, of the Indianapolis Indians, pitched a scoreless sixth inning in the Triple-A All-Star Game July 13 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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at the Adams



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OCT. 8 TCU • OCT. 22 OKLAHOMA STATE • NOV. 12 IOWA STATE • NOV. 19 TEXAS

Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Quarterbacks Montell Cozart (2, above) and Ryan Willis (13, center) earned cheers from fans, as did receiver Steven Sims Jr. (11, right) after his 71-yard touchdown reception. Coach David Beaty (below) said of the rare, two-headed offense, "They're very different types of quarterbacks, and I do think it helped us. We had an advantage. I wasn't going to give it back and the kids didn't want to give it back."



The Big

**A monumental
renovation
showcases
the Spencer's
hospitality
for all to see**

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner



Reveal



In the luminous lobby of the Spencer Museum of Art, where natural light streams through soaring windows, Saralyn Reece Hardy grins as a stunned, wide-eyed visitor gazes in all directions. Even without a single canvas on the walls, the views are spectacular: bright, airy galleries inside, and the lush green of Marvin Grove outside, visible through gleaming glass that spans two floors facing west.

After an 18-month renovation, the Helen Foresman Spencer museum, a grand edifice of limestone and granite, now exudes a gracious sense of welcome. “The building had looked important but not inviting,” says Reece Hardy, Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer. “The whole ethos of the museum is to be open and inviting to all: to students, to faculty, to the public, to the community, people from all walks of life.”

Reece Hardy, c’76, g’94, recalls the cramped confines of the former entrance, especially when groups of younger students from area schools arrived. “The buses would pull up, the kids would pile out, and they were literally scrunched in here with their little parkas,” she recalls. A hallway cut across the small lobby, so visitors took turns sidling down the corridor to hang their coats. “We were just shmushed.”

The expansive new lobby features a visitor services desk, where students from all academic disciplines will greet everyone who enters, and visiting groups will have plenty of space to gather and prepare for their tours. Behind the visitor services desk, flexible space will beckon students and other visitors to linger. Those who need their laptops will find counters with stools, and casual seating will offer students and other visitors a place to simply relax. “This will be a place to be comfortable in the museum, which we have never had,” Reece Hardy says. “We want students to think of this as a home, as an intellectual home, as a place to mix with students from across campus.”

The Phase I renovation, funded by nearly \$8 million in private gifts, transformed 30,000 square feet of interior space, most notably the heart of the



COURTESY PEI COBB FREED & PARTNERS (3)



STEVE PUPPE

museum, now known as the Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court (see story, p. 26). A favorite campus space for gatherings and performances as well as exhibitions, the Central Court now gleams beneath “faux skylights,” an intricate system of hundreds of adjustable LED lights. White oak floors are suspended above a subfloor to provide an ideal surface for dance performances, and a new ceiling will improve the clarity of sound. For visitors with impaired hearing, a

Saralyn Reece Hardy and her team are eager to showcase the Spencer’s collection in galleries that bring the outside in. Architectural renderings (pages 22-24, 28) depict the spaces that will be finished by October: From the front doors, visitors can see through the entire museum; the view of Marvin Grove will complement changing exhibitions on the third floor. Flexible space just off the lobby will accommodate varied activities.

looping audio system will connect to hearing aids.

A new interior staircase and elevator provide easy access between the two floors of galleries, and open balconies enable

visitors to know instantly where they are—unlike many museums that require maps to navigate labyrinthine corridors and windowless rooms.

The new floor plan emphasizes the

Renovation at a glance

More than 180 donors, including KU alumni and faculty members as well as foundations, contributed nearly \$8 million to complete the project. The museum’s footprint remained intact, but interior space was reconfigured to accommodate major renovations, mainly on the third

and fourth floors:

- doubling the size of the lobby
- improving the “academic suite” and moving the space closer to the Central Court
- creating convenient access and sight lines between the third and fourth floors
- expanding the storage space for the collections

The internationally acclaimed firm of Pei Cobb Freed &

Partners, New York City, designed the project. The firm’s designs are featured in more than 20 museums, including the Grand Louvre in Paris. Dan Sabatini, a’86, Lawrence, and his firm, Sabatini & Associates, collaborated on the renovation as associate architects.

Mar Lan Construction of Lawrence carried out the project. The firm’s founders are Gale Lantis, e’68; Brian Lantis,

’95; and Kevin Markley.

Landscape architect Reed Dillon, c’79, Lawrence, donated the landscape design, and his firm, Reed Dillon & Associates, completed the installation.

The landscape design includes zinc planter boxes lining the front sidewalks. Bill Zahner, e’79, and his firm, A. Zahner & Company, of Kansas City, Missouri, created and donated the boxes.

museum's manageable size, says Margaret Perkins-McGuinness, s'05, g'11, director of external affairs: "One of the special things is your ability to see the whole museum in one visit. Because the new space is so open, you can instantly reorient yourself. You're never wondering where you are and where you've been, and you don't need to retrace your steps."

Adjacent to the Central Court and the lobby is the "academic suite," where students, faculty and scholars will view works that relate directly to academic courses or projects. The space includes the Teaching & Learning Gallery, available to all visitors, and the Stephen H. Goddard Study Center, which is reserved for classes and other groups. The academic suite's location showcases the Spencer's core mission to teach, Reece Hardy says. "It's in the middle of the museum, demonstrating what we're really all about."

The Teaching & Learning Gallery now features custom glass-front display cases manufactured and installed by Glasbau Hahn, a German company. The cases' design enables one person to easily install small collections that will remain in place briefly, perhaps for only two weeks.

Nearly double the size of its former space, the gallery also makes room for the annual exhibition of the KU Common

Work of Art, which will remain in place through the academic year. The 2016-'17 selection, by American artist Willie Cole, relates to this year's KU Common Book, Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, a powerful letter from an African-American father to his teenage son. Cole's large prints of ironing boards, "Calpurnia, Bertha Mae, and Lula Bell," are three of a series called *Beauties*, 27 prints of flattened ironing boards that Cole has named for his family members or iconic slaves and domestic workers from literature, including Calpurnia from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Adjacent to the Teaching & Learning Gallery is the Stephen H. Goddard Study Center, named by an anonymous donor to honor Goddard, associate director and senior curator. As a scholar of works on paper, he presides over the Spencer's collection of 20,000 works on paper—one of the museum's strengths. Throughout his 32 years at KU, Goddard, who also is a professor of art history, has shared countless works with students, faculty, researchers and other visitors in the "print room," which before the renovation was tucked behind the offices of museum staff.

(continued on p. 28)

Partners and patrons

Couple's gifts help museum continue its teaching role

For Sam and Connie Engle Perkins, fall Saturdays through the years were a study in contrasts: raucous football games in Memorial Stadium and quiet retreats in the Spencer Museum, a favorite destination for the couple who, as scholars and collectors of art, have traveled to 173 countries.

"We always enjoyed the Spencer and thought about what a unique institution it was for Kansas," says Sam, b'53. "We really are impressed with the way the Spencer and its staff approach the obligations of a major gallery. They display the art well, and they teach well. They inspire."

To help the museum continue to thrive, the Perkinses provided a leadership gift for the renovation. In addition, they created a landmark planned gift, designating the museum as the permanent home of their extensive art collection. In tribute to their generosity, the heart of the museum is now known as the Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court.

"We believe so strongly in what the Spencer is doing—what Saralyn is doing and her curators are doing as part of their mission to educate," explains Connie, d'57. "We chose the giving of both money and art to the Spencer for those reasons. We want our works to be shared by Kansans. We're both Kansans, born and raised. KU is our school, and we want to give back."

The clean lines of the renovated Central Court, awash in light, fit the couple's abiding passion for contemporary art, but their collection also spans a vast spectrum of genres and cultures, says director Saralyn Reece Hardy. "When I saw their collection, it hit me almost immediately: very, very high-quality work, driven by specific interests and responses. It's eclectic, like the Spencer, and it reflects their foray into distant places and experiences, the quality that comes from studious attention, and the broad consid-



Stephen Goddard



Sam and Connie Perkins

eration of what constitutes art: furniture, baskets, weavings, woodworking, paintings, drawings, masks, clothing.”

The intellectual impetus for their lifelong collecting began in a KU classroom. Maud Ellsworth, f’33, associate professor of education, who convinced Connie to pursue a degree in art education, one day shared with her students the abstract works of Josef Albers, a German-American artist and teacher known for his theories of color. Ellsworth offered her students the chance to buy prints of Albers’ works for \$25. Connie didn’t have \$25 to spend, but Albers’ works enthralled her. She remains grateful to Ellsworth for the introduction. “Bringing prints of color blocks on paper into an art classroom in the 1950s was pretty bold,” she says.

Connie, an Abilene native, moved to Sam’s hometown, Olathe, after they married, and she taught art in the public schools. During her career, she worked with both high school students and kindergartners. She also mentored KU student teachers whom Ellsworth sent her way. Art education in public schools was new to Olathe, and Connie enjoyed the chance to create a new curriculum.

She and Sam took their first trip in 1959, and as they added stamps to their passports, their collection grew. “We were buying art because we liked it. We wanted

to live with it,” she says. “Now we have so many things that we love and value, and we wanted to give it to somebody who would use it for education and keep it in Kansas and share it with others.”

Although he is Connie’s partner in collecting, Sam’s first scholarly passion was economics, sparked by legendary KU professor John Ise. “Most people, if you say you get excited about economics, they think you’re weak in the head or it doesn’t take much to excite you,” he says with a laugh. “But John Ise was excited by economics, and so I became excited, too.”

Ise’s spellbinding presence attracted a campus following and ultimately motivated Sam to change his mind about studying journalism. “He always had a class full of not only students but auditors who would just stand at the back to watch him teach,” Sam recalls. “I finished his course and moved to the business school. He changed my direction entirely.”

After serving two years in the Army, Sam returned to Olathe and began his career in 1955 with Patrons State Bank and Trust, which ultimately became Bank IV in 1991, when he retired.

Reece Hardy says that together the Perkinses “do their homework like curators. They are not sitting in an auction

house. They are meeting the artists. They are exchanging ideas with people and they are out in the middle of the creative environment, much like the Spencer. Our collections tend to be driven by the creative force that is about the maker and the collector and the environment.”

The couple’s thoughtful, purposeful collecting will ultimately offer unending opportunities to teach, Reece Hardy concludes. “This collection not only fits the Spencer; it expands us. And it expands what we are able to do with a variety of cultures for which we would like to strengthen collections. ... Some of the works will be our first by particular artists.

“Many, many of the objects will be immensely valuable for the Spencer to share for years to come.” —J.J.S.



COURTESY SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART



STEVE PUPPE

The Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court, before and after.

Goddard says news of the anonymous gift “came as a complete surprise, completely out of left field. I never expected it, whether in my name or not. That kind of support for study here is fabulous.”

The room includes tables where visitors can closely inspect objects. On the walls, a system of trays and shelves allows flexibility to display layers of works both small and large, Goddard explains. “If you think about an old blackboard and the little tray underneath, where the chalk and eraser sit, it’s a structure that’s similar to that but tipped a little bit so it’s more secure,” he says. Staff members also can remove the trays entirely, leaving flat walls for hanging large scrolls, for example. The room also incorporates diffuse as well as direct lighting, which can illuminate the intricacies of works on paper. “Works on paper have tons of texture and features that you don’t see in diffuse light,” Goddard says. “We used to get out flashlights, and we may still do so occasionally, but we also can have lighting straight down the wall to show the relief clearly.”

With new features and larger space in a convenient location, the Study Center will welcome even more students and faculty. “We now have upwards of 100 classes a year using the center,” Goddard says. “This is a very busy arena.”

Goddard and Kate Meyer, curator of works on paper, highlight the variety of classes that visit the Study Center—only half of which are from expected subjects



In the Stephen H. Goddard Study Center, students and faculty from all academic disciplines will view works that relate to their classes; the center welcomes more than 100 classes each academic year, and usage will continue to grow.

such as drawing, printmaking, photography or art history. Classes in business, pharmacy, engineering, astronomy and theatre incorporate works of art into the curriculum. Meyer, g’04, PhD’11, estimates that 75 percent of the seminars organized by the Office of First-Year Experience use the center. “I like to greet incoming students at the gate and let them know that we are part of their orientation. We are a resource,” she says. “We introduce a work of art as a primary source, and you can evaluate it with other sources. You can approach it from your discipline; you don’t have to have special skills.”

As the Spencer celebrates a new era,

leaders are beginning to envision future improvements. Reece Hardy affirms that the museum will continue to respond to the needs of its audiences, collections and programs.

“It’s our golden moment, in some ways, because we are developing these spaces at the same time when higher education is thinking about how we bring students closer to primary sources like objects,” she says. “How do we get them involved in the research? How do we make them feel as if they can see?”

In the reimaged Spencer Museum, students, faculty, alumni and all visitors will see more clearly than ever before.

Opening Weekend

The Spencer will reopen from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, unveiling two new exhibitions from the permanent collection:

■ “The Object Speaks” acknowledges the power of functional and artistic objects to carry important cultural ideas from one generation to the next.

■ “Inventing Childhood” features representations of children across a diverse range of cultures and eras.

The fourth-floor thematic installations—“Empire of Things,” “This Land,” “Forms of Thought,” and “20/21”—will return with minor substitutions to accommodate new windows and other changes to the spaces.

From 4 to 7 p.m., the KU

Choirs’ performance of “Resonant Vessels” begins at Capitol Federal Hall, 1654 Naismith Dr., and moves to five other sites across campus, concluding in the Spencer’s Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court.

“Resonant Vessels” is an architectural-choral fusion by composer Forrest Pierce. The Spencer commissioned the work in conjunction with its

ongoing Integrated Arts Research Initiative, which began in 2016 thanks to a \$487,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The performance is free, but tickets are required. Visit spencerart.ku.edu to reserve tickets.

The celebration continues from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, with a pancake brunch and other activities.

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BORN BLUE **to Be**

**Drummer, actor and Jayhawk
Ethan Golub brings Blue Man to life**

by Steven Hill

Ten months into a yearlong U.S. tour, Ethan Golub still wonders at the long road that led to a starring role in the theatre world's most iconic and original trio: the otherworldly innocents known as Blue Man Group.

Golub, f'08, studied music theory and percussion at KU, then moved to Los Angeles, where he worked in film music at 20th Century Fox before joining talent agency William Morris Endeavor. He left there to become a casting director on "Glee," "CSI" and other TV shows and films. After deciding to

pursue acting full time, he auditioned for Blue Man Group.

A performance art trio that formed in 1992 on New York City's Lower East Side, Blue Man Group started as street theatre and grew into a worldwide phenomenon seen by more than 35 million people in 15 countries, with simultaneous world and U.S. tours and standing shows in New York, Chicago, Boston, Las Vegas, Orlando and Berlin. Blue Men never speak, but communicate through body language, facial expressions and primal drumming. While the show constantly evolves,



Photograph by Lindsey Best
Blue Man Productions

“Blue Man Group has been such a perfect fit for his talents—his musicianship, his performance skills, his sense of humor—that to those of us who know him, he seems like he was born to be a Blue Man.”—*Spencer Golub*

the central premise remains the same: Innocents from another world trying to decode ours, Blue Men hold a mirror to culture, lampooning our obsessions—smartphones, junk food, rock concerts—even as they create a kind of all-ages tribal dance party that’s both bawdily irreverent and family friendly: Think Romper Room meets Burning Man.

The high-energy stage show proved an ideal match for his talents and interests: virtuoso drumming and a love of theatre.

“It’s amazing that these two paths—the music and the theatre—started like this,” Golub says, spreading his arms to illustrate how separate his two interests once were. “Then you go through life and all of a sudden it’s like this,” he says,

entwining both arms to show how the paths came together.

The road started in Rhode Island, where he grew up the son of Brown University theatre professor Spencer Golub, PhD’77, and Jeanie Lynch Golub, ’76.

“Ethan was always fascinated with the stage and liked to climb on the sets of the shows I directed,” Spencer Golub recalls. “From an early age he felt at home in the theatre.”

Ethan didn’t just take drum lessons growing up, his father says, “he drummed on everything, everywhere. He walked around with an ever-present pair of drumsticks the way a kid walks around with a basketball in hand, bouncing it off of everything and anything.



KAT TUOHY PHOTOGRAPHY

“All three Blue Men work together to communicate through music and art,” says Ethan Golub. “The Drumbone [below] and the paint drums [right] are signature examples of that.”



LINDSEY BEST/BLUE MAN PRODUCTIONS

“Blue Man Group has been such a perfect fit for his talents—his musician-ship, his performance skills, his sense of humor—that to those of us who know him, he seems like he was born to be a Blue Man.”

Golub’s future as a Jayhawk may have been pre-ordained, too. Eight family members are alumni, and his parents met at KU. He spent long hours in Murphy Hall practice rooms (and on the field with the Marching Jayhawks) honing percussion skills, only to discover, after arriving in Hollywood, that acting appealed more than composing. Now he can’t imagine a gig that allows him to act and drum the way Blue Man Group does.

“It’s a perfect combination, but if you had told me I’d end up doing this while I was at KU, I’d be like, ‘Well, how do you get there?’”

In town for an April performance at the Topeka Performing Arts Center, Golub looks every bit the up-and-coming actor: wavy hair, dimpled chin, 200-watt smile. Later in the afternoon he’ll start the hourlong process of getting in character—getting “bald and blue,” Blue Men call it—goofing backstage with his fellow actors while donning a black jumpsuit and a bald cap and slathering on the blue greasepaint that creates the trio’s instantly recognizable look.

“The great thing is that every night is opening night for us,” Golub says. “We’re experiencing audiences that may have been waiting for years to see us, witnessing venues we’ve never been in. And all of a sudden the show starts and you’re in it. It’s like, ‘Let’s explore this place.’”

Onstage at TPAC, Golub plays Left. (Left, Right and Center, as Blue Men are known, each have distinct characters and roles in the show, but also have freedom to improvise.) He takes turns pounding beats and pouring fluorescent paint onto the drumheads of his fellow Blue Men, creating a splashy opening number that delights the plastic-clad fans in the poncho section down front. He makes music using the group’s signature homemade PVC-pipe instruments, phone keypads and loud chomps of Cap’n Crunch cereal. He brings



LINSEY BEST/BLUE MAN PRODUCTIONS

audience members onstage to join the improv, and takes the fun into the crowd to peer curiously into viewers’ faces. There’s a brilliant meet-the-audience bit that splices live-camera action with endoscopy footage to hilarious effect.

The 90-minute show is manic, messy and—in the words of Randall Jaynes, Blue Man director of performer development—magical.

“It’s not acting when a child leaves cookies out for Santa,” Jaynes says. “They’re not concerned with how they look doing it; they’re just focused on getting it right, for real, leaving the perfect amount of cookies and milk so Santa will show up. Do it wrong, no Christmas. Do it right and you help make the magic happen.”

Making the magic happen takes investment that can’t be faked or acted. It’s the essence of becoming a Blue Man.

“We train how to think like a Blue Man,” Golub says, “and when you understand

how he thinks and moves, you can become your own version of the character. We like to think every person has a Blue Man in them, and Blue Man as I see it is the purest form of ourselves. It’s very much me onstage. When you shed all those layers, you’re gonna get Ethan.”

Combining theatre and ritual, performance art and comedy, Blue Man Group has a serious mission: Create a communal happening that satisfies humans’ craving to connect with their tribe.

That’s why the forays into the crowd are the high point of the show for Golub.

“When you are interacting with the audience members, that is so real. There’s no acting. Looking into someone’s eyes, getting their feedback and giving something back to them, that is a real moment we get to experience every night. You stare at someone for a long time and you kind of start peeling away those layers and get past the masks we all wear. That never gets old. Never.”



The Letter

Five friends carry friendship and faith across life's passages, one postage stamp at a time

Kay Sullinger Wible arrived on Mount Oread in August 1974. She'd already earned her associate's degree from Johnson County Community College and was determined to also earn a KU journalism degree. But, with a lifelong hearing impairment, she was nervous about the challenges she'd face in her coursework and making friends.

When she arrived at her new home, Miller Hall, Wible was shy and nervous. Not only would she stand out as "the deaf girl," but Wible, then 20, also knew going in that the hall's other newcomers would be only 18. And, she had no clue whether any of the women, newcomers or otherwise, would share the intensity of her Christian faith and lifestyle.

Could she make friends? Would this be a refuge where she would find peace and fulfillment, or would she be destined to endure an outsider's loneliness?

"After bidding my parents goodbye at the front door of the house," Wible, j'76, recalls in an email from her home in Burnsville, Minnesota, "I turned to view

the masses milling in the open lobby and adjacent, sprawling living room, feeling a bit overwhelmed. Most of the freshmen looked so young!"

In the center of the action, Wible noticed, a "talkative, excitable little redhead" blessed with charisma and charm sweetly commanded attention. Too shy to take the initiative herself, Wible brightened when the lively young music major sauntered over.

"I'm Debbie. What's your name?"

And so came the first sigh of relief, the first sense of belonging, the first step in a journey destined to last decades.

And the first of countless answered prayers.

Debbie Tilghman Packard—always "Tillie" to her college friends—grew up admiring her mother's faithful dedica-

tion to a long-distance communication system that Packard, f'78, now laughingly terms "the first group messaging."

It's called a round-robin letter, and it works like this: The chain begins when one member of a group mails a letter—usually a handwritten note—to a friend. That person reads the letter, writes her own, then mails both to the third friend. So the letters continue down the line, until the final member of the group, after adding her own letter, mails the bundle back to first correspondent, who then removes her own original letter, adds another, and sends the letters back on their merry way. At each stop, correspondents remove their notes, add another, and perhaps include family photographs and ephemera such as recital programs or newspaper clippings.

"My mother had a round-robin letter with her high-school friends," Packard explains from her Topeka home. "Mom would get these round-robin letters in the mail, read through them all and then write a letter and put it back in. She is in her 90s now, and there is no longer a round robin

BY CHRIS LAZZARINO
Photographs by Steve Puppe

because she's the only one remaining. But it went until there wasn't anyone left to write to.

"When I started seeing these friendships develop in college and realized that we were all going our different ways, I thought we could do this, too."

First, though, came the friendships, and before the friendships came introductions.

After meeting Packard on that first morning in Miller Hall, the scholarship

hall next door to The Outlook, Wible found herself alone that evening in her room at the far end of the third floor. Her roommate had not yet arrived on campus, so a quiet, perceptive freshman from Junction City, Marina Stewart Maimer, one of Packard's roommates in the room at the top of the third-floor stairs, knocked on Wible's door to introduce herself.

Bonds began to form. Packard, Maimer and Wible never sought out the bar scene, and instead focused their blossoming friendships on shared values: studying, making good grades, Christianity.

"What 'faith' meant to us was a topic of many discussions," Wible writes, "and created an unspoken camaraderie that first year."

Rita Marie Gatlin Crews, a first-generation college student from a Colby farming family, was the next to arrive, in 1975, after two years at Colby Community College. She had always loved music, but when her music teacher asked her what she intended to do in life, Crews replied that she hoped to become a nurse.

"He was from KU, and he asked if I'd heard of music therapy. I had not, and he said, 'You don't want to be a performer; you want to help people with the medium

of music.' He said KU has the best program in the nation. And I just thought, I am scared to death to go to KU. I'm a little people and those are great big people and I'll never make it, you know?"

"They're all from the city, they're all going to be on drugs and they're all going to not be studying, I don't know what they're going to be like and I'll probably fail all my classes."

At Miller Hall, Crews—like Packard, a



Debbie Packard (l-r), Rita Marie Crews, Bonnie Viner, Kay Wible and Marina Maimer—"The Robins"—reunite in June in Viner's Iowa home. "The point of all of it is that we wanted to encourage one another to stay true in our faith," Packard says of their round-robin letters and enduring friendships. "Sometimes the letters are about times of rejoining, and then other times there's pages of heartbreak and hard times and trying to encourage one another to endure."

.....
lively redhead music major—quickly learned her fears were unfounded, especially when she fell in with Packard, Maimer and Wible.

"We just grew tight," says Crews, d'78, d'79. "In our room we got together and prayed at night, so this started a long time

ago, before we started writing letters."

They were hardly inseparable—the four women had different friends in the house, niches on campus and even churches and fellowship groups—but their 10 p.m. prayer meetings became ritual.

"It was an amazing experience to have that, as we were growing together in our faith," Maimer, d'78, says by phone from Ukarumpa, in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, where she

has worked as a nurse and Bible translation educator since the 2012 death of her husband, Tony Maimer, '80. "Without that strong opportunity to grow in our faith it would have been very different. I'm sure I wouldn't have kept in touch with anybody."

When Bonnie Pearson Viner, a "dazzling blonde" Iowa farm girl, arrived as a transfer student from Drake

University, she first had to summon the courage to enroll in Allen Field House. Alumni too young to remember "pulling cards" can take Viner at her word when she describes the scene as "fruit-basket-upset total chaos," especially for a music education and music therapy double major who had to line up her courses in a specific sequential order.

Hallmate Rita Marie Crews, by then long past the trepidations she'd felt before leaving Colby, was also double majoring in music therapy and music education, and stepped up to assure Viner she wouldn't have to go through it alone.

"If I remember right," Viner, d'80, says from her home in rural Emerson, Iowa, "it took us eight hours to enroll me. Rita really took me under her wing and said, 'We'll get you through this.'"

And so the crew became five. Viner, too,

COURTESY ROUND ROBINS (2)



Scrapbooks overflowing with letters also include treasured photographs, including these of (left, l-r) Packard, Viner and Maimer; and (below, clockwise from top left) Maimer, Wible, Crews and Packard.

her letters, which now constitute “a diary of my life.”

“It’s a treasure you can’t describe until you have it,” Maimer says. “And you have to be intentional. I don’t know that some of our social media actually connects that way. It’s too temporary. One of the reasons it works for us is that it’s a letter that you can hold in your hands. You can keep it for a week and read it again and again. That kind of gets lost in some of these Facebook and email things. I’m not putting that stuff down at all. I’m just saying you’ve got to be intentional to build relationships.”

When Maimer moved to the other side of the world, she feared a round-robin packet mailed to her would be interminably delayed or even lost, so she asked that she no longer be included. The Robins wouldn’t hear of it; instead, Packard began scanning everything in the packet and emailing the batch to Papua New Guinea; Maimer’s email replies are then printed

embraced Christianity, and found spiritual nourishment in Bible study and 10 p.m. prayer meetings.

“Everybody had tight schedules,” she says, “and that prayer time was scheduled in as part of the day. I remember going in at 10 o’clock and it was time to pray. I’m sure things came up—I need prayer for this or I need prayer for that—but it wasn’t chitchat time. That was for other times. This was focused on prayer. Group prayer.”

Wible, the oldest of the group, was the first to graduate, but she took her first job in Kansas City and returned often to the companionship of her friends in Miller Hall. Study abroad, internships and graduations kept the group in flux, yet whatever its composition in any given semester, the bonds of the Miller Hall crew continued to solidify.

After Marina married Tony at the Campanile a week after Commencement, in 1978, the group’s time together at KU drew to a close.

Their friendships did not.

“The original idea came from Rusty, Tillie’s mom, whom we all knew,” Viner says. “She had a group of ladies that she was friends with back in her day, and they had a round-robin letter. We decided to give it a go, too.”

Like their prayer meetings, the round-robin letter was never really about chitchat. Sure they’d include tidbits

from their households’ news of the day, especially as their families began to grow, but the letters routing through Topeka and Colorado and Minnesota and Missouri and Iowa were grounded in group support for the Christian walk.

Retrieving the packet of letters from the mailbox became a monthly highlight, and each of the Robins, as they came to call themselves, developed their own little rituals for savoring the experience. A cup of tea, a quiet kitchen, lingering over heartfelt words from faraway friends, then composing a reply.

Or, not. Eager to keep the letter moving, they’d dash off notes on the back of a program from a school play while killing time in a mechanic’s waiting room. If the packet was allowed to sit unattended, children might grab it and read the letters aloud. (A particular benefit of the round-robin letters, each of the Robins note, is that their 16 children, the “Robinettes,” came to know one another over the years, as did their husbands and as will, they anticipate, their grandchildren, the “Peeps.”)

“It’s not just, make yourself sound good in a letter,” Crews says. “It’s pour yourself out and you guys help me because I’m not doing real well right here. Somebody says, ‘How are you doing?’ and you say, ‘I’m fine. I’m fine.’ Well, you go a lot deeper when somebody has been with you for 40 years, through thick and thin.”

Crews made a point of saving each of



and the letters resume their journey.

Scanning isn't the only technology now embraced by the Robins. Yes, they share group texts and emails, but those are more about day-to-day stuff, the chitchat, or timely prayer requests. The physical letters, ambling through four decades of cross-country travel, are still the tethers that bind friends and believers.

"The longer it went the more important it became to us," Viner says. "We really share our hearts in these handwritten letters. It's kind of archaic now, but there's something very precious about that handwritten letter."

A few miles north of Emerson, in southeast Iowa, a gravel road cutting through gentle hills blanketed by vibrant early summer corn is earnestly patrolled by Harley, a stout black Lab-Great Pyrenees mix, and a graceful black Lab called Eva. Tater, the tiny tot, happily injects herself into the greeting party, and the senior citizen of the crew, Jill, wisely takes shady cover from the midday June sun.

Inside Howard and Bonnie Viner's modern, airy home, five women are assembled around an upright piano, singing joyfully.

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence
my light.*

A rarity. The Robins, united so forcefully by faith and correspondence, have assembled for a reunion years in the making. Even before one of their group moved to the far side of the world, reunions that included all five proved difficult to arrange. They've attended weddings and funerals, cared for one another in sickness and times of trouble, dropped in on one another when traveling, but, as life tends to play out, complete group assembly came along at intervals of five years or more.

But today, the gang's all here. Kay Sullinger Wible came down from Minnesota. Rita Marie Gatlin Crews arrived from



"The longer it went the more important it became to us. "We really share our hearts in these handwritten letters. It's kind of archaic now, but there's something very precious about that handwritten letter."

—Bonnie Viner

Neosho, Missouri, and Debbie Tilghman Packard drove up from Topeka. Marina Stewart Maimer flew for an hour and a half from the airstrip in Ukarumpa to Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, then made two stops in Australia before flying 15 hours to Dallas, from which she embarked on visits with family and friends before making her way to Iowa.

A detailed itinerary for the four-day Robins reunion has been drafted, including meal plans, a visit to a parade in town and church services. Most important, the schedule includes five blocks of hour-long "sharing time," allowing each Robin a half-hour to address the group and answer questions followed by a half-hour of prayer.

"As wonderful as the letters are, you can't share all the depths and you can't see the expressions on all the faces," Packard says. "But with everyone here at the same time, we want to really share our hearts, hear the emotion, and maybe hear some of the history that's maybe too much to write in a letter."

There is lots of Kleenex and tears, prayers and singing.

"It's part of who we are," Crews says.

Pastries and iced tea are set out in the kitchen, where a framed needlepoint shares the message of Psalm 91: *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.* Bookcases overflow with a superb collection of classic literature, and ornate bookends tell of the Viners' love of horses—a passion they had to set aside, along with their cows and calves, when they chose to spend five summers working for the Alaska Fire Service, Bonnie as a barracks manager and Howard as a pilot. The piano and a gorgeous hutch survived the 1982 fire that destroyed their little farm house 2 miles west.

A large bay window, with a glorious south view of lawn and corn, splashes radiant light onto a low circular table, overflowing with study Bibles and scrapbooks, around which the Robins of Miller Hall read and talk, laugh and cry, and, always, pray.

In these fleeting moments when they can finally set the letters aside and instead gaze into eyes and hearts, they happily sing of a gift even more precious than friendship: 40 years of answered prayers. —

Association



Burgess



Jeter



Menghini

Service stalwarts

Local volunteers honored for longtime commitment to KU

Three individuals are the 2016 recipients of the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award. They are James Burgess, c'73; Chris Jeter, d'68, EdD'79; and Henry Menghini, c'87.

The “Millie” recognizes Jayhawks who have volunteered in their local communities for 10 years or more and honors the memory of Clodfelter, b'41, for her 47 years of service to the University, including 42 years working at the Association.

Burgess is a Life Member and longtime Wichita resident. Since 2009 he has volunteered countless hours to build vivid stage decorations for the Wichita Network's annual Jayhawk Roundup, including a 12-foot Jayhawk jet, giant scoreboards, a full-size jukebox and a spooky cemetery scene. He has volunteered for local youth organizations and for the Special Olympics for more than 35 years. He also served on several local, state and national committees during his 24-year

career as a district court judge.

Jeter, a Wichita native, is a Life Member, a K-Club member and a longtime member of the Williams Education Fund. He serves on the Wichita Network board of directors and is completing his second term as athletics chair. He has attended the Jayhawk Roundup since 2009, and he chaired the event's decorations committee for the past three years. He volunteers for the Kansas Honors Program in Wichita and Sedgwick County and helps recruit prospective students. He is a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education and also serves as president of the Wichita Jayhawk Club, a local booster organization that supports KU programs and activities. He was a teacher, principal and superintendent for several years before retiring in 2012 from the Boeing Company.

Menghini, a Life Member, has been a longtime volunteer for the Tri-State Network, serving as president of the board of directors from 2005 to '09. He continued his service on the Association's national board of directors from 2008 to '13, and he served on the Chancellor's Athletics Advisory Committee. He is an integral part of the planning committee

for 'Hawkstock, the Tri-State Network's largest event. He advocates for KU as a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education. He owns the Menghini Law Firm and is an attorney for the City of Pittsburg.

KU connection

Incoming freshmen receive four-year memberships to SAA

In an effort to boost Student Alumni Association membership and strengthen the Jayhawk network for years to come, the Alumni Association has teamed up with KU Endowment to buy four-year memberships for all incoming freshmen.

“Higher-impact engagement through Student Alumni Association will drive longer-term KU loyalty, which we hope evolves into alumni advocacy, service, membership in the Alumni Association, philanthropy—supporting all areas of KU—and them sending future children to the University,” says Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, the Association's president.

There were approximately 1,400 members of SAA before the addition of this year's freshman class, which bumped the total to about 5,400. Membership costs \$25 a year, or \$75 for a four-year membership, and students usually sign up when they make their selections for optional campus fees.

Members of SAA can take advantage of community service projects, hospitality events during finals week, and professional development and networking opportunities. The Association also launched a student-specific traditions app during 'Hawk Week' this year, which allows students to earn points for participating in more than 50 KU traditions and campus activities during their time on the Hill.

"It's an exciting and amazing opportunity for these new students," says Kiley Gilmore, c'12, the Association's assistant director of student programs. "Students will begin a lifelong involvement and connection to KU as early as their first day on campus."

Gift memberships will be provided for the next three incoming freshman classes so that all KU undergraduates will be

members of SAA by fall 2019. KU currently has more than 19,000 undergraduates.



Taylor

Network advocate

Alumnus earns award for leadership, recruitment efforts

Matt Taylor is the 2016 winner of the Dick Wintermote Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership of the Greater Kansas City Network.

Named for Dick Wintermote, c'51, who led the Alumni Association as executive director from 1963 to 1983 and helped establish a dedicated network of volunteers, the annual award recognizes Jayhawks who have guided their local networks to new heights.

Taylor, b'98, g'03, a Presidents Club and Life Member, has served on the Kansas City Network board since 2011, including the past year as president. He also led the membership committee for two years.

He has hosted several Presidents Club events in Kansas City and has been instrumental in recruiting new donors and members. He helped organize and promote local programs and events, including the Jayhawk Career Networking series; the Association's KC restaurant week; 'Hawks, Helmets and Handlebars; and the Association's largest fundraiser, the Rock Chalk Ball.

He has helped recruit prospective students, and he serves on the finance advisory board for the School of Business. He is a senior wealth adviser at Frontier Wealth Management in Kansas City.



Thanks to four-year Student Alumni Association memberships provided by the Alumni Association and KU Endowment, incoming freshmen can connect to the University as soon as they arrive on the Hill.

Association

A NOTE FROM HEATH

Alumni and friends rose Far Above

KU Endowment recently announced the record-setting, historic results of *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, which raised \$1.66 billion, shattering the original goal of \$1.2 billion. The total is even more impressive when we recall that the campaign's launch coincided with the beginning of the Great Recession. Eight short years ago, the goal seemed unattainable, but Jayhawks worked together, rose to the challenge and over-delivered, as they so often do.

Much more important than the final

number is the transformational impact, which will be felt for generations to come: \$523 million in support of students, \$451 million for programs, \$447 million for faculty and \$240 million for new and renovated facilities.

Far Above magnified the generosity, dedication and leadership of alumni and friends who have shaped the University of Kansas for 150 years. The KU Alumni Association team has been honored to work with our good partners at KU Endowment and colleagues on all campuses to advance KU. Thanks to all of you who contributed time, talent and treasure to help make *Far Above* an overwhelming success!

Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!



DAN STOREY

—Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09
KU Alumni Association president

New staffers

DAN STOREY (3)



Nick Kallail, d'04, l'07, joined the Association in August as the assistant vice president of alumni programs and career services. He comes to KU from Texas, where he spent nine years in sports and entertainment marketing and volunteered for the Dallas and Houston alumni networks.



Danny Woods, j'13, joined the Association in August as the assistant director of legacy and alumni programs. He grew up in a military family that was constantly on the move, but he found his home in Lawrence. He recently recruited future Jayhawks for KU Admissions.



Mitzi Eisenhauer, '94, joined the Association in August as an assistant records specialist. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Washburn University in 1997. She and her husband, Jeff, c'89, live in Lawrence and have two sons, Christian and Josh, who's a freshman at KU.



Celebrate at the Center

The Adams Alumni Center offers an elegant atmosphere on one of the most beautiful campuses just minutes from KU's historic Danforth Chapel. Our professional staff and all-inclusive wedding packages will make your day on the Hill a memorable one. Visit our website to view rooms, rates and amenities.



Photography by Jerry Wang



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KU Kickoff

Nearly 4,000 Jayhawks packed Corinth Square in Prairie Village Aug. 26 for the 11th-annual KU Kickoff, hosted by the Alumni Association and Kansas Athletics. The crowd enjoyed food and drink tents, a fun zone for children, a sesquicentennial display by KU Libraries, Jayhawk merchandise giveaways, and Big Jay and Baby Jay, who kept the atmosphere lively with the help of the KU spirit squad and marching band.



Life Members

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Mary A. Adkins | Micah D. & Carrie Patton |
| Stewart Alloway | Laaker |
| John A. Aucar | Angeline M. Lathrop |
| Nicole L. Austin | Rebecca A. Lang |
| John W. Ballard IV & Betsy L. Spratlin | Bradley C. Larson |
| Jerry L. & Karen Barnett | Bev Londerholm |
| Amelia M. Bartkoski | Charles E. & Kelly Clark Loudon |
| Mary L. Bolton-Koppenhaver | Matthew Macaluso |
| Tana Monroe Burton | Christina E. Munson |
| Amy R. Buscher | Jessica L. Nelson |
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| Matthew G. & Leah Jardine Dykas | Leonard J. Schapker |
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| Linda Koehn Good | Flint M. & Amy Hammer Steeples |
| Joanna Baker Grogan | William R. S. Thomas |
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| Connor D. Haden | Lauren A. Vanlandingham |
| Leslie Dove Hazelet | Gwen Westerman |
| Richard W. Hoener | Stacey D. Wright |
| Joseph L. Ibarra | Elizabeth Mattson Wroe |
| Leslie Coverdale Jagoda | Scott A. Zeligson |
| Natalie A. Jones | |



The annual Veterans Day Run is Nov. 13 at Memorial Stadium. The first 300 participants will receive this commemorative medal, in honor of the 30th anniversary of KU's dedication of the Vietnam War memorial. For more information and to register to run, visit kualumni.org/kuvetsrun.

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Class Notes by Heather Biele

47 Jim Gunn, j'47, g'51, professor emeritus of English at KU, received a lifetime achievement award from the Writing the Rockies writers conference of Western Colorado State University. He's an award-winning science fiction author.

David Pohl, b'47, continues to make his home in Mason, Ohio.

51 Kenneth Philo, e'51, wrote *Memoirs of a Bridge-Man*, which was published in August. He lives in San Rafael, California.

55 Evelyn Westhoff Maxwell, n'55, g'85, is a consultant at Wholistic Health Education in Salina. An updated version of her book *At Eden's Gate: Whole Health and Well-Being* was published in March by WestBow Press.

MARRIED

Ted McCoy, c'55, m'60, and **Judith Crane Elliott**, d'55, April 5 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where they make their home.

58 Joanne Fields Ruth, n'58, wrote *We Are Beth-El Nurses: A Heritage of Caring at the Foot of Pikes Peak*, which was published in February. She lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

61 John Newcomb, f'61, is president of John Newcomb Design Associates in Norwalk, Connecticut, where he makes his home. His work was featured this summer in an exhibition at the Agora Gallery in New York City.

63 Bill Dotson, d'63, will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in October. He was an All-American distance runner for KU track.

Doug Neckers, PhD'63, wrote *Cal VanderWerf: Anchor of Hope*, which was published in May by BioSolar Publishing. VanderWerf was a longtime KU professor and chair of chemistry. Neckers lives in Perrysburg, Ohio.

64 Reid Holbrook, c'64, f'66, retired in June as an attorney and founder of Holbrook & Osborn. He and **Mary Lynn Rogers Holbrook**, d'63, make their home in Overland Park.

65 Bryan Shewmake, c'65, e'70, g'71, and his wife, Cheryl, live in Blairsdon-Graeagle, California. They recently returned from a cruise on the Amazon River.

Arthur Spears, c'65, is Presidential Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology at the City University of New York. He co-authored *Languages and Dialects in the U.S.: Focus on Diversity and Linguistics*, which was published in 2014.

67 Lillian Gonzalez-Pardo, m'67, g'96, professor emerita of pediatrics and neurology at KU Medical Center, wrote *Beyond the Shores*, which was published in April. She and **Manuel Pardo**, m'67, live in Mission Hills.

68 Edwin Herricks, c'68, retired from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as professor emeritus in the department of civil and environmental engineering. He and his wife, Susan, make their home in Champaign.

Alan Mulally, e'68, g'69, was inducted in the Automotive Hall of Fame in July. He's the former president and CEO of Ford Motor Company.

70 Marki Bonebrake Nolterieke, d'70, makes her home in Houston, where she manages the office at Sarmistha Banerjee, DDS.

71 Thomas Handley, c'71, retired as vice president and principal at Lewis & Ellis Inc. He and his wife, Carol, live in Overland Park.

Richard Hellman, m'71, received the Outstanding Clinical Endocrinologist Award in May from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. He's managing partner at Hellman &

Rosen Endocrine Associates in Kansas City.

72 Thomas Hanson, '72, is president of Hanson Logowear in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he makes his home with his wife, Mary.

Tom Throne, j'72, retired as managing editor of the Bella Vista Weekly Vista after more than 40 years in the newspaper business. He and his wife, **Pam**, assoc., live in Bentonville, Arkansas.

73 Kent Cooper, m'73, retired after 40 years practicing obstetrical and pediatric medicine. He lives in Pittsburg.

Brian Faust, c'73, h'81, directs health information management at San Mateo Medical Center in San Mateo, California.

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

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



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Class Notes



74 Karla Bender Leibham, d'74, g'93, '03, retired as principal of St. James Academy in Lenexa. She lives in Olathe.

David Smith, e'74, retired as project manager after 31 years at Black & Veatch. He makes his home in Overland Park.

Sheri Pierce Williams, s'74, makes her home in Topeka with **Gary**, '72. She's a supervisor of foster care and residential facility licensing for the State of Kansas.

75 Janice Miller Karlin, c'75, l'80, was appointed chief judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas. She's also chief judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Karlin is the first woman to serve in those positions. She lives in Lawrence.



76 Dennis McConaghy, l'76, is a retired superior court judge for the State of California-Riverside County. He lives in Oceanside.

77 Chuck Fischer, f'77, has a new pop-up book, *The Gingerbread White House*, which will be published in September by the White House Historical Association. He makes his home in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

Michael Graham, e'77, is senior project manager at LyondellBasell-Bayport in Pasadena, Texas.

Tyra Decker Manning, g'77, wrote *Where the Water Meets the Sand*, which was published in May by Greenleaf Book Group Press.

Kieran "Kerry" Ryan, c'77, is the municipal court presiding judge for the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he makes his home.

79 Mark Prochaska, c'79, m'84, was one of nine psychiatrists in the Kansas City metro area selected this year

as a Kansas City Super Doctor. He and his wife, Janet, live in Overland Park.

Kimberly Williams, b'79, is the new CEO of the Lawrence Arts Center. She recently served as managing director of the Solar Fuels Institute in Evanston, Illinois.

80 Jay Hinrichs, c'80, g'83, directs physical education and recreation at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, where he lives.

Howard Small, c'80, is national customer service manager at Insolroll Window Shading Systems in Louisville, Colorado.

81 Douglas Funk, p'81, makes his home in Lawrence, where he's president of Funk Pharmacy.

Bennett Hamilton, c'81, is president of Hamilton Marketing in Leawood.

82 Rick Baker, p'82, lives in Pittsburg, where he's a staff pharmacist at Via Christi Hospital.

Evan Jones, c'82, is an engineer and manager at Ball Aerospace & Technologies in Denver, where he makes his home.

Mindy Moore, j'82, directs events at the International Association of Private Professionals in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Abigail Morris Reynolds, n'82, is a nurse practitioner at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. She lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.

83 Ann Frame Hertzog, c'83, is editor of Lawrence Business Magazine.

She lives in Lawrence.

Pamela VanMeter Rowson, b'83, is an account manager at the Bernard Group in Chanhassen, Minnesota. She makes her home in Savage with her husband, Carl.

84 Jennifer Hess, a'84, is an architect in Kingsland, Texas.

Sharon Panter, f'84, lives in St. Louis, where she's an administrative assistant at Benfield-Gallagher.

Ronald Ragan, p'84, g'97, PhD'98, is professor and dean of the School of

Pharmacy at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina, where he makes his home.

Roger Ramseyer, b'84, is vice president and market leader at Cox Communications in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He lives in Broken Arrow.

James Shaw, c'84, m'88, is a plastic surgeon and owns Shaw Plastic Surgery Center in Wichita, where he lives.

David Sullivan, b'84, is president at DMS Business Consulting in Chicago, where he makes his home.

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Chief finds his calling isn't rocket science, it's policing

Tarik Khatib came to Lawrence in 1985 for the same reason lots of Chicago-area kids then found themselves in Kansas. KU's out-of-state tuition was cheaper than Illinois' in-state tuition.

His mother, a Baker University alumna, counseled him to consider KU, and he was impressed by the program in aerospace engineering, his planned major. He also liked that Lawrence was far enough from Lake Forest, Illinois, that he didn't have to go home every weekend.

"I had the excuse of, 'Sorry, Mom, I'm not driving 500 miles for three days off,'" says Khatib, c'92.

Preparation for a 25-year career with the Lawrence Police Department—which he joined in 1992 as a patrol officer and has led since 2011 as chief of police—began during those days (and nights) at KU.

Electives in sociology, psychology and criminal justice awakened his intellectual interest in the role of law in society and contributed to his change in major. Khatib grew to love Lawrence and its people. And his contacts with the police—few and far between, he stresses—impressed him.

"I remember one time having a party at my house, and officers shutting it down," Khatib says. "I was impressed by the

officer's approach, not making me feel like a criminal or a bad person. Once I was pulled over on my motorcycle, and again the officer was very pleasant."

Born in Beirut, Khatib emigrated to Lake Forest at 11 with his family to escape Lebanon's civil war.

"We'd have to get off the bus because planes were bombing stuff, and schools were canceled for months," Khatib recalls. "People I knew, friends of mine, were shot and killed."

The war influenced his career choice, and it shaped how he runs a department with 152 sworn officers and 32 civilian employees. So, too, did his college experience: Khatib's father died while Khatib was at KU, which put school on hold until he could figure how to pay for it. Working fast food jobs 40 hours a week reinforced the importance of earning his degree.

"I grew up and matured in college," Khatib says. He looks for officer candidates who understand that life can be challenging. "Not the straight-A student, necessarily, or the fantastic résumé," he explains, "but someone who has



Tarik Khatib joined the Lawrence Police Department soon after earning his sociology degree; nearly 25 years later he now leads the department as chief of police.

great wisdom for a youngster."

Though proud of gains in personnel, technology and transparency on his watch—and with survey results that show 80 percent of residents are satisfied with police professionalism—Khatib says much work remains. A top priority is building a badly needed police headquarters after voters rejected a 2014 referendum to raise sales tax money for the project.

"Nothing defines the success of a police department more than the quality of the officers, and part of that is recruitment, training and retention," Khatib says. "A facility is intertwined with all of that."

Class Notes

An architecturally significant and visually interesting home on Mount Oread for sale.

1629 Hillcrest Rd., Lawrence. \$750,000.

Information at
www.1629Hillcrest.com



Designed by noted KU Professor Dan Rockhill, with attention to native Kansas landforms and sensibilities, this home will surprise and delight you at every turn.

Article at:

<http://tinyurl.com/j3mtvel>



Thomas Howe 785.550.1169 Thomas@AskMcGrew.com LawrenceRealEstateInfo.com

85 The Rev. Thomas Fangman Jr., c'85, is pastor at St. Patrick Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska. He previously spent 18 years in Omaha leading Sacred Heart Church and the Christian Urban Education Service.

Gregory Fay, e'85, g'87, is director of the digital innovation lab at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. He makes his home in Overland Park.

Gerald Fleer, c'85, m'89, lives in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he's regional medical director at United Healthcare.

Jeffrey Parrish, c'85, is a senior software engineer at Argus Health Systems in Kansas City. He lives in Overland Park with his wife, Margaret.

Sam Silver, b'85, is vice president and chief fixed income officer at American Beacon Advisors in Fort Worth, Texas.

Scott Williams, b'85, is president of Cabela's in Sidney, Nebraska, where he makes his home.

86 Angela Hardesty, h'86, is an application architect at Cerner

Corporation. She and her husband, Vincent Manrique, live in Prescott, Arizona.

87 J.D. Cox, b'87, is the city manager in Alliance, Nebraska, where he lives.

88 Shawn Boyce, e'88, is tech lead at Nike Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon. He and **Jill MacDonald Boyce**, e'88, live in Portland, where she's a senior researcher at Intel.

Scott Huffman, j'88, an All-American, Olympian and three-time national-champion pole vaulter, will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in October.

Kris Pilgrim, e'88, makes her home in Arvada, Colorado, where she's principal at Pilgrim Business Solutions.

89 Ellen Stohr Hall, j'89, is a system brand manager at Mercy Health in Cincinnati. She and her husband, Jim, live in Lebanon, Ohio, with their two children.

Jennifer Gunter Meegan, b'89, is chief operating officer for telecommunications

at Black & Veatch in Overland Park, where she lives with her husband, Craig.

Tom Pratt, e'89, f'92, is president of Banner & Witcoff in Chicago.

90 Dawn Shelton Bloomer, n'90, directs national regulatory affairs at PSA Healthcare. She lives in Bellaire, Texas, with her husband, Richard.

Madeleine McDonough, f'90, a partner at Shook Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City, in June was elected the firm's first female chair.

Debbie Reitz-Petrak, s'90, was one of 11 individuals selected to attend Clinique Stars to New York this year. She's a consultant at Nordstrom in Overland Park.

Steven Soper, PhD'90, is a Foundation Distinguished Professor in KU's department of chemistry. He also holds an appointment in the department of mechanical engineering.

91 Herb Johnston, c'91, is a trademarks examiner at the European Union

Intellectual Property Office in Alicante, Spain, where he lives with his wife, Ruxandra.

Michael Liber, g'91, '99, retired after teaching physical education for 33 years in Kansas City, Kansas, public schools. He lives in Overland Park.

Greggory Miller, e'91, '11, is a medical physicist at Associates in Medical Physics in Lanham, Maryland.

Elizabeth Moneymaker, c'91, l'96, is a partner and shareholder at Dine & Moneymaker in Bradenton, Florida.

92 Kelly Halloran Birch, j'92, is a brand contact manager at Sullivan Higdon & Sink in Wichita, where she makes her home.

Dawn Grubb, j'92, is an internal communications senior specialist at Black & Veatch in Overland Park. She lives in Kansas City with her wife, Jennifer.

Mark Luce, c'92, g'99, is a photographer and writer. His recent project, "The Plains: Photographs and Fiction," was completed during a three-week residency at the Red

Barn Studio Museum in Lindsborg. He also teaches at the Barstow School in Kansas City and at KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Stephen Smith, b'92, lives in Austin, Texas, where he's a logistics project manager at HID Global.

Kristopher Weidling, c'92, is senior director of global change management at CSL-Behring. He makes his home in Apex, North Carolina.

93 Chris Moeser, c'93, j'93, associate general counsel for TEGNA in McLean, Virginia, has been elected to the board of trustees of The Media Institute.

Hale Sheppard, j'93, l'98, g'99, a shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta, was named top tax lawyer by Chambers & Partners.

94 Bryan Ness, g'94, is chief revenue officer at Sentrion in Aliso Viejo, California.

Aaron Rittmaster, c'94, owns Fantastic Memories Travel in Overland Park, where

he makes his home with his wife, Miriam, and their two children.

95 Alan Pierce, c'95, '96, lives in Los Angeles, where he's an academic program coordinator at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Lori Reesor, PhD'95, is vice provost for student affairs at Indiana University at Bloomington.

96 Tad Gomez, p'96, lives in Augusta, Georgia, where he's vice president of professional services at Augusta University Medical Center.

Nicolas Shump, c'96, g'03, '10, lives in Kansas City, where he's an online and upper school history teacher at the Barstow School.

97 Leeanne Parsons Huber, g'97, directs communications at Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Kathleen Ko Thompson, n'97, is a clinical informatic at KU Medical Center.



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Image courtesy of KU University Archives

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She and **Eric**, c'90, live in Parkville, Missouri.

98 Merilyn Douglass, g'98, g'10, is a family nurse practitioner at Revere Healthcare Solutions in Garden City, where she lives.

Brian Flink, j'98, is a senior photography agent at Walter Schupfer Management in New York City. He and his husband, Timothy, live in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Chad Widup, e'98, directs operations at

Bergeron Land Development in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

BORN TO:

Megan Maciejowski Woodard, j'98, and her husband, Derrick, son, Tristan, May 31 in New York City, where he joins a brother, Connor, 4, and a sister, Dylan, 1.

99 Rachel Epp Buller, g'99, PhD'04, is an associate professor of visual art and design at Bethel College in North Newton. Her research on German artist

Alice Lex-Nerlinger led to the publication of a book, *Alice Lex-Nerlinger: Fotomon- teurin und Malerin*, and an exhibition of Lex-Nerlinger's work at Das Verborgene Museum in Berlin in April.

Tamecka Dixon, c'99, a former KU basketball player and All-American, will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in October.

David Reeves, c'99, is a library specialist at Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City. He and **Lorissa Neidel Reeves**, '98, live in Overland Park.

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Educator sounds note of welcome in prison choir

Mary Shinogle Cohen is a believer in the power of music.

As an associate professor of music education at the University of Iowa, Cohen can cite an extensive body of research (some of it hers) documenting physical, mental and spiritual benefits of choral singing. But she also has experienced music's restorative power firsthand in her personal and professional life.

Cohen, d'92, g'01, PhD'08, is founder of Oakdale Community Choir, which teams inmates at the Oakdale Medical and Classification Center, a medium-security men's prison in Coralville, Iowa, with volunteer singers from the community. In semester-long seasons twice each year, "inside singers" and "outside singers" collaborate on a choral program that is performed during two concerts—one for Oakdale inmates and one for the public, including prisoners' families.

"What I have experienced is the power of bringing together in a singing context groups of people that normally would not interact," Cohen says, "and the social growth that occurs when people have the opportunity to connect in group singing."

Founded in 2009, the choir has 60 to 65

members, split evenly between inmates and volunteers. Guidelines stress that outside singers "aren't going in there to help," Cohen says. "We're going in there to learn from one another; we're doing this project *with* choir members, not to them or for them."

Inside singers benefit from stronger family ties. At a recent concert, one performed a song he'd written for his wife, who sat in the front row with their two daughters. Another hadn't received a visit from his family in six years until they attended a concert. Outside singers and concertgoers often volunteer at the prison, Cohen says, with writing workshops, parenting classes, a job club, a book club and piano classes all influenced by the choir's success.

"The trick is that it really needs to be facilitated effectively," Cohen explains. That's what her own scholarship, from her KU doctoral research onward, explores. "It's not just a matter of bringing people together willy-nilly and singing," she says. It's up to the leader—Cohen in this case—to foster "welcome and hospitality" and to encourage choir members to do the same.


In 2012, Cohen's sister, Judith Shinogle, c'85, p'88, died in a car accident, and Mary wrote a song, "Find the Joy," to cope with her grief. Choir members helped shape the



Since Cohen founded the Oakdale Community Choir, more than 100 "inside singers" have sung in twice-annual concerts. Hear recorded performances at oakdalechoir.lib.uiowa.edu.

.....
song's theme, which Cohen describes as, "We don't have to find joy; it's always in us. We just need to pause and notice, be mindful of it."

A similar immediacy marks each choir season, because inside singers can be transferred at any time.

"We start together and sing for 15 weeks, and when it's over we don't know who's coming back," Cohen says. "So there's a real sense of the present moment that's amplified." 

Class Notes



The poster features a basketball court background with a large 'CBE HALL OF FAME CLASSIC' logo in the top left. The event title '2016 CBE Hall of Fame Classic Championship Rounds' is in the top right, with the location 'Sprint Center, Kansas City, MO' and dates 'November 21-22'. The schedule is split into two days: Monday Nov. 21 (George Washington vs. Georgia @ 6:00 pm, Kansas vs. UAB @ 8:30 pm) and Tuesday Nov. 22 (Consolation Game @ 6:30 pm, Championship Game @ 9:00 pm). Logos for GW, Georgia, and KU are shown at the bottom. A ticket information line at the bottom reads 'For Tickets, visit axs.com or the Sprint Center Box Office'.

U.S. Rep. Kevin Yoder, c'99, l'02, in August received the Champion of Science Award from KU and the Science Coalition for his support of basic scientific research.

00 Linda Elkins, c'00, is a reproductive endocrinologist at the Frisco Institute of Reproductive Medicine. She makes her home in Southlake, Texas, with **Timothy McNulty**, e'01, who co-owns US Draft Company.

MARRIED

Kristina Hartman, c'00, to Scott Holder, April 15 in Cancun, Mexico. She's a specialty district sales manager at Eli Lilly in Kansas City, where they live.

01 Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, n'01, is the new commander at Fort Detrick, Maryland, where she leads the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, which includes the U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health research and, most notably, the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases.

Julie Merz, c'01, lives in Washington, D.C., where she works for Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer as executive director of AMERIPAC.

Brian Wasko, b'01, g'12, lives in Olathe with his wife, Bridget, and their children, Declan, 4, and Cecelia, 1.

02 Christopher Gregory, j'02, g'14, directs marketing and public relations at KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Brian Hanni, j'02, is the new play-by-play voice of KU football and men's basketball on the Jayhawk/IMG Radio Network. He replaces Bob Davis, who served in that the role for more than 30 years. Hanni will also host "Hawk Talk," the weekly radio show featuring coaches David Beaty and Bill Self.

03 Thomas Hickok, s'03, is a social worker at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. He makes his home in Minneapolis.

Jonathan Ng, c'03, j'03, is an attorney

for the Power Africa initiative at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Kevin Nichols, c'03, is senior manager of operations at the FedEx ground station in Shawnee. He lives in Olathe.

MARRIED

Ian Devlin, c'03, and **Elizabeth Kretzmeier**, c'10, g'12, Sept. 5, 2015, in Crested Butte, Colorado. The couple resides in Broomfield, where Ian is a chiropractor, and Elizabeth is in business development at FullContact.

Devin Vermeulen, a'03, to Ashley Chavis, June 9 in Brooklyn, New York. Devin is creative director at WeWork and co-owns Le Petit Motel in New Orleans. They live in New York City.

04 Kevin Hedges, e'04, is a senior process engineer at Suez Treatment Solutions in Houston. He lives in Katy, Texas.

Perry Kessler, b'04, '05, is assurance director for RyanSharkey in Reston,

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- Homecoming Parade 6 p.m.
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- Homecoming Pep Rally
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Saturday, Oct. 22

- KU vs. Oklahoma State Football Game

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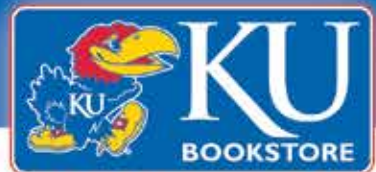


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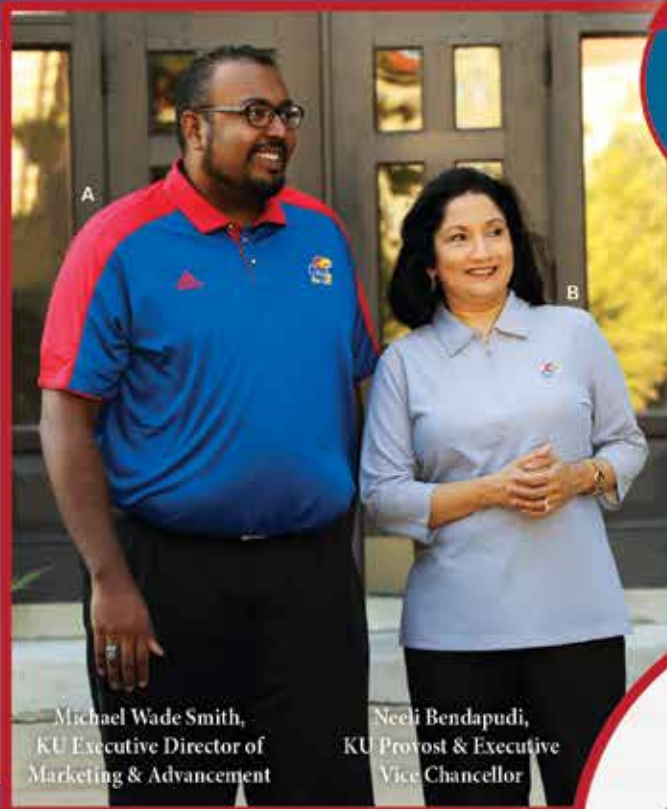
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Virginia. He lives in Ashburn.

Drew Thomas, c'04, g'11, is assistant principal at Olathe East High School. He makes his home in Prairie Village.

BORN TO:

Sarah Trapp, c'04, g'11, daughter, Kate Flores, Feb. 10 in Overland Park. Sarah is field content manager and Spanish editor at Children International.

05 Peter Brahan, g'05, leads the automation team at Hypertherm in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Jill deVries Jolicoeur, g'05, is the assistant to the county administrator for Douglas County. She lives in Leawood.

Beth Hall Martino, g'05, is president and CEO of the Maryland Food Bank. She lives in Columbia, Maryland.

Nathan Vernon, j'05, lives in New York City, where he directs national group sales at Broadway Across America.

Steven Vockrodt, j'05, is a business reporter for the Kansas City Star. He lives in Mission.

Sabrina Warren, c'05, directs annual giving at the University of Southern

California's School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles. She makes her home in Glendale, California.

06 Erica Wolfe Benson, c'06, j'06, was awarded a James Madison Fellowship by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. She teaches at Blue Valley North High School in Overland Park, where she makes her home.

Mindy Brissey, c'06, lives in Kansas City, where she's a senior associate at Powerful Performance Solutions.

Jeremy Maldonado, d'06, is a buyer and

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Shigouri finds niche, success in craft

Four years ago, a casual trip to an art event in downtown Kansas City proved serendipitous for Nick Shigouri. As he strolled past sidewalk vendors and up-and-coming artists displaying their work, he spotted a handcrafted bed for sale. Although he'd built nothing since shop class in middle school, he was convinced he could make something just as good, if not better.

The next morning Shigouri gathered the supplies he needed and spent 12 hours assembling a bed. "It was deplorable," he recalls with a laugh. "I mean, a terrible representation of a bed. But I made a bed. I was so proud of it I put it on Craigslist."

Despite its flaws, the bed sold in less than two hours. More important, it filled Shigouri with a renewed sense of purpose. A month earlier, he had lost his job at an investment bank, a position he took after struggling to find his niche in municipal government. "I worked for the City of Mission Hills through graduate school," says Shigouri, c'07, g'10, who went through KU's master of public administration program, "but none of it was expandable."

For several months he continued woodworking while taking on different jobs in the banking industry but finally

realized he wanted to design and build furniture full time. "It was just more fulfilling," Shigouri says. "There's a tangible product. I produced something that existed, instead of just jockeying a desk to produce a bunch of transient paperwork."

He enrolled in a furniture design and craftsmanship education program at the Vermont Woodworking School in Cambridge and spent nearly six months honing his skills and learning new techniques.

An apprenticeship under a local furniture-maker followed upon his return to Kansas City.

Shigouri moved to Denver and started his own business, Shigouri Woodworking, in 2014. "I saw the response they had here," he says. "It was a market that would allow me to build the art that I wanted to build."

Shigouri mills his own lumber and uses many regional trees, including ones that have been cut down because of disease. "A lot of the stuff I use is stuff that other people wouldn't," he says. "There are structural variations in the wood: large



COURTESY NICK SHIGOURI

"I'm using standards that I know to be the best," Nick Shigouri says. "It takes me forever to make things, but that's why. My name's on it, you know?"

knots or other kinds of character, what other people would call flaws. I tend to focus on those. A lot of times the wood itself around those flaws is the prettiest."

Shigouri's portfolio now extends beyond beds and includes tables, chairs and desks, products he sells to buyers nationwide. He recently outfitted a local Denver restaurant with furnishings and custom lights, serving trays and shelves.

Despite long hours and sleepless nights, Shigouri is content pursuing his craft. "I'd almost describe it as a great sickness," he says. "It's all I ever want to do, it's all I ever think about and it's something I would never give up for anything."



pricing analyst for Ticket Boat in Westwood. He lives in Kansas City.

07 Matt Baty, d'07, '09, has been named associate athletics director of the Williams Education Fund, marketing and sales. Baty was an All-Big 12 Conference centerfielder for KU baseball.

Jeremy Case, c'07, '09, joins the KU men's basketball program as video coordinator. He was a member of the 2008 NCAA national championship team.

Sara Helphingstine Mazingo, j'07, lives in Prairie Village with her son, Charles, who's nearly 1.

MARRIED

Randy McMillen, PharmD'07, and **Whitney Watson**, n'07, g'15, June 11 in Kansas City. They work at KU Medical Center, where he's a cardiology pharmacist, and she manages the transplant ICU.

BORN TO:

Stephani Heider Boyd, d'07, g'09, and **Robert**, '08, daughter, Elaine, May 9 in

Lawrence, where she joins a brother, Henry, 3. Stephani directs the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics.

08 Abby Ehling, c'08, g'15, lives in Lawrence, where she's assistant director of graduate admissions at KU.

Mark Filipi, b'08, g'13, works at SurveyMonkey, where he's a senior database administrator. He lives in Olathe.

Sasha Kaun, e'08, retired from pro basketball after a season with the Cleveland Cavaliers, the 2016 NBA champions. He lives in Evergreen, Colorado, with **Taylor Blue Kaun**, c'14.

John Miller, e'08, is vice president of operations at Installation Technologies Inc. in Lenexa. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Olathe with their two sons, Michial, 6, and Wesley, 3.

BORN TO:

Kesa Swadley Herlihy, n'08, and her husband, Kevin, son, Kellen, Feb. 16 in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Kesa is an instructor at the University of Colorado's

College of Nursing in Denver.

Elizabeth Cohen Levy, c'08, n'10, and **Steven**, j'08, son, Grant, June 30 in Overland Park. Liz is a nurse at KU Medical Center, and Steven is an account manager at the Summit Group in Kansas City.

09 Julie Feldt, c'09, is a citizen science education coordinator at Adler Planetarium in Chicago, where she lives with her partner, Robert.

Kimberly Jackson, g'09, is lead civil engineer at Kiewit in Lenexa. She makes her home in Basehor.

MARRIED

Josh Schoenfelder, b'09, and **Julie Schurman**, j'10, April 23 in Chicago, where they make their home. He's an associate at Arbor Investment Group, and she's an event planner for Howells & Hood.

BORN TO:

Jordan Ferguson Lisher, b'09, and **Carl**, '10, son, Mason, May 24 in Lawrence,

where he joins a brother, Pierce, 2. Jordan is a prospect management coordinator at KU Endowment, and Carl is a respiratory therapist.

Katherine Bengtson Winberg, c'09, and **Ryan**, assoc., son, Franklin, Dec. 22 in Aurora, Colorado, where he joins a brother, Oliver, 3.

10 Steven Bower, b'10, g'11, lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he's a senior tax associate at Ricci & Company.

Christopher Cahill, b'10, g'10, is director of audit and financial reporting at ETAN Industries in Dallas, where he resides.

Derek Elliott, b'10, is an LTL shipping supervisor at Garmin International in Olathe. He lives in Overland Park.

Kerri Nanney McGreal, m'10, g'16, is a nephrologist at KU Medical Center. She makes her home in Prairie Village with **Steven**, g'13.

Curt Welter, d'10, is a chiropractor and co-owns Active Family Chiropractic in Overland Park, where he lives.

11 Michael DeHaven, g'11, PhD'16, is a project manager and pedagogy specialist at the KU Language Training Center. He lives in Topeka with his wife, Sandra.

Liz Miller, b'11, g'12, makes her home in Roeland Park, where she's a CPA at Ernst & Young.

Crystin Seo, c'11, manages client relationships at IBISWorld Industry Research. She lives in New York City.

BORN TO:

Ian Sadler, d'11, '14, and his wife, Meredith, sons Landon and Lucas, May 9 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they make their home. Ian manages business development at Golden Hurricane Sports Properties.

12 Jon Dahlfors, b'12, is an analyst at Stonebriar Commercial Finance in Plano, Texas. He makes his home in Dallas.

Andrew Fillmore, j'12, is a senior production coordinator at YouTube Space LA. He lives in Los Angeles.

Julianne Thomas Knowles, c'12, lives in Chicago, where she's an account executive at AFR Event Furnishings.

Mike Lavieri, j'12, is a sports reporter at the Shawnee Dispatch. He lives in Lenexa.

Lon Strauss, PhD'12, is a visiting assistant professor at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Michael Virgo, b'12, g'13, makes his home in San Jose, California, where he's a senior accountant at SingerLewak.

13 Adam Plotkin, c'13, is chief content officer at EduSynch in Rio de Janeiro.

14 Cara Fullenwider, c'14, is an associate buyer at Sam's Club in Bentonville, Arkansas. She lives in Fayetteville.

Jose Munoz, d'14, g'16, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, where he volunteered for Team USA's hospitality team at the summer Olympic Games. Munoz ran cross-country and distance events for the Jayhawk track team from 2010-'12.

15 Thomas Appiagyei, e'15, is a fuel research engineer at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He and his wife, Akosua Mensah, live in Baltimore.

Nancy Ballard, PhD'15, is an assistant professor in the WellStar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University. She lives in Fairmount, Georgia.

Amanda Belford, j'15, lives in Wichita, where she's a corporate communication coordinator at INVISTA.

Zachary Boggan, l'15, is an attorney in Kingsport, Tennessee, where he lives.

Lori Collins, s'15, is a licensed master social worker at Truman Medical Center in Kansas City.

Michelle Compton, g'15, is associate director of marketing, media and programs for KU Memorial Unions.

Eric Crockett, c'15, is a statistical programmer at Chiltern International. He lives in Gardner.

Daniel Faught, b'15, lives in Kansas City, where he's a sales support consultant at DST Technologies.

Zachary Flies, e'15, is a software engineer at Lockheed Martin. He lives in Benbrook, Texas.

Elizabeth Heyrman, j'15, is a sales associate at Heyrman Printing in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She makes her home in De Pere.

Amy Hunt, g'15, is a research analyst at AECOM. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Terilyn Johnston Huntington, g'15, g'16, is an assistant professor of political science at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where she lives with her husband, Paul, and their two sons.

Reid Leonard, b'15, lives in Dallas, where he manages accounts at Holmes Murphy.

Alexander Montgomery, b'15, makes his home in Chicago, where he's a healthcare consulting analyst at Huron Consulting.

Alexandria Palomarez, e'15, is an assistant engineer at Turner Construction Company in Kansas City, where she lives.

Erika Reals, j'15, lives in Kansas City, where she coordinates social media for MMGY Global.

Danielle Bazan Soltys, PharmD'15, is a pharmacist at Meijer in Indianapolis, where she lives with **Frank**, '15.

16 Abdallah Alhmoed, g'16, is a staff engineer at CVM Professional in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Kevin Anderson, l'16, a captain in the U.S. Army, was named a 2016 Presidential Management Fellow Finalist.

Olivia Armstrong, e'16, is a flight controller at Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies Inc. in Houston. She lives in Seabrook, Texas.

Misbah Aslam, g'16, lives in Kansas City, where she's an administrative fellow at Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinic.

Robert Bardin, g'16, is an associate account manager at Lockton Companies in Kansas City. He commutes from Lawrence.

Scott Baron, e'16, is a project engineer at J.E. Dunn. He lives in Lawrence.

Jami Bechard, j'16, makes her home in Minneapolis, where she's a planning analyst at Target.



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Haley Becker, d'16, makes her home in Fort Worth, Texas, where she teaches in the Fort Worth Independent School District.

Amy Benoit-Warlick, g'16, is a recruitment coordinator at KU. She lives in Lawrence with **Craig Warlick**, g'15.

Jacqueline Boino, e'16, is a project engineer at the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Phoenix. She makes her home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jerrod Bush, c'16, is a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Chicago. He lives in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Cameron Case, c'16, is a business development representative at Groupon. He lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Vivian Choong, c'16, teaches science at YES Prep North Forest High School in Houston.

Mackenzie Clark, j'16, makes her home in Lawrence, where she's a staff reporter at the Lawrence Journal-World.

Eric Cloud, a'16, is a prototype developer at Garmin International in

Olathe. He lives in Lawrence.

Jennifer Colatosti, PhD'16, is an assistant professor of English at Perimeter College at Georgia State University in Decatur.

Makayla Coles, c'16, is a medical office specialist at HCA Midwest Health in Overland Park.

Jenna Collins, g'16, is a speech-language pathologist at Aldersgate Village in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

Kylan Dale, b'16, is lead of equipment department for Nike. She lives in Overland Park.

Nathan Doerr, b'16, is a sales associate at Nordstrom in Overland Park.

Genevieve Barrett Elrod, PhD'16, coordinates clinical research at Mercy Health St. Mary's in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she makes her home with her husband, Timothy.

Taylor Ermoian, s'16, is an advocacy and human rights communications assistant at the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights.

Patrick Eslick, c'16, lives in Lawrence, where he's a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Madeline Farber, j'16, is a Fortune.com reporter at Time Inc. She lives in New York City.

Shelly Fraga, c'16, is a program manager at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. She lives in West Hollywood, California.

William Gana, b'16, is an investment banking summer analyst at SGI Cambium in New York City.

Melissa Jaffee Gelb, PhD'16, is a health economics and outcomes research manager at Boehringer Ingelheim in Ridgefield, Connecticut. She and **Jeffrey**, d'07, live in Southbury.

Brett Grossman, b'16, is a rotational analyst at Dairy Farmers of America in Kansas City. He lives in Lawrence.

Darren Haag, c'16, lives in Milwaukee, where he's a geographic information systems specialist at AECOM.

Jonathan Heaver, u'16, lives in Kansas City, where he's director of music and gospel arts at the Salvation Army.

Melissa Hopkins, g'16, is CEO of Creative Square Marketing in Independence, Missouri, where she lives with her husband, Derek.

Breanna Hunt, d'16, teaches fourth-grade at State Street Elementary School in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

Ingrid Vidal Isaza, '16, competed in the summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro as part of the Colombian national soccer squad.

Jenny Judy, c'16, is project coordinator at Icon Engineering Inc. She lives in Shawnee with her husband, Dustin.

Melinda Varner Landeck, PhD'16, is assistant professor of East Asian studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

Jerusha McFarland-Pitney, c'16, owns Clean & Green Housekeeping in Lawrence, where she makes her home with her husband, Jacob.

Haley Orzeck, d'16, teaches second-grade at Mount Auburn Elementary School in Dallas.



She lives in Mesquite, Texas.

Lucy Pyle, b'16, lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where she's a financial analyst at ConocoPhillips.

Kathleen Rafferty, g'16, is an auditor at Sprint in Overland Park. She lives in Olathe.

Christianna Lewis Reedy, g'16, is a medical writer at PRA Health Services in Lenexa. She commutes from Lawrence.

Bradley Robertson, c'16, is a billing and data analyst at Perfect Output in Overland Park, where he lives.

Liana Salazar, b'16, traveled to Rio de

Janeiro, where she competed in the summer Olympic Games as part of the Colombian national soccer squad.

Patrick Sesker, e'16, is an assistant mechanical engineer at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City. He lives in Lawrence.

Kathryn Silvers, g'16, is an academic specialist at Michigan State University in East Lansing. She lives in Okemos, Michigan.

Sharee Smallwood, s'16, makes her home in Kansas City, where she's a forensic interviewer at the Child Protection Center.

Nathaniel Swann, g'16, is a commis-

sioned aviation officer in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Katrina, make their home in Greenbrier, Tennessee, with their daughter, Elizabeth.

Jamin Landes Tenbrink, g'16, is a nurse anesthetist at Stormont Vail in Topeka. She lives in Lawrence with her husband, Tanner.

Abigail Walsh, j'16, is a graphics broadcast associate at MLB Network. She lives in New York City.

Brittany Zarda, n'16, is a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Hospital. She lives in Shawnee.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Digital innovator enlivens literature with technology

In his first job after graduation, at Gardner Edgerton High School, English teacher Andrew Easton was eager to develop a curriculum that allowed his students the chance to progress at their own pace. His answer was to take his classes to the school's media center, where students could listen to audiobooks, read independently, work on computers or form small discussion groups.

When his wife, Jessica Lane Easton, c'09, m'13, in 2013 landed an anesthesiology residency at The University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Easton, d'06, g'11, took a job at Omaha's Westside High School, which boasted Apple laptops for every student. Excited by the technology and his district's mandate for personalized learning, Easton called upon his experience to craft courses that blended videos with traditional approaches, customizing the course to a student's preference.

The experiment was not a huge success.

"I started using videos I found on YouTube," explains Easton, who in May was named one of 52 Lead Digital Innovators by PBS, "and my students said, 'Thanks for trying, but these are kind of boring.' So I made my own. They were 15 or 20 minutes of me sitting in front of a

camera, just droning on about stuff. And they're like, 'Hey, thanks for trying, but these are boring, too.'"

So Easton gave up two lunches and a planning period every week for a semester and enrolled in his own school's video production class. There he learned about lighting, audio, green screens and iMovie, and became so comfortable with the technology that he soon had his students making videos of their own, along with exploring other outlets to express their interpretations of the course's reading assignments.

"OK, so you read this book. Prove to me that you understand the theme in that book," Easton explains. "We still write, but these opportunities are built in to allow them creativity. We've had anything from rap songs to interpretive dance. That's creativity, and innovation happens when you bring these things together that aren't typically paired."

Before taking the job at Westside, Easton visited a high school in Iowa that typically graduates 20 or more National



Andrew Easton uses technology "to give students 'voice and choice.' ... If you can have an experience that teaches you about your own process toward innovation, that translates."

Merit Scholars each year. He expected to find a school brimming with technology; instead he saw successful teachers relying only on chalkboards, with dusty, unused TVs stashed in corners. The memory reminds Easton that latest is not necessarily greatest.

"There are a lot of approaches and styles in education, and I think they can all be effective. A good teacher is going to be a good teacher, and they are going to learn the best way for them.

"But I will advocate for those who want to incorporate more technology, who feel like they are creative and want to find new ways to connect."

In Memory

30s Alfred Gallup, b'38, 100, May 26 in Lawrence, where he was an assistant professor of Air Force ROTC at KU and later retired as an insurance agent with Northwestern Mutual. He is survived by his wife, Winifred Hill Gallup, f'41; two daughters, Nancy Gallup Penland, c'67, m'79, and Cynthia Gallup Pine, '71; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Margaret Morse Stark, c'39, 99, June 27 in Austin, Texas. She worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and B.K. Sweeney Co. Survivors include three daughters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

40s Betty Roberts Anderson, d'43, 93, April 22 in Ottawa. She was a homemaker and volunteer. Surviving are two daughters, two sons, a sister and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Christine "Violet" Mellick Beims, '43, 98, May 15 in Atwood, where she was a teacher. She is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Lois Leeburg Blanche, '41, 98, May 16 in Wichita Falls, Texas. She held several positions with the Oklahoma Lung and Heart Associations. Two stepsons and a stepdaughter survive.

Bill Chaney, e'49, 89, May 5 in Moose, Wyoming, where he volunteered for several organizations after retiring as partner at Black & Veatch in Kansas City. He is survived by two daughters, Robyn Chaney Orchard, f'72, and Juli Chaney Jarvis, c'75; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Edman "Bud" Chapman, b'49, 95, May 22 in Mission, where he retired after a long career in banking. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Andy, e'70; two daughters, Janet, c'75, and Barbara, d'81; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Norman Cochran, b'47, 94, June 29 in Leawood, where he retired as vice presi-

dent of VF Corp. He is a life member of KU's Chancellors Club and the School of Business' Deans Club. Surviving are his wife, Shirley; three sons, Stephen, c'70, l'73, Philip, c'75, j'76, and Kent, c'80; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Paul Finck, e'45, 91, June 13 in Washington, Missouri, where he was a city councilman and retired after a long career in the oil distribution industry. His wife, Sue, three sons, a daughter, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren survive.

J. Robert Fluker, b'42, 97, June 28 in Lawrence, where he retired as consul general after a long career with the U.S. Department of State. Survivors include two daughters, Jameela Fluker Lanza, '71, and Julie, f'79; two sons, John Jr., '74, and James, c'77; and three grandchildren.

Jane Jones, c'44, g'69, 93, May 3 in St. Joseph, Missouri, where she taught for 27 years. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Lenore "Lee" Brownlee Kensett, b'48, 89, June 9 in Overland Park. She was a homemaker and also managed her husband's optometry practice for several years. Survivors include a son, James III, assoc.; three daughters; a brother, J. Maurice Brownlee, b'49; a sister, Evelyn Brownlee Malott, '52; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Harold Klein, b'48, 94, June 11 in Gower, Missouri. He was executive vice president at Kaw Transport Company. Surviving are his son, Steven, '73; a sister; and a grandchild.

Richard Miller, e'48, 91, May 9 in El Dorado, where he was a chemical engineer at Skelly Oil. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, three daughters, three sons and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Jo Ellen Shirley Murphey, c'46, c'48, 91, March 19 in Estes Park, Colorado. She taught junior high school biology. A son survives.

Mary Shultz Nightingale, c'46, 91, May 9 in Murray Hill, New Jersey, where she was a retired therapist and executive

director of the Family Service Association in Summit, New Jersey. A son, a daughter, a brother and four grandsons survive.

Marynell Dyatt Reece, c'42, 96, July 4 in Scandia. She was the National Republican Committee chairwoman from Kansas, a trustee emeritus for KU Endowment and a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education. In 1991, she was named Kansan of the Year, and she received KU's Fred Ellsworth Medallion and the Distinguished Service Citation in 1978 and 1993, respectively. In 2007, she was inducted in KU's Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity Hall of Fame. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by four daughters, Deanell Reece Tacha, c'68, Jane Reece Ewy, d'70, Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, and Mary Lou, c'77; 14 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

John Sacks, e'49, 91, May 24 in Mason, Ohio, where he worked for AK Steel. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two sons, one of whom is Kurt, b'77; a brother; and a granddaughter.

Peggy Miller Stephenson, c'43, 94, June 3 in Cottonwood Falls. She was secretary to the superintendent for Chase County school district. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Betsy, c'83; a son; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Harold Weber, b'43, 94, May 11 in Kansas City, where he owned Paris Playing Card Company. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Leslie, '78; a son, Harold "Chip," '81; a brother, Charles, '50; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

50s Bernard Bodmer, c'51, m'55, 86, June 20 in Oregon, where he was a retired radiologist. His wife, Shirley, three sons and two grandchildren survive.

Laird Bowman, b'50, l'52, 89, June 18 in Lawrence, where he was an attorney. He is survived by his wife, Betty Pote Bowman, h'50; a daughter, Susan Bowman Adams, g'86; a son; and two grandchildren.

Hubert Dye Jr., b'54, 84, May 13 in Olathe, where he was a priest in the Orthodox Church of America. Surviving are his wife, Barbara; a son; a daughter; a

brother, William, c'57, l'61; and two granddaughters.

Jerry Feagan, c'59, m'63, 77, Feb. 19 in Wilburton, Oklahoma. He was an internal medicine specialist. Survivors include a daughter, Miranda Feagan Cordell, c'05, m'09; two sons, Steve, '86, and Matthew, '09; his mother; a brother, Viron "Tim," d'72; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Carol Cunningham Snyder Fowler, d'56, g'74, 81, June 25 in Topeka, where she taught music in the Seaman school district. She is survived by her husband, Eddie; three daughters, Lori Snyder Locke, f'81, Holli Snyder Wetzel, j'89, and Staci Snyder-Lawrence, c'95; three stepsons; six grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and eight great-step-grandchildren.

William Franklin, e'57, 82, May 15 in Denver. He was an environmental engineer and president of Franklin Associates. He also served his community as a city councilman and mayor of Prairie Village. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a son, Mark, '81; a daughter; a brother; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arthur Harkins, c'59, PhD'68, 80, May 17 in St. Michael, Minnesota, where he was an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. His wife, Nataliya, and two sons survive.

Richard Heaney, c'56, 84, April 29 in Martell, Nebraska. He was partner at Galloway Wieggers & Heaney. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Steve, g'78, l'78; two daughters, one of whom is Lisa, '81; a brother; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Loretta Cooley Hinkle, c'53, c'54, 84, May 15 in Oklahoma City, where she was a medical technologist and clinical laboratory supervisor at the Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic. A son, two daughters, a sister, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

Darrell Kellams, g'55, EdD'64, 89, May 22 in Omaha, Nebraska, where he was professor emeritus in the College of Education at the University of Nebraska. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, three sons, four grandchildren and

five great-grandchildren.

Jacqueline Baum Leonhard, '50, 88, June 2 in Leavenworth. She was a supervisor at Social Rehabilitation Services. Survivors include three daughters, one of whom is Susan, c'83; two sons, one of whom is John, b'85; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Bernard Levine, e'57, 84, May 18 in San Jose, California. He had a 35-year career in quality assurance with General Electric. Two daughters, a son and six grandchildren survive.

Ida Ruth Courtright Looney, '51, 89, June 1 in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she was a homemaker and member of the League of Women Voters. Surviving are her husband, Chesley, e'50; four sons; a daughter; a brother, William Courtright, '64; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Edward Martin Jr., e'58, 79, July 22, 2015, in Weldon Spring, Missouri, where he was president of Martin Internationale Ltd. He is survived by three sons, one of whom is Timothy, '90; a sister, Mary Jane Martin Fitzsimmons, '53; and four grandchildren.

William McClelland, d'51, g'53, PhD'69, 87, May 4 in Sebring, Ohio. He was department chair of speech pathology and audiology at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Surviving are his wife, Blanche; three daughters; a sister, Phyllis McClelland Sharpe, '56; and four grandchildren.

Dean Mohlstrom, j'59, 82, Feb. 21 in Temple, Texas, where he was CEO and chairman of Omnipraxis Inc. He is survived by his wife, Linda; a daughter, Deana Mohlstrom Beardmore, '82; two stepsons; two grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Albert Rehkop Jr., '56, 81, May 13 in Leawood, where he was a stockbroker and shareholder at VSR Financial Services. Surviving are his wife, Janet, assoc.; two sons, John, '90, and Scott, b'92; a stepson; a stepdaughter; three grandchildren; and a step-granddaughter.

James Rhine, l'50, 90, May 15 in Manhattan, where he was branch manager at Universal Insurance Services. A daughter, a son, five grandchildren and

eight great-grandchildren survive.

John Richards, c'55, 86, May 7 in Fredericksburg, Texas. He was founding dean of the Colleges of Business at the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and retired as dean emeritus. Surviving are his wife, Joanne, a son, two stepsons, two sisters, six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Anita Philipp Rogers, c'52, 85, June 6 in Fort Worth, Texas, where she was involved in the P.E.O. Sisterhood and several other organizations. Three daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren survive.

George Silovsky, g'59, 86, July 5 in Topeka. He was a high school teacher and also taught at Highland Community College. Surviving are four sons, one of whom is Paul, h'87; a daughter; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

William Snook, e'50, 87, June 11 in Wichita, where he was a retired design manager for aircraft systems at Boeing. He is survived by two daughters, Lisa Snook Nelson, c'82, and Christie Snook Lewallen, b'83; a son; a brother; and six grandchildren.

June McClenny White, f'53, 85, May 17 in Bella Vista, Arkansas. She was an occupational therapist. Surviving are her husband, Paul, b'51; three sons; two granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

Paul Williams, e'55, 86, June 20 in Topeka, where he was retired chief of operations and maintenance at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center. His wife, Dorothy, two daughters, a sister, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

John "Max" Zimmerman, b'54, 84, June 1 in Georgetown, Texas. He owned Zimmerman Insurance Agency. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline; a son; a daughter; two stepsons, one of whom is Murray Holcomb, c'82, m'86; four grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

60s Nancy Davenport Beal, d'65, 72, March 12 in Overland Park, where she taught kindergarten. She is survived by two daughters, Jennifer, j'89, and Joanne Beal Joiner, c'89, l'93; two

In Memory

brothers; a sister; and two granddaughters.

Jacqueline Babcock Crumpler, d'67, 70, April 10 in Kansas City, where she taught kindergarten for 25 years. Surviving are a daughter; a son, James III, c'03, g'05; and four grandchildren.

Michael Dolan, c'64, 73, May 16 in Alexandria, Virginia, where he was an attorney. He is survived by a son; a daughter; a sister, Maureen Dolan Gamble, d'69; and four grandchildren.

Donna Proffitt Edgar, d'67, 71, June 13 in Austin, Texas. She worked at IBM and volunteered in her community. Surviving are her husband, Thomas, e'67; a son; a daughter; two brothers; and five grandchildren.

Phillip Everley, b'63, 75, May 23 in Eudora, where he owned Everley Roofing Heating and Air. He is survived by his wife, Helen Robertson Everley, '69; a daughter, Sherri Everley Graham, d'89; three sons, Mark, c'97, m'01, Patrick, c'01, and Steven, c'05, '08; a sister, BJ Everley Eichhorn-Cohn, d'59; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Paula Waxse Goering, n'69, 69, May 24 in Toronto, where she was a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto and a consultant at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. She is survived by her husband, Joseph, c'69; a son; a daughter; two brothers, David, c'67, and Joseph, c'75, e'80; a sister, Sylvia Waxse Mansfield, n'71; and a grandson.

James Goodwin, b'68, 70, June 8 in Stamford, Connecticut. He was CEO of James River Paper Company and later directed development at Norwalk Community College. Survivors include his wife, Darlene, two daughters, a son, a stepdaughter, two stepsons and 10 grandchildren.

Sharon Hide Hamil, d'61, g'64, 76, May 31 in Overland Park, where she was a teacher and coordinator of social studies for the Shawnee Mission school district. Surviving are her husband, James, f'58; and two stepsons, one of whom is Alex Hamil, f'92.

Solon Haynes Jr., EdD'68, 78, June 23 in St. Joseph, Missouri. He had a 38-year career as professor in the English department at Missouri Western State University.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen; two daughters, one of whom is Diana, g'95, PhD'07; a son; a sister; and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Loewen, c'62, m'66, 75, June 21 in Sacramento, California, where he worked at Kaiser Permanente. His wife, Patricia, two daughters and five grandchildren survive.

Gary Niemann, c'68, 71, June 6 in Kansas City, where he had a 30-year career with Mobil Oil. Surviving are his wife, Carol Blankenship Niemann, '70; two daughters, one of whom is Candy Niemann Wolken, j'90; and four grandchildren.

John Nienstedt, c'61, 77, June 1 in Surprise, Arizona. He was an advertising executive and business owner. He is survived by a son, Brook, b'84; a daughter, Barrie, c'13; a sister, Martha Nienstedt Cruse, b'55; a stepdaughter; and five grandchildren.

Kenneth Rothrock, d'61, PhD'68, 76, July 17 in Bowling Green, Ohio, where he taught sociology and was assistant dean of Arts and Sciences at Bowling Green State University. Survivors include his wife, Joan; two daughters; a son; two stepsons; a brother, John, '56; and three grandchildren.

Nancy Moore Schirmer, d'68, 83, May 29 in Las Vegas. She taught elementary school for more than 50 years. Surviving are her husband, Gerald, '54; two daughters, one of whom is Susan Schirmer Machen, '83; a son; three brothers; two sisters; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

William Teague, e'61, g'66, PhD'69, 78, June 18 in Boulder, Colorado. He was a systems analyst at Teledyne Brown Engineering. Two sons and a sister survive.

70s Alan Birdsell, d'73, 66, June 21 in Hesston. He was a high school teacher and coach. Surviving are his wife, Becky; two sons, one of whom is Derrick, d'04, '07; and a grandson.

Jay Cooper, j'70, 69, April 6 in Tampa, Florida. He had a long career in radio broadcasting and communications and owned Florida Snow Removal Inc. Surviv-

ing are his wife, Valerie; two daughters, one of whom is Jenifer, c'13; two brothers, Mark, '72, and David, d'74; and a sister.

Lorry Glawe Dreyer, j'72, d'74, 66, May 11 in Leawood, where she was a paralegal. She is survived by four sons, a daughter, three sisters, a brother and two grandchildren.

Philip Gardos, '70, 69, May 24 in Kansas City, where he was a retired mail carrier. He is survived by his wife, Judith, a son, two daughters and a sister.

Winnifred Hagberg Getto, '77, 98, May 15 in Lawrence, where she was a volunteer and member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Survivors include two sons, Paul, d'73, g'78, and Charles, '73; a daughter, Jane Getto Allen, '82; and seven grandchildren.

Joan Kirk Gryder, d'70, 77, June 14 in Eureka, where she taught elementary school for 28 years. She is survived by her husband, Jim, '61; two sons, one of whom is Kirk, '84; a daughter, Jana Gryder Peters, '89; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Frank Hansen, c'72, m'76, 66, June 25 in Wichita. He was a physician. Surviving are his wife, Gail; two daughters, one of whom is Heather, c'08, PharmD'13; a brother, Eric, b'71, l'74; and a sister, Cynthia Hansen Siler, c'76, n'78.

Stephen Hickert, '71, 66, June 7 in Lawrence, where he was a farmer and an auditor for the Kansas Department of Revenue. Survivors include his wife, Jody; a daughter, Audrey Hickert Franchuk, c'02, g'03; a son; his mother; three brothers, one of whom is Bernard, l'80; seven sisters, two of whom are Susan Hickert Brown, m'81, and Maureen Hickert Salomon, m'89; and two grandsons.

Priscilla "Kris" Krebs Kraus, c'76, 67, June 26 in Elk Grove, California, where she retired after 35 years at Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento. Her husband, Tom, two sons and three sisters survive.

Kevin Morrow, a'77, a'81, 63, June 15 in Tucson, Arizona, where he was partner and principal architect at GDA Architects. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; a son; a daughter; two sisters, one of whom is Sheila Morrow-Daney, d'78; and three brothers, two of whom are Timothy, d'79, and Christopher, j'82.

Keith Murray, c'75, 62, May 30 in Olathe, where he was a dentist and served as regional dental director for the State of Kansas correctional institutions. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Gail; a daughter; and a brother, Kent, '90.

Ruth Ann Wick Reid, d'78, 73, June 22 in Kansas City, where she was a teacher. Two daughters and two grandchildren survive.

Ramesh Thippavajjala, g'72, PhD'74, 81, July 21 in Lawrence. He was a retired professor of English. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Padma; three daughters, Gowri Thippavajjala Prabala, g'90, Chitra Thippavajjala Pidaparti, g'92, and Neeli Thippavajjala Bendapudi, PhD'95; and five grandchildren.

Thomas Thompson, e'71, 69, June 6 in Cicero, New York, where he was retired from the Federal Aviation Administration. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

80s Clifford Currier, e'83, 57, June 18 in Las Vegas, where he co-owned Total Imaging Solutions. He is survived by his wife, Claudia "Terri" Holloway Currier, j'81; two sons; his mother; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Kathleen Bukaty Givens, b'80, g'81, 58, June 2 in Jacksonville, Florida. She was a teacher and coached basketball and softball. Surviving are her husband, Steven; a son; a daughter; two brothers, Andrew, b'72, and Steve, l'75; a sister, Gerry, d'76, g'84; and two grandchildren.

Eric Peck, m'86, 59, June 3 in Olathe, where he had a 25-year career as a physician at Olathe Medical Center. He also volunteered at a local health clinic. He is survived by his wife, Susanna Ramirez Peck, n'78; three sons, one of whom is Andrew, '13; his father; a sister; and a brother.

Ruthann Rees, d'84, 55, June 19 in Wichita, where she was an elementary school teacher. A brother survives.

90s Brad House II, g'99, 45, June 10 in Olathe. He worked in information technology at the University of Kansas

Hospital. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. His wife, Colette, a son, his mother, a brother and a sister survive.

Joseph Lies, j'92, 46, June 15 in Wichita, where he was a graphic artist. He is survived by his wife, Linda; two sons; a daughter; and his parents, Jay and Janiece, h'93.

James Melvin, g'99, 66, May 12 in Kansas City. He retired as head of waste water management for the City of Gardner and later became interim director of public works for Raytown, Missouri. Surviving are his wife, Theresa; three daughters, one of whom is Janet Melvin Morales, '96; a son; three brothers; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Nancy Rose Larsen Sanders, '93, 77, March 25 in Colby, where she taught English and reading, and established a learning disabilities and special services program. She was also a published author. Survivors include her husband, Howard, '81; a son, John, '87; a daughter, Jamea Sanders Sale, g'13; and two granddaughters.

Lydia Gutierrez Schmidt, j'92, 49, May 13 in Topeka, where she managed human resources at Hill's Pet Nutrition. Surviving are her husband, Kevin; a son; four daughters; her mother; three sisters, two of whom are Lisa Gutierrez Houser, j'83, and Lori Gutierrez Wickliffe, '87; and two brothers, one of whom is Ronald, '08.

Shane Swope, c'93, e'97, g'01, 46, June 22 in Longmont, Colorado, where he was a civil engineer. He is survived by his wife, Sheila; two daughters; a stepson; a stepdaughter; his parents; two sisters, one of whom is Michelle Swope Schneider, '87; a stepbrother; and a granddaughter.

00s Douglas Fund, g'02, 54, June 22 in Kansas City, where he was a product engineer at Honeywell. He is survived by his wife, Margo, s'99, s'07; two sons, one of whom is Jacob, c'10; a daughter; a sister; a brother; his father; and two grandsons.

10s Ann Marie Ziegler Batliner, s'16, 41, June 17 in Shawnee. Three sons, a daughter, her parents, a sister, a brother,

her maternal grandparents and her paternal grandfather survive.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Charles "Chuck" Berg, j'67, 75, July 26 in Lawrence. He was a professor of film and media studies for nearly 40 years and chaired the department of theatre and film from 2005 to '07. Before joining the faculty at KU he was a jazz and arts journalist and wrote for several publications, including the Kansas City Star and the Lawrence Journal-World. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Beth Noe Berg, d'67; a son, Nathan, c'96, PhD'01, g'02; two brothers, one of whom is Kris, d'65, g'68; and two grandsons.

Charles Brackett Jr., '96, May 13 in Shawnee. He was professor emeritus of neurosurgery at KU Medical Center and also served as provost, dean and vice chancellor of health affairs. In 1989, he received the Honorary Alumnus of the Year Award from the KU Medical Center Alumni Association. He is survived by five daughters, three of whom are Pamela Brackett Hennessey, c'69, Rebecca, f'71, s'10, and Deborah Brackett Sokol, '74; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

George Crawford, '81, 79, June 3 in Lawrence, where he was retired professor of educational administration. He is survived by his wife, Maribeth; a son, George Jr., c'84; two daughters, Carolyn Crawford Chase, '87, and Susan, f'96; a sister; and six grandchildren.

John Michel, 82, June 20 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the department of speech-language-hearing: sciences & disorders. In 1973, he received KU's HOPE Award. Surviving are his wife, Lorraine; two daughters, Sharon Michel Green, c'87, and Leslie, c'91, '92; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Lois Luckey Woods, assoc., 88, Dec. 28, 2015, in Belleville. She was a secretary and later retired as a receptionist for K-State Salina. She is survived by a son, Rod, b'75; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review



A rambling we will go

Writer's memoir urges a walk on Kansas' overlooked wild side

In graduate school, George Frazier and his friends were in love with the American West. Vacations involved multiday backpacking treks and bike trips down the California coast. Kansas, on the other hand, was “the place to come home and study,” Frazier says. “We didn’t have wilderness in the sense of the American West.”

His feeling that Kansas was bereft of wild places changed as he began to discover prairie landscapes, particularly one patch of tallgrass outside of Lawrence: the Elkins Prairie.

In November 1990, Frazier was driving by the 80-acre tract when he saw people standing across the street. Joining them, he watched helplessly as the landowner—rebuffing offers to buy the land from The Nature Conservancy and Lawrence environmentalists—plowed the prairie under. The landowner and his family,

according to their lawyer at the time, “simply wanted to make their property more productive.”

Beyond the loss of a diverse habitat thousands of years in the making, what struck Frazier was how hard prairie advocates worked to save the remnant wilderness and how committed they felt to the plot and all it represented.

“That sort of planted a seed in my mind that we still have wild places in Kansas that matter,” Frazier says.

That seed bears fruit in *The Last Wild Places of Kansas*, a fine, funny memoir that is part environmental history and part lighthearted road trip through the state’s overlooked landscapes.

“In Kansas wild lands have a visibility issue, and I’m talking about people who

Frazier calls his book “my love letter to the unique landscapes and eccentric characters” of wild Kansas.

live here,” says Frazier, c’88, g’90, PhD’93, a software architect for a California company who works from his Lawrence home. “It’s largely driven by the fact that 98 percent of the land here is privately owned.” (Indeed, only 2 percent of Kansas is set aside in public lands, the lowest rate in the nation.) Changing demographics—most notably the state’s shift from a majority rural to a majority urban population—contribute to the visibility problem, Frazier says.

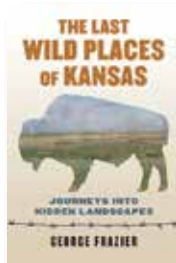
“I wanted to write a wild lands road trip for people that’s not a guide to places, necessarily, but a guide to how people can look at Kansas and understand it from an environmental history point of view.”

Focusing mostly on the eastern half of the state—“there are lots of great books about the Great Plains,” Frazier explains, “but there hasn’t been as much treatment of sites in eastern or south-central Kansas”—he explores his own definition of “wild place” as a site where nature collides with folklore.

Some sites (like the Baker Wetlands, Baldwin Woods and Konza Prairie) exhibit higher than average degrees of biodiversity. Some (Ancient Trees Trail and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve) are relics of rare ecosystems. Others (Black Bob Cave, Mission Creek Villages and Cimarron National Grasslands) have some element of environmental or Native American history.

“More than anything,” Frazier says, “wild places in Kansas are places that, across generations and sometimes across cultural boundaries, have stories that people learn and relearn and discover.”

Frazier tells these stories with a light touch, a welcome departure from the earnest cri de coeur that paeans to



The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys Into Hidden Landscapes

by George Frazier

University Press of Kansas, \$24.95

vanishing wilderness so often sound. His adventures afield with friends and family can at times seem as much gonzo road trip as reverent nature pilgrimage, and the people he chronicles along the way—from current-day prairie dog hunters to long dead Shawnee prophets—show that there are as many wild characters as wild places in Kansas’ past and present.

A self-described city boy who grew up in Johnson County, Frazier wasn’t immune to overlooking Kansas’ wild side. But just as his discovery of Elkins Prairie and other native ecosystems opened his eyes, he hopes his book jolts readers into a fuller appreciation of Kansas’ natural charms.

“There are people who all of a sudden one day wake up to the place they live and see it in a new way,” Frazier says. “That’s who I wrote this book for.”

More than just waking up, though, Frazier hopes they get off the couch.

“I’m also challenging people to change the way they think about these places, and to go out and act on it. Every single person who goes on a hike with me tells a story about someplace they always wanted to go, but they couldn’t do it.

“I want to challenge that. Because once I got in the habit of challenging that, I got to see a bunch of the state that few people have seen.”

—Steven Hill

Soft touch

Illustrator’s ‘approachable style’ leads to gig on Dylan book

When he first contemplated a career as an illustrator, artist David Walker figured he’d make his living at the grown-ups’ table—working for *Time*, *Rolling Stone* or one of the other big national magazines. Instead, he wound up in a medium about as far removed from that as he could get, children’s books. Not that he’s complaining.

“What I do doesn’t fit with what ‘serious’ artwork is supposed to look like,” says Walker, f’87. “I get that, because I grew up thinking that if a work was any good it would be hanging in a gallery. But early

on, I realized that gallery-type fine-art painting wasn’t where I was getting a lot of joy. I really like the process of illustrating children’s books and greeting cards.

Commercial as opposed to gallery work is a good fit for me.”

Walker has illustrated dozens of children’s books, most recently *If Not For You*, which takes its text from the widely covered 1970 Bob Dylan song. *If Not For You* features Walker’s signature style of frolicking animals in soft but bright pastel shades, the perfect visual interpretation of a song as a sweet ode to parent-child love.

“His style is often described as soft and friendly,” says John Sellers, children’s reviews editor for *Publishers Weekly* magazine. “Even cuddly. It’s a very preschool-friendly, approachable style.”

Walker came by his style honestly. His first job was as an art director at Hallmark Cards, where he oversaw new lines of greeting cards. He describes his seven years at Hallmark as a combination of graduate school and boot camp, and even though he was managing rather than drawing, a whimsical sensibility took root.

“I probably was not a great employee at Hallmark because I wasn’t doing the art

myself,” he says. “Working there did make for an incredible jump-start to my own career, just being around all these very talented artists and watching them work every day. But the itch to do my own work never lessened, not even a little. I drew on the side even though I didn’t have a home for it anywhere back then.”

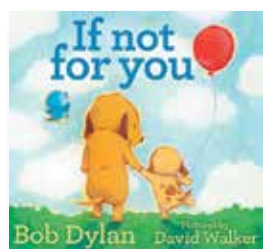
Walker quit Hallmark to go freelance and moved his family to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He licensed his artwork for a variety of products. “Pretty much anything and everything,” he says, “from bedsheets to dishes.” A calendar featuring his artwork caught the eye of a children’s book editor, who hired Walker to illustrate Ann Whitford Paul’s 2003 book, *Little Monkey Says Good Night*. Since that debut, other notable books illustrated by Walker include 2007’s *Before You Were Mine*, about a boy and his adopted dog, and 2014’s *If Animals Kissed Good Night*.

“They all kind of sound the same and run together, to tell you the truth,” Walker says. “The target audience is about 3 years old. But I love the art as the genre it is.”

Walker’s books usually sell about 10,000 copies in America, which is respectable. In Japan, however, some titles crack six figures in sales.

“No idea why,” he says with a laugh. “Something about the characters being relatable, maybe? Whatever it was, they just clicked. Doing a book tour over there was about the best work experience I’ve ever had, with people bringing their children out for pictures and to get me to sign things. It was weird to be treated like some kind of star.”

Walker still has a few items on his



If Not For You

by Bob Dylan;
illustrated by
David Walker

Atheneum Books
for Young Readers,
\$17.99



DAVID WALKER

Rock Chalk Review

bucket list, including writing a children's book himself—so far, he has only illustrated others' words. He would also like to meet *If Not For You's* author, Bob Dylan, although, oddly enough, he has yet to meet any writer whose book he has illustrated. His books have all been brokered by publishers, and Walker admits he hesitated on the Dylan project.

"When the publisher reached out on this one, I actually pushed back a little. 'Are you sure? I mostly do this cute stuff and I don't want to make his fans mad.' But they said, 'Yeah, we want art that really appeals to children with a name that will appeal to parents and grandparents.'

"So what the heck, I did it." 🍃

—David Menconi is a music critic and arts reporter at *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Flower power

Unique evolutionary trail helps researchers unlock DNA secrets

The dazzling variety of flowers represented in the genus *Penstemon*—commonly known as "beardtongue"—is a beauty more than skin deep.

While the great majority of the 300 *Penstemon* species attract bees as their pollinators, about 10 percent evolved different colors and flower shapes in order to attract hummingbirds. That, in itself, is unusual but not unique, as other flowering species and genera also developed the

ability to attract both pollinators.

Penstemon's claim to fame, though, is that while the pollinator variety seen in other flowering plants was the result of one, or perhaps two, evolutionary detours, there were at least 10, and perhaps as many as 20, separate and distinct evolutionary events on the *Penstemon* timeline.

That's why *Penstemon* evolution attracted serious inquiry by Lena Hileman, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; KU postdoctoral fellow Carrie Wessinger; and Wessinger's PhD adviser, Mark Rausher, John Carlisle Kilgo Professor of Biology at Duke University. The trio's investigation of *Penstemon* evolution recently earned a pair of National Science Foundation grants worth a total of \$2.5 million, and Wessinger's KU fellowship, currently in its third year, is funded by the NIH.

"This work is so important for understanding how traits evolve and the genetics of trait evolution that the National Institutes of Health are funding a postdoctoral fellowship in flower biology," Hileman says. "It's the basic research into understanding the genetics that underlie trait evolution."

Penstemon's natural range stretches the length of western North America, with its center of diversity in the highlands of the American Southwest. Wessinger's fieldwork has added to a charmingly colorful collection of *Penstemon* species nurtured in Haworth Hall's lone air-conditioned greenhouse; thanks to a fortuitous comment by one of Hileman's colleagues,

the team's research has also been significantly aided by *Penstemon* authority and collector Craig Freeman, senior curator at KU's R.L. McGregor Herbarium on West Campus.

With access to a variety of DNA sources, the researchers determined that *Penstemon's* startling diversity happened within 5 million years, at the most. Given that flowering plants required

150 million years of evolution to attain their current diversity, *Penstemon* hustled its unique evolution at a remarkably brisk clip.

By mapping that evolutionary trail with a number of investigative techniques—including microscopy, genome sequencing and crossbreeding species—the researchers hope to understand, among other questions, exactly how many genes must change in order to alter a particular trait.

"In most systems, you can't do that," Hileman says. "So this genus gives us a really powerful tool. It's a beautiful model system to get at fundamental questions in evolutionary biology."

Adds Wessinger, "I'm really interested in how changes in genes affect changes in organisms, and I see this as a really interesting system for doing just that, looking at the genetic underpinnings of evolutionary change."

Their investigations into the fundamental genetics that drive evolution will require not years but decades, the researchers say, and Hileman and Wessinger expect to still be collaborating, along with Duke's Rausher, long after Wessinger departs and sets up her own lab with a full-time position at another university.

"There are so many questions to be asked," Hileman says, "the three of us will be able to pursue questions in this system throughout our careers—including Carrie's career, which is in the first ramping-up stages."

With 5 million years of unique evolution to unravel, patience is these researchers' nectar. 🍃

—Chris Lazzarino

A writer's life

Debut novelist weaves story through boy's eyes

Author Cote Smith, c'05, g'09, is now happily sharing his gifts for writing as a published novelist and KU English instructor. His journey, however, was not blessed with the same seamless transitions found in his work.

"The hardest part about writing [a debut



Wessinger and Hileman

Hoops innovator McLendon subject of new Willmott film



COURTESY MILTON KATZ

McLendon

In conjunction with the late John McLendon's second induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a new movie produced and filmed by KU alumni and directed by Kevin Willmott,

professor of film and media studies, is set to premiere in late September.

"Fast Break: The John McLendon Story" chronicles the Hiawatha native's tutelage under James Naismith at KU and his subsequent rise as one of the most innovative, winningest coaches in the NAIA, AAU and professional ranks.

"We're trying to really show what an important figure he is in sports history," says Willmott. "He is such a positive figure, such an inspiring kind of person, and he's got so many

firsts that you can't name them all."

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, Willmott was putting the finishing touches on the documentary, which uses interviews with coaches (including Bill Self and Larry Brown) and players (including Bud Stallworth, s'78, and Wayne Simien, c'05) conducted by Scott Unruh, j'76, of Broken Fence Film Ranch, and Josh Doke, c'12, and Iain Trimble, c'12, of Rockhaven Films. A premiere is planned for late September in Lawrence.

McLendon, d'36, was

inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame on Sept. 9. Enshrined in 1979 as a contributor, he entered this year as a coach. Credited with introducing an up-tempo, fast-breaking style to the game, McLendon was the first coach to win three consecutive national championships when he led Tennessee State to NAIA titles in 1957, 1958 and 1959. He became the first African-American coach in a professional league when he was hired in 1961 to coach the Cleveland Pipers of the American Basketball League. He died in 1999.

—Steven Hill

novel] is you're working so hard and sacrificing so much," Smith says, "and you have no idea if it is going to go somewhere in terms of it being seen by the world."

Crushed by publishers' initial rejections of his first attempt but still passionate, Smith dove straight into his second novel. Two hundred pages in, he got the call. His editor, Emily Bell from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, would help him publish *Hurt People*. She shared his strong belief in telling a story that needed to be told.

Crafted from the perspective of an unnamed 9-year-old boy, the ominous narrative of *Hurt People* centers on an impoverished family living in Leavenworth. His words consume the reader's attention with threats of severe weather, suspicious characters and an escaped convict, who looms over the narrator and his older brother for an entire summer.

It is imperative for authors to believe in their story, Smith explains.

"You can have all the techniques down, like complex characters and efficient language use and pacing and structure," he says, "but if you don't really care about the story and you don't think it's interesting, it's going to show up in the process."

Bell was not the first person to note Smith's gift for fiction writing. KU

professors and students proved invaluable to the author's development. Yet Smith was not always serious about writing. He enrolled in college simply because his family expected it and he would be close to his hometown of Leavenworth.

"I didn't really know how to write," Smith says about his decision to return for the English department's creative writing master's program. "I think I had some natural talent and natural desire or strong desire to create something like [a novel], but I didn't really know all that was available to me in terms of techniques."

His laid-back approach to school was jolted into an excited passion by KU's literary community. Professors and fellow graduate students cultivated Smith's natural writing chops with their own dedication and motivation.

"When I came [to the graduate pro-



STEVE PUPPE

Smith

gram] I was like, oh, these people are really smart and they care a lot about this. I really need to step up my game and work a lot harder."

Smith's success and love for writing have propelled him into his current novel, based on the hit podcast "Limetown." He is looking forward to working on the prequel with series creators Zack Akers and Skip Bronkie while teaching English courses at KU this year.

"Just have fun writing," Smith advises. "If you don't do that, it's very easy to give up."

—John Watson is a Lawrence freelance writer and a member of the Association's Adams Alumni Center hospitality staff.



Hurt People

by Cote Smith

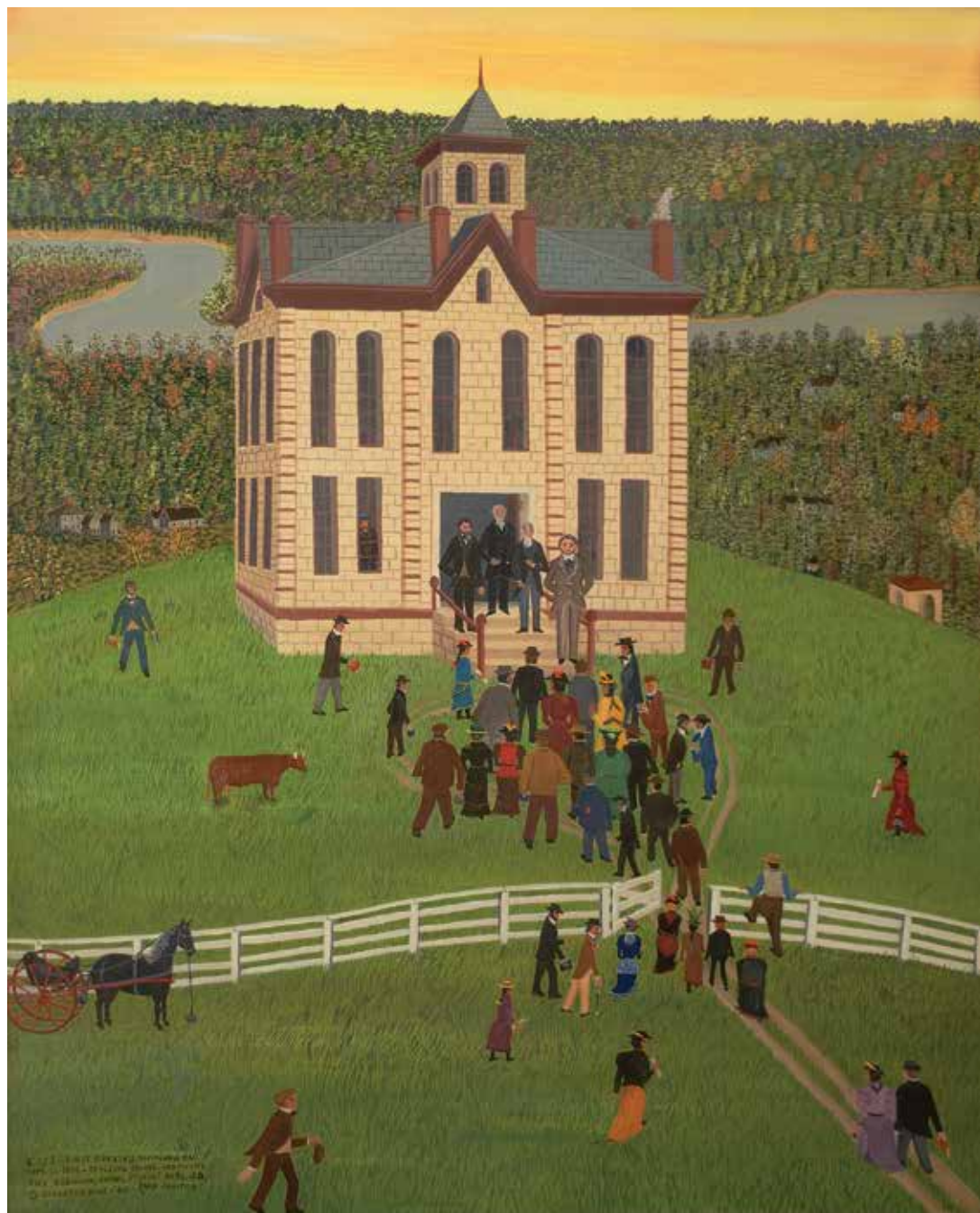
FSG Originals, \$15

KU 150

Historical notes in celebration of the University's sesquicentennial

As the yearlong KU 150 celebration concludes, we remember Sept. 12, 1866, the day the University opened its doors. "KU's First Morning in 1866," a painting by Streeter Blair (1888-1966), depicts Chancellor R.W. Oliver and KU's first three professors welcoming students to Old North College. Blair, a member of the Class of 1911, was born in Cadmus and spent much of his career in California. The Spencer Museum of Art acquired "KU's First Morning" in 1958.

To thank Alumni Association members for their loyalty, the Association is offering a limited quantity of giclée prints of the painting for sale. Proceeds will benefit the Association and the Spencer Museum, which reopens Oct. 15 after an extensive renovation. For details, visit kualumni.org/ku150.



COURTESY, SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART



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