

KANSAS ALUMNI



No. 3 2017 ■ \$5

BGL

The Bernadette Gray-Little era

- NO. 0
- DEAR READER
- JAZZMAN

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Farewell, BGL

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little concludes her eight-year tenure on the Hill, having steered the University through momentous changes with grit and grace.

By Jennifer Jackson Sanner

*Cover photograph by
Meg Kumin*

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Study in Jazz

Trumpeter Ron McCurdy brings Langston Hughes' epic poem "Ask Your Mama" to life with music, images and the discovery of his own cultural heritage.

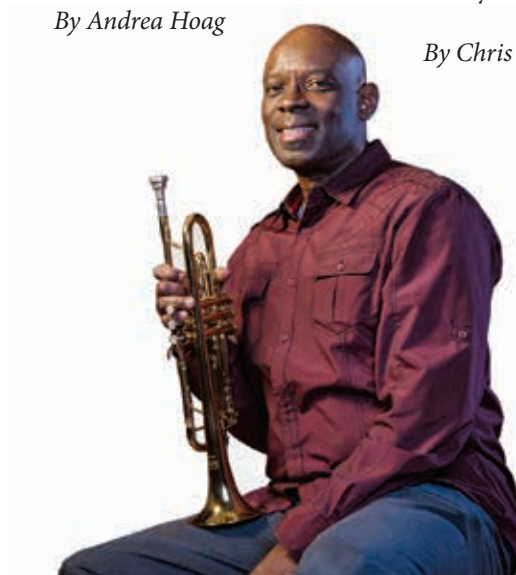
By Heather Biele

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Novel Idea

A love for books and the transformative power of stories was key for Mary O'Connell—and for the teenage heroine of her new novel, *Dear Reader*.

By Andrea Hoag



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Stand Tall

March may have ended much too early for the Jayhawks, but Player of the Year honors for Frank Mason and Hall of Fame induction for Bill Self make dandy consolation prizes.

By Chris Lazzarino

Lift the Chorus



A picture worth a thousand words

I ENJOYED THE ARTICLE on the KU basketball pep band ["Fortissimo Fan Fare," issue No. 2]. I especially enjoyed the picture on page 36 showing the "old" pep band at a game in Hoch Auditorium. I believe the gentleman at front row center in the dark suit with "blond" hair is none other than Russell Wiley. Having come to KU in 1934 as director of bands, he continued to build the fine music school we have today.

Professor Wiley established the Midwestern Music and Art Camp, which brought many young musicians to campus who would not have come to KU without the experiences they shared in the summer.

I was honored to serve as a counselor, working with junior high and high school students who filled the dorms on Daisy Hill.

I also read of the passing of an alumnus from Moundridge, reminding me of my personal mentor, Clayton Krehbiel, f'42. He, along with many directors, built a fine choral program in the camp and at the University.

I am now retired and look

back with pride at the experiences we shared on the Hill.

Foster Paul Young, d'64,
g'70
Lenexa

Editor's Note: Clayton Krehbiel, professor of music, received KU's first HOPE (Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award for teaching, in 1959. He died in 1988.

THE PHOTO OF THE 1953 basketball band in Hoch Auditorium brought back memories. I played horn in the band from 1940 to '43. We were crowded into a corner just off the court, and out-of-bounds balls ended up in the band. Russell Wiley was band director and Phog Allen was basketball coach. Allen's son, Bobby, was a star on the team in 1940.

Judson Goodrich, b'47, g'48
Santa Rosa, California

I READ WITH RELISH the article on our basketball band.

I arrived at KU in fall of '51 and joined the marching band's drum row after an audition for Professor Russell Wiley. (Probably couldn't do it today: They are so good.)

I played in the band for four years. I moved to cymbals the last year. Seniority! Our row at the time had only one bass

drum and one cymbal player.

When I came back after graduation, I noticed the band had added another bass drum and another cymbal player. I joked with Professor Wiley that I was the band's last "solo cymbal player."

Because of limited seating at Hoch, students were issued either a red or blue activity ticket and the games were either a red or blue night to attend. Band members who didn't have the correct color would gather as the "pep" band and sit on the stage to the side.

Old movies of Clyde [Lovellette] and company show us up there. We didn't have uniforms and weren't really organized. It was a way to get in.

I see from the photo on page 36 that by 1953 we did get organized. I'm not in it, but I recognize other percussionists.

I always enjoy the magazine.

Roger Miller, p'55
Bonner Springs

Just one word: plastics

I ENJOY READING *Kansas Alumni*, but I don't enjoy finding it in my mailbox enclosed in a plastic bag.

This is unnecessary and



Your
opinion
counts

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

creates a landfill problem. Many magazines were formerly delivered this way, but no longer. I am embarrassed that my alumni association continues this anachronistic and environmentally degrading practice.

I hope you will find a way to send it to me like my New Yorker, buck naked.

David Prescott Thompson,
c'65, m'69
Portland, Oregon

WHY IS OUR ALUMNI magazine mailed in plastic wrap? I know it isn't the only magazine that comes that way, and I understand it for the issue when we receive our calendar, but is there a way to do it without? It seems like waste that may not be necessary.

Thank you for the publication and all the time and care it takes to pull together.

Emily Randel, c'71, g'74
Kansas City, Missouri

Editor's Note: We added recyclable plastic wrap three years ago after readers complained their magazines arrived damaged by new U.S. Postal Service sorting machines. The postal service has since resolved those issues, so we now return to our longtime practice of mailing *Kansas Alumni* "buck naked"—except for November, when we include the calendar, or in rare instances when another supplement accompanies the magazine. On those occasions, we hope readers bear with us—and recycle the wrap.

May 2017

KANSAS ALUMNI

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Kansas Alumni Magazine*, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169 © 2017 by *Kansas Alumni Magazine*. Non-member issue price: \$7

Letters to the Editor:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free gift of KU Campus Playing Cards, a \$5 value.



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When Nancy Kellogg Harper set out to turn her 1995 dissertation on the University's ninth chancellor into a book, she could not have foreseen that the finished product, *The Making of a Leader: Franklin D. Murphy, The Kansas Years*, would appear in print just as KU began the search for its 18th chancellor.

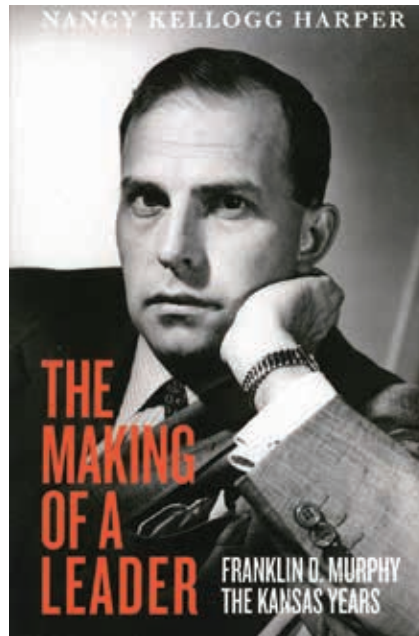
Harper, d'65, g'74, PhD'96, treats readers to a richly detailed portrait of Murphy, c'36, who was only 35 when he ascended to the chancellorship in 1951, after three years as dean of the KU School of Medicine. A true Renaissance man who invigorated many areas of the University, Murphy guided KU until 1960, when he became chancellor of the University of California-Los Angeles.

The book describes Murphy's early life and the influences that shaped his scholarly endeavors as a scientist and an ardent collector of art and books—a passion that began when he was a teenager in Kansas City. Instead of recounting the chronology of his years as a young dean and chancellor, Harper focuses on three themes of the Murphy era: Art and Books, including the revival of KU Libraries; Civil Rights, especially Murphy's powerful persuasion that convinced Lawrence downtown businesses to desegregate; and Kansas Political Wars, dominated by Gov. George Docking's abiding animosity toward Murphy, which vexed the chancellor and motivated him to accept UCLA's offer.

Harper began refining her dissertation in 2015 and published her book late last year, just as the Kansas Board of Regents assembled the search committee to choose a successor to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. At the urging of friends, she sent committee members copies of the book with letters. "We just wanted to let them know that during this important time for the University, this is a book about a man who was transformational and still lingers as a pivotal figure," she says.

Harper concludes the book as she did her dissertation—by outlining the patterns of Murphy's leadership, a chapter the chancellor himself applauded when she interviewed him in the early 1990s in California, where he had continued his career after UCLA by leading the Times Mirror Co. as chairman and CEO and serving on the nation's foremost corporate, cultural and scientific foundations. "He said, 'You captured me,'" she recalls. "He told me, 'My job was simple: Share the vision, find the talent, provide the freedom and secure the funds.'"

Harper and others shared their insights with 120 Jayhawks April 12 at an event hosted by KU Libraries and the Alumni Association. Speakers included Susan Craig, c'70, retired KU art and



architecture librarian; James Gunn, j'47, g'51, professor emeritus of English who worked for Murphy as the director (and sole staff member) of University relations; Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, c'54; and Bill Tuttle, assoc., professor emeritus of American studies and Harper's dissertation adviser, who encouraged her to publish the book. In addition, John Edgar Tidwell, professor of English, introduced Ernie Shelby, f'59, who appeared via Skype to recount the day in October 1957 when he and fellow student-athletes Wilt Chamberlain, '59; Homer Floyd, d'61; and Charlie Tidwell, '61, met with Murphy to explain that the pain of daily life in segregated Lawrence could force them to leave KU, which Shelby called "an oasis in the swamp."

"He was incredibly attentive, and within 48 hours he told us the ban at local businesses had been lifted. We went out and

tested it, and he was right," Shelby recalled.

As a champion of change, Murphy saw in KU "the possibility of greatness, and he was able to communicate that to many people," Gunn told fellow Jayhawks. "At that point, the whole mood of the University changed."

Although guiding a public university in the 21st century has grown infinitely more complex and demanding than in Murphy's era, the inestimable gift to unite the entire KU community around a powerful vision remains at the core of a chancellor's calling. As we celebrate Bernadette Gray-Little, the latest leader to accomplish the daunting feat, Jayhawks vow to keep climbing, ever onward.



Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker shared her memories of Chancellor Murphy at Nan Harper's book celebration. The book was published by Jayhawk Ink at the KU Bookstore.

YUSRA NABI/KU LIBRARIES

On the Boulevard



JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET

The Lied Center's upcoming season is sure to delight with riveting performances that include (clockwise from right) Dublin Irish Dance, Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn, Richard Olate and his talented troupe of dogs, ODC Dance, Kenny Rogers and the Juilliard String Quartet.

Exhibitions

"A Wry Eye: Witty, Sardonic, and Ironic Work by Contemporary Printmakers," Spencer Museum of Art, through June 11

"The Power and Pleasure of Possessions in Korean Painted Screens," Spencer Museum of Art, through June 11

"American Dream," Spencer Museum of Art, through Sept. 3

"Engaged: Campus and community scholars working together for the public good," Haricombe Gallery in Watson Library, through Aug. 11

"The League of Wives: Vietnam's POW/MIA Allies & Advocates," Dole Institute, through December

Lied Center 2017-'18

SEPTEMBER

22 Black Violin

24 Kenny Rogers' Final World Tour: "The Gambler's Last Deal" with special guest Linda Davis

28 KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Simone Porter, violin

29 Tango Buenos Aires: "Spirit of Argentina"



KENNY ROGERS

OCTOBER

5 Juilliard String Quartet

8 Underwater Bubble Show

14 All The Way Live!

20 "Dirty Dancing"

21 Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn

NOVEMBER

5 Garrison Keillor: "Just Passing Through"

8 KU Wind Ensemble with special guest Jim Walker, flute

10 ODC Dance with University Dance Company



ODC DANCE



DUBLIN IRISH DANCE

29 Cantus: "Three Tales of Christmas"

DECEMBER

16 "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

JANUARY

26 Andrea Gibson

28 Moscow Festival Ballet: "Cinderella"

31 "The Wizard of Oz"

FEBRUARY

7 "Birdman Live" by Antonio Sanchez

9 "Becoming a Man in 127 EASY Steps"

18 Dublin Irish Dance: "Stepping Out"

20 "The Sound of Music"

MARCH

8 "UNVEILED": A One-Woman Play

13 The Staatskapelle Weimar Orchestra of Germany

30 Frank Waln

APRIL

5 KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Anat Cohen, clarinet and saxophones

11 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Gold Medal Winner



WASHBURN AND FLECK

17 Hypnotic Brass Ensemble

27 Olate Dogs: Winners of "America's Got Talent"

Academic Calendar

JUNE

6 Summer classes begin

JULY

28 Summer classes end

AUGUST

21 Fall classes begin

Alumni Events

MAY

23 KU Night with the New York Yankees, The Bronx, New York

24 The Kansas Basketball Legacy featuring Phog Allen, Tampa Bay Brewing, Tampa, Florida

25 The Kansas Basketball Legacy featuring Phog Allen, Darlington House, Washington, D.C.

27 KU Night with the Colorado Rapids, Commerce City, Colorado

JUNE

11 Kansas City Royals vs. San Diego Padres, Petco Park, San Diego

15 KU alumni online networking

23 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

26 KU Alumni Invitational at Prairie Dunes, Hutchinson

JULY

19 Dallas: Jayhawks & Java

20 Denver: Breakfast with Jayhawks

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



OLATE DOGS

Jayhawk Walk

Sparkling study spaces

As gleaming new study havens sprout around campus, old stalwarts have fallen behind the times: the single-desk carrels tucked away in Watson Library's stacks are in need of TLC.

KU Libraries and KU Endowment have launched a fund drive to restore, renovate and reimagine the beloved nooks after more than a half-century of constant use.

"I think it's worthwhile," says retired Littleton, Colorado, human resources executive Tony Kovach, b'74, g'76. "It's such a big campus, so if you were up on the Hill and you had maybe an hour or two between classes, you needed somewhere to sit quietly and study. Somehow I discovered the stacks."



LARRY LEROY PEARSON

Alumni with fond memories of stacks study time—as well as interludes of gazing out carrel windows to soak in the view across the Wakarusa Valley—might be interested to learn that naming opportunities are available for new spaces sure to be treasured by future Jayhawks. Renovations will finally include electrical outlets, new furniture and lighting. KU Libraries is also considering a collaboration with architecture students, who could offer creative design solutions.

The idea stacks up, and we're eager to check it out.

"It's not exactly a gas guzzler," says Danny Lewis, d'05, director of donor relations and athletic programs.

After cleaning the car early on March 19, before the second-round rally, Lewis drove around downtown, revving the engine at stop lights, air conditioning on full blast. One hour and 20 minutes later, he had to report to the rally, so co-workers Kelsey Hill, c'12, and Danny Woods, j'13, took the wheel for another 45 minutes.

"We even bought a siphon," Lewis says, "just in case." Thankfully, the marvelously stubborn needle crossed the quarter line in the nick of time.

Rethink your smiley face

MARKETING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL research has long shown that smiles from service providers and salespeople help consumers view them in a positive light. That's still true, says Jessica Li, assistant professor of marketing in the School of Business, but it's no longer the whole story.

Research by Li and colleagues, recently published in the Journal of Consumer Research, shows that broad smiles, in person or in advertising, can harm service providers in high-risk careers—heart surgeons, lawyers or venture capitalists, Li offers as examples—because the warmth is offset by a perception of less competence.

"If the risk is really low, such as going to the store to get a new shirt, then the competence of the salesperson isn't as important," Li says, "and I respond more positively to the broad smile."

Jayhawk car goes the extra miles

THANKS TO POSTSEASON PARTNER

Crown Automotive, the sporty Toyota Scion decked out in eye-catching Jayhawk livery zoomed through its second season of road trips to the Association's rallies at NCAA Tournament sites. The good news is, the Crown Jayhawk Car gets great gas mileage.

The bad news is, the Crown Jayhawk Car gets great gas mileage.

After driving to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for

the March 17 rally at Cox Business Center, the Association's party planners were told vehicles could not enter the building with more than a quarter-tank of gas.

With a half-tank remaining, the staff team decided to delay the car's ballroom debut until the next rally and use two days to burn fuel. How hard could it be?

The morning after KU's first-round victory, staff members started driving. They toured Oral Roberts University, drove to an event south of Tulsa, and generally enjoyed themselves cruising.

The gauge barely moved.



DAN STOREY



Jessica Li

Li and her collaborators also found that contributions to Kickstarter.com campaigns plummeted by up to 50 percent for causes that included happy, smiling profile photos. Alternatively, broad smiles appear to pay dividends on low-cost, low-risk ventures such as social media, where toothy grins doubled Facebook shares.

"It's intuitive that if you seem to be friendly but not competent, people will want to help you in low-cost ways but not necessarily be willing to give you a lot of money," Li says. "Warmth and competence are such important judgments. We want to make sure we are giving people the right signal."

The next step forward is clear: competent-face emoji, anyone?

Ride, he said

AND THE AWARD FOR BEST March Madness observance 2017 goes to ...

Randy Breeden, f'75. The cyclist and graphic designer mapped out a 35-mile bike route around Lawrence that outlines a Jayhawk, then led nine alumni through the twisting, turning course before inviting them back to his man cave to drink homebrewed beer and watch KU's first-round game with UC Davis.

The former Lawrence Bicycle Club president has mapped many Douglas County rides and out-of-state tours, but a Jayhawk-shaped route on existing streets was his biggest challenge yet.

"Lawrence is tough," Breeden says,

particularly the outskirts where the Kansas River, Clinton Lake and dead-end streets limit options. "I think the feet were the hardest. I tried to get the spur on the right foot, but there's just no roads to follow."

The route starts and ends on West Campus, with forays through Daisy Hill, past Memorial Stadium and over the big 11th Street climb to Corbin Hall. And, yes, kids, it's uphill both ways. Like drawing a complex shape on an Etch a Sketch, there's a lot of doubling back.

"We hit every hill in Lawrence a couple of times," Breeden says. "There's almost 2,000 feet of climbing. I've done rides in Colorado where that's how much climbing you get going through a mountain pass."

Ever the exacting artist, Breeden says he would have liked the design to be a little



RANDY BREEDEN

more precise. Some riders, however, thought it was plenty painstaking.

"People were commenting, 'We have to go up this hill and back again just so he can have an eyebrow on his Jayhawk?'" Breeden recalls. "Just blame Randy."

Wedding bell

When it comes to getting hitched, Dan Ryckert is thinking outside the bun.

Ryckert, c'08, is a senior editor and "gaming industry personality" at Giant Bomb, a video-gaming website that produces *The Giant Beastcast*, a podcast about video games and whatever else he and his co-hosts care to discuss. His tangents often involve his long and public love affair with Taco Bell.

"It's just been years and years and years," he says, "that I've not been shy on Twitter or podcasts or videos about how it's my favorite food and how I grew up loving Taco Bell."



COURTESY TACO BELL MEDIA

So when he and his fiancée, Bianca, heard about the fast-food chain's Love and Tacos contest, "It seemed like the biggest no-brainer ever." The prize: a grande supreme wedding at Taco Bell Chapel in the new Taco Bell Cantina on the Las Vegas strip.

They posted a video entry and Ryckert's 68,000 Twitter followers helped vote them into the top 10. From there, Taco Bell judges picked them to win the big chalupe, which includes Taco Bell wedding T-shirts, champagne flutes, garter and bow tie; dinner at the Cantina, the chain's flagship restaurant; and the distinction of being the first couple to marry in the Vegas chapel (above), in late June.

And the honeymoon? They'll make a run for the border, we presume.



COURTESY DAN RYCKERT

Hilltopics

STEVE PUPPE



Helping hand

Engineering student's good deed builds on can-do ethos

As a kid, Mason Wilde liked tinkering with things. He worked on cars and fixed up motorcycles with his dad. He built a personal computer or two and, using cardboard and rubber bands, made a toy version of the wrist gauntlet with a retractable blade featured in his favorite video game, Assassin's Creed.

So when a neighboring family in his Louisburg hometown needed someone to help them with an unusual DIY project—building a prosthetic hand for an active 9-year-old boy—Wilde seemed a perfect match for the project. He had some downtime, thanks to a concussion sustained in a high school football game, the technical mindset and a sincere desire to help.

"I think part of the excitement was taking something that I already liked to do—building things and figuring out how things worked—and using that to actually have an impact," says Wilde, now a

sophomore in computer science. "Fixing motorcycles, making an Assassin's Creed blade, that was fun and cool but it was just for me. It was exciting to do something that actually impacted someone else."

The boy, Matthew Shields, was born without fingers on his right hand. His mother, Jennifer, found open source plans online for a mechanical prosthesis, called a Robohand, but finding someone to actually build it was proving difficult and potentially expensive. She turned to Wilde—who'd helped the family with various home tech issues over the years—for assistance.

"I didn't know if I could do it," Wilde says, "but I definitely knew I could try."

Developed by Richard Van As, a South African carpenter who lost four fingers to a circular saw, and Ivan Owen, a Seattle designer, Robohand allows a user to clench mechanical fingers by flexing their wrist. The device requires around 50 parts; some (like cables and screws) are available in hardware stores and the rest can be produced on a 3-D printer. Using a 3-D printer at the Johnson County Library and modifying the open source plans to

An outpouring of support for his Robohand project inspired Mason Wilde to start a company that helps others build inexpensive prosthetics with 3-D printers and online designs.

customize and fit the device for Matthew, Wilde made a Robohand for \$60.

After Wilde studied the plans and learned about 3-D printing, assembly went fairly fast—with a big assist from Matthew.

"I built it in his house, so he could see it, and he actually helped, which he really enjoyed," Wilde says. "He was pointing and saying, 'Doesn't this go here? Doesn't that go there?' and handing me parts. I let him put some of the parts together, so he built his own hand, in a sense."

Matthew was so excited to try the device that Wilde had trouble attaching the Robohand gauntlet to his forearm. Once it was on, Matthew "ran around the house grabbing everything he could," Wilde says.

"It was an amazing feeling of, 'Hey, I actually got this project and finished it,' but also being able to make such a positive impact on somebody's life. Actually seeing his face light up—I mean, you don't get to literally give somebody a hand like that every day."

After receiving a wave of publicity and even some financial contributions for his effort, Wilde launched a nonprofit company, Dextella, to spread the Robohand technology to more people. He has built a few additional hands for other families, but mostly he advises and encourages others to tackle the project themselves. Often he responds to an email or call from someone with a specific problem, and he guides them to a solution.

"I realized the story wasn't just Mason Wilde in Louisburg, Kansas, built a hand," he says. "It was, technology is available to people even in rural Louisburg, and if this high school kid in Kansas can do it, what can we do?"

Spreading that can-do message is as

much a part of his mission with Dextella as building and facilitating affordable prosthetic hands. That was the theme of a talk he gave at the March TedX UMKC in Kansas City, and it's a lesson he says has been reinforced over the last two years as a Self Engineering Leadership Fellow in the School of Engineering.

"One thing that's really ingrained in me is that entrepreneurship is not just starting a new business," Wilde says, "it's doing something new. More than that, it's not being afraid of failure.

"If I'd been afraid of failure, I never would have tried. If you at least go out and try, you might surprise yourself at what you can do. That's kind of what the company might be evolving into as time goes on, and that's really the message I try to get across with my story."

—Steven Hill

Climate change

Campus survey's sobering results will prompt action, leaders vow

The much-anticipated results of the KU Climate Study were presented March 29 to administrators, faculty, staff and students at the Lawrence and Edwards

campuses. The survey is just one component of KU's diversity action plan, released last year in response to concerns raised at a contentious Nov. 11, 2015, town hall forum on race, equity and inclusion.

Jennifer Hamer, acting vice provost for diversity and equity, led the presentations with Emil Cunningham, senior research associate with Rankin & Associates, the firm that spearheaded the assessment.

Hamer explained that the survey was conducted to provide a comprehensive overview of what it's like to learn, live and work at KU. "I think you'll find that what we're reporting is much broader than the issues articulated during those student protests," she said.

The 112-question survey was distributed to all KU community members via a secure online portal from Sept. 13 to Oct. 14, 2016. There was a 22 percent response rate, with 6,774 people participating in the study. Of those who completed the survey, 59 percent were students, 12 percent were faculty and 29 percent were staff.

Several positive factors emerged from the survey, including:

- 76 percent of students felt valued by KU faculty.
- 71 percent of respondents were comfortable with the University's climate.
- 83 percent of faculty felt research was valued at KU.

- 78 percent of staff felt that their supervisors provided adequate support for them to manage work-life balance.

The survey also revealed that the University has work to do. In a follow-up email released April 19, Provost Neeli Bendapudi, PhD'95, deemed some of the results "revealing and sobering" and identified three areas that require immediate attention.

Exclusionary behavior:

Eighteen percent of respondents (1,209 people) indicated that they had personally experienced exclusionary (being shunned or ignored), intimidating, offensive and/or hostile (bullying or harassing) conduct at KU in the past year, citing gender/gender identity, position, age, ethnicity and racial identity as reasons they were targeted.

Cunningham pointed out that students were the top target and the top source of this conduct, which differed from reports heard at the town hall forum, where several students identified faculty and senior administrators as the root of exclusionary behavior. Only 33 percent of respondents reported their experience to a faculty member, supervisor or senior administrator, and more than 50 percent of those who reported were dissatisfied with KU's response.

Unwanted sexual conduct:

Nine percent of respondents (607

Students rejected a plan to raise student fees to fund a \$45 million renovation of the Kansas Union ["A more perfect union?" Hilltopics, issue No. 2]. During student elections April 13-14, 56.6 percent of students voted no, 32.6 percent voted yes and nearly 11 percent abstained.

The initiative called for raising by \$50 the Kansas Union fee currently paid by students each semester. Proposed changes included

reconfiguring study, dining and gathering spaces, and upgrading the aging building's mechanical systems.

"I think we learned a lot," says David Mucci, director of KU Memorial Union, the nonprofit KU affiliate that operates the Union. "We'll take that information back to our board and to student leadership and decide next steps. I think we just have to go through a lot more discussions at this point."



UPDATE

High Regard: U.S. News and World Report ranked 10 KU graduate programs among the top 10 and 42 in the top 50 among public universities in its “Best Graduate Schools” rankings released in March. Programs in city management & urban policy and special education maintained their No. 1 rankings.



people) experienced unwanted sexual conduct, which included relationship violence, stalking, unwanted sexual interaction (e.g. catcalling, repeated sexual advances, sexual harassment) and unwanted sexual contact (e.g. fondling, rape, sexual assault, penetration without consent). Of the 2 percent of respondents (157 people) who experienced unwanted sexual contact, the majority were students who said the event occurred during their first year at KU. A staggering 72 percent said alcohol was involved. Only 12 percent of those who experienced unwanted sexual contact reported it.

Retention and turnover of faculty, staff and students:

More than a third of respondents (37 percent) said they have seriously considered leaving KU, including 64 percent of faculty respondents and 55 percent of staff respondents. Minority and disabled employees constituted a higher percentage

of those who considered leaving. Among faculty respondents, top reasons to consider leaving included low salary, interest in a position at another institution and lack of institutional support (e.g. tech support, laboratory space/equipment). Staff also cited low salary as a major cause to consider leaving, but they also included limited opportunities for advancement and an increased workload among other concerns. For students, the primary reasons include a lack of sense of belonging, a climate that was not welcoming, and financial challenges. Sixteen percent of students considered leaving in their fourth year or beyond.

In the coming weeks, KU's Office of Institutional Research and Planning (OIRP) will begin a deeper analysis of the 600-page climate study document, led by principal investigator and research analyst Trina Ramirez, c'96, g'02. OIRP will then work with Hamer and the Office of

Diversity and Equity to provide summary reports in June for all campus units, professional schools and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Hamer emphasized that the University is focused on complete transparency and it will guide unit leaders through the entire process of establishing action plans and timelines in the months ahead.

“This is something that we're taking very seriously,” she said. “This isn't a climate survey that's just going to sit on a shelf somewhere. We are already

implementing some things, we have been for the past couple of years, and we will continue to do so.”

For more information on the study results and next steps, visit climatestudy.ku.edu.

—Heather Biele

Hall of Fame

Emily Taylor Center inducts stellar leaders

Six outstanding women became the newest members of the KU Women's Hall of Fame April 25 at the annual recognition banquet hosted by the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity.

Emily Taylor, dean of women from 1956 to 1975, established the Women's Resource and Career Planning Center and the hall of fame in 1970. In 1974, the University renamed the center to honor her.

The hall of fame has inducted nearly 230 alumnae, faculty, staff and affiliated women for contributions to the University, the Lawrence community and beyond.

“Now more than ever, it is important that women's efforts and accomplishments as trailblazers, mentors, innovators and leaders are included in conversations championing efforts to promote equity for all genders and identities,” says Kathy Rose-Mockry, d'78, g'85, PhD'15, director of the center.

This year's inductees are Sarah Deer, Terry Hoyt Evans, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Saralyn Reece Hardy, Colleen McCain Nelson and Jan Bowen Sheldon.

Sarah Deer, c'96, l'99, is a 2014 MacArthur Fellow and professor of law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, whose efforts to protect Native women from sexual and domestic violence have cemented her role as a national leader and activist. She played a pivotal role in the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Deer will return to KU in the fall as a professor in the department of women, gender & sexuality studies.

Terry Hoyt Evans, f'68, is a professional



STEVE PUPPE

Hamer



Deer



Evans



Gray-Little



McCain Nelson



Reece Hardy



Sheldon

photographer whose award-winning images have raised awareness of social and political issues. Her work has been featured in several prominent museums across the country, including the National Museum of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. She is the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and the Anonymous Was a Woman Award, and in 2016 KU awarded her an honorary doctorate.

Bernadette Gray-Little has served as chancellor since 2009. She is the first woman and the first African-American to lead KU. The University's achievements during her tenure include:

- Revamped student recruitment and four-year renewable scholarships led to five years of freshman class growth.

- KU launched a new undergraduate curriculum and new admissions standards.

- The KU Cancer Center earned National Cancer Institute designation.

- KU Endowment's historic *Far Above* campaign raised \$1.66 billion.

- Fifty capital improvement projects across all campuses totaled \$700 million and changed the KU landscape. (For more details, see the cover story, p. 22).

Colleen McCain Nelson, j'97, in December joined the Kansas City Star as vice president and editorial page editor. In 2010, she earned a Pulitzer Prize for a series of editorials in the Dallas Morning News. She joined the Wall Street Journal in 2012 to cover Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, and in 2015 she became the White House correspondent for the newspaper.

Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, is the Marilyn Stokstad Director at the Spencer Museum of Art, where she helped guide a major renovation that was completed in fall 2016. With the museum's reopening, Reece Hardy and her team established an international artist-in-residence program and expanded

the study center that each year hosts more than 100 KU classes from numerous academic disciplines.

Jan Bowen Sheldon, c'71, PhD'74, l'77, is a professor in the department of applied behavioral science and director of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center at KU. She has spent the past 40 years improving the lives of at-risk youth and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the creation of Community Living Opportunities and the Truancy Prevention and Diversion Program. Sheldon has received several honors, including the Kemper Teaching Fellow Award and the Steeples Service to Kansans Award. In 2005, she was named one of KU's Women of Distinction.

—Heather Biele

Milestones, money and other matters



STEVE PUPPE

■ **The KU Common Book** for 2017 will be *Citizen: An American Lyric*, by current MacArthur Fellow Claudia Rankine. The award-winning multimedia book details the prevalence and toll of racial stereotypes and microaggressions. "By reading *Citizen*, new students will become part of important conversations at KU about how we decrease and eliminate microaggressions and help one another thrive," said Sarah Crawford-Parker, g'97, PhD'06, assistant vice provost for the first-year experience. The book will be distributed to all new students at orientation by the Office of First-Year Experience, with discussion groups scheduled for Aug. 20. Rankine will deliver her KU Common Book Address Sept. 7 at the Lied Center.

■ **Charlie Rose** was awarded the 2017 William Allen White Foundation National Citation April 20. Rose was unable to attend for health reasons; eight-time Emmy winner Bob Schieffer, Rose's colleague at CBS News, appeared in his stead. Also appearing was Judy Woodruff, anchor of PBS NewsHour, who delivered a tribute to her late co-anchor Gwen Ifill, recipient of the 2016 National Citation.

■ **Tomas Green**, Lynnwood, Washington, junior in chemical engineering, won a \$7,000 Udall Scholarship. Given by the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, the scholarship awards leadership, public service and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or the environment. Green works with student government to raise money for sustainability issues on campus.

Hilltopics

STEVE PUPPE



GIVING

Professor's \$1 million gift aids Spencer museum and art history

A \$1.1 MILLION bequest from the estate of Marilyn Stokstad, the Judith Harris Murphy Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art History who taught at KU from 1958 until her retirement in 2002, will

Professor Marilyn Stokstad, author of the seminal textbook *Art History*, died in 2016. Her latest gift continues a long legacy of support for the visual arts at KU.

.....

continue her longtime support of art and art history at the University.

According to KU Endowment, Stokstad's gift includes \$289,000 for the acquisition of art history books at the Murphy Art & Architecture Library, \$253,000 for building improvements and maintenance at the Spencer Museum, \$253,000 for publishing scholarly exhibition catalogues for the museum and the Spencer Research Library, and \$300,000 for the Marilyn Stokstad Directorship at the museum, which she endowed in 2012.

"Marilyn Stokstad had a profound impact on the Spencer Museum of Art through her leadership, scholarship and progressive ideas," said Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, who holds the Stokstad directorship. "She focused her life, resources and formidable intelligence on works of art and their role in education and human experience. We are especially

honored that she chose to support aspects of the museum that help us sustain opportunities for publishing scholars and provide a welcoming space for bringing art and people together."

The estate gift, announced in March, brings Stokstad's lifetime donations to KU to \$2.3 million. Previous gifts created a new interior reception space and remodeled the reading room at the Spencer Research Library, benefited the Student Award Fund at the Spencer Museum, and supported the Art History Graduate Student Fund.

MEDICINE

New gym bolsters transplant recipients on road to recovery

PATIENTS SOMETIMES SPEND weeks or even months at the University of Kansas Hospital blood and marrow transplant unit because their weakened immune systems make them more susceptible to infections. While the extended stays protect them, the lack of space for exercise can make it hard for patients to maintain

VISITOR

FEMALE FIRSTS

Former Sen. Elizabeth Dole delivered the inaugural Elizabeth Dole Women in Leadership Lecture at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Created in her honor, the annual lecture will feature women who break barriers, make significant contributions to their fields and reach positions of leadership.

WHEN: April 30

WHERE: The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics

BACKGROUND:

Dole recently donated her papers to the Dole Institute, which also holds the archives of her husband, former Sen. Bob Dole, '45. Elizabeth Dole's papers span her long career in public service, including stints as commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Secretary of Labor, president of the American Red Cross and a U.S. Senator representing North Carolina.

ANECDOTE:



DAN STOREY

Bernadette Gray-Little noted in her introduction that many of Dole's leadership positions marked the first time a woman held those particular roles. "I'm used to that," Dole said. "Just doing my own thing and

following my star. I advise the young women today to find what you're passionate about. Women are moving forward in massive ways today. I was there on the cutting edge, I guess."

QUOTES: "We are making progress," Dole said when a KU student asked when the United States will see its first female president. "I think it will be very soon. Hillary worked very hard in her campaign. I see so many talented women in the workforce now, but we still face subtle discrimination."

—Steven Hill

strength, which complicates their recovery.

“When I first started on the units over here, a lot of our patients I was seeing were really struggling getting around, having difficulties with basic mobility, getting in and out of bed,” says physical therapist Scott Kramer, DPT’12. “They were coming back in from being at home, readmitted multiple times due to weakness. I knew we were missing something. We weren’t getting them strong enough.”

Kramer came up with the idea of adding an exercise area on the unit, and Larry O’Malley—recipient of a stem cell transplant that helped him recover from cancer—and his family donated the money to make it happen.

Dedicated in January, the O’Malley Family Therapy Gym features four exercise stations, including a high-tech NuStep cross-training machine.

“When I was told in 2003 I had cancer, it’s a shock,” O’Malley says. “You reflect a little bit. And if you survive, like I have for 13 years, you reflect a lot.

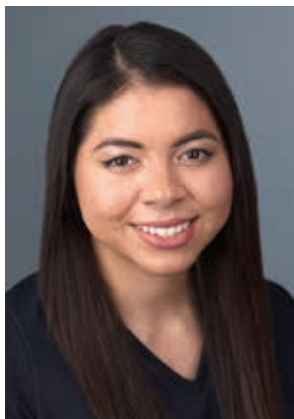
“If I can help in a little way, I should do it.”

SCHOLARSHIP

Jayhawks earn national honors as Goldwater scholars

TWO JUNIORS earned Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships in April, becoming the 61st and 62nd Jayhawks to win the top U.S. undergraduate award in science, technology, engineering and math.

Marilyn Barragan, a molecular, cellular



Barragan



Gibson

and developmental biology major from Olathe, and Eilish Gibson, a physics and classical antiquities major from Perry, were among the 240 scholars nationwide to win the prestigious award, which provides up to \$7,500 per year for tuition, fees, books and room and board.

A first-generation college student, Barragan plans to pursue a doctorate in stem cell and regenerative research and is interested in a career as a physician-scientist who sees patients and conducts research. She currently works in the lab of Justin Blumenstiel, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Gibson became interested in physics at age 10, and discovered classical antiquities after taking Latin classes in the eighth grade. At KU her involvement in physics research conducted by professors Phil Barringer and Alice Bean included traveling to the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland.

A third student, Emmaline Lorenzo, Leawood junior in chemistry, earned honorable mention. Lorenzo and Gibson were recognized by the Alumni Association’s Kansas Honors Program as high school seniors.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Taylor Zabel**, Smith Center junior in biochemistry, was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar in April. Given to college juniors for leadership in public service, the scholarship provides as much as \$30,000 for graduate study, priority admission at some premier graduate institutions, leadership training, career and graduate school counseling and special internship opportunities in the federal government.

■ **Student journalists** won awards in more than a dozen categories at the 2017 Kansas Association of Broadcasters Awards in April. William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications students claimed eight first-place, eight second-place and two honorable-mention prizes for their work in television and radio.



■ **A \$17.6 million Grand Challenge** grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will allow KU to partner with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University College London to develop and produce a low-cost vaccine manufacturing platform for use in developing countries. The KU team is led by David Volkin, distinguished professor in the School of Pharmacy, and Sangeeta Joshi, g’16, director of the Macromolecule and Vaccine Stabilization Center.

■ **Mike Kautsch**, professor of law and former dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism, was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame in April. Kautsch joined the KU law faculty in 1997 after 18 years at the journalism school, and the media law expert was instrumental in passing a 2010 Kansas law that protects reporters’ right to keep sources confidential.

“[Bob and I] loved being bipartisan. You are not going to get anything done unless you find that common ground.” —Elizabeth Dole

STEVE PUPPE



Dancer

Supersonic youth

Freshmen shine, alumni impress at 90th Kansas Relays

It's a safe bet that until late in the concluding evening of the 90th Kansas Relays, April 22 at Rock Chalk Park, only hardcore KU track fans had heard much about sprinter Quentin Dancer.

The freshman from West, Texas, was a decorated star as a high school sprinter, but, until the Kansas Relays, his inaugural KU outdoor season had seen only distant finishes in the 200-meter dash and a pair of podium finishes as a member of the Jayhawks' 4x100 relay team.

So when he took the blocks in Lane 1 of 100-meter dash in the featured quadrangular portion of the four-day track and field carnival, Dancer hardly figured to be much of a contender. The inside lane assignment indicated he was a long shot in the field of nine collegians, but when the gun sounded, Dancer grabbed the immediate lead and never surrendered, winning in 10.47 seconds, four-tenths of a second off Laverne Smith's 41-year-old school record.

"I've been having hamstring injuries and this is my first 100 this year," Dancer said. "I'm glad to be back and running fast again."

Twenty minutes later, Dancer took the blocks in Lane 7 of the 200-meter sprint and repeated his whippet dash, from an early lead to a narrow victory in 21.39 seconds. He credits sprints and hurdles coach Elisha Brewer for his improvement in the subtly demanding one-turn event.

"In the 200, coach Brewer has been doing an excellent job working with me on the curve and maintaining my speed. I need to get my times better, but I feel good."

Dancer's unexpected double capped a weekend of freshman victories by the 12th-ranked KU men's team, which crushed Southern Illinois, UC Berkeley and the University of Missouri-Kansas City by claiming gold in 11 of 19 events.

One of the most startling runs of the evening was by freshman Bryce Hoppel,

of Midland, Texas, who charged up the rail in the homestretch of the 800-meter run to pass senior teammate Strymar Livingston, the Relays' defending 800-meter champion and silver medalist at the Big 12 championships, in the final strides.

When the race's pace unexpectedly eased down the backstretch of the final lap, Hoppel later explained, he fell in behind Livingston and Southern Illinois' Luke Horton. As Livingston and Horton engaged in a shoulder-to-shoulder duel into a strong headwind down the lane, they seemingly lost track of Hoppel.

"Strymar left a little space on the inside and I kind of snuck by," Hoppel said. "It wasn't really how I wanted to win the race, but I saw the opportunity and I took it."

The meet's most impressive performance might have been the Rock Chalk Park debut of freshman sensation Gleb Dudarev, of Belarus. After setting the NCAA's best mark of the season in the first collegiate hammer throw of his career, at the Sun Angel Classic in Texas, Dudarev on April 21 trounced his Relays competition with a throw of 238 feet, 4 inches. Senior teammate Mitchell Cooper, who won the discus, was more than 40 feet back in second.

In two meets, Dudarev has posted nine of the 10 best throws in school history.

"He's one of the best in the world for his age," said 12th-year throws coach Andy Kokhanovsky. "But he's not a man yet, as a thrower. He's going too fast sometimes. He doesn't know how to switch the gear. That's the hardest part."

Kokhanovsky said Dudarev is already feeling the pressure of expectations; plus, his practice time is limited because of the intensive English instruction he's receiving on top of his coursework: "He's very tense. He cannot relax. When he figures out how to relax, that will be good."

Dudarev, 20 years old and a fit 6-foot-5, transferred to KU after one year at Vitebsk State College in his hometown. His mother was once Belarus' national record holder in the hammer throw, and his grandfather began teaching him the event when he was 13. He has a shy smile and endearing laugh when answering questions with the help of translator Egor Agafonov, c'09,

g'15, a three-time Big 12 hammer throw champion who—until Dudarev's April 4 debut at 238 feet, 6 inches—held KU's record at 233 feet.

"Right now, I need to get the feel of the hammer," Dudarev said through Agafonov. "Everything is working in the right direction."

A highlight for the women's team—which took second to Minnesota, ahead of Cal and UMKC—came in the quadrangular's pole vault, won by junior Laura Taylor with a jump of 13 feet, 10 inches, closely followed in second by sophomore Alexis Romero at 13-8. Both set personal records

"He's one of the best in the world for his age. But he's not a man yet, as a thrower. He's going too fast sometimes. He doesn't know how to switch the gear." —coach Andy Kokhanovsky, on hammer thrower Gleb Dudarev

world-championships hopeful Michael Stigler, who posted the world's ninth-best 400-meter hurdles time, 49.38 seconds, while finishing into a strong north wind.

Geubelle, d'14, who spent the winter training at home in University Place, Washington, fought through knee and foot injuries during last year's U.S. team trials and the Rio Olympics, where she placed 21st—"Making the Olympic team was, honestly, just grit"—but says she's healthy and finally able to focus on technique.

"I'm fast, I'm light and I'm strong," she said, "so that makes for long jumps."

In her first appearance at Rock Chalk Park in either competition or training, Geubelle carried speed exceptionally well, and said she was thrilled with a scratch jump that she estimated to be near 46 feet. Like Stigler, she is preparing for the June USA Track and Field Championships in Sacramento, California, with hopes of qualifying for the August World Championships in London.

"I needed this meet," she said. "I don't think I've had a crowd clap for me since I came back from the Olympics. I feel like I'm getting back to myself."

Stigler, c'16, the 2015 NCAA 400-meter hurdles champion, pulled his right hamstring shortly before last year's Olympic trials. After two months of recuperation, Stigler last fall trained with coach Stanley Redwine's distance runners before moving to speed work with Brewer.

"I'm trying to get the rhythm back, having not competed in almost a year. But hey, it's turned me into a new man, having to start from the rock bottom. I'm a fighter and I'm going to let people know I'm here to stay."

The Downtown Lawrence Shot Put, hosted by the Lawrence Sports Corp. in partnership with Kansas Athletics and the

City of Lawrence, featured a meet-record throw of 72 feet, 6.5 inches, by reigning Olympic gold medalist Ryan Crouser in his first Lawrence appearance.

"This has been the most fun shot put competition I've done," Crouser told fans who lined both sides of Eighth Street. "You guys are the loudest crowd I've ever seen."

Football 'fun' again

As QB competition heats up, all signs point to improvement

Neither incumbent starter Carter Stanley nor promising junior transfer Peyton Bender won the quarterback job during spring camp—which is great news for third-year coach David Beaty and his new offensive coordinator, Doug Meacham, because both quarterbacks look capable of leading the Jayhawks into what promises to be a season of resurgence.



Meacham



Dudarev

by clearing 13-8, after which Taylor took aim on the 13-10 mark for a special reason: Translated to metric, the bar was 4.22 meters, which matched the date, 4/22, of Taylor's 21st birthday: "Happy birthday to me!" she shouted gleefully.

Taylor and 13th-year vertical jumps coach Tom Hays, d'90, both said the gold and silver duo have cleared bars consistently in practice jumps, an attitude that is showing in meet-day performances, yet Hays wants to see more.

"It's that time of year for them to start doing better," Hays said. Asked whether 14 feet is within Taylor's grasp, Hays replied, "Oh, yeah. She can be really good if she'd let herself be. Half the time vaulters get in their own way. She can be in the mid-14s pretty easy."

Alumni highlights included the return of Olympic triple jumper Andrea Geubelle, a three-time NCAA champion who soared to victory at 45 feet, ½ inch, and

Sports

Bender, who started as a freshman in coach Mike Leach's Air Raid offense at Washington State, completed 11 of 15 passes for 143 yards and a touchdown, including the scrimmage winner with 1:59 remaining, in his squad's 14-7 victory in the April 15 spring game. Stanley, who threw for 959 yards as a freshman, completed 13 of 24 for 114 yards.

"Those guys have been looking forward to competing," Beaty said. "They both want to win that job."

The quarterback competition will grab headlines, but high-end talent finally abounds on both sides of the ball, led by All-Big 12 defensive end Dorance Armstrong Jr., whom Beaty has compared to Myles Garrett, the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. Beaty should know: He recruited Garrett as a Texas A&M assistant.

Alabama transfer Daylon Charlot, a sophomore receiver, caught three passes

for 45 yards and a TD in the spring game, including an all-but-impossible sideline catch over a defender.

"We need to be able to make some catches," Beaty said, "that you're not supposed to make."

Junior linebacker Joe Dineen Jr. is back healthy after suffering a season-ending injury in Week 3; sophomore safety Mike Lee, last year's Big 12 defensive freshman of the year, laid a jarring hit on junior speedster Ryan Schadler, who is back after losing last season with an intestinal disorder; junior defensive end Josh Ehambe recorded four QB sacks; and junior linebacker Keith Loneker Jr. shined with five hard-nosed tackles.

"What we saw today was an example of



Charlot

what's been going on all spring," said running backs coach Tony Hull. "It's just been a great, competitive, fun atmosphere."

UPDATES

Senior **Chase Hanna** closed with two birdies and a 10-foot par putt to score a one-stroke victory in the Big 12 Championship April 26 at Hutchinson's Prairie Dunes Golf Course. It was KU's first individual title since the late **Slade Adams**, d'97, tied for first in the 1995 Big 8 tournament. "He is a warrior," coach **Jamie Bermel** said of Hanna. The Jayhawks finished third in the team competition, their highest mark since 2000. ...

Sophomore right-hander **Jackson Goddard** threw seven strong innings to lead KU to a 5-2 victory, and a series win, April 22 at No. 19 Oklahoma State. In the first game of the series, a 15-10 KU win, sophomore centerfielder **Rudy Karre** went 3-for-3 with two



Hanna

doubles, four RBI, four runs scored and three walks. Senior captain **Stephen Villines**, a right-handed closer, was named to the Midseason Stopper of the Year Watch List. ...

Rowing's First Varsity Eight was named Big 12 Boat of the Week after recording the division's two fastest times at

the April 23 Mason Invite in Virginia. Led by senior coxswain **Mallory Miller**, the boat includes seniors **Jordan Helms**, **Maddie Irelan**, **Allison Schaaf** and **Katherine Young**; juniors **BriAnna Dittberner** and **Kaelyn Thierolf**; and sophomores **Meghan Karoly** and **McKayla Ross**. ... **Cassie Wait**, b'16, Big 12 Libero of the Year and Big 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year, on March 27 was named the JE Dunn Sportswoman of the Year by the Kansas City Sports Commission. Wait competed last season while enrolled in her first year at the KU School of Law. ... Senior All-American **Kelsie Payne** was named to USA Volleyball's U.S. Women's Collegiate National Team for a July tour of Europe. ...

Junior **Madison Straight** and freshmen **Peri Charapich** and **Haley Downey** were named to swimming and diving's All-Big 12 First Team. Sophomore swimmer **Cassandra Pino** was one of six KU students nominated for Udall Undergraduate Scholarships. ... **Danielle McCray**, c'10, who led women's basketball to the 2009 WNIT championship game, in March was named to the WNIT All-Time Top-20 Players roster. ...

KU sports recently lost two legends: **Bill Hougland**, b'52, the first player in Olympic basketball history to win two gold medals, died March 6 in Lawrence. **Ross Randall**, who coached men's golf for 28 years, died April 21 in Boynton Beach, Florida.



GREETINGS

from

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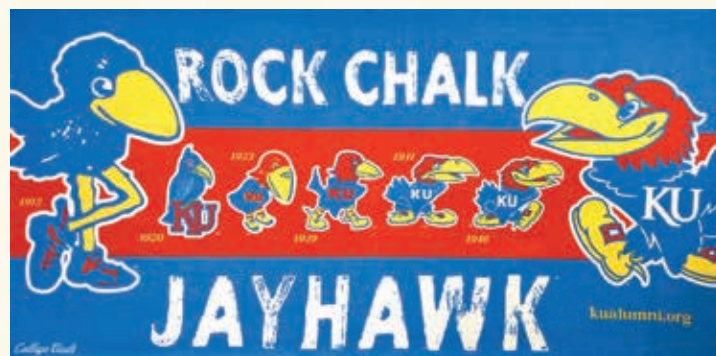
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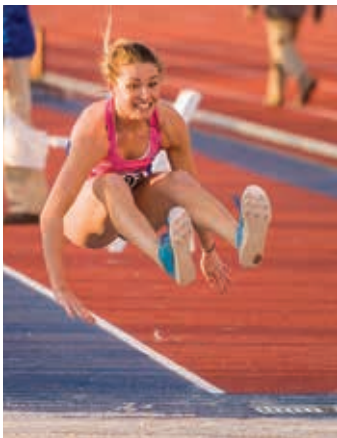


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In its fourth Rock Chalk Park renewal, the 90th Kansas Relays felt completely at home in its spectacular west Lawrence setting. Thanks to the venue built specifically for track and field, fans could watch the action in as many as seven simultaneous events, such as (from top) hurdles, horizontal jumps, distance races, javelin, steeplechasing and relays.





Farewell, BGL

As KU's 17th chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little leaves a legacy of steadfast resolve and impressive results

In the summer of 2013, Stephonn Alcorn eagerly awaited his freshman year at KU. As a first-generation college student, he had not visited the campus often, though he lived only 30 miles southeast of the Hill, in Gardner. When KU invited him to an event to celebrate the Dole Public Service Scholarship he had received, Alcorn and his mother gladly drove to Lawrence to catch an early glimpse of his college home.

Once inside the Dole Institute of Politics on West Campus, they took their assigned seats next to a woman who immediately struck up a conversation with Stephonn. "She was very welcoming, and she wanted to hear all about why I was excited for KU," he recalls. "She asked question after question. Why did I want to major in business? How did I come across business and finance as my interests? She wanted to know about me."

Soon after the program began, the chancellor of the University was introduced. Alcorn and his mother were startled when their friendly tablemate stood and walked to the lectern to deliver her remarks. They had just been chatting with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

"We were both like, Wow! We had no idea," he says, laughing. "She did not mention anything about being the chancellor. I just thought she was a nice adult who was there for the occasion."

"You know how you meet some people and they just exude the fact that they're this big power entity? She was never like that. For an 18-year-old freshman, she was so welcoming."

Four years later, Alcorn has earned his business degree in finance, and in late June the newly minted alumnus will begin his career in private equity real estate for Blackstone. But before he

packs his boxes to move to New York City, he needs to complete some unfinished business: As KU's 2016-'17 student body president, he's a member of the search committee that will help select the next chancellor.

In late April, two days before he completed his term as president, Alcorn offered the story of his first meeting with Gray-Little to illustrate her leadership style, which he has tried to emulate and hopes to model for years to come. "That's how she is in her interactions with people. She wants to know about you," he says. "In the work that she does, by learning so much about other people, she's able to make her decisions. ... I've learned from her that it's most important to listen. By listening to everyone, she's able to synthesize information and make a very good judgment call."

When Gray-Little told Alcorn last September she would step down June 30, he said he could think of no better way to spend his senior year than working with her.

"OK, we'll graduate together," the chancellor replied.

Mid-May thunderstorms eight years ago nearly thwarted the KU search committee's plan to meet with Gray-Little, then executive vice chancellor and provost at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she had begun her academic career in 1971 as an assistant professor of clinical psychology.

"We almost didn't get the chance to interview her. She couldn't get to us because of the storms," recalls committee member Jay Howard, b'79, who then served on the Alumni Association's

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner



national board. Howard remembers a long, frustrating day of interviews with other candidates while Gray-Little coped with delayed and canceled flights. “After listening to four candidates—all accomplished, talented people—everyone could tell we didn’t have a fit,” Howard says. “We were like poker players at the table. We thought we might have to turn in our hands and say, ‘Give me new cards.’”

“The next day Bernadette walked in, and she was clearly the best prepared. She had well thought-out ideas for what KU needed to do. She conducted herself with such dignity.”

Reggie Robinson, c’80, l’87, who served on the committee as president of the Kansas Board of Regents, remembers Gray-Little’s impact. “She doesn’t walk in and dazzle you, but she has a presence that commands respect,” he says, adding that Gray-Little so impressed committee members that they began to emphasize that KU could be a great fit for her. “There was this interesting moment when we decided we needed to shift from ‘buy’ mode to ‘sell’ mode. It just came upon us,” he says. “My sense was that this

“We seek new heights, new achievements by our students, new discoveries by our faculty and staff, and a new commitment to the state,” the chancellor declared in her inauguration address April 11, 2010, at the Lied Center. She and her husband, Shade Keys Little, will leave The Outlook, the chancellor’s residence on Lilac Lane, in late June, but they will remain in Lawrence for about a year, she says.

.....
was a woman who knew how to run a university.”

After the meeting, Howard recalls, “We all said, ‘We’ve got our person.’ ... Her intelligence, grace and dignity are like a rock—something we can hang onto in turbulent waters.”

Despite rough seas—a grim national recession, lingering state budget woes and the societal issues that often roil a college campus—the University has changed at a remarkable pace, especially for a 150-year-old institution steeped in tradition and proud of its solid limestone foundation. Universities like KU are not exactly nimble.

But our 17th chancellor set her sights high in her 2010 inaugural address: “The complexity of our modern world demands an evolved university, and the challenges we face as a society demand an enlightened one, a university that uses the inherent good of education and research to meet the challenges of our time.”

Since 2009, KU has transformed student recruitment, scholarships, admissions standards, the undergraduate curriculum, housing, and the physical landscape of its campuses (see timeline, p. 25). It is expanding programs to train more pharmacists, engineers, physicians, nurses, social workers and other professionals for Kansas and the region. KU’s research of cancer and Alzheimer’s disease has earned coveted national designations and provided access to clinical trials for patients across the Midwest and beyond. Discoveries in numerous fields have created business enterprises. And, amid tumultuous economic times, alumni, friends, foundations and corporations contributed an eye-popping \$1.66 billion to KU Endowment’s *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*.

Gray-Little applies “campaign” to many of the changes over eight fateful years. “There have been a number of projects where it has been necessary to go on a campaign,” she says. “National Cancer Institute designation was a campaign. We had to campaign to get funding to expand engineering. We visited communities with heads of engineering companies and legislators. ... The change in the curriculum is another good example. It was a huge undertaking for a university. We talked about it for two years before it actually started, and there was a great deal of work and communication to get it done. Communication is a very important part of working with the community to bring about change.”

Robert Simari, executive dean of the School of Medicine since 2014, praises Gray-Little’s critical role in promoting the school’s expansions in Salina and Wichita, which he says ultimately paved the way for the new Health Education Building on the Kansas City campus that opens this summer. The long-needed building

will enable the school to create a new curriculum. “All of this would not have come without her support in generating private gifts and in working with the Legislature,” says Simari, m’86, who also lauds the chancellor’s integrity. “There’s never a question about why she’s acting. It’s always in the best interests of the University. There’s never self-interest. There’s never any duplicity. When a leader is wise, has that much integrity and knows when to leave you alone and when you need help, that’s the best kind of leader.”

The chancellor’s resolve and results drew DeAngela Burns-Wallace to KU in fall 2013 as an American Council on Education fellow. Then the assistant vice provost for undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri, she wanted to shadow a university leader who was making big changes, and KU was ready to launch its new undergraduate curriculum, the KU Core. Burns-Wallace observed the chancellor as she worked with faculty, staff, students, alumni and legislators. “It was truly inspirational,” she says. “She is always willing to give you honest feedback to make you better, to make the institution better. She is going to be fair and direct, and if she has to push, she’ll push.”

Burns-Wallace so valued her time as a visiting fellow that in late 2015, when KU sought a new vice provost for undergraduate studies, she applied. Before her role at Missouri, she had served as assistant dean of admissions at her undergraduate alma mater, Stanford, and she had worked for 10 years as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. KU named her as vice provost in November 2015.

Burns-Wallace says her return to the Hill has affirmed for her that Bold Aspirations, the name of KU’s 2011 strategic plan, aptly describes her mentor: “The chancellor has unwavering, high expectations, and she is committed. She doesn’t back away from them, and she doesn’t soft-pedal around them. ... She says, ‘This is who we are. This is who we need to be. This is what I expect us to be.’

“That is the leadership, the vision—the raising of our expectations and inspiring us to understand.”

Each year, KU has reported its progress on each of the strategic goals (boldaspirations.ku.edu). Among the most ambitious are KU’s aims to raise the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate from 80 percent to 90 percent by 2021 and the six-year graduate rate from 60 percent to 70 percent. “To say, ‘These are the standards by which we will be measured’ is tricky in higher education,” Burns-Wallace says. “Some would say it’s a recipe for disaster, or removal, or votes of no confidence. But she came with that vision, and she built a great team around her. She finds, knows, appreciates and fosters talent, and she rewards it. She gives credit where credit is due.”

Credit for KU’s more vigorous student recruitment in recent years, which has resulted in five straight years of growth in the freshman class, goes to many members of the chancellor’s team. Those who guide enrollment management, admissions, scholarships, marketing and fundraising have led the charge. Alumni who for years bemoaned KU’s lackluster recruitment efforts have stepped up as volunteers, working with the Alumni Association and the Office of Admissions. Jayhawks applaud the investment by the chancellor and KU Endowment in data systems and analysis; more admissions recruiters throughout Kansas, the region and the nation; four-year renewable scholarships; and quick admissions decisions.

One ardent advocate for the new recruitment era is Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, Alumni Association president. The Hugoton native’s first role with the Association took him to all corners of the state, meeting with fellow Jayhawks. Too often they vented their frustrations about talented students who never heard from KU. Now he hears such stories only rarely, and when he does, he knows KU will respond. “Years ago, the complaints weighed on me as I made the long drives back to Lawrence, because I knew KU’s resources were not sufficient to meet the tremendous need,” Peterson recalls. “The change has been like night and day. Because of Bernadette’s leadership, Jayhawks are united in our determination to pursue the most promising students throughout Kansas and beyond.”

The BGL Years

2009

■ The Kansas Board of Regents names Bernadette Gray-Little the 17th chancellor of the University of Kansas.

improve student retention, graduation rates and KU’s research productivity.

■ KU launches the Bioscience & Technology Business Center on West Campus.

2010

■ The chancellor delivers her inauguration address, vowing to

■ To train more engineers for the Kansas workforce, KU, Kansas State and Wichita State



team with engineering CEOs and state senators to propose expansions of the three engineering schools. The Legislature and Gov. Sam Brownback approve the plan.

2011

■ To meet the statewide need for more rural physicians, the School of Medicine opens a new campus in Salina and expands its two-year clinical program in Wichita to offer the complete four-year curriculum.

■ The School of Pharmacy opens a branch in Wichita to help remedy the state’s shortage of pharmacists.



Howard, who as an Association board member and national chair worked with campus leaders to create legacy scholarships for out-of-state students, agrees wholeheartedly. “Our new admissions system provides immediacy and certainty,” he says, “and we’ve dramatically increased the scholarships and staff. We’ve stopped losing to K-State and other schools.”

Of course, the challenges in higher education require constant vigilance. And when campus strife reflects larger societal dilemmas, pain and debate, there are no quick fixes.

The fall semesters of 2014 and 2015 brought heated protests on campus and difficult public discussions of two issues that the University, along with other universities and communities, will continue to confront and strive to overcome. In September 2014, national media coverage of KU’s response to sexual assault complaints prompted alarm and protests that ultimately led to a painful public forum. In November 2015, a town hall session on diversity, equity and inclusion grew contentious when

protesters disrupted the forum to issue demands.

In both cases, the chancellor answered tough questions, explained complicated issues, and acknowledged that KU must improve its responses to—and prevention of—sexual assault and instances of racism, exclusion and inequity. She named task forces, accepted many of their recommendations, and she and her team continue to make improvements, carefully monitoring and measuring progress.

Most important, Gray-Little listened and responded with honesty, grace and patience that impressed many members of the KU community, including Reggie Robinson.

In addition to his role with the Regents, Robinson has served as a KU law professor, chief of staff to Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway, a law professor at Washburn University in Topeka, and most recently, director and professor of KU’s School of Public Affairs and Administration. He attended the November 2015 forum, when the crowd packed Woodruff Auditorium and overflow rooms in the Kansas Union and tempers flared as protesters interrupted the chancellor.

“I’ve had the chance to meet many university presidents over

■ KU’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center earns National Institute on Aging designation.

■ KU unveils four-year renewable scholarships and a streamlined admissions process.

■ The Bold Aspirations strategic plan affirms KU’s mission to educate future leaders, build healthy communities and make

discoveries that change the world.

2012

■ The KU Cancer Center earns National Cancer Institute designation.

STEVE PUPPE



■ A \$24.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is the largest in KU history. The grant funds research at the Life Span Institute’s Beach Center on Disability.

■ The School of Engineering completes its first phase of expansion, opening the Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center.

■ The Regents approve new KU admissions standards to take effect in fall 2016.

■ KU Endowment announces the public phase of *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas* and the goal to raise \$1.2 billion.

■ The Business, Engineering, Science & Technology Building opens on KU’s Edwards Campus.



Gray-Little and her team embarked on the colossal Central District project, where the Integrated Science Building will be a new hub for teaching and research. In August 2015, she welcomed students to new residence halls on Daisy Hill and “drove” the Jayhawk Motorsports team’s Formula-style race car into Memorial Stadium on Traditions Night.

the course of my career, and I don’t know a lot who could have patiently and thoughtfully led that town hall session,” he says. “She was thoughtful, open, and she was willing to find something she should hear even as they attacked her. She showed a capacity for grace that is really impressive. Some of the folks were really mean, and she listened.

“When you list accomplishments, it’s not going to be on the list, but in many ways it was a high point for her leadership, from my perspective.”

Stephonn Alcorn also attended the forum as director of government relations for Student Senate. “That night I saw that having a conversation that generates uncomfortable dialogue is

OK,” he says. “The chancellor has taught me to listen and remain calm under turmoil, because as a leader, you’re the first person everyone looks to. And even if all the fire is being thrown your way, you’re still going to be the one that people look to. She assembled the task force and started having conversations with folks and to institutionally address issues that so many before her had always stepped away from. I know for a lot of students that meant a lot. More people at this University feel valued and feel they matter because she was able to take everything she heard and everything she learned and put a plan to help better the University. She acted on it, too.”

He credits Gray-Little for averting the violence and upheaval that occurred at other universities. “I believe the reason why things didn’t end up as they did at other places was because she was not afraid to generate uncomfortable conversation, even if it meant it was toward her. What if we would have had a different person? I think about that often.”

Gray-Little says that in both discussions she felt she needed to remain front and center. The sexual assault forum began as a panel discussion with several campus administrators, but the chancellor switched to taking the questions herself and calling on others for specific details. “The other forum was too staid, and I saw it as an opportunity to say what we wanted to happen, and what is and is not the University’s role,” she said.

As preparations began for the November 2015 forum, “I thought, ‘I need to be the one to do that,’ because there’s a sense among student groups that if they haven’t heard from me, then somehow they haven’t heard from the University. It was the most straightforward thing to do.”

When intensely private people take on public roles, observers often yearn for the unscripted moments: sly wisecracks, subtle winks or smiles that offer even the faintest glimmer of mischief or delight—even a grimace or glare of anger.

In her early KU years, Gray-Little’s disciplined composure prompted some Jayhawks to wonder whether she was having fun. The answer is an emphatic yes, according to those who know her

2013

■ KU Core, the new undergraduate curriculum, offers clearer paths to graduation.

■ The University reports record funding for research in fiscal year 2011-’12, with \$275.2 million in external grants for research at all campuses.

■ Chancellor Gray-Little is named to the boards of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU).



SUSAN YOUNGER

■ A \$58 million bequest from Al, e’43, and Lila Self, ’43, brings the couple’s total overall KU giving to an unprecedented \$106 million.

2015

■ Construction begins on the Earth, Energy & Environment Center, and the Learned Engineering Expansion Phase 2 opens.

2014

■ KU unveils the 2014-’24 Campus Master Plan.

well—or anyone who has watched with envy as she and her husband, Shade Keys Little, show up everyone on the dance floor.

Kurt, d’75, and Sue Shields Watson, d’75, of Wichita, co-chaired the *Far Above* campaign and traveled with the chancellor to scores of fundraising events and meetings. “People were impressed by her vision of what the University could be if we all work together,” Kurt says. “She clearly articulated her vision, and her sincerity resonated with people.”

Sue remembers Gray-Little’s flawless presentations to donors. “She was always poised. She invited questions from the audience, and I never saw her stumble. She always spoke so eloquently, no matter what the subject,” Sue says. “I never remember her saying she was tired. It made her really fun to travel with. One of the big blessings of the campaign is this warm friendship that will last for years.”

Finally, Kurt cites a little-known talent: “She is the single greatest packer for travel that I’ve ever met. She carries this little bitty bag around, and she always looks elegant. I made her promise to teach Sue how to pack.”

DeAngela Burns-Wallace says private moments with the chancellor “are just icing on the cake. Her humor. Her wit. She has that look, that nudge, that little twist.”

Laughter nearly dissolves to tears as she names what she will miss most about working with Gray-Little. “Her presence,” she whispers.

The University’s transformations since 2009 are evident for all to see, but how has KU changed Bernadette Gray-Little?

“I’ve learned a lot about this place and I’ve learned more about myself, and the things I have learned to do in certain situations,” she says. “It has stretched me—and it would stretch anyone. I told someone early on that when I came here, I understood universities and the job of a chancellor or a president, but one thing that is different is that being the chancellor of KU is such a big deal outside of the University. You become a spokesperson for higher education in the state and in the region. I didn’t know that, and it’s not true at every university.



“KU is a very important institution in the state. It has played a special role, and it will continue to do so. Our special role also attracts praise and criticism. If there is a complaint about higher education, we’re easy to pick on because the news picks it up. I certainly have experienced that.”

Gray-Little remains focused on her public role until June 30, and for the next academic year she will remain available in Lawrence to advise her successor—when asked. “I’ll answer any questions, and I want to be of assistance, but whoever comes in, it is very important that the person knows this is his or her territory,” she says. “I will tell them that being chancellor here is a big deal. I’ll make sure they know that part of it.”

She doesn’t name specific activities beyond 2018. She and Shade have three grandchildren to spoil, and eventually they may return to their home state of North Carolina. As she talks about developing a plan, she jokes, “If I thought it would do any good, I’d try to get rid of the Electoral College, but other than that—” and she bursts out laughing.

■ Students move into the new Self and Oswald residence halls on Daisy Hill and McCarthy Hall on Naismith Drive.

■ Jayhawk Boulevard reopens after the third phase of reconstruction.



■ KU Medical Center breaks ground for the \$75 million Health Education Building, made possible through a combination of state bonds, KU funds and gifts to KU Endowment, including \$25 million from the Hall Family Foundation.

■ The chancellor becomes APLU chair.

2016

■ KU Endowment concludes the *Far Above* campaign, which raises \$1.66 billion.

■ Capitol Federal Hall, the long-awaited new School of Business, welcomes students.

■ The freshman class grows for the fifth straight year and sets a record for academic talent.



■ Overall enrollment increases for the third straight year.

■ The DeBruce Center showcases the “Rules of Basket



The chancellor welcomed the community and introduced Booker T. Jones May 4 at the Lied Center.



After Sept. 22, when she announced her plan to step down, the chancellor immediately got back to work, and she remained adamant that everyone else do the same. She would not spend nine months saying goodbye, and talk of farewells and tributes was strictly forbidden. Eventually she began to relent, as a few brave souls convinced her that because being the KU chancellor is such a big deal, the Jayhawk family customarily marks the end of a chancellor's tenure.

Gray-Little agreed to an event, but only on the condition that it be festive. She invited the KU community to enjoy barbecue and ice cream May 4 at the Lied Center, followed by a free concert by the legendary Booker T. Jones, a soul and blues icon, Grammy Lifetime Achievement winner and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

As she prepared to introduce Jones, the crowd greeted Gray-Little with a long, loud standing ovation. After the cheering subsided, she explained, "This is a celebration for our entire community, for all of the things that you do for the University

Ball" and provides dining and meeting spaces for students and faculty.

■ KU hires the 12th and final Foundation Distinguished Professor.

■ The Spencer Museum of Art reopens after renovation.

■ Construction begins to redevelop the Central District of the Lawrence campus,

featuring the Integrated Science Building, a residence and dining hall, student apartments, a new student union and a parking garage.



DAN STOREY

More tributes

For video tributes to Chancellor Gray-Little, a photo album and highlights of the past eight years, visit thankyoubgl.ku.edu.

The site also provides the opportunity to send messages to the chancellor and share memories (#ThankYouBGL), and it invites Jayhawks to donate to two KU Endowment funds that the chancellor was instrumental in creating:

The Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships help recruit and support doctoral students. Twelve fellowships are awarded each year to provide a \$25,000 stipend and cover tuition and fees.

The Rosalie Lanier Gray KU Staff Assistance Fund provides emergency assistance for KU staff members who are struggling due to a natural or personal disaster that has caused financial hardship. Chancellor Gray-Little established the fund in honor of her mother, Rosalie Lanier Gray.

Donors also can visit launchku.org for details about the funds.

every day, for the ways in which all of you work hard, the ways in which you have supported me, the ways in which you have supported this great university that we all love. So it is a way of saying thank you very much from me and Shade for everything that you do.

"I talked with [executive assistant] Mary Burg about the end of the year events and she said it was sort of expected that I have an event and give a speech about the last eight years. And I thought, 'I wouldn't want to go to that.' I thought, 'Why don't we have a party instead?'"

Jones and his band treated the crowd to Stax Records classics, including "Green Onions" and "Time is Tight," along with Otis Redding's "The Dock of the Bay" and Prince's "Purple Rain." The dance floor filled with couples, along with moms and dads who twirled and swayed with their young children, as they do at weddings and other family celebrations.

The jubilant scene conjured a memory of a Saturday in May eight years ago, when Bernadette Gray-Little and Shade Keys Little met members of the KU family for the first time, at a reception in the Kansas Union. The new chancellor thanked the Regents for choosing her, and she marveled at the beauty of Mount Oread and the friendliness of people she and Shade had met at dinner on Mass Street and during their morning walk. After her brief remarks, giddy well-wishers crowded around the two new Jayhawks.

As a longtime staff member greeted Shade, he beamed and proudly declared, "I just bask in her brilliance."

So have we all.

STUDY IN JAZZ

McCurdy's 'Langston Hughes Project' transforms the poet's jazz epic into multimedia history of black American life

Standing before a packed house April 7 at Swarthout Recital Hall, Ron McCurdy, sharply dressed in a pinstripe suit, smiles broadly. "Treat this performance as you would a good old-fashioned Southern Baptist church service," he instructs the crowd, before summoning an enthusiastic "Amen!"

As the lights dim, the jazzman scats softly, loosely cradling his trumpet, a trio of musicians poised to play behind him. He pauses for a moment, then breaks into a resounding, "Mood one! Cultural exchange," announcing the first segment of Langston Hughes' "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz," the 12-part epic poem that forms the foundation of McCurdy's multimedia performance, "The Langston Hughes Project," a fusion of spoken word, jazz and video that was voted "Best Live Performance" at the Jazz FM Awards last year in London.

As a scene from the Harlem Renaissance unfolds on the screen behind him, McCurdy's powerful voice delivers the first three lines in a rich melody, setting the tone for a remarkable evening.

In the ...

In the quarter ...

In the quarter of the negroes ...

McCurdy easily recalls the first time he quoted the famed poet and social activist who spent his childhood in Lawrence. "My father had my siblings and

CHRISTINE METZ HOWARD/SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Ron McCurdy considers Langston Hughes' poem "Ask Your Mama" an opportunity to teach and to learn. "I didn't know everyone in the poem either," he says. "I had to study."

.....
me reciting Langston Hughes when we were 5 and 6 years old," McCurdy says. "I remember reciting 'The Negro Speaks of Rivers' and 'I, Too.' At the time, I had no idea that this would become part of my life's work."

McCurdy's career as a jazz musician spans decades. The classically trained trumpet player and Florida native, who came to KU in the late 1970s to study music education, admits that he was not a particularly good player at the time but "knew just enough to be dangerous."

He perfected his craft, inspired by visiting artist Jamey Aebersold, a renowned jazz musician and educator who encouraged McCurdy and his fellow classmates to explore theory, composition and improvisation. "It made me a better teacher," says McCurdy, g'78, PhD'83,

who, after earning his master's degree and doctorate, stayed on as an instructor, becoming the University's first director of jazz studies and leading the basketball band in the 1980s.


Tom Stidham, professor emeritus of music and former KU band director, credits McCurdy's energy and personality—in addition to his musical prowess—for his success. "He's the kind of guy who gets along with people, and people enjoy being with him," says Stidham, who has known McCurdy since his first days as a graduate student. "He's a great player and teacher. We were very happy to have him."

When McCurdy left KU in 1990 to become professor of music and chair the department of African-American studies at the University of Minnesota, he was asked to teach a course on the music of black America.

"Not a problem," I said. "I'm a brother; I got this," McCurdy recalls with a laugh. "Then I saw the syllabus and I knew I was in trouble. I saw names and places and events that I had never heard of before. My role at KU was strictly ensemble, improv classes, basketball band. I wasn't teaching academic classes. What I realized was that there was a whole host of information that I had no idea about—about my own heritage."

McCurdy stepped into the role of student again, immersing himself in the history of African-American culture. He pored over details of the Harlem Renaissance and the artists, writers and musicians who made social and cultural contributions to what became known as the "New Negro Movement." McCurdy's study ultimately led him to Hughes' "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz," a scholarly yet satirical piece prompted by the riots that shut down the 1960s Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island. In the poem, Hughes included musical cues to guide the tempo and flow of the language.

McCurdy's discovery was serendipitous: He had recently been asked to perform at the opening of the Weisman Art Museum on the Minneapolis campus. Inspired by the poem and Hughes' musical notes, he treated guests to an improvisational performance of "Ask Your Mama."

A close-up photograph of a Black man playing a trumpet. He is wearing a maroon button-down shirt and has his eyes closed in concentration. The background is dark and out of focus.

“The first time we did this work, we all just ran his musical cues and improvised based on what he had said,” McCurdy recalls. “While it worked, it was very loose and unpredictable. You want to have some unpredictability in jazz but not as much as we had.”

The performance wasn’t flawless, but McCurdy knew it had potential. “I was looking out over the audience, and I could tell people were really enjoying it,” he says. “I thought, ‘My gosh, I think we have something here. Imagine if we actually rehearsed and I wrote music for this.’”

Over the next year, McCurdy composed a live soundtrack for the poem, translating Langston’s cues—tidbits like “Happy blues in up-beat tempo trip merrily along”—into melodies. He also worked with a videographer to develop a series of images that would accompany the poem and enhance the experience. “The poem is so densely written that we needed to have some way to connect the names and places referenced in the poem with images,” McCurdy explains. “So when Langston Hughes is referring to Nina Simone or Duke Ellington or Martin Luther King, those images will appear on the screen.”

For the past 17 years, McCurdy, now professor of music at the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music, has performed “The Langston Hughes Project” at least 60 times a year. He often balances the roles of trumpeter and spoken-word artist himself (he has committed the 800 lines to memory) but also has enlisted celebrities, including actors Blair Underwood and Malcolm-Jamal Warner and rapper/actor Ice T, to recite the poem.

“This is the kind of concert where you will leave emotionally stirred,” McCurdy says. “That’s the reason I continue to do it: I know that it’s making a difference in people’s lives. And in this particular case, it gives me a reason to come back home.”

by Heather Biele

Portrait by Steve Puppe

To learn more about

“The Langston Hughes Project,” visit langstonhughesproject.org.



Novel Idea

*O'Connell celebrates readers and teachers
with a delightful twist to the story
of a book nerd's blossoming*

by Andrea Hoag | Portrait by Steve Puppe

DON'T BE FOOLED BY MARY O'CONNELL'S SERENE EXTERIOR. THE AUTHOR OF TWO YOUNG ADULT NOVELS AND A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES MAY RADIATE OUTER CALM AND RESERVE, BUT HER AWARD-WINNING FICTION SIZZLES WITH RED-HOT WIT.

O'Connell, c'94, published her 2001 collection of short stories, *Living with Saints*, to enthusiastic national reviews. In 2011, Kirkus Reviews called her young adult tale, *The Sharp Time*, "one extraordinary debut novel." Her work has appeared in literary magazines, and she has won a James Michener Fellowship and a Chicago Tribune Nelson Algren Award.

O'Connell's second novel, *Dear Reader*, published by Flatiron Books, the new imprint of Macmillan in New York, hit bookstores nationwide May 9.

Dear Reader is told by clever Flannery Fields, a 17-year-old bookworm ready to ditch the plaid-skirted parochial school mean girls of Sacred Heart High in Connecticut and begin the next chapter of her life at Columbia University.

Flannery, reverentially named for the author Flannery O'Connor by scholarly but distant parents, needs only to survive the last few months of high school before she flees to New York City.

Flannery credits her Advanced Placement English teacher, Miss Sweeney, with saving her from teenage misery by opening her eyes to the restorative qualities of literature—and writing the stellar college recommendation letter that will ensure Flannery's escape from the social confines of her stultifyingly quiet suburban hometown. Even better? Miss Sweeney promises Flannery will find "her people" at Columbia—people who care just as much about writers and books as she does.

But on the day her class is set to discuss Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Miss Sweeney is suddenly a no-show. Her favorite student instinctively knows something is wrong:

"Flannery had the unwelcome premonition—butterflies in her stomach, circling her sunken heart—that the danger was

entirely real, and not for her, but for Miss Sweeney. Yesterday she had seemed pretty animated during class, though contrasted with the dullardly instructional style of the other teachers at Sacred Heart, Miss Sweeney's literary flamboyance was a delight. But, no, yesterday *was* really different: Flannery recalled Miss Sweeney chewing her lower lip during class, not pensively, but with alarming enthusiasm. ...When Miss Sweeney started crying during class, well, sure, it was shocking—later, the words *freak show* floated down the hallway along with the faux-adult complaints: 'God, she's so unprofessional ...' 'Somebody missed their therapy appointment this week'—but the blood rosettes staining Miss Sweeney's chewed lips looked far more jarring than her tears."

Fearing Miss Sweeney has received life-altering news, Flannery immediately resolves to search for—and try to save—the beloved teacher who had rescued her.

The bond between Flannery and Miss Sweeney appeals to anyone who has ever idolized a teacher. "When you're a student, your favorite teachers are so present in the classroom that it's sometimes surprising to see them doing everyday things—What? They grocery shop?—outside of school," O'Connell says. "Since Flannery is a senior, she's certainly old enough to know that Miss Sweeney has a complex adult life, yet I also wanted her to be shocked when she learns the extent of that complexity."

Flannery sets out to track Miss Sweeney in the place that enthralls them both: New York. In a magical-realism twist readers of all ages will love, she follows clues provided by her teacher's own copy of *Wuthering Heights*: The well-thumbed pages are no longer filled with Brontë's words. They are continually updated with Miss Sweeney's revelatory private diary entries in real time.



If this premise sounds far-out, rest assured that O'Connell pulls off the delightful conceit flawlessly. Drawing upon universal themes of youthful searching and self-doubt, she packs *Dear Reader* with exquisite metaphors—and the hilarious internal "red-ink voice" of Miss Sweeney, echoing in Flannery's brain as her ever-present editor.

"I knew I wanted to write about the sort of ideal teacher—funny, smart, quirky and caring—that makes learning feel like an adventure, not a chore," O'Connell says, "and to celebrate, in some small way, the teachers who helped me think more deeply about books and about my own life."

"I also wanted to honor the love of books, specifically the shared love of a favorite novel. For Miss Sweeney and Flannery, it's *Wuthering Heights*."

The novel is not *Dear Reader*'s only love story, however. Just when it appears that Flannery's search for Miss Sweeney will end in frustration, she meets a modern-day incarnation of Heathcliff from *Wuthering Heights* who quickly proves to be a real Brontë bro for the ages.

Handsome, bookish and British, "Heath" knows just the right things to say to woo a tender romantic like Flannery. "Oh, no," he says. "You're smart, too." He quickly signs on to help her find Miss



Sweeney, never doubting even the most fantastic bits of Flannery's story:

"Flannery felt the same as anyone who had ever fallen in love in an instant, all the living and the dead who had known the hard-earned magic of finding the one person in the city who was perfect for you, the person who found you interesting and heart-wrenchingly beautiful: You, little old you!"

Being recognized for her beauty is the best thing that has ever happened to self-avowed "super-nerd" Flannery: "Smart was nothing, smart was easy, smart was a big fat score on her SAT, her name on the 4.00 honor roll ... Smart was old news, a yawn fest. People had praised and mocked the smart part for years. What no one had ever noticed was the *too*."

O'Connell herself insists that she was nothing like her character Flannery when she was growing up in Leawood.

"I wasn't a great student in high school. I didn't take any advanced English classes or anything, so it was sort of this far-off, starry idea, my secret dream, to be a writer," she recalls. "It sounds like a cliché, but it happened at 15 when I read *The Catcher in the Rye*."

But just like Flannery, O'Connell did possess a near-religious devotion to the printed page as a teenager. "My mother was the first person to take me seriously as a reader," she explains. "My siblings and I didn't have a bedtime on weekends or in the summer. We could stay up reading as late as we wanted."

It could be easier to draw parallels between O'Connell and Flannery's adored

teacher, Miss Sweeney, a Kansas native whose own memories of the Flint Hills figure prominently in *Dear Reader*. During O'Connell's graduate-school years at the famed Iowa Writer's Workshop, she taught writing classes for University of Iowa undergraduates. One early convert, Alan Heathcock, went on to literary successes he now attributes directly to O'Connell's early encouragement.

"I wasn't a reader, not a literature student, not even an English major, had never written a story in my life, but I had a notion that it was something I wanted to try, so I enrolled in a fiction workshop," the award-winning author of *Volt* explains.

"My work wasn't very good, but Mary was so kind and nurturing. I took her one semester then a second. I was hooked. I remember meeting with her one-on-one at the end of our second semester together. She listened to me say aloud that I wanted to be a writer, and she could've lectured me on how hard it would be, or pointed out my very obvious limitations at the time, but instead she said that she saw something really special in my work, gave me a list of books to read over the summer, told me that if I worked hard I could make it. And I believed her."

O'Connell credits her own professors at KU with preparing her for the intellectual rigors of a literary career.

"I think my life as a writer started at KU. I had never met a writer before I moved to Lawrence," she says. "At first I was super self-conscious about even thinking about myself as any kind of writer, but I gradually found my confidence. I had [Professor Emeritus] Victor Contoski for poetry writing, and he had this generous, open-hearted spirit about poetry and life. His class was just a joy."

"Kris Vervaecke was my teacher for Fiction Writing Two. She was a graduate student at the time, and she was amazing. She was also special to me because she was a writer and a mother, which was a life I aspired to have one day."

O'Connell has indeed followed in Vervaecke's footsteps, balancing the demands of a burgeoning literary career while rearing three children in Lawrence with her husband, Steven Hill, associate editor of *Kansas Alumni*.

O'Connell also prized the reassuring words of the late KU English professor emeritus Roy Gridley, c'57. "On the first paper I turned in, he wrote something nice along the lines of my writing having a 'natural flow.' That encouragement truly meant the world to someone who had grown accustomed to dropping Algebra 101 every semester!"

It is just this sort of humor that has won O'Connell's writing so many fans in literary circles, as well as closer to home.

Laura Moriarty, s'93, g'99, KU associate professor of creative writing and author of bestselling books that include *The Chaperone*, singles out O'Connell's fiction for special praise.

"I'm drawn in by the compassion in her work," Moriarty says. "When I'm reading one of her novels or short stories, I don't simply feel empathy for the main characters; I feel it for the well-drawn minor characters, too."

"She is darkly funny, but there is also a joyfulness in her worldview ... a celebration of quirky people, with all their flaws and aspirations, and moments of real connection. I also love the way Mary uses language. Again and again, she chooses the more surprising word, the more interesting verb, the more comical noun."

O'Connell says that, in addition to her teachers, writer Denis Johnson inspired her story of Flannery and Miss Sweeney. "There's a line in his poem 'The Monk's Insomnia' that resonated with me when I was writing *Dear Reader*," she says. "'It was love that sent me on the journey, love that called me home.' For both Miss Sweeney and Flannery, it's love that sends them on their different journeys."

Readers will long treasure their adventures.

—Hoag, c'95, is a Lawrence book critic whose reviews and reporting have also appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Denver Post*.

FOREVER A JAYHAWK

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STAND TALL

by **Chris Lazzarino**

Portrait by Steve Puppe

Momentous honors for Mason, Self help heal the hurt after Elite Eight exit

The phone call changed everything. It was summer 2012, a few months after KU lost to Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament's championship game, and assistant men's basketball coach Kurtis Townsend was, no surprise, on the road scouting prospects. He'd flown to Las Vegas to attend a scouting and recruiting bonanza called the Adidas Fab 48, intending to watch the talented point guard Jordan McLaughlin, then a junior at Etiwanda High School in Cucamonga, California, and now an all-conference player at the University of Southern California.

When Townsend finally tracked McLaughlin down in a satellite gym, far from the center of the action, he did, indeed, find KU's point guard of the future. Except it wasn't McLaughlin.

It was a 5-foot-nuthin' fireplug flying far under the radar not only because of his lack of basketballish height, but because he'd already committed to play for Maryland's Towson University, not far from his hometown of Petersburg, Virginia.

That would soon change.

He didn't know it then, but Frank Mason III was taking his first steps toward becoming the 2017 consensus National Player of the Year and a Kansas men's basketball legend whose No. 0 jersey will one day hang from the rafters of Allen Field House, a basketball mecca that Mason had seen only on TV.

"Frank put on a show," Townsend recently recalled while filling in for coach Bill Self on a "Hawk Talk" radio broadcast. "They beat the kid I was watching's team by 12 or 14, and I was going, 'Wow. This kid is something special.'"

Back in his hotel room, Townsend grabbed his phone and called his friend Ty White, Mason's AAU coach.

"I said, 'Does that little kid with the braids play like that all the time?' And he said, 'Every day, coach.'"

"And I said, 'What time do you guys play tomorrow?'"

Townsend extended his Vegas trip to watch Mason play two more days. The verdict?

"I was sold."

That's when Townsend made another call. This time to his boss.

"If he's this good," Townsend told Self, as recounted in the Topeka Capital-Journal, "he's better than anybody we're recruiting."

When Townsend got around to asking White for details about Mason's availability, White broke the news that Mason had already signed with Towson. But, he quickly added, Mason had failed U.S. and Virginia Government, a course that state regulations required for graduation. Mason would have to spend a year in prep school—a Virginia military academy, as it turned out—which meant Mason was free of the Towson commitment.

Frank Mason III might not have yet been a star on the national hoops scene, but he certainly was one in Petersburg, Virginia, and Terri Smith, the teacher who gave him the fortuitous F, was feeling heat for her decision.

"There were days I had to sit at my desk and cry," Smith told the Kansas City Star, "because everybody wanted to tell me I was wrong."



STEVE PUPPE (6)



She was right, though, and she knew it. She'd also failed two others in the class and both had higher marks than Mason. She had even offered Mason several opportunities to improve the work that had cost him a passing a grade, to no avail. She wasn't happy about it, but Smith also knew it was the student's decision, not the teacher's, to do sub-par work in a required course.

Smith understood, of course, that her decision to stand by the failing grade would have a long-range impact on the student, for good or otherwise, and that it was up to him to use the experience as inspiration for improved schoolwork. Whether he would or not was entirely up to Mason.

What Smith did not know was that Mason was already making the most of the unexpected opportunity. Freed from his Towson commitment, Mason one day followed his AAU coach's suggestion and called coach Townsend.

"He said, 'Man, I love that one with the big bird on the court,'" Townsend recalled of his first telephone chat with KU's 5-foot-10 future superstar. "So it was pretty easy from there. Ended up coming on his visit, signed, didn't take any other visits."

As Jayhawk basketball fans have learned, coach Ty White was right when he assured the dazzled KU assistant that Mason does, indeed, play like that every day. It's how he became the unlikely National Player of the Year in recent memory. But basketball does not define Frank Mason. Just ask

Terri Smith, who was startled to see Mason's younger sister sitting in her classroom a few years after she'd given her brother that famous F, ready to begin her semester of U.S. and Virginia Government.

The girl said her brother had asked her to pass along a hello.

"You sure you got the right teacher?" Smith responded, as she recalled for the Star. The girl said yes, she was sure. Frank says hi.

"The reality of it is," Bill Self said one day before KU faced Purdue in the top-seeded Jayhawks' third NCAA Tournament game of 2017, "Frank didn't qualify in high school, and in three and a half years here he basically already has his degree. It's always been inside him. It's remarkable how he's matured, off the court and certainly in the classroom.

"Sometimes in recruiting you luck into things. We end up getting the steal of that class, nationally. National Player of the Year. To think about what he's accomplished in four years is pretty remarkable."

This wasn't how the script was supposed to play out. Yes, Mason and Self were supposed to be in Phoenix, and yes, they were expected to be honored as National Player of the Year and, for Self, election to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. But they were supposed to be there with the rest of their crimson-and-blue crew, and those ceremonies, lovely as they would surely be,

were supposed to be little more than fleeting distractions from the important business of competing in the Final Four.

Mason was not yet even a KU fan, much less a KU player, the last time the Jayhawks played in the Final Four, in New Orleans. Through all the talk about Mason emerging as a leading candidate for National Player of the Year, Mason and his teammates kept insisting he was focused only on leading his team to the Final Four.

"I think he does a great job of handling it, not letting it distract him or give him a



big head or anything like that,” junior guard Devonte’ Graham said of Mason a day before KU’s opening-round victory over UC Davis. “We run as he runs, and the engine goes as he goes.”

As a freshman, Mason played 22 minutes in KU’s stunning NCAA Tournament loss to Stanford, but he scored only two points with two assists and two rebounds. In the 2015 heartbreaker against Wichita State, Mason scored 17 points, more than four points above his season average, but he fouled out with 2:40 left to play. Last year’s dream crashed in Louisville, Kentucky, with an Elite Eight loss to Villanova, the eventual champion. Mason played the entire 40 minutes against the Wildcats, scoring 16 points with four assists, a block and a steal.

Whatever else might come his way, including personal honors and a potential NBA career, this season would be Mason’s final chance at playing in a Final Four.

“It’s the last go-round,” he said, “and I’m just trying to do everything we can to make it to that point.”

Mason was then asked which teams around the country had impressed him to that point in the season, with conference tournaments just getting underway. He named three: Villanova, UCLA and, fatefully, Oregon.

“Oregon looks pretty good to me,” Mason said March 6.

Asked whether he could forecast a sleeper team to watch for in the postseason, Mason replied, “Well, it’s March. Anything is possible.”

“I said, ‘Does that little kid with the braids play like that all the time?’ And he said, ‘Every day, coach.’

—Kurtis Townsend, to AAU coach Ty White

March 25, Kansas City. NCAA Regional final, the Elite Eight, a trip to the Final Four at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on the line: Oregon 74, Kansas 60.

Yes, unfortunately, watch out for those upsets. In a single-elimination tournament, anything is possible.

“I just have to move on to what’s next,” Mason said five days later, as he collected his first National Player of the Year trophy at a bittersweet ceremony honoring an all-time KU great who will never experience the Final Four. “You know, I didn’t plan on doing this. My goals and our goals as a team were to be here as a family. I expected to be here with my teammates and coaches.”

Mason, the first player in Big 12 and KU history to average more than 20 points (20.9) and five assists (5.2), also led the conference in three-point percentage (.490) and was a unanimous choice as Big 12 Player of the Year, All-Big 12 First Team and, alone among his rivals, Associated Press All-American.

Consensus National Player of the Year, as chosen by NBC Sports, Bleacher Report, USA Today, CBS Sports, Sporting

News, the Associated Press, the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Most prestigious of all, Mason also won the Atlanta Tipoff Club’s Naismith Trophy, the Bob Cousy Award for the season’s outstanding point guard, and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association’s Oscar Robertson Trophy.

“I think you’re a hell of a basketball player,” Robertson, widely regarded as one of the five best ever to play the game, told Mason March 31 in Phoenix. “I’m happy for you.”

“Thanks, man,” Mason replied. “I saw a few highlights of yours. You’re really good. You’re a legend.”

The next day was Self’s turn, as the 14th-year coach became the 20th Jayhawk to join the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

“When the first basketball coach in your university’s history was also the inventor of the game, expectations are high,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “Coach Self has met—and I would say exceeded—all expectations since arriving at KU, and has confirmed his status among the great coaches in college basketball.”

At the hall of fame ceremony April 1 in Phoenix, Notre Dame women’s coach Muffet McGraw commented that she had

been waiting nervously at home for the call from Naismith Hall of Fame president John Doleva. She feared disappointment, so when told she'd been selected, "I was overcome. I wanted to weep."

Former players Tracy McGrady and Rebecca Lobo both said they had been alone in their kitchens when they received their congratulatory calls, and both were awash in emotions. "I did start crying, I'll tell you that," McGrady said.

Self, though, offered a different story about the moment he learned that he'd been chosen as a first-ballot inductee.

"I wasn't alone at home," Self said, "but I was alone in my car. I was literally getting ready to pull into the office parking garage and I got a call from John. So instead of pulling in, I went straight and I turned right on a road."

Self paused, then added, "I just thought of this: Right when he was talking to me, I was on Naismith Drive."

Quite a journey, for which only Jay-

hawks are eligible: from Naismith Court on Naismith Drive to September induction at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"I really believe the most special thing about coaching at Kansas is to be a part of maybe as tradition-rich a program as there is in college basketball," Self said. "Of course, it all started with Dr. Naismith being our first coach. I've got a picture in my office with Dr. Allen, Phog Allen, the father of basketball coaching, as head coach. And sitting next to him was his assistant, James Naismith. And sitting behind him was a point guard named Adolph Rupp."

"There's not many places that can do that."

Nearly two weeks later, players, coaches, administrators and fans assembled at a Lawrence hotel for the

annual team banquet. To the surprise of none, Frank Mason III was announced as the winner of the Danny Manning "Mr. Jayhawk" Award.

"Wow, another award," Mason deadpanned. "I don't know what to say."

Mason praised Manning, c'92, KU's previous consensus National Player of the Year and now coach at Wake Forest, "for leading the way. I didn't really see him play, but I've heard nothing but great things."

One more ceremony awaits, year to be determined, at which Mason's jersey will be raised to the Allen Field House rafters. He'll make another speech then, and surely it will be heartfelt and moving, but for now, the shy superstar would rather get back to letting his play do his talking.

"Frank had the best year of anybody I've ever coached," Self said moments after the stunning loss to Oregon that halted KU's NCAA Tournament run, "and he's as tough as anybody I've ever coached."





The Frank Mason 2017 Tour included stops to collect the AP Player of the Year trophy (right), the Oscar Robertson Trophy (top, alongside “The Big O” himself) and the Naismith Trophy (above, with his parents, Sharon Harrison and Frank Mason II). Coach Bill Self (p. 36), a first-ballot inductee in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, joined classmates Rebecca Lobo and Tracy McGrady at their Phoenix announcement ceremony.



COURTESY KANSAS ATHLETICS (3)

His Kansas career reached every destination but the Final Four, and at one of the ceremonies recognizing his memorable final season, Mason reflected on what came before.

“It’s something I think about a lot, just from playing outside in a bad neighborhood where I grew up, to playing AAU and having guys who really cared about

me and put me in a position to be successful.”

Mason always chooses his words carefully, and when he offers insights into his deepest thoughts and emotions, they are sincere. That’s when he chose to conclude his thoughts with his memories of a serendipitous encounter in a Las Vegas gym, when his life’s path altered

course and Mason didn’t even know it was happening.

“I just thank God for coach Townsend, who saw me out in Vegas and recognized my talents.”

The phone call changed everything. What time do you guys play tomorrow? —

Association



Bonanza of birdies

Jayhawks perfect their swing at 2017 Rock Chalk Ball

Creative expressions of “black tie optional” highlighted the 22nd-annual Rock Chalk Ball April 29, when more than 750 Jayhawks converged on the Overland Park Convention Center to celebrate “Masters of Tradition” at the annual event hosted by the Alumni Association’s Greater Kansas City Network. Partiers dressed to a tee in green jackets, knickers and caddy coveralls, along with argyles, plaids and floral prints—all as nods to The Masters golf tournament.

In addition to raising funds to support the Alumni Association’s legacy student

recruitment and Student Alumni Association programs, the event honored Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and her husband, Shade Keys Little, with a video tribute and a standing ovation.

Brian Hanni, j’02, the Voice of the Jayhawks, sported Payne Stewart and Bobby Jones-inspired attire as he emceed the ball, and auctioneer Trisha Brauer and her team showered winning bidders with confetti throughout the live auction, which featured a trip to The Masters in 2018 and an “Ultimate Survivors Weekend” in Indianapolis with the incomparable Scot Pollard, d’97, and his wife, Dawn. After

playing for the Jayhawks, Pollard competed in the NBA for 11 seasons. Most recently, he appeared on the “Survivor” TV reality show.

Presenting sponsor Niall provided support for the event. Ball committee chairs Jason Booker, ’00, and Sasha Flores Boulware, c’98, g’00, and network president Lindsay Hare, c’02, l’05, led the volunteers, who worked with Kelsey Hill, c’12, the Association’s assistant director of Kansas City programs, and a large staff team to host the ball, which coincided with the spring meeting of the Association’s national board of directors.



To see more photos of Rock Chalk Ball, visit stevepuppe.zenfolio.com/rockchalkball2017.



Kevin and Lisa Carroll



Wendy and Bill Picking



Debbi and Howard Cohen



Dawn and Scot Pollard



This year's ball honored Shade Keys Little and Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and featured Brian Hanni as master of ceremonies. After the mascots, KU Band and Spirit Squad led the Alma Mater and Rock Chalk Chant, confetti cannons showered successful bidders during the lively auction.



Scott and Eileen Seyfarth



Bryan Smith and Andrea Mosher



Caddies



Billy Marshall and Ryan Workman

Jayhawk reunions

Alumni return to Mount Oread to celebrate 50 years

Nearly 100 Jayhawks flocked to the Hill for the Class of 1967 and Gold Medal Club reunions April 7-8. The celebrations began Friday with guided tours of campus and Quantrill's Raid through Lawrence and a lunch and presentation with KU student leaders. On Saturday, participants gathered at the Adams Alumni Center for a special luncheon and program.

Bob, c'67, g'73, and Mary Ewing Elliott, c'71, traveled from Salida, Colorado, for the festivities. "We've been wanting to come back to Lawrence without having to visit our kids," Bob said with a laugh. "Usually we drive in, drive down campus and then drive to see the kids. This is a trip for us."

Although the Elliotts have been back to campus several times over the years, they still revel in the transformation of KU's landscape. "There have been so many changes," Mary said.

During the luncheon, Neeli Benda-pudi, PhD'95, the University's provost and executive vice chancellor, urged alumni to explore campus and enjoy their reunion experience. "Have a phenomenal time," she said, "and please come back. Your being here means so much to us."

KU Endowment President Dale Seufferling, j'77, echoed that sentiment



DAN STOREY (2)



Alumni reunions offer classmates a chance to reconnect, talk to students and University leaders, and learn about changes happening on campus.

.....
and reminded alumni of their special place in the Jayhawk family. "We as an institution are so grateful to experience the support and love that you show for our University," he said. "You make it possible for current students—and our

Continued on p. 44

reunions *Continued from p. 43*

future students—to have much the same experiences that you had.”

Seuferling also praised Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, whom he affectionately referred to as the “head of the family,” for her commitment to the University in her eight years as chancellor.

“Throughout the history of our University, we’ve been fortunate to have great leadership in our chancellors,” he said. “Certainly, Chancellor Gray-Little stands with the accomplishments and history of great chancellors.”

Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, president of the Alumni Association, closed the program with a special tribute to former KU basketball star and Gold Medal Club member Bill Hougland, b’52, who died earlier this year. Peterson applauded Hougland’s contributions to the University, which included serving as national president of the Alumni Association from 1992 to ’93, and thanked the Class of 1967 for their continued support.

“At its core, this event represents what your Alumni Association stands for: pride, connection, tradition,” Peterson said. “Your lifelong connection and relationship with KU is one of the many reasons being a Jayhawk is special.”

Life Members

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

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Samantha Adamson
Stephonn O. Alcorn
Tyler W. & Michelle Goldstein
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Cheers for Crown car



Crown Toyota and Volkswagen’s one-of-a-kind Jayhawk Car again proved a popular attraction at the Association’s NCAA Tournament basketball rallies in Kansas City and Tulsa. For the second year, Crown sponsored postseason celebrations, and Association staff members made sure to drive by local landmarks en route to the events. For more details on their adventures in Tulsa, see the story in Jayhawk Walk, p. 8.



DAN STOREY (3)

David A. Gordon
 Gary L. Goss
 Tara L. Hammer
 Lesley A. Harris
 Matthew B. Hartenstein
 Rev. Charles R. & Jennifer L. Henery
 John I. Hense Jr. & Jennifer Blackshire Hense
 Steven J. & Janice L. Hildebrand
 David M. Holland
 Gregory C. Hupp
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 Jermee J. Jones
 W. Clinton Jones II
 Michael R. Keenan
 Erin L. Keethler
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 Gregory L. Laird
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 Theresa Pettersch Larsen
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 Cynthia C. Lewis
 Anne M. Lierz
 Caleb C. Lundberg
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 Don F. Martin Jr.
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 Mackenzie L. Masterson
 Ryan S. Mattson
 Chase & Holly Meairs
 McAnulty
 Madeline K. McCarville
 Patricia A. McCormick
 William B. McNulty III
 Jami Goodwin Medina
 Thomas A. Miller
 Karen A. Milligan
 Richard A. Moffet
 Jennifer L. Montgomery
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 Kacy A. Nienstedt
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MAY 8-16

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MAY 11-20

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JUNE 19-27

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JUNE 27-JULY 5

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JULY 6-14

Circumnavigation of Iceland

JULY 9-17

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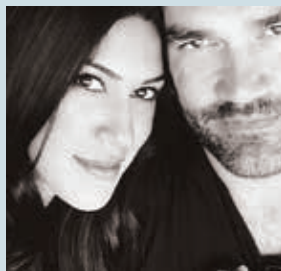
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Class Notes by Heather Biele



49 George Cooper, c'49, is retired vice president of the medical gas division at Puritan-Bennett Corporation. He makes his home in Tonganoxie.

52 Heywood Davis, c'52, l'58, an attorney and senior partner at Davis Sands & Collins in Kansas City, received the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award in April.

53 Constance Achterberg, l'53, lives in Salina, where she's an attorney and partner at Achterberg Angell & Craft. Connie has been practicing law for more than 60 years.

57 Willie Harriford Jr., c'57, is retired director of African-American studies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where he resides.

58 Martha Maxwell, d'58, makes her home in Windsor, Colorado, where she owns Naturally Yours.

60 Dale Lubs, b'60, in February was inducted in the Norm Hubner Athletic Hall of Fame at La Porte High School in La Porte, Indiana.

61 Lea Watson Hall, d'61, wrote *Threadbare*, which was published in December by LifeRich Publishing. She lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee, with **Homer**, g'65, an adjunct online instructor at Kent State University who co-authored the latest edition of *Student Journalism and Media Literacy*.

63 Luther Fry, c'63, m'67, in December was named one of three Humanitarian of the Year Award recipients by the Kansas Humanitarian Commission. He's an ophthalmologist in Garden City.

64 Mike Deer, c'64, makes his home in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where he's president of the National Reining Horse Association.

66 Dean Wolfe, b'66, l'69, in April was honored with the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. He lives in Clayton, Missouri, where he's president and CEO of Wolfe Properties.

67 John Friesen, PhD'67, is professor emeritus of education at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada.

68 Christopher Coyle, j'68, l'71, retired from Balcomb & Green. He makes

his home in Carbondale, Colorado.

Alan Mulally, e'68, g'69, former president and CEO of Ford Motor Company, was elected to a four-year term on the Mayo Clinic's board of trustees.

69 Alvin Johnson, p'69, is a retired staff pharmacist for the Veterans Health Administration. He lives in Topeka.

70 Steven Ewert, e'70, was the inspiration for a documentary, "Hitchhiking to the Edge of Sanity," which is based on his travels with a friend in the early 1970s. The film premiered in April at the Kansas City Filmfest. Steve is a photographer and managing partner at Greenhouse Loft in Chicago.

Dan Westphal, m'70, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Broward Health in Fort Lauderdale, serves on the board of directors for Broward Health Foundation.

71 DeWitt Harkness Jr., b'71, was honored in March as a 2017 Kansas Business Hall of Fame laureate. He's president of Wolfe's Camera Shops in Topeka, where he makes his home.

72 Ric Averill, f'72, g'85, retired in December after 16 years as artistic director at the Lawrence Arts Center. He's currently working on a screenplay called "The Man She Was."

W. Thomas Grant II, c'72, president of SelectQuote Senior in Leawood, joined the LIDMA board of directors. Tom and **Jane Hedrick Grant**, d'72, make their home in Mission Hills.

Stephen Hill, c'72, e'78, is retired vice president of engineering and chief engineer at Iowa Pacific Holdings. He lives in Emerald Hills, California, where he's a railroad industry consultant.

Stanley Lybarger, c'72, g'74, serves on the board of directors of BOK Financial Corporation, where he retired in 2013 as president and CEO. Stan makes his home in Dallas.

Doug Tilghman, c'72, g'78, former assistant director of Spencer Art Museum, is retired from Huron Consulting Group and lives in Perry with **Janet Dreiling**,

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

a	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b	School of Business
c	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d	School of Education
e	School of Engineering
f	School of Fine Arts
g	Master's Degree
h	School of Health Professions
j	School of Journalism
l	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing
p	School of Pharmacy
PharmD	School of Pharmacy
s	School of Social Welfare
u	School of Music
AUD	Doctor of Audiology
DE	Doctor of Engineering
DMA	Doctor of Musical Arts
DNP	Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT	Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD	Doctor of Education
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PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
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c'70, who was assistant director for collections at the museum from 1976 to 2016.

Martha Royce Wood, d'72, lives in Lancaster, California, where she's a retired education coordinator.

73 Margaret Lanoue, c'73, and her husband, Marc Violette, founded the annual Bach Cello Suites Workshop in Albany, New York, where they make their home.

Susan Haller Tabor, s'73, s'74, '99, lives in Lawrence with her husband, **Robert**,

assoc. She's an administrative assistant at Audio-Reader, where she's worked for nearly 15 years.

Sister Emerentia Wiesner, '73, celebrates her 75-year anniversary in religious life. She is an Ursuline Sister of Mount Saint Joseph and a seamstress and craftmaker in Maple Mount, Kentucky.

74 Mary Ann Genova Diorio, g'74, PhD'77, is an author and certified life coach. Her latest children's book, *The Dandelion Patch*, was published in April by TopNotch Press.

John Glick, j'74, is retired president and CEO of Lufkin Industries. He currently serves on the board of directors for several companies and health care groups. Jay makes his home in Spring, Texas.

Sister Patricia Lynch, g'74, is the elected assistant congregational leader for the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Kentucky. She celebrates 50 years as a sister.

Brent McFall, c'74, g'76, retired after a 42-year career in city management. He lives in Eagle, Colorado, with his wife, Gail.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Creative drive inspires artist to see beauty in food

Casey Millstein Dobbins studied sculpture at KU, and has worked as a floral designer, welder, photography-studio assistant, grocery store owner, food stylist and event designer. Now that she's moved from her native Douglas County to Los Angeles, Dobbins is finally comfortable identifying herself with the title that she's always seen as her place in the world.

"It has been an exciting little path that I've been going down," Dobbins says, "and it has led me to realize that what I am, deep down inside, is an artist."

Her website, caseydobbins.com, offers a thrilling visual guide to her passions as a food stylist. A series of images documenting the assembly of a plum and ricotta tart, for instance, is subtitled, "A color study."

Dobbins, f'09, grew up in Baldwin City but spent most of her young life on Mass Street, where her parents, David, '80, and Susan Millstein, c'79, helped launch the revival of downtown Lawrence by opening Liberty Hall, Sunflower Surplus (now Sunflower Outdoor and Bike Shop), and Sunflower International, which later morphed into The Casbah, a groovy market featuring an array of international goods.

That's the space, at 803 Mass St., where

Dobbins and her brother, Josh, and future sister-in-law, Cassy Ainsworth, c'07, s'12, in 2008 opened The Casbah Market. After two hectic years of navigating the grocery business, the founders chose to close their store and move in new directions.

For Dobbins, that meant turning to Kansas City. After landing a job as an assistant stylist at Hallmark's Union Hill Photo Studio, Dobbins met a freelance food stylist who expanded her already broad interests.

Reared in a vegetarian household where food was revered, Dobbins recognized that the three-dimensional aspect of food styling would draw upon her training as a sculptor, and its use of nature's bounty mirrored the joys she found as a floral designer.

"That's what I need to be doing," Dobbins recalls telling herself when she discovered food styling. "That's my thing."

In Los Angeles, the thrilling array of fresh and vibrant food has moved her to tears and boosted her creative drive. One



RYAN HILL

With a knack for "unconventional event design," food and event stylist Casey Dobbins was hired to orchestrate the Spencer Museum of Art's reopening gala in October.

of her first gigs was preparing squab for Anthony Hopkins to eat in "Westworld." Dobbins keeps an organic garden to develop recipes for Yola Mezcal and works a few days each week in Amara Café to boost her cooking skills so she can chase her long-term dream of writing cookbooks and teaching cooking classes to kids as her alter ego, "Mrs. Tasty."

The common element in her varied artistic interests? Originality. She immerses herself in research for each project, both for inspiration and to be certain she's doing something new.

"Find what you like," Dobbins says, "then take a left." 🍴

Class Notes

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attorney for the district of Kansas from 2010 to 2016.

Terrance Wilson, d'77, retired as vice president of customer relations at Westar Energy. He lives in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

78 Julie Chubbuck Hamel, c'78, d'79, received her PhD in counseling and student development in 2014. She works at the KU Career Center in Lawrence.

Stephen Paddock, j'78, has worked in the telecommunications industry for nearly 40 years, including his current role as sales director at Nokia. He and **Alison**, assoc., an adjunct professor in the department of curriculum and teaching at KU, have been married for 35 years.

79 Jeffrey Goble, c'79, g'81, wrote *Nest Egg: How to Build Yours ... Then Turn It into Something Extraordinary*, which was published by Rockhill Books. Jeff is a chief market strategist at Country Club Bank in Prairie Village.

Paula Moscinski, g'79, lives in Chicago, where she is a professional leadership coach, consultant and trainer and owns Interconnections.

Kathleen Warfel, c'79, is an actress in Kansas City. She recently starred in Kansas City Actors Theatre's production of "My Old Lady."

Marie Spencer Woodbury, l'79, is retired partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City. She was honored with the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award in April.

80 Judith Deines, d'80, is senior manager of consumer insights at VF Corporation/Lee Jeans in Merriam. She makes her home in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Gregory Frederick, c'80, PhD'90, is professor and chair of the department of biology at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, where he resides with **Karen Strahl Frederick**, d'83.

Jay Hinrichs, c'80, g'83, lives in Overland Park, where he directs development for Johnson County Park & Recreation District.

Teresa Bratton Peterson, d'80, is an administrative specialist for KU Student

T.A. Meserole, c'74, lives in Mission. He is retired from a career at Sprint and Uninet.

75 Randall Bell, c'75, m'78, a pulmonary and critical-care physician, chairs the medical board at Methodist Health Care Systems in San Antonio, where he lives with **Barbara Schultes Bell**, c'76, c'77, h'77.

Kenneth Butler, e'75, is a corporate engineer at Pumps, Parts & Service in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Debra Spruk Carpenter, j'75, lives in St. Louis, where she's dean emerita of the School of Communications at Webster University.

David Elkouri, b'75, l'78, is executive vice president and chief legal officer at Halcón Resources Corporation in Houston, where he makes his home.

George Hill, e'75, is president of Patuxent River Naval Air Museum in Lexington Park, Maryland.

Susan Smith Moeser, f'75, g'77,

DMA'82, is an organist and professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. A new auditorium at the university has been named in honor of Susan and her husband, James, who served as chancellor from 2000 to 2008.

76 Thomas Docking, c'76, l'80, g'80, in April received the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. He's an attorney at the Law Offices of Morris Laing in Wichita. Tom served as lieutenant governor of Kansas from 1983 to '87 and co-chaired *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*.

Ken Krehbiel, j'76, is executive director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. He lives in Washington, D.C.

77 Barry Grissom, d'77, an attorney and shareholder at Polsinelli in Kansas City, was appointed to the board of the National Association of Former United States Attorneys. He served as a U.S.

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Housing. She makes her home in Lawrence.

Todd Walters, d'80, is vocal music director and assistant band director at Rock Creek Schools in Westmoreland.

81 Connie Searcy Bent, s'81, is a social worker with more than 30 years experience in the mental health community. She wrote *Hope, Courage & Triumph*, which was published last year.

Kenji Ooe, m'81, is a consulting physician at Shizuoka Red Cross Blood Center in Japan.

Lynette Woodard, c'81, in March was named the new head coach of women's basketball at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She was a four-time All-American at KU and won an Olympic gold medal in 1984.

83 Tammy McBroom Dodderidge, j'83, directs communications at Cultivate Kansas City. She makes her home in Lenexa.

85 Robert Behee, j'85, directs national sales at Alcon Surgical. He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 24 years and have two sons, Jack and Liam. They live in Fort Worth, Texas.

Douglas Cunningham, j'85, is publisher of Putnam County News & Recorder in Cold Spring, New York.

Kimberly Thompson Nave, j'85, is executive assistant to the CEO at Sem-Group Corporation in Tulsa, where she makes her home. She has two daughters, **Madeline**, j'16, and **Ashley**.

Marjorie "Betsy" Pratt, d'85, lives in Bettendorf, Iowa, where she's a division volunteer services executive at the American Red Cross.

86 Scott Deeter, c'86, joined the board of directors at Iteris Inc. He's president and CEO of Ventria Bioscience in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he makes his home with **Katherine Seymour Deeter**, c'85.

Kevin Landers, p'86, lives in Sioux City,

Iowa, where he's a pharmacist at Mercy Medical Center.

Brian McClendon, e'86, left Uber in March as vice president of maps and business platform. He returned to Lawrence, where he's a research professor in electrical engineering and computer science at KU.

John Shoemake, b'86, is a national accounts officer at Travelers Insurance. He lives in Canton, Michigan.

87 Jean Casagrande, b'87, is a financial adviser and owns Stability Partners, an insurance and investment management firm in Spring, Texas.

Timothy Lies, c'87, a'87, g'92, is senior vice president of investment banking at Gates Capital Corporation in New York City.



88 Kemal Ataman, e'88, was promoted to general manager at KoopBank in Northern Cyprus. He has been with the financial institution for more than 25 years.

Michael Priddy, c'88, is founder and CEO of Priddy Learning Academy in Millburn, New Jersey, where he lives with **Fangjie Liu**, assoc., a master teacher at the school.

Daniel Wilson, m'88, is a physician at UCHHealth Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinic in Loveland, Colorado.

89 James Allen, e'89, is commanding officer of Joint Region Marianas in the U.S. Navy Reserves and first officer for United Airlines. He makes his home in Oak Harbor, Washington.

Loraine Brown Nolla, m'89, m'93, is a physician at Lake Regional Obstetrics and Gynecology in Osage Beach, Missouri.

Joel Rhodes, d'89, wrote *Growing Up in a Land Called Honalee: The Sixties in the Lives of American Children*, which was published this year by University of Missouri Press. He's a professor of

history at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

David Wineinger, m'89, is a physician at Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

91 Robb Kirkman, c'91, manages enterprise services at Metro in Portland, Oregon. He lives in Beaverton with his wife, Sambo, and their four children.

Theresa Pettersch Larsen, b'91, is advancement coordinator at Bellevue Christian School in Washington.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Newton's job is sports, but his passion is for theatre

Bob Newton, who in March completed his 33rd year as producer/engineer for the Jayhawk Radio Network, cherishes his courtside and press-box perches at KU games, but he's otherwise not a sports fan. His boyhood interests were in "buttons, knobs and dials," along with speech and theatre, and that has not changed.

"While other guys were doing sports," he says, "I was doing that kind of stuff."

Newton, j'70, left Tulsa, Oklahoma, to study broadcast journalism on Mount Oread. When he sat at the console for his first DJ stint at KUOK, predecessor to KJHK, he knew he'd discovered his niche.

"I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," he says. "It was absolutely perfect."

While serving in leadership roles at KUOK and in Army ROTC, Newton worked part time at KLWN. In 1971, after a year of graduate school, he worked for a few months as program director before reporting to active duty in the Army.

With all-but-certain deployment to Vietnam as a signal corps officer avoided by his grad-school year, Newton spent two years as chief of public information at a three-star general's Frankfurt, Germany, headquarters, before returning to Lawrence and KLWN.

"My brother-in-law said, 'That's a pipe dream, Bob. You're not going to find a job in a town you like where you're five minutes from work. That doesn't exist. That's a fairy tale.' Well, I did it."

As operations manager and station manager at KLWN and KLZR, Newton embraced his visible role in the community, serving more than a dozen charitable and professional groups. When he was asked in 1984 to join the new Jayhawk Radio Network, Newton made room in his hectic schedule for one of the few activities he'd never had much interest in: sports.

"I worked 50 hours a week at the station, so that was a moonlighting job for me. I look back and I don't know how I did it."

With announcers Bob Davis and Max Falkenstien, c'47, now retired, Newton is the last remaining member of the network's original trio.

"The famed 'Bob and Max' duo deserved every accolade they received," says announcer Brian Hanni, j'02, "but it really should have been 'Bob, Bob and Max.'"

Newton in 2001 switched to part time



Along with fun travel and great seats at games, "I get to play with real radio toys," Bob Newton says of his Jayhawk Network perks. "There's worse ways to make a living."

at KLWN and left for good in 2006. Along with his continuing role for the Jayhawk IMG Sports Network, Newton advises KJHK on technical issues, works as an emergency management duty officer and serves Theatre Lawrence as a board member and sound designer.

He can't audition for school-year productions, but Newton is proud to have won roles in 12 consecutive summer musicals. As with his Jayhawk Network gig, he has no plans to cut back on his "intense amount of volunteer work" at Theatre Lawrence.

"No way. It's too much fun."

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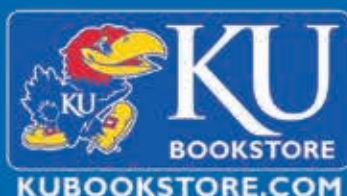
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Elizabeth Begue Spaulding, m'91, is a physician at Mary Free Bed Medical Group in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sherry Fugitt Sullivan, b'91, makes her home in Nixa, Missouri, where she co-owns Your Exec Brand.

Andrew Wilson, c'91, is a network design professional at AT&T in Nashville, Tennessee, where he lives with **Jean Carter Wilson**, f'92.

93 Stephen Bahr, l'93, is an attorney and shareholder at Polsinelli in Kansas City, where his focus is wealth planning and estate administration. He resides in Leawood.

Lane Czaplinski, c'93, directs performing arts at the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University in Columbus.

Barb Pranger Park, d'93, lives in Davenport, Iowa, where she is a physical therapist and owns Back 2 Action Physical Therapy.

Hale Sheppard, j'93, l'98, g'99, is a tax attorney and shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta. He recently was

named a 2017 Georgia Super Lawyer.

94 Renee Wessel Jaenicke, b'94, g'95, is director of internal audit and compliance for Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System in Salinas, California, where she makes her home.

Joshua Zive, c'94, '98, is an attorney and senior principal at Bracewell in Washington, D.C. He resides in Bowie, Maryland.

95 Hope Edmonds, c'95, m'99, is a physician at UCHealth Urgent Care in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Jeanne LaMotte Finger, g'95, is a senior engineer for the City of Spokane, Washington, where she lives with her husband, Steven, and their four children.

96 John Blair, c'96, is deputy secretary of state of New Mexico. He and his husband, William Black, live in Santa Fe.

Robert Rodriguez, g'96, PhD'06, earned tenure and promotion to associate professor of political science at Texas A&M University in Commerce.

97 Carly Hayden Foster, c'97, g'99, PhD'06, makes her home in Decorah, Iowa, where she's associate professor of political science at Luther College.

Kristie Remster Orme, l'97, is an attorney and president of McDowell, Rice, Smith & Buchanan in Kansas City. She's the first woman to lead the law firm.

98 Jeffrey Allen, e'98, g'03, leads the construction and design-build group at Burns & McDonnell in Houston, where he recently was promoted to vice president.

Stephen Bush, PhD'98, is senior scientist in the connectivity lab at General Electric Global Research Center in Niskayuna, New York.

Tom Carignan, c'98, is vice president of EFL Associates, a CBIZ company in Kansas City.

Brandee Caswell, l'98, was recently named a 2017 Top Litigator by Law Week Colorado. She's partner at Faegre Baker Daniels in Denver, where she leads the

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firm's real-estate litigation practice. Brandee makes her home in Arvada.

Blake Flickner, b'98, head coach of men's basketball at Dallas Baptist University, in March was named Heartland Conference Coach of the Year.

Elena Macaluso, g'98, resides in Sacramento, where she's an education and outreach specialist for the State of California.

James McClinton, g'98, directs housing resources for the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. He lives in Lewisville, Texas.

Roseanne Olmstead, m'98, is a gynecologist and obstetrician at Labette Health in Parsons, where she makes her home.

99 Malik Aziz, c'99, is an actor, writer, producer and director in Los Angeles. He was associate producer on ESPN's 30 for 30 film "Trojan War."

Seth Baker, c'99, is a development officer at Crittenton Children's Center in Kansas City. He lives in Overland Park.

Thomas Buller, c'99, is the horticultural

agent for the Douglas County K-State Research and Extension. He also owns Buller Family Farm in Lawrence, where he makes his home.

00 Kristi Hook DiVietro, s'00, is an administrative assistant at Faith Baptist Church in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, where she lives with her husband, Joseph, and their daughters, Kennedy, 8, and Jaclyn, 4.

Aaron Thomas, c'00, is a television writer and producer. He directed "Trojan War," an ESPN 30 for 30 film.

01 Michael Walters Young, c'01, g'03, is budget and analytics manager for the City of Franklin, Tennessee. He and his wife, **Laine**, assoc., make their home in Nashville.

MARRIED

Mark Frutiger, b'01, to Katie Pierce, Oct. 22 in Kansas City. He's an account manager at KeyBank.

02 Rich Federico, l'02, is a staff attorney for the Kansas Federal Public Defender in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence.

Elizabeth Powers, c'02, '04, is assistant controller at Dimensional Innovations in Shawnee. She resides in Leawood.

Brandee Smith Stephens, j'02, directs corporate affairs at CVR Energy in Sugar Land, Texas, where she makes her home.

Ariel Strichartz, PhD'02, is associate professor of Spanish at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Bryan Sullivan, d'02, directs operations at Spectrum Medical X-Ray Company. He and **Lindsay**, assoc., live in Culver City, California, with their son, Weston, who just turned 1.

03 Katherine Hollar Barnard, j'03, g'06, lives in Fairway, where she's CEO of Firesign, a legal marketing firm.

Aimee Pearce Bastian, c'03, is international human resources manager at Daktronics. She and her husband, Clay, live in Volga, South Dakota, with their daughters, Taylor, 7, and Reese, 4.

Tyler Epp, l'03, in March was named an inaugural distinguished member of the Sport Management Professional Society by KU's department of health, sport and exercise sciences. He's vice president of business development for the Kansas City Chiefs.

David Guernsey, c'03, m'07, a physician and president of the Ashley Clinic in Chanute, was a finalist for the 2017 Ad Astra Volunteer Faculty Award.

Christine Keller, PhD'03, is executive director of the Association for Institutional Research in Tallahassee, Florida.

Susan Shumaker Klusmeier, g'03, directs strategic initiatives for undergraduate studies at KU. She lives in Overland Park.

Jabari Wamble, d'03, l'06, is an assistant U.S. attorney in Kansas City.

04 Debra Detwiler Brubaker, DMA'04, is professor of music at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. She also founded and directs the college's Women's World Music Choir.

Chris Colyer, b'04, l'09, lives in

Phoenix, where he was promoted to partner at Snell & Wilmer.

Mark DuPree, c'04, is district attorney of Wyandotte County. He and his wife, Shanelle, have four children and live in Kansas City.

Jared Fenske, s'04, is CEO of Cooperative Grain and Supply in Hillsboro.

Lindsey Morse Heinz, c'04, l'09, is an

attorney and partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City. She makes her home in Leawood.

Jenny Schierbaum Hohman, c'04, directs life marketing at Advisors Excel in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence, where she lives with **Jason**, d'00, g'04.

Nicholas Hunt, e'04, '09, is a structural project engineer at HNTB in Kansas City. He and **Jamie Murphy Hunt**, g'06, PhD'09,

who directs programs at University of Missouri-Kansas City, live in Leawood with their two sons, Mason, 4, and Cooper, who's nearly 3.

Novotny Lawrence, PhD'04, co-edited *Beyond Blaxploitation*, which was published in November by Wayne State University Press. He's an associate professor of radio, television and digital media at Southern Illinois

PROFILE by John Watson

Artist's career arcs from 'one old bird to another'

Even before kindergarten, cartoonist Dan Martin was drawn to his craft. Now, 37 years into his career, he carries on the 116-year legacy of a cartoon he admired since he was 5, the beloved St. Louis Post-Dispatch Weatherbird.

The postage-stamp-sized cartoon has appeared on the paper's front page every day since Harry Martin (no relation) drew the bundled-up bird, cigar in beak, on a snowy day in 1901. Dan Martin is the sixth artist and, coincidentally, the third with the surname to pen the St. Louis staple. The Weatherbird, now in color and smoke free, comments on current events and is the oldest continually running daily cartoon in American journalism.

"I love cartoons and St. Louis history," Martin says, "so I still feel honored to create the historic magpie every day, knowing generations and generations of St. Louisans have enjoyed him for over 100 years."

Honored as a 2016 Media Person of the Year by the St. Louis Press Club, the cartoonist and designer humbly joined an exclusive group of distinguished St. Louis media. Previous honorees "who make more money" than he, Martin

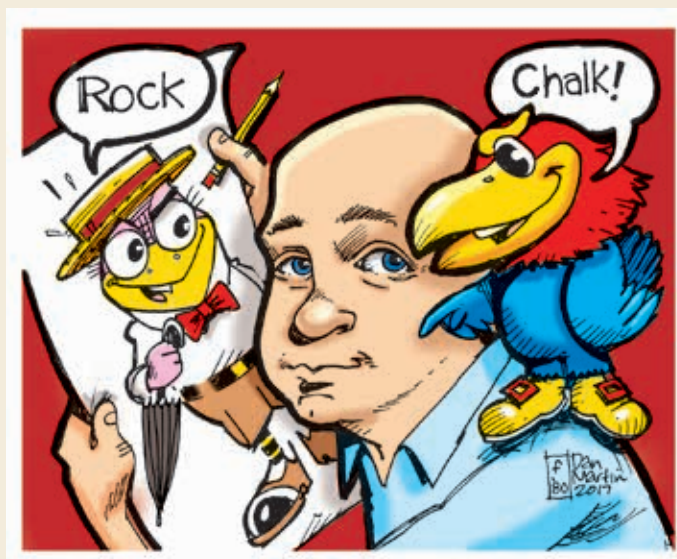
jokes, include Joseph Pulitzer Jr., Bob Costas and Joe Buck.

After his KU graduation, Martin, f'80, returned to St. Louis, where his experience drawing Jayhawks as a University Daily Kansan cartoonist proved relevant. Under the wing of his Post-Dispatch predecessor, Al Schweitzer, Martin learned to illustrate another yellow-beaked mythical mascot.

"I've only been accused by my Mizzou friends that I've been making the bird look too much like a Jayhawk," Martin says. He assures Tigers that any resemblance is unintentional.

Shadowing Schweitzer, Martin struggled for two or three years to find a proper rhythm. "It's something that slowly evolves and you figure out, 'Well, that works, I'll keep on doing that; that doesn't work, I'll quit doing that,'" Martin says. "Then, gradually your own personality grows into the cartoon."

Martin's book, *The Story of the First 100 Years of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



Dan Martin parlayed his student experience drawing the Jayhawk into a job illustrating the St. Louis Post Weatherbird.



Weatherbird, illustrates this point. Each bird's style reflects the personalities of the half-dozen creators. Martin says the bird has become his alter ego, an outlet to express his own attitude each day.

He credits his success to friends and journalism professors like Susanne Shaw, d'61, g'67. Impressed with his abilities and character, Shaw selected him for a William Allen White School of Journalism scholarship named for Henry Maloy, c'1914, the student cartoonist who hatched the Jayhawk in 1912.

"At the time I was eating Pop-Tarts for dinner, and it was the nicest moment I had at KU," Martin says. "In a way, about 80 years later, one bird artist was benefiting another."

—Watson is a Lawrence freelance writer.

Class Notes

University in Carbondale.

Aaron Robbins, c'04, g'06, lives in San Diego, where he directs operations at Client Solution Architects.

BORN TO:

Tyler, h'04, and **Sarah Wolak Whetstine**, j'03, son, Elijah, March 1 in Lenexa, where he joins two brothers, Samuel, 5, and Abraham, 2. Tyler and Sarah work at Cerner.

05 David Dillner, g'05, is city manager of El Dorado.

Erica Staples Fisher, c'05, won the 2017 National Academic Advising Association Region 7 Certificate of Merit for excellence in advising. She's an academic adviser in the department of teacher education at Fort Hays State University.

BORN TO:

Scott, d'05, and **Sarah Phillips Aligo**, g'11, son, Vincent, Oct. 25 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he joins a sister, Giuliana, 4. Sarah directs development at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, and Scott is executive director of player personnel for the football program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

06 Hissan Anis, e'06, l'09, was promoted to partner at Lathrop & Gage in Overland Park, where he makes his home.

Jeffrey Gettler, l'06, is a district court judge in Coffeyville. He and his wife, Joslyn Kusiak, live in Independence.

Justin Henry, EdD'06, was elected president of the Kansas School Superintendents' Association. He's superintendent of Goddard public schools.

Lauren Lombard, c'06, is director and founder of MENA Consultants in Washington, D.C.

07 Adam Sechrist, '07, lives in New York City, where he's senior booking producer for CBSN.

Ryan Showalter, b'07, g'15, is a solutions support manager at Balance Innovations in Lenexa. He and his wife, Erin, live in Gardner with their daughter, Zoe, who's nearly 1.



Bryn Maughmer Stewart, c'07, manages gifts-in-kind at Vitamin Angels. She makes her home in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

08 Yahya Alayafi, g'08, PhD'15, lives in Saudi Arabia, where he's an assistant professor at King Saud University.

Sarah Lynn Baltzell, l'08, was promoted to partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

Kate O'Hara Gasper, l'08, is an attorney and partner at Lathrop & Gage in Kansas City. She lives in Prairie Village.

Charles Gordon, b'08, is defensive quality control assistant for the Denver Broncos.

Melissa Johnson, d'08, who teaches

second grade at Whittier Elementary School in Kansas City, was named to the Lawrence school board in March.

Kristin Lambert Jones, c'08, lives in McKinney, Texas, where she directs resource development for United Way of Denton County.

Lance Mall, b'08, g'09, is an audit senior manager at Deloitte. He makes his home in Carmel, Indiana.

Andrea Porter, c'08, lives in Los Angeles, where she's an actor and producer at Pygmy Wolf Productions.

Kamille Ratzlaff, c'08, '09, is a nurse in the infectious disease ward at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She also coaches the mascots at KU, where she was Baby Jay for several years.

Patricia Simons, c'08, is an attorney at Kurowska Shultz in O'Fallon, Illinois. She resides in St. Louis.



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Darla Slipke, j'08, is an enterprise reporter at The Oklahoman in Oklahoma City.

MARRIED

Amber Kollman, j'08, to Jeffrey King, Dec. 3 in Denver, where they make their home. She directs U.S. marketing at the Colorado Tourism Office.

BORN TO:

Laura Albert Wilons, d'08, g'10, and her husband, Larry, son, Max, March 21 in Memphis.

09 Cheryl Bornheimer, e'09, g'12, is a project engineer at Shafer, Kline & Warren in Lenexa. She makes her home in Olathe.

Mallory Brito, b'09, is a customer relationship management insights specialist at Neiman Marcus in Dallas.

Michael Crabb, l'09, is an attorney and shareholder at Kuckelman Torline

Kirkland in Overland Park, where he resides.

Sam Davis, c'09, g'11, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he's a site acquisition specialist at Black & Veatch.

Jennifer O'Neal Gracheck, b'09, is vice president of marketing and sales at FEMO Group. She makes her home in Dallas.

Amanda Hessler, j'09, is a graphic designer at Lockton in Kansas City. She lives in Prairie Village.

Megan Kopff, b'09, makes her home in Bloomington, Illinois, where she's a staff auditor at Nestle.

Megan Mackey, d'09, senior manager of corporate partnerships for the Kansas City Royals, in March was named an inaugural distinguished member of the Sport Management Professional Society by KU's department of health, sport and exercise sciences.

Morgan Brunelli Parkinson, c'09, makes her home in Chicago, where she's a school counselor at Loyola Academy.

Devin Ross, l'09, is an attorney at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City, where he recently was promoted to partner.

Megan Turner, f'09, works at Dimensional Innovations in Shawnee. She makes her home in Olathe.

10 Michelle Goldstein Anderson, b'10, g'12, works at Grant Thornton, where she's a tax manager. She and **Tyler**, b'10, a financial adviser at Renaissance Financial, live in Overland Park.

Jacob Aspinwall, '10, is associate





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product manager at Service Management Group in Kansas City. He resides in Prairie Village.

Christina Stephenson Hopkins, c'10, coordinates clinical research at the University of Kansas Cancer Center in Westwood.

Jessica Sain-Baird, c'10, j'10, manages print and digital media at the Central Park Conservancy in New York City.

MARRIED

Kelsey Reed, c'10, d'10, to Jamie

Busch, Oct. 15 in Basehor. She's a librarian at the Ike Skelton Combined Arms Research Library at Fort Leavenworth.

Benjamin Wickman, b'10, and **Emily Williams**, j'11, Oct. 24 in Dallas, where they make their home.

BORN TO:

Angelo, b'10, e'10, g'11, and **Lindsey Fisher Tiberti**, PharmD'12, son, Jay, Feb. 27 in Las Vegas, where he joins a sister, Sutton, who's nearly 2. Angelo is a

project engineer at RCI Engineering.

11 Jacob Anderson, c'11, is a dentist in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Tiffany, live in Elgin, Oklahoma.

Eric Degenhardt, b'11, g'17, is a housing community development specialist at the Federal Home Loan Bank in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence, where he lives with **Shelly Pearse Degenhardt**, c'12.

Dagoberto Heredia, c'11, will participate in a two-year postdoctoral fellowship

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Visual effects producer helps create movie magic

As a member of the visual effects team on Disney's blockbuster film "The Jungle Book," Barry St. John had one goal: "Hit the wall—and scale it."

Shot entirely on a bluescreen stage in Los Angeles, the 2016 film featured only one live-action actor—13-year-old Neel Sethi in the role of Mowgli—and used computer-generated visual effects to create the animal characters and jungle setting. Essentially one sustained visual effect built around a single live-action performance, "The Jungle Book" won an Academy Award for best visual effects and was hailed for redefining what's possible in computer-generated filmmaking.

"From the get-go, our expectations were to reach up and try to make the best visual effects film ever," says St. John, c'04, visual effects associate producer on the project. "After all the time and effort, I think everyone would have been disappointed if we didn't win the Oscar."

Looking for a new challenge after years as a lighting designer at Fox News, St. John landed gigs as a visual effects coordinator on "Men In Black 3" and "The Great Gatsby" in 2013 and as a visual effects lead coordinator on "Furious 7" in 2015.

A visual effect is "any artistry added to a

shot within the computer," St. John explains. An explosion filmed during the shoot by a camera is a special effect; an explosion created digitally and added after the shot is a visual effect. VFX elements range from a simple "skin fix"—removing a blemish from an actor's face—to digitally animated characters in a fully digital environment.

"Every film now has visual effects in it, even the little love stories," St. John says.

His experience with lighting and with managing large crews prepared him for the job. On "The Jungle Book," he managed a 1,000-member visual effects team, including 500 animators, who transformed the action shot on a soundstage into a believable romp through the Indian jungle. Like any complex project—building a skyscraper, say, or manufacturing a jumbo jet—making a VFX-dominated film required lots of supply chain and workflow management and a good deal of technical savvy, as St. John coordinated work from craftsmen across multiple time zones in London and New Zealand under intense time and budget constraints.

"The hard part here, though," St. John



COURTESY BARRY ST. JOHN

"People like me will never be onstage getting awards, and that's A-OK," says Barry St. John of the Oscar-winning video effects team for "The Jungle Book." "There's still a lot of gratification in helping this thing come to fruition."

says, "is it's a creative process, so there's no one way to get there. For me, the creative part is trying to find solutions for artists and animators and still let them have their creative thumbprint on whichever way we're getting there."

Now working on a new talking-animal film for Disney with the same director and effects team that made "The Jungle Book," St. John is again looking to scale a very high wall, one he helped build himself.

"The goal is to set the bar higher and one-up ourselves," he says. "Our only goal is to be the best."

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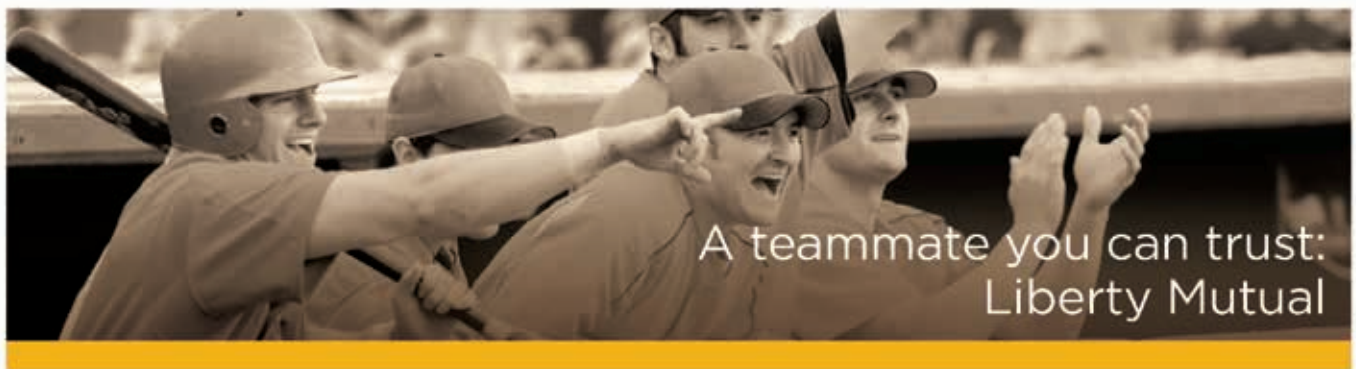


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program in clinical health psychology at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education.

Corbin Kline, e'11, is an operational planning service coordinator at Schlumberger in Sugar Land, Texas. He resides in Houston.

Raymond Lee III, g'11, directs the department of public works in Amarillo, Texas.

Kendall Roper, d'11, teaches at Shawnee Heights High School in Topeka. He's married to **Brittany Belford Roper**, c'11, a teacher at Olathe North High School. They commute from Lawrence.

Sarah Kelly Shannon, j'11, is a content marketer at Legend Senior Living in Wichita, where she and **George**, d'09, '10, make their home.

MARRIED

Kyle Johnson, g'11, and **Bethany Woelmer**, '17, Jan. 7 in Topeka, where they live. He teaches at Seaman High School, and she is pursuing a master's degree in church music at KU.

12 Bryan Beaver, m'12, is system medical director for Iredell County Emergency Medical Service in Statesville, North Carolina.

Allison Manning, j'12, coordinates marketing for the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka.

Toni O'Brian, c'12, '13, is team lead at Resources of Human Development in Kansas City. She makes her home in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Jonathan Shorman, j'12, is the state-house reporter at the Wichita Eagle.

MARRIED

Aaron Karlin, e'12, to Victoria Arnett, Jan. 14 in Lawrence. They live in Baldwin City, where he manages projects for Pfizer.

13 John Coler, b'13, lives in Fairway, where he manages quality assurance at RFP365, a startup company in Kansas City.

Thomas Mabry, c'13, is an insurance broker at Weiss Insurance Agency

in Swansea, Illinois.

Tejinder Sodhi, g'13, heads the Bureau of Republic TV in Jammu, India.

Jessica Latour Stack, g'13, manages projects at PV Design in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

14 Meredith Chait, c'14, j'14, lives in Chicago, where she's a media liaison at Starcom Worldwide.

Troy Dargin, g'14, g'16, PhD'17, is assistant professor at Yeshiva University in New York City, where he makes his home.

Matthew Huntsman, l'14, is shareholder and corporate secretary at Bukaty, Aubry & Huntsman in Overland Park.

Jenna Jakowatz, j'14, is a social media specialist at Ford Motor Company. She makes her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Allison Raymond, j'14, coordinates social media for the Cleveland Browns football team. She lives in Lakewood, Ohio.

Hilary Richardson, c'14, is a development specialist at the American Academy of Family Physicians in Leawood. She and

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her husband, Anthony Ceman, make their home in Roeland Park.

Joseph Rogers, PharmD'14, makes his home in Houston, where he's director of specialty pharmacy at Memorial Hermann Health System.

Daniel Sjursen, g'14, is a U.S. Army strategist. He wrote *Ghost Riders of Baghdad: Soldiers, Civilians, and the Myth of the Surge*, which was published in 2015 by University Press of New England.

Bradley Smith, l'14, is deputy district attorney in Mesa County, Colorado, and serves as lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. He recently was recalled to active duty to direct anti-terrorism for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Kenneth Titus, l'14, is chief counsel for the Kansas Department of Agriculture in Manhattan. He lives in Wamego.

15 Ashley Benson, c'15, lives in Oklahoma City, where she's an account and budget representative at the University of Oklahoma.

Ashley Booker, j'15, is a communication associate at the Kansas Health Foundation in Wichita, where she lives.

Nicole Burkhart, u'15, makes her home in Lawrence, where she's head teller at Central National Bank.

Kaitlin Hermes, b'15, is a business planner at SpartanNash in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She resides in Ada.

Terilyn Johnston Huntington, g'15, g'16, PhD'17, is assistant professor of political science at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where she lives with her husband, Paul, and their sons, Bennett, 5, and Declan, 2.

Tyler Riedel, d'15, in January received the 2017 Kansas Horizon Award, which honors outstanding first-year educators. He teaches at Washburn Rural Middle School in Topeka.

Kathryn Schmidt, e'15, lives in Kansas City, where she's a consultant at Cerner.

16 Kayla Anderson, g'16, lives in Washington, D.C., where she manages the Institute on Philanthropy and



Voluntary Service at the Fund for American Studies.

Kurt Carlson, e'16, is a design engineer at Hammerhead Trenchless in Lake Mills, Wisconsin. He lives in Madison.

Alyssa Dreis, '16, manages Singalila Gallery in Libertyville, Illinois, where she makes her home.

Andrew Gaughan, d'16, is an inside-sales adviser at Spring Venture Group in Kansas City. He commutes from Lawrence.

Joshua Grillo, g'16, lives in Piedmont, Oklahoma, where he's a bodily injury and litigation claims specialist at Farmers Insurance.

Hilda Smith, g'16, is a certified psychiatric nurse practitioner at Deming Behavioral Health Center in New Mexico.

17 Jennifer Friess, g'17, is assistant curator of photography at the University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor.

Troy Greisen, c'17, is president and CEO of Ability Connection Texas in Dallas.

Amber Lessor, g'17, is a behavior analyst at Summit Behavioral Services in Kansas City, where she resides.

Sarah Ostyn, g'17, is site coordinator at Greater Kansas City LINC. She lives in Kansas City with her partner, Bezil Taylor, and their son, Jrue, who's nearly 5.

Ashley Rosenbaum, g'17, is a staff accountant at Myers and Stauffer in Topeka, where she lives with **Kris**, '02.

Lauren Russell, b'17, makes her home in Kansas City, where she's a compliance specialist at Cerner.

Beth Wheeler, PhD'17, teaches music education at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she lives with her husband, Seth, and their three children.

ASSOCIATES

Patricia McCormick, assoc., lives in Lawrence, where she's a TV producer and public relations and media consultant.

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In Memory

30s **Leota "Lee" Wagner Klingberg, c'34**, 103, Feb. 16 in Carbondale, Illinois, where she was a volunteer in her community. A daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

John Stewart, c'38, l'40, 100, July 21, 2016, in Johns Island, South Carolina. He had a longtime career with American Express. Surviving are his wife, Hannah, two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

40s **Charles Cotton, c'47**, 93, March 8 in Wichita, where he was an attorney. He is survived by his wife, Marcella; a son, Casey, c'90; a daughter; and three grandsons.

Ruth Craig, b'49, 90, Nov. 25 in Corvallis, Oregon, where she was a market researcher at Procter & Gamble. A brother survives.

Neil Ferry, e'42, 97, Feb. 19 in San Angelo, Texas. He was a senior process engineer at the Ralph N. Parsons Company. Surviving are his wife, Terry, a son, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Ford, e'49, 93, Jan. 24 in Folsom, California, where he worked for the California Department of Transportation as a chemical engineer. Surviving are his wife, Irene, assoc.; a son; two daughters; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

William Goss, c'49, l'52, 89, Feb. 14 in El Paso, Texas, where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Maria; two sons, Michael, c'73, and Patrick, c'77; a daughter; a brother, Jerome, c'57; and three granddaughters.

Polly Roberts Lowe, c'44, 94, Feb. 14 in Hutchinson, where she taught high-school English. Surviving are a daughter, Judy Anderson Ontjes, c'67; a stepson; two stepdaughters; two grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Victor McDonald Jr., c'47, m'50, 95, Feb. 3 in Granbury, Texas, where he was a pediatric surgeon and emergency-room

physician. He is survived by his wife, Ila, assoc.; two sons; a daughter; a brother; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Martha Denious Muncy, c'41, 97, Jan. 27 in Wichita. She was publisher of the Dodge City Daily Globe from 1973 to 1988. Two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren survive.

Sibio Naccarato, e'48, 96, Feb. 17 in St. Louis. He served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and was a surety bond manager for several companies. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include two daughters, Patricia Naccarato Sewell, c'67, and Joy Naccarato Darrah, c'71, m'74; a brother; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Ruth Green Saffell, e'46, 93, Oct. 7 in Garden City. She worked at Boeing and was a 50-year member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Surviving are three daughters, two of whom are Linda Saffell Kraus, d'71, and Cynthia Saffell Lightner, '72; two sons, Thomas, '71, and Kirk, c'85; a sister; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lowell Wilder, m'45, 97, Feb. 23 in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was a physician and started the first hospital in Falfurrias, Texas. A son, two daughters, 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren survive.

50s **Earle Alexander, a'54**, 86, Feb. 11 in Houston, where he was an architect and partner at Pierce Goodwin Alexander & Linville. Surviving are his wife, Nancy Gilchrist Alexander, d'54; a daughter, Kyle Alexander Sontheimer, f'78; a son; and three grandchildren.

Rodney Applegate, e'55, 83, Feb. 5 in Kansas City, where he worked in the natural-gas industry. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; three sons; two brothers, Francis Jr., c'51, m'55, and Alan, '62; two grandsons; and several grandchildren.

John "Jack" Barley, f'54, 86, Nov. 25 in Washington, where he worked for the State of Kansas as a social worker. Survi-

vors include his wife, Jenne; two sons, a sister, two grandsons and a great-granddaughter.

Kenneth Beardsley, b'55, 83, Feb. 8 in Overland Park, where he retired after a 35-year career as branch sales manager and regional director at Harcros Chemical Company. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Hininger Beardsley, c'55, d'67; two daughters, one of whom is Allyson Beardsley DiNitto, c'84, d'85, g'90; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

George Blackburn, c'58, m'65, 81, Feb. 20 in Boston, where he was a surgeon and professor at Harvard Medical School. Surviving are his wife, Susan Kelly; two sons, one of whom is David, c'86; two daughters; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Elizabeth Jane Brookhart, c'59, 83, March 18 in Stow, Ohio. She was an editor and retired from the Nielsen Company in New York City. A brother, Jack, c'66, and a sister, Barbara, '70, survive.

Jacqueline Joan "Jody" Bingaman Brown, c'53, 85, Feb. 11 in Sedalia, Missouri, where she co-owned Web & Sons Inc. Her husband, Morris, three daughters, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

John Brown, c'55, 84, Jan. 17 in Kansas City, where he had a longtime career as a bond manager. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Sleight Brown, d'70, g'73; a son, John Jr., c'89, p'93; a daughter; a brother, Robert, c'59, m'63; and a grandchild.

Donald Brunton, b'52, 85, Jan. 21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he was retired chief financial officer for the Maloof Companies. He is survived by his wife, Lois, assoc.; two daughters; a son; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Shirley Kubik Deterding, d'57, 82, Feb. 19 in Hutchinson, where she was a homemaker and chairman emerita for Citizens Bank of Kansas. Survivors include two daughters, Amy Deterding Keeny, b'86, and Jane, l'90; and four grandchildren.

Don Fillmore, b'58, 80, Dec. 18 in Belle Plaine, where he and his wife owned M&M Market. Surviving are his wife, Darlene; a daughter; two sons; a brother,

Delbert, b'54; a sister; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Frank Gibson, d'58, 82, March 12 in Naples, Florida, where he was a retired high-school teacher and football coach. His wife, Margaret, two daughters, a son, three sisters, six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive.

Ivan Henman, e'56, 83, March 13 in Hays, where he was retired vice president of engineering and projects at Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Surviving are a daughter, Jacqueline, c'83; a son; a stepdaughter; a stepson; a sister; a brother; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Bill Hougland, b'52, 86, March 6 in Lawrence, where he played basketball for KU and was a member of the 1952 national championship team. He won two gold medals in the Olympics and was inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame and the Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006 and 2008, respectively. Before retirement, he was vice president of Koch Industries and president of Koch Oil. He led the Alumni Association as national president from 1992 to '93 and received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for his service to KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Carolie, assoc.; three daughters, Nancy Hougland Simpson, d'74, Diane Hougland Ruder, d'79, and Janis Hougland Hartzler, c'77; two sons, William, '84, and Sam, c'87; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

William Larrabee, '55, 84, Feb. 16 in Liberal, where he owned Star Lumber Company. He is survived by his wife, Annette; two sons; a sister, Linda Larrabee Swafford, '63; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Frances Hanna Lenser, c'55, 83, Jan. 3 in Houston, where she was a longtime Girl Scouts volunteer. Surviving are her husband, Ronald, e'56, and two daughters.

James Long, c'52, m'55, 86, Nov. 27 in Missoula, Montana, where he was a general surgeon. He is survived by four sons; two daughters; a brother, Robert, c'49, m'53; a sister, Margaret Long Titus, n'57; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara Jane Megaffin, j'54, 84, March 12 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. She was a retail advertising manager for Nichols Hills Publishing Company. Three nephews and a niece survive.

J. Sam Moore Jr., b'52, 86, March 14 in El Paso, Texas, where he was an attorney. Surviving are a son and a granddaughter.

Alfred Morris, b'51, 93, Jan. 16 in Topeka, where he had a 35-year career managing the benefits office at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He is survived by a son, David, e'74, g'75; a daughter, Beth Anne Morris-Brown, b'76; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John Nelson, e'50, g'51, 93, Feb. 25 in Lindsborg. He had a 34-year career in management at the Marley Company in Kansas City. Survivors include a daughter, Julie, n'83; two sons; a stepdaughter; two stepsons; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and 11 step-great-grandchildren.

Donald Overend, g'52, m'54, 89, Feb. 11 in Springfield, Missouri, where he established the pediatric department at Smith Glynn Callaway. He later became a certified travel counselor. Surviving are his wife, Linda; a son, Robert, '83; three daughters; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert Parrish, b'50, 89, March 2 in Great Bend, where he owned Parrish Motors. He also served on the city council and was mayor of Great Bend from 1969 to 1975. Survivors include two daughters, Cheryl Parrish Bornkessel, d'73, '92, and Cynthia Parrish Viskocil, d'75; a son, Rob, b'79; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Virginia Frost Ruhl, j'50, 88, March 1 in Overland Park, where she worked for the Shawnee Mission school district. She is survived by two daughters, Constance, b'76, c'82, m'88, g'97, and Catherine, n'82; a son, John, e'78, g'88; two brothers; and two grandchildren.

Billie Loflin Scanlan, d'54, 84, Jan. 25 in Poway, California. She was a senior trainer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Shawn, d'79; and four grandchildren.

Robert Schaefer, l'56, 84, Aug. 15 in Cocoa Beach, Florida, where he was an attorney. Surviving are his wife, Sheryle Lee; four daughters, three of whom are Tina Schaefer Oros, b'84, Lisa Schaefer Haas, n'90, and Pamela Schaefer Fitzgerald, '93; two sons; and 17 grandchildren.

Edward Schroers, p'56, 83, Feb. 4 in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he was a retired pharmacist. Two sons, a daughter, five grandchildren and three great-grandsons survive.

Byron Strange, c'52, b'56, 89, Feb. 16 in Lake Forest Park, Washington. He owned several Pizza Hut franchises. A daughter, a sister, a brother, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive.

Elinor Joyce Cox Thornberry, f'54, 84, Jan. 4 in McKinney, Texas. She was an occupational therapist at the VA Medical Center in Houston for more than 40 years. Surviving are two daughters; a sister, Jean Cox Mitchell, f'53; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Norma Hunsinger Tucker, j'50, 88, Jan. 29 in Overland Park, where she was a retired reporter and real-estate broker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a daughter, Deborah Spencer, c'75, g'79; a son; a sister; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Richard Tucker, d'57, EdD'74, 81, Feb. 11 in Waukeg, Iowa. He worked for the Heartland Area Education Agency for nearly 25 years. Two daughters, a brother and six grandchildren survive.

Raymond Voskamp Jr., e'57, 84, Oct. 19 in Vista, California, where he was a retired engineer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Jacqueline, a daughter, two stepsons, three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Warren Weaver, '51, 86, Jan. 20 in Kansas City, where he was president of Commerce Bank. He also served on the advisory board for KU School of Business. Surviving are his wife, Constance; a daughter, Caroline Weaver Smart, c'81; and four grandchildren.

Warren Wulfekuhler, '53, 84, March 5 in Lake Kabekona, Minnesota, where he was a retired urologist. He is survived by

In Memory

his wife, Sarah; two sons; a daughter; a sister, Evelyn Wulfekuhler Hackney, c'51; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Barbara Bateman Wunsch, d'55, 83, Feb. 22 in Kingman, where she was a teacher and homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Robert, c'54, l'58; a daughter; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Dean Young, '50, 90, Feb. 12 in Dodge City, where he was president and chaired the board at First National Bank. He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter; two brothers, one of whom is Philip, b'49; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

60s Lew Borgendale, m'60, 87, Jan. 25 in Wamego, where he was a family physician for 46 years and also served as coroner of Pottawatomie County. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Jerry, '82; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Jane Breckenridge, c'65, 73, Dec. 14 in Star, Idaho. She had a longtime career in data technology. Survivors include her wife, Susan; a son; a daughter; two brothers, William Jr., c'63, and James, b'69; a stepdaughter; and six grandchildren.

Karen Barrett Caylor, b'63, 75, Feb. 11 in Overland Park. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Eugene, b'63; a daughter, Katherine Caylor Reid, '91; a son, Erik, e'95; two sisters, one of whom is Rita Barrett Abernethy, c'69, l'74; and three grandchildren.

Robert Terry Coomes, e'60, 79, Feb. 7 in Arlington, Texas, where he retired as chief of engineering for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth. His wife, Patsy, two daughters, a son and four grandchildren survive.

David Davin, c'69, 70, Feb. 8 in Lawrence, where he was a machinist. Surviving are his wife, Mai; a son; a daughter; a stepdaughter, Tien Hasanov, b'16; a stepson; a brother, Kenneth, b'73; and two grandchildren.

Patricia Ryan Elledge, h'61, 77, Feb. 20 in Oceanside, California, where she directed the Carlsbad Choraleers and was a member of the Oceanside Museum of

Art. She is survived by her husband, E. Fred, m'65; two sons; and two grandchildren.

John Gilbertson, b'69, 69, Feb. 5 in Kearney, Missouri. He worked for the Kansas City Police Department for three years and later retired from BNSF Railway. Surviving are four daughters; a son; two brothers, one of whom is Raymond, j'70; a sister; and 12 grandchildren.

Robert Hahn, d'61, 78, Nov. 1 in Salina, where he was a teacher and business owner. He is survived by two sisters, Jean Hahn Todd, d'58, and Marcia Hahn Anderson, d'63.

Edward Thomas Iverson, c'62, g'65, 77, Feb. 12 in Overland Park. He was a retired salesman and small-business owner. Surviving are a daughter, Lori Iverson Smith, b'93; a son, Scott, b'93; a brother; and two grandsons.

Dana States Kuiken, c'61, 77, Feb. 9 in Bellingham, Washington, where she taught eighth-grade at Whatcom Middle School. She is survived by her husband, Ben, p'61, m'66; three daughters; a son; and 11 grandchildren.

Mickey Myers, p'67, g'70, 73, Aug. 21, 2016, in Wichita. He was a pharmacist and owned Myers Family Center in Cedar Vale. Survivors include his wife, Kay, assoc.; two sons; a daughter; a brother; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Lani Nelson, d'63, 75, Jan. 6 in Prairie Village. Two brothers, one of whom is Peter, c'65, survive.

James Perry, e'60, 81, Jan. 22 in Kansas City, where he was a retired psychiatrist for the New York State Office of Mental Health. Surviving are his wife, Patricia Ellis Perry, d'57; a son; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

James Scholten, c'62, m'66, 76, Jan. 28 in Salina, where he had a longtime career in emergency medicine. He is survived by his wife, Betsy; a daughter; a son; a stepdaughter, Margy Poer Hogarty, '90; a stepson, Thomas Poer, e'93, g'08; two sisters, one of whom is Harriet Scholten Smith, '56; and 10 grandchildren.

Stephen Smith, p'68, 71, Jan. 28 in Hiawatha, where he was a pharmacist and owned Steve's Corner Drugs. Survivors

include his wife, Suzan; two sons; two daughters; a sister, Carol, d'72; a brother; and nine grandchildren.

George Sweet, g'62, PhD'65, 83, March 15 in Wichita, where he taught biology at Wichita State University for nearly 30 years. Surviving are his wife, Donna Roths Sweet, m'79; two sons, one of whom is Leighton, m'89; a daughter; a sister; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Clifford Tatham, c'60, g'71, 84, March 3 in Olathe. He taught psychology at several colleges before launching a career in market research and retiring as CEO of ETC Institute. He and his wife established the Olathe Public Library Foundation, and he also served on the library's board of directors. Survivors include his wife, Elaine Johnson Tatham, g'60, EdD'71; a daughter; a son; five grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Leon Torkelson, b'66, g'67, 73, Jan. 5 in Horton. He served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force for more than 20 years and later became a certified financial planner. Surviving are his wife, Glenda Sims Torkelson, g'67, '92; a daughter, Kari Torkelson Anderson, d'93, g'99; a son; and five grandchildren.

James Wright, c'60, 78, March 16 in Topeka, where he was an attorney and past president of the Topeka Bar Association. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Slider, '69; two daughters, Loraine Wright Turec, j'85, and Ashley Wright Friend, '98; a son, James, '89; two stepsons, Andrew Klotz, c'95, and Charlie Klotz, '98; two grandsons; and four step-grandchildren.

70s Gary Adams, b'73, 66, Feb. 18 in Vail, Colorado. He was chairman and president of Adams Affiliates Inc. Surviving are his wife, Melissa; five daughters, two of whom are Jamey, '99, and Julie Adams Fair, '07; a son; two brothers, Kenneth, c'72, and Stephen, j'01; two sisters, Stephanie Adams Walthall, c'75, and Lisa Adams Stinson, assoc.; and five grandchildren.

Geneva Cline, c'71, 68, Feb. 18 in Springfield, Missouri. She was a financial adviser and loan officer. Survivors include two sisters, one of whom is Maryellen

Cline Banks, c'76, d'78; and a brother.

Thomas Doyle, j'73, 67, March 3 in Mission Hills, where he was CEO of Nuvidia, a multimedia sales and services company in Overland Park. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his father; three brothers, James, b'78, g'80, Daniel, '85, and John, '86; and four sisters.

Christopher Haas, c'78, 60, Jan. 28 in Whitford, Pennsylvania. He was associate professor of ancient history and classics at Villanova University. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Eggleston Haas, d'78; two sons; and two brothers, one of whom is Robert, c'68.

Charleen Kaiser, p'77, 65, Feb. 19 in Wichita, where she was a pharmacist. A sister and a brother survive.

Michael Nelson, c'71, g'73, 67, March 4 in Mill Valley, California. He was vice president of finance at LucasArts Entertainment Company. Surviving are two daughters and two grandchildren.

John White, l'70, 71, Dec. 25 in Council Grove, where he was CEO and chairman of Farmers & Drovers Bank. He is survived by his wife, Marty, '94; a daughter, Julie White Hower, l'00; a son; and four grandchildren.

Gordon Willems, b'73, 66, Dec. 17 in Hutchinson. He worked at several credit unions throughout his career. Survivors include his wife, Judy; two daughters, one of whom is Angela Willems Koehn, n'00; his mother; a brother, Ray, '78; a sister; and a grandson.

Judith Leining Wilson, EdD'75, '00, 76, Jan. 25 in Weatherby Lake, Missouri. She had a longtime career in special education and was president of the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. She is survived by two stepsons, one of whom is Boyd Herrin, '91.

80s Elizabeth Dillon, n'88, g'94, 84, Jan. 24 in Kansas City, where she was professor of nursing at Johnson County Community College. Surviving are a daughter, Deborah Dillon Yeoman, c'93; a son; and three grandchildren.

Joan Buchman Watson, g'86, 85, Dec. 28 in Tecumseh. She directed community support services at a mental health center

in Leavenworth. Survivors include five sons, three of whom are Paul, '82, David, b'84, and James, b'89; two daughters, Donna Watson Laroux, c'82, and Margaret Watson King, '83; 17 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Marilyn White Weller, h'83, 56, Jan. 26 in Tonganoxie, where she had a 32-year career as a physical therapist in the Leavenworth school district. She is survived by her husband, Chris; three daughters, two of whom are Madison, '11, and Christy Weller Oxley, h'12, g'13; two sisters, one of whom is Joan White Murphy, '83; a brother; and four grandchildren.

90s Daniel Werner, j'92, 48, Jan. 27 in Topeka, where he was a funeral director. Survivors include his wife, Jennifer; three sons; two stepdaughters; two stepsons; his mother; and a brother, Michael, j'89.

00s Nancy Trillin Koppel, s'01, 63, Feb. 22 in Overland Park, where she was a social worker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Arlan; two sons, one of whom is David, '09; a sister, Carol Trillin Margolin, c'71; and a brother, Thomas, c'78.

10s Christopher Mentzel, c'10, 32, Feb. 7 in Overland Park. He is survived by his parents; two sisters, one of whom is Jordan, j'16; and a brother.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Jared Grantham, m'62, 80, Jan. 22 in Leawood, where he was distinguished professor emeritus of nephrology and director emeritus of the Kidney Institute at KU Medical Center. He also co-founded the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation and wrote several research publications. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Carol, '88; a daughter, Janeane Grantham Houchin, n'86; two sons, one of whom is James Aaron, c'87, m'91; a sister; 11 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Fernando "Ferd" Kirchner, m'60, 86, Jan. 4 in Tucson, Arizona, where he was a

retired surgeon and professor at KU School of Medicine. He is survived by two daughters, Laura Kirchner O'Malley, c'85, m'89, and Melissa Kirchner Bright, c'87; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Joan Swanson Scannell, g'75, '98, 85, March 13 in Lawrence. She was a program assistant in the department of chemistry for 16 years. She is survived by two sons, Jeffrey, b'77, and Steven, a'78, a'81; two daughters, Susan, d'78, g'93, '00, and Janet, '83; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Jennie "Jane" Mueller Byerley, assoc., 92, Feb. 1 in Wichita, where she was a brailist. Two daughters, a son, two sisters and five grandchildren survive.

Jane Gates, assoc., 89, Feb. 23 in Lawrence. Survivors include her husband, Earl, assoc.; a daughter, Toren Gates-Sidwell, c'82; and two sons, Mark, j'80, and Kent, c'85.

Rita Rosso Haugh, assoc., 96, March 15 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a daughter, Rita Haugh Oates, j'72, d'73; a son, Dan, e'78; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Katherine "Kay" Dunn Kallos, assoc., 92, Jan. 25 in Kansas City, where she worked for Jenkins Music Company. Her husband, Greg, c'57, survives.

Myron King, assoc., 93, Feb. 12 in Summerville, South Carolina, where he was a retired electrical engineer. He is survived by a daughter, Juanita King Sexton, '65; a son; a sister; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Hughes Lawton, assoc., 95, March 11 in Lawrence, where she was a 55-year member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include a son, Chad, '69; a daughter; a brother, John Hughes, c'57; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Schroers, assoc., 80, Oct. 7 in Loveland, Colorado, where she was a homemaker. Two sons, a daughter, four brothers, five grandchildren and three great-grandsons survive.

Rock Chalk Review



STEVE PUPPE

Flower power

Kindscher's book explores echinacea's long American story

Ethnobotanist Kelly Kindscher was still a graduate student, in the early stages of echinacea research that would span his KU career, when he sat down with tribal elder Alex Little Soldier on his first visit to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

As Kindscher began running through a dense list of questions about echinacea's traditional medicinal properties, Little Soldier stopped him and said, "Well, this is interesting, but, you understand it's not the plant that heals, it's the spirit."

Kindscher, c'79, PhD'92, persisted with his quest for detailed information about how Lakota used echinacea, while his patient teacher kept repeating: "It's not the plant that heals. It's the spirit."

"It was a funny moment, but also a teaching moment for me," Kindscher writes in *Echinacea: Herbal Medicine with a Wild History*, published by Springer. "Finally what he was saying about the healing process began to sink in."

Echinacea, known by gardeners as purple coneflower, is one of the most popular medicinal plants in the U.S. and Europe as a treatment for colds and flu. Native Americans across the Great Plains used it as a cure-all to treat toothaches, sore throats, coughs, upset stomach and even snakebite. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were so captivated by its popularity with the Indians they encountered that in 1805 they sent specimens and seeds to President Thomas Jefferson.

After catching on with patent medicine

Prairie botanist Kelly Kindscher, whose recent book focuses on the Great Plains perennial echinacea, says the University is encouraging more Kansas-related research and outreach than he's seen in his four decades. "That's a change," he says, "and I feel a lot of support for that."

purveyors in the late 19th century, echinacea's popularity grew in the early decades of the 20th century. Research at KU began in 1903, with publication of a paper by Lucius Sayre, KU's first pharmacy dean; herbarium director Ronald L. McGregor, c'41, g'47, PhD'54, in 1968 published what remains the guiding reference on echinacea's nine species and gathered what is still the world's largest echinacea collection.

Along with other alternative medicines, though, echinacea's fortunes plunged in the 1950s.

"It was an issue of control," says Kindscher, senior scientist at Kansas Biological Survey and professor of environmental studies. "The [American Medical Association] versus naturopaths. Herbal doctors versus MDs. Echinacea and most herbal products were pretty much run out of business in the U.S. That didn't happen in Europe and Asia, including Japan. Other modern countries looked at a more integrative form of health care, but in



Echinacea: Herbal Medicine with a Wild History
by Kelly Kindscher
Springer

the U.S., we were ripe for the industrial-scientific technology boom, which fit so much with our ideology.”

Interest in echinacea and other alternative options rose again in the 1990s, Kindscher says, among cancer patients searching for options after being told their disease was not curable. At the other end of the scale, with mundane ailments such as colds and joint pain, echinacea emerged as an alternative to the worrisome side effects of some modern medicines.

In his readable and entertaining book, intended for both popular and academic audiences, Kindscher and his collaborators examine a range of echinacea topics, including its history among Native Americans, cultivation, the challenging classification of its various species, market harvest in western Kansas, threats to wild populations, echinacea’s complex chemistry (“Part of the chemistry is still undiscovered,” Kindscher says, “which is kind of surprising”), and even the impact of media reports on sales.

Rachel Craft, PhD’17, one of Kindscher’s numerous KU collaborators, first came to his lab as a sociology graduate student. With previous data entry experience at Merck in St. Louis, Craft became a valued assistant on Kindscher’s native medicinal plants research program.

During her sociology research on Americans’ adoption of herbal products, Craft saw that echinacea sales dropped

after negative news stories, so Kindscher asked Craft to expand a marketing chapter into a larger look at media’s influence on echinacea.

“The research and history of the book,” Kindscher says, “has a Kansas and KU flavor.”

For Kindscher, a native of the high plains of western Kansas and Nebraska and a passionate advocate for people and plants of the Great Plains, echinacea’s story resonates for reasons deeper than its science and history. Yes, it is a valuable resource, but once it begins its late-May bloom, the true charms are revealed.

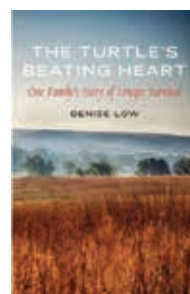
“You get in those wonderful limestone hills north of Hays and all of a sudden there’s a rock outcrop. There will be a beautiful patch of echinacea, and you just kind of go, yeah, it’s still there, and it’s still beautiful.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Survival tale

Poet’s memoir untangles difficult family history

During her two-year tenure as Kansas poet laureate, which began in 2007, Denise Low spent many hours driving around the state, delivering her message of poetry’s power as a tool for reflection



The Turtle's Beating Heart: One Family's Story of Lenape Survival

by Denise Low

University of Nebraska Press, \$24.95

and a mode of personal expression.

As she explains in her new memoir, *The Turtle's Beating Heart: One Family's Story of Lenape Survival*, she also found time on these trips to explore her own identity, visiting homesteads, towns, museums, graves and other sites that help her make sense of her tangled family history.

At the center of Low’s quest is her maternal grandfather, Frank Bruner Jr., a Delaware (Lenape) Indian who lived in a kind of limbo, “a Native man unmoored from reservation life yet not assimilated into another social order.” Subjected to discrimination and hounded by the Ku Klux Klan, Bruner moved his family from central Kansas to Kansas City, where they suppressed their Native ancestry so completely, Low confides, she didn’t realize her grandfather was Native until she was in her 40s.

Her grandfather was a kind, patient man who alone among her elders treated her not as “an inconsequential female who should learn charm and domestic skills,” but who honored her with important knowledge, often imparted over hands of cards. As she struggles to understand the family dynamics that puzzled her as a child—her mother’s emotional distance, her father’s dissatisfaction, her paternal grandparents’ domineering ways—she sees that much of the tension circles back to Frank Bruner’s heritage and the different



STEVE PUPPE

Former Kansas poet laureate Denise Low explores her family’s Delaware Indian heritage in a new memoir from University of Nebraska Press.

Rock Chalk Review

degrees to which the rest of her family accepted or rejected it. Her grandfather is the hub around which her family—and her own life—spins.

“Grandchildren meet their grandparents at the end, as fallen heroes, facing mortality,” writes Low, c’71, g’74, PhD’98. “We remember their decline and deaths.” She does not settle for this end-of-life story, “like a garden covered by snow, just outlines visible,” but instead digs deeper for a fuller, clearer, more comprehensive understanding of her history.

Like many of us, Low wishes she could speak to her grandparents again to “express appreciation for their gifts of life, courage, ethics, and hope.” She cannot, but *The Turtle’s Beating Heart* speaks for them all. Like the cigarettes and whiskey she carries to her grandfather’s grave on one of her Kansas journeys, her carefully crafted, bravely forthright memoir shines like a gift, a token, a message from one world to the next. Like poetry, memory is also a powerful tool. —

—Steven Hill

Passion project

Undergraduate realizes dream with publication of research

When people ask Jacob Chamberlin why he decided to study sport psychology, his response is simple. “It combines my two passions: sport and helping others,” he says, and quickly adds, “but a more important answer is that it brings me joy.”

The Wichita native, who graduated May 14 with a degree in psychology (emphasis in sport psychology) and a minor in business, has plenty to be happy about after capping his senior year with a rare feat: His research, which examined high school athletes and their perception of off-season training programs, was published in March in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning*.

Creating a motivational climate for athletes is a topic that’s near and dear to Chamberlin. His desire to understand



STEVE PUPPE

Jacob Chamberlin, who worked closely with Associate Professor Mary Fry to study motivational climates in off-season training programs, found his calling in research. “This is what I’ve been looking for,” he says.

off-season training techniques began when he ran cross-country in high school. “One thing I saw in off-season training programs was that not a lot of athletes were motivated to be there,” he says. “It was their summer; they were considering other things: ‘I want to sleep in, I want to go do something else.’ I was curious: What could coaches do to motivate their athletes to want to come and participate every day?”

Chamberlin found a way to explore that concept during his sophomore year at KU. He joined the McNair Scholars Program, which assists low-income, first-generation and underrepresented minority undergraduates who plan to pursue doctoral degrees by providing paid research opportunities, faculty mentors, tutoring and preparation for the GRE, the graduate school entry exam.

Chamberlin approached Mary Fry, associate professor and director of the KU sport and exercise psychology lab, whose research involves studying positivity in physical activity settings, to be his mentor. Fry guided Chamberlin through the research process, although she gave him the lead on the project.

“McNair students are encouraged to

come up with an idea they’re interested in, not just hook onto a lab and help out with a project,” Fry explains. “Jake has helped out with a lot of our graduate students’ projects, with data collection or data entry, but he really took this idea, turned it into a project and followed through.”

Chamberlin applied for a grant through the Center for Undergraduate Research and was awarded \$1,000 to fund his proposal. He surveyed 128 high school athletes from three schools in the Midwest and found that athletes who perceived a caring, task-involving climate, where success is measured by personal effort and improvement rather than inter-team rivalry, reported greater enjoyment, motivation and commitment to their sports.

Chamberlin plans to attend Miami University in Ohio to pursue a master’s degree in sport psychology. “I’d like to do academia,” he says. “I enjoy the research process and I like teaching. Being able to talk about my research kind of feels like a teaching moment, and I get pretty passionate when I talk about my research.” —

—Heather Biele

Small dangers, small mercies

A poet looks at 40

In *Romanian Notebook*, poet Cyrus Console pours into a slim travel journal carried on a visit to his wife's Eastern European homeland a litany of anxieties, self-doubts, obsessive thoughts and enervating fears of failure that creates an often bleak, occasionally transcendent glimpse of a man in midlife crisis.

Console, c'00, PhD'11, author of two books of poetry and a teacher at the Kansas City Art Institute, begins his trip on edge. His wife, Paula, is expecting their second child, and a 19-week ultrasound on the eve of their departure detects a bright spot on the baby's heart, an indicator of increased risk of Down syndrome. Uncertainty about the future casts a shadow over a journey already fraught with anxiety for Console, who speaks little Romanian—a singularity that magnifies his isolation and self-consciousness during a monthlong stay among in-laws.

Employing a collage technique that layers and juxtaposes seemingly random observations and scenes, Console builds an unconventional travelogue that's as much a tour of his troubled psyche (marred in adolescence and young adulthood by alcohol, drug abuse and depression) as a trip through the baffling social customs and Byzantine bureaucracy of a former socialist state. He bumbles through comically awkward encounters with his wife's family, obsesses over the



Romanian Notebook
by Cyrus Console
Farrar, Straus &
Giroux, \$14

'Phog' tells hoops history



Judy Allen Morris, c'60, writes in her foreword to *Phog: The Most Influential Man in Basketball* that, up until 20 years ago, she had not given any thought to a biography of her grandfather, Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, '1909. Arthur McClure, c'58, PhD'66, convinced her of the importance of such a project, and he had just finished a first draft when diagnosed with a fast-moving cancer.

McClure died in 1998 and his manuscript sat idle until 2013, when Morris was introduced to sportswriter Scott Morrow Johnson, whose grandfather, William

"Skinny" Johnson, c'33, played for Allen and was a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Buoyed by McClure's extensive research and family archives from Morris, Johnson took the project on and in late 2016 released a biography certain to long be the definitive account of Allen's life and influence on basketball.

Among the precious tidbits: Allen was first called "the father of basketball coaching" by the game's inventor, James Naismith, who included the now-famous phrase in an inscription on a gift he gave to Allen as thanks for fundraising efforts that allowed Naismith to attend basketball's debut in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

—Chris Lazzarino



Phog: The Most Influential Man in Basketball

by Scott Morrow Johnson

University of Nebraska Press, \$29.95

suffering of animals, muses at his failed vegetarianism and successful sobriety, and rues the chronic procrastination that delays the literary success he feels is all but assured. ("I have spent thousands of whole days not writing word one of the notable, not to say great, works I privately consider as proven reserves.")

Discursive and episodic, *Romanian Notebook* flits from topic to topic like a restless bird. If Console sometimes risks solipsism in some of the winding tangents he follows, he also rewards the reader's patience with incisive little gems of insight scattered along the way. Writing about a mouse that moves from the family's

compost pile (where it is welcome) to a kitchen cabinet (where it is not), he relates how the rodent's noisy, sleep-interrupting gambols end with a leg caught in a trap. "After a moment of eye contact, I break a wooden spoon over her head," he writes regretfully. "Small danger," the prose says. "Small mercy."

Eventually opening himself to the Romanian scenery and the awkward good intentions of his in-laws, Console arrives, by book's end, at something like grace. The dangers ultimately seem manageable, and the consolations of family—small or not—seem mercy enough.

—Steven Hill

Glorious to View

photograph by Steve Puppe



Senior middle-distance runner Markeen Caine, of Junction City, and his teammates and competitors enjoyed a sunny spring day for racing at the April 22 conclusion of the Kansas Relays at Rock Chalk Park.



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