

Place to Ponder

Spencer exhibition showcases artists' ties to KU and Kansas • NEWSPAPER POET • MARS NAVIGATOR



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We look forward to the next 20 years.



Contents | Issue 2, 2019









$\mathbf{28}$

COVER STORY

Infinite Layers

A Spencer Museum exhibition of 30 Jayhawk artists offers an expansive view of the power of place.

By Chris Lazzarino

Cover: Detail of Navigating, Lisa Grossman, 2018, photograph by Ryan Waggoner

24

Interplanetary Insights

An early brush with the beauty of space launched one young alumna on a mission to Mars.

By Sarah Elizabeth McCandless

36

Anonymous No More

After sharing his witty, popular poems under a pseudonym for more than a decade, The Bard of Sherman Avenue finally took a bow.

By Tod Marshall

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5 First Word The editor's turn

6 On the Boulevard

KU & Alumni Association events

8 Jayhawk Walk

An Orange Bowl oldie, a foodie photographer, a septuagenerian superfan and more

10 Hilltopics

News and notes: Studio 804 takes stock with new book; Willmott discusses Oscar win.

18 Sports

Men's hoops looks to fresh postseason start; powerhouse pitching, speedy sprinter honored.

42 Association News

KU Libraries partnership launches KU book club; student network enjoys record growth.

49 Class Notes

Profiles of a crusading cop, a college president, an aid organizer and more

68 In Memory

Deaths in the KU family

72 Rock Chalk Review

Filmmakers shoot Kansas ode, poet explores passion for plants, and geology buys Blue Ridge site.

76 Glorious to View Scene on campus

IGNITE POTENTIAL

E

The indomitable Jayhawk spirit is a beacon of hope in Kansas and beyond. Private support fuels KU's success by transforming students into leaders and ideas into discoveries. Most gifts are \$500 or less, but regardless of size, each one opens doors to new opportunities.

www.kuendowment.org/your-gift



by Jennifer Jackson Sanner First Word



True kinship sometimes springs from kismet more easily than from family trees. Tod Marshall's friendship with Tom Wobker grew from a chance meeting in 2006 in Spokane, Washington, and it bears fruit to this day.

Marshall, PhD'96, a poet and professor of English at Gonzaga University, was welcoming a visiting writer to his campus, making a proper introduction of the guest speaker to a local audience, when he just happened to share a bit of his own story in the process, mentioning that he's a Kansan—more specifically, a Jayhawk.

Wobker, j'67, l'74, was in the audience. He had driven 30 miles from his home in Post Falls, Idaho,

to Spokane for the literary event. A few days later, he sent an email to Marshall and they met for coffee soon after. The kindred KU spirits began the rites of friendship—sharing tales of Lawrence, trading favorite books and, bound by tradition that bridged their generations, talking KU hoops and watching games together.

Years later, Marshall came to our attention when he earned acclaim as the poet laureate of his adopted state. Associate Editor Steven Hill profiled him for issue No. 1, 2016 ("Poetry for the People"). Last fall, as Marshall concluded his two-year tenure as laureate, extolling the virtues of verse throughout Washington, he emailed Hill to tell him about a prolific, popular poet who for years was known to his many local fans, including Marshall, only by a nom de plume, The Bard of Sherman Avenue. In this issue,

The kindred KU spirits began the rites of friendship—sharing tales of Lawrence, trading favorite books and, bound by tradition that bridged their generations, talking KU hoops and watching games together. just in time for National Poetry Month in April, Marshall treats us to the sweet story of a laureate's bond with a sly master of light verse and reveals The Bard's identity—in "Anonymous No More." The poets' karma, shared with KU kinsmen who united from afar to honor a beloved friend, is testament to the lasting connections of those whose journeys pass through Lawrence.

Our home on the Hill anchors "The Power of Place: KU Alumni Artists," the Spencer Museum of Art's exhibition through June 30. In our cover story, Associate Editor Chris Lazzarino explores the ways in which the exhibition, two years in the making, examines the intriguing concept of place—not merely as geography but also as the tangled memories, histories and oddities that take root in our hearts and souls. The aura of Mount Oread naturally infuses a collection of art by 30 alumni, but many other forces also inspire and enliven the impressive assembly. The entire exhibition includes more works than these limited pages could hold, so for our story,"Infinite Layers," we selected works by artists new to Kansas Alumni. They share space in the exhibition with artists we have often highlighted: Terry Hoyt Evans, f'68; Ann Hamilton, f'79; and Stephen Johnson, f'87. If your travels bring you home this spring, we encourage vou to make time for "The Power of Place."

In our final feature, alumna Sarah Elizabeth McCandless, e'12, takes us along on the final breathless minutes of a journey few can fathom: last November's historic landing of NASA's InSight spacecraft on Mars. As a navigation

engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, McCandless was part of the team entrusted to ensure that InSight arrived safely on the distant Red Planet. Her own odyssey to space exploration began when, as a child, she was mesmerized by the spectacular images beamed from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Years later, she took a KU astronomy class from Professor Steven Hawley, c'73, the Jayhawk who, as a NASA astronaut, had helped secure the Hubble's orbit and operation. Hawley's class, McCandless says, guided her toward graduate school and her lofty career.

We hope these discoveries of kismet and kinship will brighten the final dreary days of winter, affirming that a new season will come again, like wheat that springeth green.

On the Boulevard



Spencer Museum of Art Exhibitions

"Camouflage and Other Hidden Treasures from the Eric Gustav Carlson WWI Collection," through June 9

"The Power of Place: KU Alumni Artists," through June 30

"Politics, Race, Celebrity: Photographs from the Esquire Collection," through July 7

"Foundling," Sept. 14 through Dec. 22

"knowledges," Aug. 24 through Jan. 5, 2020

Lied Center events

MARCH

19 KU Symphonic Band and University Band

21 KU Symphony Orchestra23 South Asian Student Association Talent Show

24 Zlatomir Fung, cello

APRIL

4 KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Renee Rosnes, piano

5 Nataanii Means

6 KU Powwow and Indigenous Cultures Festival

7 Lucy Kaplansky

10 Kenny Broberg, Van Cliburn Piano Competition Medalist

12 Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure

14 WindSync

- **16** KU Wind Ensemble
- **19** The Last Bandoleros
- **21** Finding Neverland
- 26 Parsons Dance

30 KU University Band and Jazz II and III

MAY

1 Red Green's "This Could Be It" Tour

- 2 KU Symphonic Band
- **3** "Something Rotten!"

6 New York Philharmonic String Quartet

Dole Institute events

MARCH

19 "Broken: Can the Senate Save Itself and the Country?" Ira Shapiro

26 Presidential Lecture Series: Julie Robinson

APRIL

2 An Evening with Major Garrett

4 Dole Lecture: Carly Fiorina Relentless winter storms delivered generous doses of ice and snow on campus this semester, leaving Jayhawks hopeful for signs of spring.



25 Battleground: Political Polarization and the Supreme Court

Natural History Museum events

MARCH

20 Science on Tap with Richard Yi: "Is Addiction Rational?" Free State Brewing Company, Lawrence

26 KU Common Book in Context: Herpetology in Haiti with Dr. Rich Glor, The Commons

APRIL

17 Science on Tap with Jennifer Hamer and Clarence Lang: "The Impact of Race on University Structure," Free State Brewing Company, Lawrence

Photographs by Susan Younger

University Theatre

MARCH

29-31 "Sycorax," directed by Jane Barnette, William Inge Memorial Theatre

APRIL

2-4 "Sycorax," directed by Jane Barnette, William Inge Memorial Theatre

26, 28 "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by John Stephens, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

MAY

2, 4 "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by John Stephens, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

Murphy Hall

MARCH

25 New Music Guild

26 Undergraduate Honor Recital

27 Visiting Artist Series: Diana Seitz, violin

30 Faculty Recital Series: Julia Broxhom, soprano, with Russell Miller, piano

APRIL

1 Faculty Recital Series: Forrest Pierce, composition lecture/recital

2 School of Music Chamber Music Recital

6 Visiting Artist Series: Sergei Babayan, piano

7 Faculty Recital Series: David Colwell, violin, and Ayako Tsuruta, piano

11 KU Jazz Combos II, III, V

17 KU Jazz Combos I, IV, VI

18 KU Percussion Group

20 Flute Studio Recital

22 KU Tuba-Euphonium Consort

23 KU Saxophone Quartets

24 Viola Studio Recital

25 Composition and Piano Recital28 Collegium Musicum

Concert

MAY

 Cello Studio Recital
KU Choirs: Chamber Singers
KU Trombone and Horn Choirs

Bales Organ Recital Hall

APRIL

4-6 Tariverdiev International Organ Competition

MAY

5 Yuan Shen

7 KU Choirs: Bales Chorale

8 Trombone Choir Concert

Performances

MARCH

24 KU Choirs: Joy of Singing, Kauffman Center for the Arts, Kansas City



APRIL

10 KU World Percussion Ensembles, Lawrence Arts Center

18-20 University Dance Company Spring Concert, Lawrence Arts Center

MAY

3 KU Jazz Ensemble I with Nick Weiser, piano; Lawrence Arts Center

Lectures

MARCH

23 "The Life and Legacy of Arthur Poister," David Pickering, Bales Organ Recital Hall

APRIL

11 Humanities Lecture Series: An Evening with Jesmyn Ward, Liberty Hall, downtown Lawrence

12 Humanities Lecture Series Conversation: Jesmyn Ward, Hall Center conference hall

Academic Calendar

MAY

9 Last day of classes

10 Stop Day

13-17 Finals week

19 Commencement

Alumni Events

MARCH

20 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

21 KU Night with the Charlotte Hornets, Spectrum Center, Charlotte, North Carolina

APRIL

2 Jayhawk Career Network: CEO Panel at Edwards Campus, Overland Park

4 "Researching *The Chaperone*" with Laura Moriarty, Wichita

9 Celebrating 35 years of the Washington Semester Program, Congressional Visitors Center, Washington, D.C.

10 KU Night with the Portland Trailblazers, Moda Center, Portland, Oregon

12 Jayhawk Roundup, Murfin Stables, Wichita

12 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

15 Lawrence Beer Company Tour and Tasting

17 KU Libraries: South Florida

18 KU Libraries: Tampa

27 24th annual Rock Chalk Ball, Kansas City Convention Center

MAY

2 Veterans Alumni Network reception, Boulevard Brewing Company, Kansas City

3-4 Gold Medal Club Reunion

4 KU Student Senate 50th anniversary celebration, DeBruce Center

7 Jayhawk Book Club reception, Adams Alumni Center

10 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

For complete listings of all events, visit **kualumni.org**, watch for emails about programs in your area, or call 800-584-2957.

Jayhawk Walk

Demand and supply

oe Walden likes In-N-Out Burger. A lot. So much that whenever the business professor travels to California or Texas, the western fast food chain is his first stop.

But In-N-Out has no restaurants within 500 miles of Lawrence—an oversight that Walden has enlisted his supply chain management students to rectify.

At the beginning of each semester, Walden, g'12, EdD'19, gives five extra credit points if students write to In-N-Out, asking the company to open a Lawrence location. He estimates they've deluged the

burgeoning burger brand's HQ with more than 8,000 requests in the past six years. Eventually, he hopes, In-N-Out will bow to the will of the people.

"I tell students, 'It might not benefit you while you're here, but it'll benefit Joe and it makes Joe happy.""

That flip burger quip hides the serious intent in Walden's exercise.

"It's a good way to start the semester because it's fun and it helps them put something as simple as fast food in the context of operations and supply chain," Walden says. "It gets them thinking early in the

semester about how supply chain operations impact everyday life."

If the campaign succeeds, students can proudly tout their role in attracting In-N-Out when they return to campus decades hence, with children in tow.

But more immediate rewards factor in. "In-N-Out is open at 2 in the morning," Walden says of that magic hour when you don't have to go home, but you can't stay here. "There aren't many places open at 2, but there are

a lot of students wandering around Mass Street and Mount Oread. It would give them someplace to eat."



Pepple

Surplus sales recycle campus castoffs

CREWS FROM KU'S Procurement Services each year pick up as many as 10,000 items that the University no longer needs—"Anything from a big piece of scientific equipment to a truck to a stapler," says business coordinator Sam

Pepple—then store the goods on West Campus, awaiting reuse on campus, donation to a local not-for-profit agency, or, worst-case, a trip to the landfill.

"We'll still use over half of it back on campus, and that feels really good," Pepple says. "I truly believe you can make a case that we save a fair amount of money for the University."

Pepple recently added another option to lighten KU's landfill loads: twice-weekly public access to shop at KU Surplus, 8-10 a.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays, at the West Campus storage site, 1851 Westbrooke St. He prefers credit-card transactions, but will also take cash or checks-whatever works to find new homes for timeworn yet still useful desks, chairs, filing cabinets and bookcases, all certified Mount Oread Tough.

"We really do keep a lot of stuff out of Dumpsters and out of the landfill," Pepple says. "That speaks to my soul all the way around."

Cool KU tune emerges from KCK closet

WHO HERE REMEMBERS "Hawk it to 'Em"? We sure didn't, and, heck, we own it. Well, by we, we mean the Alumni Association, which means you, so, you own it, too, which is pretty cool, but the question stands: "Hawk it to 'Em," anybody?

Turns out it's the snappy single recorded in 1968 by none other than The Tips, backed by Gary Jackson and The Soul



Messengers, to celebrate those fabulous football 'Hawks who traveled to Miami for the Jan. 1, 1969, Orange Bowl game. The orangevinyl spinner came to our attention thanks to Joanie DeGraw Jones, '72, a retired nurse from Kansas City who recently donated her treasured Orange Bowl mementos—a like-new, short-sleeved sweatshirt and her "Hawk it to 'Em" record—for safekeeping at University Archives. Jones held these things dear all these years to remember the trip she didn't take: As a student, she couldn't afford the drive south with her classmates, so she bought a few fun items and cheered the team from home. KU music archivists digitized the record, but it turns out the recording was already on YouTube. (Which makes it official: *Everything* is on YouTube.) It also turns out that the Audio House recording was paid for by the Alumni Association, so our song is your song and your song will most definitely fill the air at a football rally in the not-so-distant future.

Check it out at kualumni.org/extras. Now here come the 'Hawks! Here come the 'Hawks, y'all, here come the 'Hawks! They're No. 1! Dig it.



A lot on his plate

A t 21, Jack Hatzfeld has already visited 15 countries, and the Olathe junior in graphic design devotes every penny he earns from part-time work to feed his wanderlust when school is out.

But semesters are long and Hatzfeld's appetite for new cultures can't wait. So when he can't go to the mountain (or forest, city or sea), he brings the mountain to him—by cooking the national dish of all 197 countries in a project he calls The International Table.

"My dream, my passion, is travel photography," says Hatzfeld, who has so far completed 35 dishes. "I just got this taste for what the world is and what the world



Hatzfeld

could be. I realize that I can't always be out in it as a 21-year-old college student, so bringing it into my home instead is the idea of the project."

With occasional help from his dad ("a fantastic cook") and supplies from sponsors, Hatzfeld progressed from typical student fare to complex dishes like Mexican mole. He follows recipes faithfully (and posts them to his blog at hatzfeldcreative.com so others can too), but his creative flair shines in the presentation. He carefully plates and photographs each dish, turning his Instagram feed into a gallery of world cuisine.

"The whole point is to understand what a culture can taste like," says Hatzfeld of his hunger for adventure on the plate and around the planet. "I've completely dropped my guard with food like I have with travel."



Horn-Lamb

She keeps pace with the 'Hawks

ELLEN HORN-LAMB, d'71, g'81, who never missed a basketball game in her four years as an undergraduate student, finally returned to Allen Field House this year to watch her beloved Jayhawks. The trip was a 70th birthday present from her family, who surprised the retired elementary school teacher with two tickets to the Feb. 25 matchup against K-State.

Even from afar, Horn-Lamb's devotion to the 'Hawks has never wavered. After moving to Lafayette, Colorado, in the mid-'80s, she and her family made yearly trips to Boulder to see KU take on the University of Colorado in Big Eight conference play.

When she wasn't watching local games, the cable TV-holdout followed her team from her school. "If KU was playing, I went and did my lesson plans at night or on the weekends," Horn-Lamb says. "When the tournament was on during the day, the kids would come back from lunch and there I would be with the TV on."

Even in retirement, Horn-Lamb hasn't succumbed to cable, despite her husband's urging. Instead, she works out at the local YMCA, where she walks on the treadmills while watching KU play. She has been at it for more than 10 years now and estimates that she has logged about 700 miles cheering on the Jayhawks.

So, after being a long-distance fan for nearly four decades, was the trip to Allen Field House worth it? "It felt familiar and also very different," says Horn-Lamb, who witnessed a thrilling 64-49 victory over K-State. "Today's students are a lot louder and more boisterous than we were!"

Hilltopics by Steven Hill



Built to last

Book celebrates two decades of signature architecture program

E arly on in his comprehensive history of the School of Architecture & Design's pathbreaking architectural program, Studio 804, J.L. Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture Dan Rockhill reflects on the unique demands of designing and building an entire structure from the ground up—with students—in only one academic year.

"We design on the go," Rockhill writes. "Our schedule makes it impossible to do otherwise." Critical problems are solved as they arise, with improvisation, usually on site and by hand—an approach that caused some complications in the early years of the standard-setting studio's 25-year run, especially when dealing with city bureaucracies designed to serve more conventional approaches to construction.

What comes through clearly in *Studio* 804 Design Build: Expanding the Pedagogy of Architectural Education, is that the evolution from a fledgling experiment in a new way of teaching architecture to an internationally lauded studio that is one of KU's most highly visible programs, looks, in retrospect, a lot like the process of building a Studio 804 house. Like his students, Rockhill was learning as he went.

"I'm often asked questions by other university faculty who want to emulate what we do," Rockhill says, "and I can



Studio 804 projects on campus (The Forum at Marvin Hall, left, and The Hill Engineering Research & Development Center, right) around Kansas (547 Arts Center in Greensburg, below) and across town (at 1330 Brook St., Lawrence, far right) are highlighted in *Studio 804 Design Build*. The book is available at kubookstore.com.

almost always tell from their questions whether or not they're going to make it. A lot of times they want to solve all the problems before they even begin, and I think I've just managed to get through it by experience and being able to reflect and change and tweak and do things a little bit differently every year, because I know I don't have all the answers."

In 1998, when Studio 804 built its first house, at 933 Pennsylvania St. in East Lawrence, the focus was on affordability: Students used salvaged materials and did the work themselves, which helped hold costs down. By 2000, accessibility had become a key consideration, as the class tackled its first project that used guidelines of Universal Design to make the house accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities. A move to Kansas City, Kansas, in 2004, shifted the focus to "seeding urban change through creative, modern solutions to the housing problems the city faced," Rockhill writes. The availability of cheap land freed up resources, and the hunger for development in deteriorating neighborhoods created fewer restrictions and more openness to risk-taking (and award-winning) design: Two of 804's four Kansas City Mod houses won Architecture Magazine's Home of the Year prize.

Along the way, Rockhill learned how to manage student egos and foster an all-for-one approach, and how to leverage the homes' singular design—a source of community pushback during early years—into a selling point. As the opera-



tional model became more stable and predictable, the projects became more ambitious, peaking with The Forum at Marvin Hall, the 2014 School of Architecture addition Rockhill calls "the largest and most complex project we have finished." Since completion of the state's first LEED Platinum building, the 547 Arts Center in Greensburg in 2008, the studio's

"There's not a professional firm in the world that can boast a string of LEED Platinum projects that's that strong," Rockhill says. "So I'm especially proud of that, and that my graduates find their way into offices where they become, eventually, the director of their firm's sustainable efforts."

Studio 804 Design Build, like the projects it showcases to such great effect, with color photographs taken mostly by Rockhill himself, is elegant, beautiful and well-designed. Design, Rockhill says, is what it has always been about. To see two decades of Studio 804 projects gathered in one book is to marvel once more at the creativity, ingenuity and sheer ambition of the capstone class's audacious brief: Challenge college students to design and build themselves on a relative shoestring houses that win awards in direct competition with those produced with much more money and time by professional architecture firms.

"Being able to demonstrate that we can maintain a quality of design is what

motivates me," he says. "I admire anyone that enables young people to get out and get their hands in wet concrete-Habitat for Humanity is great. But to me, being able to have that common thread run through almost all the work is what I hold in very high regard. We never really had to compromise our design intent. Being able to have a design vocabulary that speaks to sort of a fresh look at how we live and the materials we use and the sustainable attributes of our buildings all reflected in one book is something I'm particularly proud of. It encourages me to just keep going."





Ramberg

lumni and community Adonors have "adopted" all eight of Dyche Hall's replacement grotesques ["Dyche Hall renewal," Hilltopics, issue No. 4, 2018, and "Monsters of the Mind," issue No. 6, 2017], and sculptor Karl Ramberg is carving Kansas limestone on weekday afternoons. alongside student assistants, on Dyche's lawn.

As Kansas Alumni went to press, Ramberg, '81, had roughed out the zebra grotesque, which is now being finished by his sister, Laura Ramberg, f'81, in her studio. day be shown in off-cam-Leonard Krishtalka, director of the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, says that when the grotesques are completed, sometime late this year, they'll be unveiled at a series of "coming out parties," alongside Joseph Roblado Frazee's 115-yearold originals.

Fundraising continues for construction of exhibit cases for badly eroded originals, which

UPDATE

Krishtalka hopes can one pus venues, and for the creation of a product line celebrating grotesques old and new, based on digital scans by Keith Van de Riet, a'04, assistant professor of architecture, and his wife, lecturer Amy Van de Riet, a'03, in collaboration with their students.

"The Jayhawk is iconic," Krishtalka says, "and these grotesques are iconic. One of a kind."

-Chris Lazzarino

Hilltopics

Show your work: Undergraduate researchers from the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses presented their projects at the Kansas Statehouse Feb. 20 as part of Kansas Undergraduate

Research Day at the Capitol. The event raises awareness about the research conducted by undergrads at Kansas Board of Regents institutions.

Restoration House

KU-owned property to become way station for those in need

A house near campus with ties to KU will get a new mission this spring as it's converted to transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence.

The Pinet House at 704 W. 12th St. will open by May 1 as Restoration House, a partnership between The Willow Domestic Violence Center, Tenants To Homeowners and the City of Lawrence. KU Endowment is selling the home to Tenants To Homeowners, which will manage and maintain the house, while Willow refers adults and their children and provides an on-site case manager and services. The city will pay for the case manager and housing subsidies from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

"We all bring to the table what we're best

at," says Rebecca Buford, executive director of Tenants to Homeowners, a Lawrence nonprofit that helps families secure affordable housing.

The five-bedroom house meets a dire need for long-term transitional housing: Tenants will be eligible to stay one to two years.

"Survivors of domestic violence, if they leave their house with the clothes on their back and no job, kind of have to start over again," Buford says. "That takes longer than a couple months, so having a 12- to 24-month place to stay and build the life skills and support networks they need to be permanently self-sustaining is the goal."

Restoration House fills a gap in the city's emergency housing safety net, according to Megan Green Stuke, d'95, g'00, executive director of The Willow, which shelters more than 200 adults and children annually.

TEVE PUPPE



Megan Stuke of The Willow and Rebecca Buford of Tenants To Homeowners welcomed Restoration House supporters with a ribbon cutting and open house Feb. 28.

"Our emergency shelter is only 30 to 60 days," Stuke says. "A lot of times our clients don't have time to get all the resources in order to get stability really rolling, so they move into an apartment and they're not ready. We think building stability takes at least a year, if not more, so this is trying to accommodate that need."

The house's location is appealing, as well.

"It fits perfectly," Buford says, noting the proximity to downtown and campus, access to the bus system, the walkability and vibrancy of the neighborhood, and the lack of not-in-my-backyard resistance.

"There is also the opportunity for any number of cultural events," she says. "For a woman who's been isolated from their family and community by domestic violence, having access to all that for 12 to 24 months is a huge opportunity to build those life skills."

"We do love that it's so close to campus," Stuke says. "We love that there's kind of a community here. It's populated enough that people aren't too isolated, which is really important for people in our situation."

KU Endowment received the house after the 1998 death of Frank Pinet, distinguished professor emeritus of business. Pinet, b'42, g'47, PhD'55, taught at the School of Business from 1955 to 1986. The home was restored in 2007 with a gift from Tom, c'73, and Jan Rudkin, c'73, to serve as housing for international students. When the University discontinued that arrangement last year, Endowment began looking for another use, says Monte Soukup, e'89, senior vice president of the property division at Endowment.

"The house is in a historic district, so we're kind of the caretakers in a sense," Soukup says. "We were looking for a use that was compatible with us owning the house long-term." Both he and Buford serve on the city's Affordable Housing Advisory Board. "We just started throwing around ideas about how it could work, and we came to a successful arrangement for Endowment and for Tenants to Homeowners," Soukup says.

The program is a first for both groups, and the sale contract includes an out for

either if the arrangement doesn't work. But it could also be a model for using more KU-owned properties to boost Lawrence's affordable housing stock in the future.

"It's working well so far," Soukup says. "If we get this one successfully underway, it may be a good model for some other properties that Endowment owns."

Long run

Dean search underway as Audus decides to step down

Dean of Pharmacy Ken Audus will not seek reappointment when his current term ends in June.

The longest-serving dean on campus, Audus, PhD'84, began his tenure in 2004, and he is only the seventh permanent dean to lead the school since 1885. He spearheaded a successful effort to build support to expand KU's PharmD program in response to a shortage of pharmacists in rural areas of the state.

Thanks to a grassroots campaign in which pharmacists and other alumni advocates in Jayhawks for Higher Education contacted legislators and worked alongside the school to secure state funding, KU in 2010 opened a new building that allowed the program to expand from 105 PharmD students per year to 170 while modernizing pharmacy education. The campaign also created a satellite campus in Wichita, which educated 20 of those students and enabled the school to recruit more students from rural areas in hopes that they would seek employment in or near their hometowns.

"That was very important to the state of Kansas," Audus says. "In the small towns, sometimes the only caregiver or health care professional is a pharmacist, and so to keep the towns lively they all want a pharmacist. To the extent that we can help with that, I think it's critical, because those small towns are kind of the bedrock of the state."

Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Carl Lejuez, who announced a search committee led by former engineering dean Michael Branicky, said Audus has



Audus

"been at the forefront of efforts that created meaningful change in access for individuals in rural Kansas while also working to advance the profile of the school as both a leader in pharmacy education and research."

When Audus became dean, seven rural Kansas counties had no pharmacist and several others had only one; the average age of independent pharmacists in the state was more than 50. Today, only two counties—Chase and Wabaunsee—are without a pharmacy.

Strengthening the graduate school faculty and maintaining the school's top-five ranking in National Institutes of Health funding were also critical, Audus says.

"I look at that as important because we're going through a time when getting NIH grants is just not that easy, and to maintain that level has been a challenge. We were able to recruit some top-flight scientists to work on drug discovery and development. Like every other program on campus, we've lost some good ones, but we've also picked up some good young people who are now keeping us moving forward in these areas."

Moving forward is key for Audus—who says he never aspired to be a college professor, much less a dean, but that good mentoring along the way "nudged me in that direction."

"It will be difficult to step away," he says. "I find that difficult even to say, because it's been a joy serving the school in this role, and I'll miss it. But I look forward to making a bit of a change in my career, and doing some other things in my life."

Milestones, money and other matters

■ One Day. One KU. raised more than \$1 million to benefit the University. The 24-hour fundraising event conducted by KU Endowment on Feb. 20 attracted 2,635 donors who gave a combined \$1,084,062. Gifts ranged in size from \$100,000 to \$5, and surpassed the 2018 total of 1,898 donors and \$730,000.

■ Arvin Agah, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, was named dean of the School of Engineering in January. Agah has been on the KU faculty since 1997 and has served as interim dean since July, when Dean Michael Branicky ended his term. Agah previously served as associate dean for research and graduate programs at the school, and associate chair for graduate studies for the department of electrical engineering and computer science.

■ A \$1 million gift from Richard, e'71, and Elizabeth Hoover, c'71, of Northport, Michigan, will create a new chemical engineering research lab in the School of Engineering. The Richard H. **Hoover Chemical Engineering Applied Research Laboratory will give students** more hands-on experience. "I was looking for an opportunity to do something to bridge the academic experience at KU with the applied outside world to help better prepare students for what they would encounter on the job," said Richard, who spent his career at Dow Corning. Elizabeth worked for the pharmaceutical company Hoffman-Laroche until they started their family.

■ Simon Atkinson will become the University's next vice chancellor for research in July. He is currently the vice chancellor for research at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The appointment is contingent upon Atkinson being awarded tenure at KU.

Hilltopics

FILM & MEDIA STUDIES

Academy Award brings joy, teaching lesson for Willmott

WINNING AN OSCAR for screenwriting, as Kevin Willmott, professor of film and media studies, did at the Academy Awards in Los Angeles Feb. 24 is a little like, well, being in a movie.

"I feel like I've been living in a Frank Capra movie," says Willmott, who earned the best adapted screenplay Oscar for "BlacKkKlansman," which he co-wrote with director Spike Lee ["No Joke," issue No. 4, 2018]. It's the second collaboration between Lee and Willmott, who also co-wrote Lee's 2015 film "Chi-Raq."

"So much of my film career has been what I've always called 'community filmmaking," Willmott says, crediting a long list of students, alumni, faculty colleagues and local filmmakers he's worked with. "To me that's the Capraesque quality, that it's a shared victory in so many ways. With filmmaking, you can't do it by yourself."

"Jayhawkers," "The Only



Good Indian," "CSA: The Confederate States of America" and many other Willmott films were made in Lawrence and other Kansas locations on low budgets.

"We didn't have a lot of money and we did it because we believed in it and they believed in me and allowed me to tell my stories," he says.

"BlacKkKlansman" is based on the memoir of Ron Stallworth, a black policeman who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan by answering a newspaper recruiting ad. The film won the Grand Prix at Cannes and the British Academy Film and Television Arts Award for best adapted screenplay and was widely touted as an Oscar favorite. Willmott says he tried not to dwell on the Oscar race and concentrated instead on promoting the film and completing the screen-

play for his next project with Lee, "Da Five Bloods," a story of Vietnam War veterans in their 60s who reunite to recover a —*Continued on p. 17*

VISITOR

UPSIDE

Creator of the Easy Rawlins detective series, Walter Mosley has written more than 50 books, including crime novels and political essays. His talk, "Political Optimism in the Age of Trump," was part of the Humanities Lecture Series.

WHEN: Feb. 7

WHERE: Hall Center Conference Hall **SPONSOR:** The Hall Center for the Humanities

BACKGROUND: Born in Los Angeles, Mosley began his career as a computer programmer and started writing at 34, after Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* inspired him to take a writing class. In 2016 he was the first African-American named a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America.

ANECDOTE: Noting that, "in a democracy, voting is only the start," Mosley criticized

progressives for not pushing President Obama to work toward their goals and credited President Trump for igniting political engagement. "Somehow the country is democratizing under the Trump's unlikely and somewhat anti-democratic tenure."

QUOTE: "Am I optimistic in the time of the Trump? Absolutely. His unexpected reign will help us all get out and vote and debate and make something out of the almost endless potential of our people.



Red state will understand blue, Democrat will sit down with Republican, socialist with capitalist. This is America and the Trump is our challenge. His racist, sexist, classist rants against our beliefs will never last, never work, never alter the unconscious intentions of our Constitution and Bill of Rights."

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Continued from p. 14

comrade's body and search for lost gold. That mindset persisted right up to the Dolby Center ceremony.

"You're sitting there trying not to think about it, trying not to care so much that you're crushed if it doesn't happen," Willmott says. "So when our names were called it was nothing but joy."

The day after the Oscars Lee left for Thailand to begin preproduction on "Da Five Bloods," and Willmott flew home.

"I taught on Tuesday, because it's good to get back to what really matters, and not live in the boogie wonderland universe too long," he says with a laugh. "A good dose of that—like one or two nights—that's about enough of that."

He brought the Oscar to class, to the delight of his students, who passed around the statuette and posed for selfies.

"I wanted to shrink the distance between an award like that and where we live," Willmott says. "When you start out it seems like it's a billion miles away and you just can't reach it."

The class lesson: You can—even from Kansas.

"I always tell students, it's about just doing it, not about waiting for permission."

ADMINISTRATION

Budget transformation moves forward with plans and protest

A NEW BUDGET model that administrators say would help the Lawrence campus better address costs, needs and opportunities would focus on three "structural features," according to a plan outlined by interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Carl Lejuez in February.

In a message to students, faculty and staff, Lejuez said the budget overhaul is "part of a larger effort to build a more stable and fiscally healthy University of Kansas, where our priorities and our budgetary decisions tell the same story."

The first structural feature creates three broad categories where budget resources can be allocated:

• Foundational priorities that comprise core essentials needed to run the University, including regular merit raises, infrastructure investments and rebuilding KU's emergency fund;

• Campuswide strategic priorities that allow KU to "think big and make important investments that help facilitate our vision for the future of KU";

• Unit-level allocations for each academic and service unit.

The second and third structural features focus on how money is allocated across and within these three broad categories.

"In terms of the budget, we don't want to just cut, we don't want to just reduce, we want to be able to figure out how do we insure that we are going to be fiscally healthy moving forward," Lejuez said during a campus budget conversation Feb. 26 at Watson Library.

"If we're going to move forward, we are going to need to have a model that actually identifies doing things that are aligned with what we care about at this university."

Lejuez also discussed final details of the \$20 million budget cut announced last summer, which led to a 5.87 percent across the board reduction this fiscal year, nearly 30 KU staff members losing their jobs, and elimination of more than 150 positions over the next two years ["Hard Choices," Hilltopics, issue No. 1].

Around 20 members of the Graduate Teaching Assistants Coalition interrupted the presentation to express their concerns about low pay and limited health insurance. Holding signs and chanting, "Fair pay, today, for faculty and GTAs," and "Hey-hey, ho-ho, overpaid admins have

got to go," the students criticized high salaries earned by Lejuez

and other administrators. To read the Provost's

message, view presentation slides or watch the videotaped Feb. 26 budget meeting, visit provost.ku.edu/ fy19-budget.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ A \$2 million gift from Ripple, a Silicon Valley financial technology company led by Brad Garlinghouse, c'94, will support KU research into blockchain, cryptocurrency and digital payments. The gift over five years will support research in the Information & Telecommunication Technology Center and the KU Blockchain Institute, a student-led organization that promotes the technology across engineering, business development and policymaking.

■ Robert Moser will succeed William Cathcart-Rake as dean of the School of Medicine in Salina in June. Cathcart-Rake, m'74, has led the Salina campus since it was created in 2012. Moser, p'81, m'85, is executive director and chief medical officer of the Kansas Clinical Improvement Collaborative at the University of Kansas Health System.

■ Pam Fine will lead the Chronicle of Higher Education as editor. She most recently was the John S. and James L. Knight Chair for News, Leadership and



Fine

Community at KU, where she collaborated on media and transformation projects with professional news organizations and taught reporting, ethics, multimedia journalism and other subjects at the William Allen White School of Journalism.

■ Joe Block, a senior in aerospace engineering from Chaska, Minnesota, is one of 20 students nationwide on Aviation Week magazine's "Tomorrow's Technology Leaders: The 20 Twenties" list, which recognizes top STEM students for academic performance, civic contributions and research or design projects. Block is a member of the Jayhawk Aero Design club, which designs and builds unmanned aircraft for competitions.

Sports by Chris Lazzarino

Never again

Self predicts streak of 14 titles won't be replicated

• oach Bill Self walked into the Allen ∠Field House media room a few minutes late, flashed a smile and said, happily, "Hi, all." Then, "All right. Go."

So far, business as usual for one of Self's weekly news conferences. But this one was different in a singular way: When he met the press March 7, Self, for the first time since 2004, was no longer coaching a contender for the Big 12 title.

Now, with one regular-season contest remaining—a "Senior Night" game against Baylor, for which KU would suit no seniors in the wake of Lagerald Vick's departure after KU's Feb. 5 loss at Kansas State—Self's Jayhawks were 11-6 in the league, 22-8 overall, and forced to watch K-State and Texas Tech battle over a title that KU had won outright or shared for 14 consecutive seasons.

The Jayhawks had opened the season ranked No. 1 in the country and promptly beat 10th-ranked Michigan State by five. KU slid to No. 2 only because of the startling emergence of Duke's powerhouse freshmen, and went on to beat Tennessee-which would go on to claim a No. 1 ranking of its own. When KU beat Villanova Dec. 15 in Allen Field House, the Jayhawks were again ranked No. 1, a spot they held until a Dec. 22 loss at Arizona State. That's when things started getting weird.

Junior center Udoka Azubuike was lost for the season after injuring a wrist in practice as KU prepared for its second conference game. The Jayhawks closed January with

losses at Kentucky and Texas, and the day before a critical Feb. 2 home game with Texas Tech, the NCAA announced in a tweet that sophomore forward Silvio De Sousa was ineligible for this season and next.

At a somber news conference that afternoon, junior forward Dedric Lawson, the Big 12's leading scorer and rebounder and KU's unquestioned leader, revealed that the Jayhawks had stumbled through a "lackluster" session in their first practice after the Texas loss.

If the 'Hawks thought things couldn't get worse, they were proven wrong a couple of hours later when sophomore guard Marcus Garrett sprained his ankle in practice, an injury that eventually cost him five games.

The following day, after Athletics Director Jeff Long shared a teary, heartfelt defense of De Sousa, the Jayhawks went out and pounced on Texas Tech, 79-63.

"You would have to be an idiot to not



Said freshman sensation Ochai Agbaji, who hadn't even seen the floor until Jan. 9, "Obviously we didn't have a really good week last week so we had a lot of pressure going into this game. I think we handled it well. We really came together."

Then the Jayhawks stumbled again, losing in Manhattan. Although KU then won three in a row, Self on Feb. 14 conceded, "K-State, without question, is in the driver's seat heading down the stretch."

And so it came to pass that, following a humbling loss March 5 at Oklahoma, KU eliminated itself from contention. On his radio show the following night, Self said KU's title streak won't ever be matched by any team in a Power Five conference. "Never is a long time," he said, "but it'll

never happen again."

Two days later, he stood before the press and asked for questions. "Last home game," commented a reporter. "Does it seem like it's gone by fast?"

"This year?" Self asked. "Yeah."

"No! Not. At. All!"

Laughing, smiling, his eyes sparkling, Self added, "But it's still been a fun year."

"Ochai has come from left field," coach Bill Self says of Ochai Agbaji, "and he's definitely done more than we could have ever imagined, even though we knew he would be a good player."



Opposites attract

Pitchers Zeferjahn, Cyr bring different styles to weekend starts

Shortly before the baseball season began in mid-February, 17th-year coach Ritch Price chose to make a bold statement about junior right-hander Ryan "Their backs were against the wall. This is how good coach Self is, and there's too much pride in that locker room."

-Texas Tech coach Chris Beard, after Feb. 2 loss

Zeferjahn, one of the best Jayhawks to come through his program. Praising good performers is hardly anything new; the twist that KU's veteran skipper puts on his praise is that he also adds pressure to perform.

"If he's not the highest-drafted player in Kansas baseball history at the end of the year, I'm going to be really disappointed in him," Price says, "so I'm going to put a little pressure on

him there, right out of the gate. He's got a great arm, one of the best arms in college baseball, and I'm looking for him to go out and have a tremendous season and set himself up for a long career in professional baseball."

To live up to the billing, Zeferjahn, named to Baseball America's Preseason All-America Team, will have to be taken higher than 42nd overall, where pitcher Curtis Shaw, b'95, was taken by Oakland in the second round of the 1990 draft. Pitcher Tom Gorzelanny, '05, was close behind, going 45th to Pittsburgh in 2003.

Regardless, Zeferjahn laughs off the pressure. He's used to it by now. Price's only criticism for the KU ace is that "he's almost too nice at times," and Zeferjahn doesn't disagree: "If I had a little bit more intensity, it would be great."

Zeferjahn, named Academic All-Big 12 last year and on track to graduate this spring, made that comment in comparison with fellow right-handed junior Ryan Cyr. While Zeferjahn moves from Sunday starts to the front-line position on Fridays,



"Of any college team I've played on," says Ryan Cyr (r, with Ryan Zeferjahn), "we are definitely the closest."

Cyr is moving from middle relief to the Saturday starter role.

Their complementary traits align nearly perfectly: Zeferjahn is a hard thrower, never dropping below 90 mph with any of his pitches, who stays calm almost to a fault; Price says Cyr, a self-described finesse pitcher who rarely gets much past 90, has to "control his adrenalin and his emotions when he's on the field."

"He's just a bulldog," Zeferjahn says of Cyr. "If we had a medium, if we could be combined, we'd be perfect."

Cyr says their different qualities are more than superficial: Because Zeferjahn will be "blowing it by guys on Friday," opposing batters will have a tough time adjusting on Saturday.

"It's going to help me more than it'll help him," Cyr says. "They're going to see that guy on Friday, and on Saturday they'll see the total opposite, a guy who is trying to get ahead on his pitches, get ground-outs and weak pop-outs."

At 6-foot-5, Zeferjahn grew up in Topeka with dreams of playing basketball for KU. By his sophomore year at Seaman High School, he knew his athletic talents were in baseball. KU apparently didn't, until somebody tipped KU coaches to a strong-armed righty in their backyard. Zeferjahn had already been fielding offers from college programs, but the day after KU called, he committed and says "it's the best choice of my life to stay home and come here."

With a nod toward yet another winter storm about to blow into town, Price says, "You look outside and see the weather and you see why kids from Kansas want to go out of state and escape the bad weather. But Ryan's been a Jayhawk fan his whole life and I'm thrilled he's here."

Indoor gold

Hoppel's NCAA triumph in 800 caps undefeated track season

Junior Bryce Hoppel was named the Midwest Region Men's Indoor Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association after winning the Big 12 Indoor Championships' 800-meter run in a school-record 1 minute, 46.84 seconds. He also ran the 800 on KU's victorious distance medley team and was on the 4x400-meter relay team that placed third.

"What a season Bryce is having," said coach Stanley Redwine.

Turns out Hoppel was just getting started.

Hoppel on March 9 won the 800-meter run at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships, in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1:46.46, bettering his newly set school record by nearly half a second.

Sports

"The full gravity of it hasn't hit me yet," Hoppel said shortly afterward.

Hoppel, undefeated in individual events the entire indoor season, paced KU's men's team to a 12th-place finish, the Jayhawks' best at the NCAA Indoor since 2002.

"It goes to show that hard work pays off," Redwine says, "because he really is one of the hardest working people that I've ever seen."

Senior Marleena Eubanks was named the region's Women's Indoor Track Athlete of the Year thanks to her victory in the Big 12's 800-meter run, with a meet-record time of 2:03.99. She also ran the 800-meter leg on the distance medley relay team that broke a school record in winning Feb. 16 at Notre Dame and placed second at the Big 12 meet in Lubbock, Texas.

'She brings a different attitude to the team," Redwine says, "which is something I think we need."

Senior Sharon Lokedi, one of the most decorated runners in KU history, won the fifth Big 12 Performer of the Year Award of



Eubanks

her career with gold in the 3,000- and 5,000-meter runs at the Big 12 Championships.

"There aren't enough great things that I



Hoppel

can say about her," Redwine says, "and what she has meant to the University of Kansas." Lokedi closed her KU career with an 11th-place run in the NCAA 5,000.

UPDATES

Freshman Kate Steward on March 2 broke the KU

record for the 200-yard

breastroke, winning a Big 12 title in 2 minutes, 11.98 seconds. Coach Clark Campbell,

d'93, was named Coach of the Meet at the Big 12 Swimming & Diving Championships after KU posted a school-record 754.5 points in a runner-

up finish to host Texas. "We set a new standard for our program of scoring over 700 points," Campbell said. "That has been a goal of ours for 17 years now and we finally did it." ...

Women's tennis on March 3

completed its nonconference schedule 9-2 and ranked No. 7 in the country after a 7-0 sweep

> of Oregon. The No. 3-ranked doubles team of seniors Janet Koch and Nina Khmelnitckaia won 6-2, and the team of senior Anastasia Rychagova and

freshman Sonia Smagina won 6-3, giving the Jayhawks a

perfect doubles record of 11 points in 11 dual matches. ...

Seward

Football coach Les Miles in January hired Southern Miss running backs coach Les Koenning as offensive

coordinator. Miles' first hire, Chip Lindsey, left shortly after arriving at KU to take the top job at Troy. ... With swimming and diving's 3.7 team GPA leading the way, KU studentathletes last fall posted a combined GPA of 3.11, the best in Kansas Athletics history. Perfect 4.0s were posted by 50 athletes, and 59 percent of all athletes earned honor roll recognition with a 3.0 GPA or higher....

Ritch Price, in his 17th season as head baseball coach, notched his 500th KU victory on March 2. ... Former allconference linebacker Jason Thoren, d'00, on Feb. 22 was introduced as Baker University's new head football coach. Thoren had been a Wildcats

assistant for 15 seasons and was named the Heart of America Athletic Conference's Assistant Coach of the Year in 2016, '17 and '18. ... Senior Preston McConnell scored a hat trick to lead KU's club hockey team to a 7-3 trouncing of Mizzou Feb. 21 at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena in Independence, Missouri. The Jayhawks, 21-0-1, play for the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division III championship March 26-30 in Frisco, Texas. ... Athletics Director Jeff Long in January hired Ryan White as senior associate athletics director for development. White, who had been at Ohio University since 2013, oversees the Williams Education Fund and K-Club.



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1 Retrieved on January 28, 2019, from pwc.com/us/en/industries/tmt/library/sports-outlook-north-america.html *This program is a Master of Science in Education (M.S.E.) degree in health, sport management, and exercise science with an emphasis in sport management.

Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe













Junior center Udoka Azubuike (clockwise from top left) controlled the tip in what could prove to be his last game as a Jayhawk, Jan. 2 against Oklahoma; junior Dedric Lawson (1) entered the final game of the regular season as the Big 12's leading scorer and rebounder; freshman Devon Dotson matured quickly at point guard; hoops alumni returned during the NBA's All-Star weekend; and coach Bill Self savored one of the season's best moments, a 64-49 victory over Kansas State.

. . .



EDITOR'S NOTE: Before he returned to his alma mater to teach and conduct research, Steven Hawley, c'73, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, logged 770 hours orbiting Earth as a mission specialist on five space shuttle flights. On his third NASA mission, aboard Discovery in April 1990, Hawley helped deliver the Hubble Space Telescope; he returned to

Hubble in 1999, operating Discovery's robot arm to retrieve and redeploy Hubble after critical repairs and upgrades.

Hawley's high-flying journeys helped capture the imagination of a 5-year-old Jayhawk-to-be when Elizabeth Waugh, '81, shared startlingly beautiful Hubble images with her daughter, Sarah Elizabeth McCandless. As you'll read, the Johnson County kindergartner knew, in that very moment, that her life's journey was set: Space would be her frontier.

McCandless, e'12, is a navigation engineer with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, at the California Institute of Technology. She and her teammates determine how best to send spacecraft to their destinations, and for 2018 she was assigned to navigate NASA's InSight mission to Mars.

InSight—short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport—was designed, in NASA's words, "to give the Red Planet its first thorough checkup since it formed 4.5 billion years ago." By deploying an array of mind-boggling scientific instruments, InSight would be mankind's first craft capable of in-depth exploration of Mars' crust, mantle and core.

But first it had to get there, which is the job of navigation engineers. InSight's safe touchdown on the surface of Mars completed a yearlong journey for Sarah Elizabeth McCandless, which she chose to document in a personal essay to help family and friends share in her thrill of realizing dreams hatched by Hubble.

When this dramatic summary of her InSight experiences landed at *Kansas Alumni*, we sought permission to share it with you. McCandless, an Alumni Association Life Member, generously agreed, so sit back and fly along with a young engineer who reached far into space and safely settled her craft onto its forever home, concluding yet another magnificent Jayhawk journey. —*Chris Lazzarino*

Photographs provided by Sarah Elizabeth McCandless and NASA

INTERPLANETARY INSIGHTS

BY SARAH ELIZABETH MCCANDLESS

FLOOR RESTRICTED FOR

LANDING TEAM

n Nov. 20, 2018, I arrived at the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California, and realized I had vastly underestimated the amount of Thanksgiving travelers. Fortunately, I'm not a big believer in signs, and the fact that I had to rush to make my flight did not lead me to believe the rest of my trip would go the same way. You see, unlike every other year of my life, this year I was not going home to Kansas City to celebrate Thanksgiving with my family. This year, I was flying to Denver to land a spacecraft on Mars.

I fell in love with space as a 5-year-old after my mom showed me a picture of the Pillars of Creation. One of the most iconic images from the Hubble Space Telescope, three columns of dust rise against a magnificent backdrop of teal, yellow and green. Prior to that moment, I thought space was what I saw from my backyard black nothingness with stars very far apart from one another. I decided then and

there I would be an astronaut. Seventeen years later, I graduated from the University of Kansas with a fresh aerospace engineering degree in hand, ready to explore the universe.

Now, as a navigation engineer for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a NASA center in Pasadena, California, I get to do exactly that. After completing a master's degree at the University of Texas, I joined a team of engineers at JPL who fly spacecraft from Earth to various destinations around the solar system. It's our job to know so we can ensure it will arrive at its exact destination on time. For most of 2018, I was lucky enough to work on the InSight mission, which was traveling to Mars to study the interior of the planet and determine what it's made of. And after nearly seven months of interplanetary voyaging, on Nov. 26, 2018, InSight would arrive at its destination.

exactly where a spacecraft is and predict where it will go

In the week leading up to landing, I worked at Lockheed Martin in Denver. (Lockheed Martin built the spacecraft.) The night before landing, I didn't have any trouble sleeping, unlike several other engineers I know. My alarm

woke me from a deep sleep, but I will admit to being so excited I didn't go through my normal 11-minute snooze process. I arrived at work a few minutes early, and the next four hours were the calm before the storm.

Eventually, I found myself rocking back and forth in the Mission Support Area, eyes bouncing between the TV on the wall showing JPL and the computer screens in front of me showing InSight's telemetry data as it hurtled toward the surface. By this point—seven minutes until InSight

would touch down on the surface—my job was actually finished. Our team had faithfully flown this spacecraft 301 million miles to the top of the Martian atmosphere, and the final 50 or so miles were all up to InSight itself. The next several minutes, I actually wasn't all that nervous. I had read in detail the procedures outlining these moments, and with every successful step complete, I gained confidence that we would come to rest safely on



McCandless, back row in front of the whiteboard, with her InSight mission teammates at Lockheed Martin in Denver.

the surface in one piece. Perhaps I was like one of those kids you see skiing down a black diamond on the mountain, too young and inexperienced to know to be afraid, but all I felt was excitement and exhilaration. After years of hard work, detailed analyses and testing, testing, testing, showtime was finally here.

It wasn't until the final minute of the entry, descent and landing (EDL) process, when the spacecraft was continuing to fly with reckless speed toward a potentially unforgiving end, that I became nervous. An EDL engineer had been narrating our progress through the process, and she began to announce our altitude. 600 meters. 400 meters. 300 meters. But then the numbers started coming in in what seemed to be too rapid a succession. 80 meters. 60 meters. 50 meters. (My pilot brain was screaming inside my head, "Pull up! Pull up! PULL UP!") Finally, "17 meters. Standing by for touchdown."

For moments that seemed both interminable and too fast, I waited, hands clenched, holding my breath (cliché but true), dying for confirmation. What was probably less than 10 seconds seemed to stretch into minutes as I waited for her to affirm InSight was safely on Mars. And then some of the sweetest words I've ever heard came across loud and clear: "Touchdown confirmed! InSight is on the surface of Mars!" I hugged engineers I'd known for only a week. I shook hands with the mission's project manager, who minutes before had been one of the most tightly wound people I'd ever seen. And I cheered all over again when the first—albeit dusty—picture came back. I ate Mars cake (a chocolate cake covered with the most incredible fondant I've ever

seen), and watched a press conference. Then I checked my phone.

In the moments after landing, I could feel it buzzing continuously in my pocket as text messages and phone calls came pouring in. I'd stopped looking at it half an hour before landing, and the next time I checked, I had 71 new messages. I cannot remember a single time in my life when that many people tried to wish me congratulations all at once. (This must be what it feels like to be Bill Self, I joked to myself.)

I spent the next several minutes trying to work my way through the thoughtful messages. My parents had been driving back to Kansas City from Texas and had pulled over to watch; just south of Wichita, they had tears in their eyes when InSight safely touched down millions of miles away. A teacher I had in middle school emailed me to say that they would all be watching, wearing NASA stickers I had brought back when I gave a presentation a month earlier. Family and friends from every phase of my life sent messages full of rocket, clapping hands and champagne emojis. (Still waiting on that Mars emoji, though.) My aunt's fifth-grade class in Dallas was watching, and even the summer camp I attended as a kid had posted about the landing. I was humbled by how many people cared about me, our team and our success.

After a meeting confirming that various subsystems were operating as expected, our shift ended and a small group of us in matching maroon mission shirts—went to a brewery to celebrate, swapping war stories and basking in our triumph. I took a coaster from the bar and had everyone sign it, and bought a pint glass to remember the moment. Two guys at a table across the room stopped on their way out to offer their congratulations.

Then we all shook hands once more, hoping our paths would cross again for the next Mars mission.







NASA'S InSight lander used its robotic arm (clockwise from top left) to deploy its first instrument onto the surface of Mars, a copper-colored seismometer; instruments seen on the spacecraft's deck, with Elysium Planitia visible in the background; InSight atop its ride to Mars, an Atlas-V rocket, at Vandenberg Air Force Base; and 7-foot-wide solar panels that power the interplanetary scientific outpost.





Infinite Layers

Spencer's lively exhibition of alumni art explores 'The Power of Place'

by Chris Lazzarino | Photographs by Ryan Waggoner

By all accounts, the ceaseless torrent of tasks required to install a large-scale art exhibition fails to fluster exhibition designer Richard Klocke, now in his 20th year at the Spencer Museum of Art. Even the rigors of designing and installing the sprawling "The Power of Place: KU Alumni Artists" exhibition, featuring a creatively and structurally eclectic array of works by 30 alumni, could not displace his bemused smile.

His confidence is such, Klocke confides, that he tends to keep his mission-critical designer-do list in his head: "My wife will often say, 'Why don't you keep lists? Log all this down?"

With a slight nod, Klocke indicates that he recognizes the wisdom of his wife's plea; then a conspiratorial sparkle in his eye hints that he'll keep doing things his own way. He admits that a "feeling of fright" typically sets in about three weeks before an exhibition's opening, but he shrugs it off and gets back to work.

Standing in the museum's Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court, shortly after the second of two "artist dialogue" events that on Feb. 21 concluded the exhibition's two-day opening celebration, Klocke, an artist himself who maintains a private studio as his after-work getaway haven, glances around the main court's airy space, born new yet again with a vibrant assembly of images.

The south wall features the colorful "Weathermap," a 28-piece drawing by Cris Bruch, f'80, intended to evoke the transitive nature of weather maps: As soon as they are made, the wall label explains, they become obsolete. Nearby is "Navigating," a languid painting of the Kansas River by Lisa Grossman, f'00, which faces a wall of 11 Greenland and Kansas photographs by Terry Hoyt Evans, f'68.

The court also includes textile and tactile works by Ann Hamilton, f'79; three oil paintings by retired University of Arkansas professor John L. Newman, d'75, g'82, depicting the safety and pleasures of front yards and front porches; and "Beyond the Wall," an industrial felt piece by Marcie Miller Gross, f'82, inspired by a photograph she took while visiting the Berlin Wall Memorial.

The piece that Klocke singles out for attention, though, is in the center of the room: "grass/roots," by Rena L. Detrixhe, c'13, a tender concoction of wheat sprouted into handmade cotton paper. At first glance, the fragile piece appears perfectly safe and secure in its glass case. There remains, however, an exterior force that concerns Klocke: light.

Because "grass/roots" is, technically, a work on paper, Klocke prefers to expose it to minimal light (5 to 7 "foot-candles" of illumination); robust oil paintings and a nearby sculpture, meanwhile, can handle four times as much (20 foot-candles).

The trick, then, comes not so much in the task of riding a scissor lift two stories high to set the lights (and returning to the floor to measure their output, repeating the process over and over again), but in the more subtle art of illuminating each piece according to its needs without creating a distraction for the space as a whole.

In other words, Klocke must design varied lighting zones within the same room without making it "look like a carnival ride." He smiles and adds, "That gets kind of tricky, but the lighting issue is fun. I really enjoy it."

Curator Susan Earle reports that "The Power of Place," which runs through June 30, required more than two years of planning, dating back to her early ideas about how she might organize an exhibition of alumni art. She hopes other themes also considered will be used for future shows featuring different arrays of alumni artists.

"This was pretty compressed," Earle says of the show's two-year timeline. "I could have used more time for this, but only because I was pretty ambitious in trying to cast a wide net."

Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer, has for the past 14 years invigorated the museum







Richard Klocke (top right) and exhibition technician Doug Bergstrom (right) were joined in installation duties by two of Ryan RedCorn's assistants (above), who drove up from Oklahoma with his giant photographs and promptly installed the high-tech graphics fabric on aluminum tension frames.

p. 29: Cris Bruch, Weathermap, 2016

Left: Ryan RedCorn, Portait of Chantelle Keshaye Pahtayken & Shay Pahtayken, Plains Cree, 2018



by stressing educational and community outreach programs that bring students, faculty and patrons to the museum and creative exhibitions that encourage repeated—and rewarding—visits.

External exhibitions can be customized and localized to some degree by museums that rent them, but they'll still reflect the ideas of their creators—who aren't affiliated with KU. Under Reece Hardy's leadership, Spencer curators are encouraged to realize their own dreams for assembling and presenting interesting art, leading to an energetic exhibition calendar that is, it seems fair to suggest, ambitious beyond norms typically associated with campus art museums.

"When Saralyn came here, she said, 'You all have been taking a lot of external exhibitions," Earle recalls, "and that's part of how she has tried to foster our own ideas, our collaborations, our interdisciplinary connections at this university, which I think is one of KU's strengths, one of the reasons this museum is so lively."

Favoring house-created exhibitions over the rented variety tends to save money, but in the Spencer's case it's more about creating the sort of programming that it values—a perfect example of which is "The Power of Place": Turns out that when you unleash a topic with so much potential on thoughtful artists, the artistic replies go far beyond Allen Field House nostalgia and glorious views of golden valleys.

"If you try to understand the power of place, there are a lot of pathways and byways to explore," Cris Bruch says. "It's a rewarding exhibition."

Bruch, whose work had been unknown to the Spencer staff until Reece Hardy recently encountered his art in her travels, came to Lawrence from Vashon Island, Washington, long before "The Power of Place" opened, to see the space for himself. In addition to "Weathermap," the exhibition includes his sculpture of a shrouded grain elevator titled "Weldona," a maze of wood fencing titled "Pent," and "Harbinger," a tornado sculpture made with a thin, 500-foot-long strip of paper, which Klocke mounted to the Perkins Court's ceiling.

"I love how vertical it is," artist Lisa Grossman says of the exhibition. "They've got things way up on the wall, and they've got the cyclone hanging from the ceiling. It's so cool. It's very Kansas."

Bruch says that after much reading and

deep thought, he has come to view place "not as much about physical space as it is about what has happened over time." The modern world's "radical mobility" and the trend toward "sharecroppers" grinding out paychecks in today's "gig economy" lead Bruch to an "uneasy recognition that something is about to disappear." Anything that might disappear, he contends, gains status, and what is more fleeting yet substantive, especially in the riotous Great Plains, than weather?

Perched on a tall stool in front of "Weathermap," Bruch says, "I was thinking about the Plains, and the weather on the Plains, and how the sky is the biggest event of all times, and the topic of weather is not due to a failure of imagination so much as a critical dependence that residents of the Plains have on the peculiarities of weather.

"Once you start scraping away at the nature of a physical place, there are just infinite layers of history and geography and geology and climate and colonization and waves of migration."

While other artists invariably praised the lasting influences of a KU education on their work—Edgar Heap of Birds, f'76, for instance, told students, "I'm well-





Left: John L. Newman, Front Porch Therapy, 1987

Above: Gina Adams, g'14, Honoring Modern Unidentified .9, 2013

schooled in the practice of art. I'm not just a culture warrior. I'm well trained. That began here"—Ryan RedCorn, f'04, shared a dissenting voice.

A member of the Osage Nation who owns an advertising agency, Buffalo Nickel Creative, in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, RedCorn says he had a "less-than-stellar experience going to school here, and it definitely shaped me." He says he felt native students were invisible and exploited—especially by publications and videos that, in his opinion, featured powwow imagery to overplay the depth and vibrancy of its small Indian community.

When he was offered a place in the exhibition, RedCorn responded with two stunning portraits, recently shot with his medium-format Hasselblad and printed on 10-foot-long swaths of high-tech fabric. The images seemingly leap off the wall, which was exactly his intent.

"Part of it is, people don't see Indians in color, and they don't often accept that indigenous people are alive right now," RedCorn says, arguing that perceptions of many Americans never progressed beyond stoic, black-and-white photographs of the late 19th century. "So when they called me to be a part of this show, I wanted to make the biggest prints I possibly could because I wanted to take up space. Indigenous space. Osages used to be here."

"The Power of Place" has its roots in the sprawling 2013 exhibition "An Errant Line," for which Ann Hamilton and her KU faculty mentor, Cynthia Schira, g'67, explored the Spencer Museum of Art's collection, and art found across campus, as inspiration for the artwork they created for the exhibition.

"This campus art museum was a place that could provide ideas for their current work, at that moment, as artists," Earle says. "Partly out of that, I thought about other artists who have used these collections or who have found ways for this university to continue to inspire them.

"But that wasn't the real impetus. It was

really more about how we have a broad variety of artists who studied here who created meaningful work about place."

Earle eventually identified artists from both urban and rural backgrounds in a dozen states, discussed their existing art and new pieces they could make for the show, and the synchronized dance began.

First Earle had to assure herself that the pieces she wanted for the show would fit in the museum's galleries, then she had to find external funding for shipping. (Shipping costs are why the exhibition includes artists from across the United States, but none working overseas.)

"It's a very careful, constant puzzle," Earle says. "Most of the locations were planned long before the work got here. And then sometimes, for the way I work, it's also really helpful to see it in person, so I might shift it, or Richard might say, 'You know, that drawing might actually do better on that wall.' It's a constant collaboration."

With a timeline determined by working backward from Klocke's installation





Left: Lisa Grossman, *Navigating*, 2018 Above: Richard Mawdsley, g'69, *Alpha-Omega: Water Tower #5*, 1995-1999



Susan Earle (I), curator of European and American art, and Spencer director Saralyn Reece Hardy, next to Cris Bruch's *Weldona*, a shrouded grain-elevator form that Bruch created for "The Power of Place."

schedule, each piece traveling to Lawrence had to be carefully crated, either by the artist or by professional art handlers. Shipping estimates and insurance had to be secured, and trucks scheduled so everything didn't hit the Spencer loading dock at the same time.

The Spencer's policy is to leave incoming artworks in their shipping crate for 24 hours, for acclimation, then move them into temporary storage or directly into a gallery.

As Communications Manager Elizabeth Kanost, c'09, j'09, g'14, began to write wall labels—which were particularly detailed for this exhibition, for background and context to explain the show's variety of styles and ideas—Klocke and his assistants began their work in the galleries.

["]My part in this whole play is to make sure things look as good as they can," Klocke says. "The idea of trying to orchestrate the whole exhibit is always fun for me. You've got so many people, so much time, so much material, and you're trying to put it all together. "Then, after it's all done, you look around and say, 'Wait a minute, this could have looked entirely different if certain key moments in the beginning were flipped.' Tweak one little thing and there's a ripple effect on something else."

Their work finally finished, Spencer staff eagerly joined artists and their families, donors and Friends of the Art Museum members for an opening reception. As she unveiled "The Power of Place," Reece Hardy chose to emphasize the theme by focusing on the meaning of this place: the museum, the University, the city, the state.

"These artists challenge the way we question ideas about who we are, where we are and our own place in worlds. I don't mean 'a world.' I mean plural 'worlds.' Past and future."

She then shared a statement drafted by Katelyn Trammell, '19, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Loo Family Intern in global and indigenous art, in collaboration with KU's Native Faculty Council and the First Nations Student Association's faculty adviser: "We, the Spencer Museum of Art, collectively acknowledge that the University of Kansas occupies the historical homelands of the Kanza, Kaw, Shawnee and Osage people," Reece Hardy began. After recognizing other tribes currently residing in Kansas, she concluded, "We affirm indigenous sovereignty, support of Native American peoples, and commit to indigenizing the Spencer Museum of Art."

Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Reggie Robinson, c'80, l'87, one of the University's highest-ranking officials, spoke next:

"It's really important to remember that neither this city nor this university were founded and established on ground that was truly terra incognita. This place did not exist in a vacuum before Lawrence and KU arrived. It was not a blank canvas. ... It's important that we acknowledge and respect the history of who was here before we were here as we celebrate what came to be.

"The presence of that history of those who were here remains. They and their legacies are with us still. This is a place that has great and special meaning for all of us, and this exhibition inspires us to think about relationships with places."

As Reece Hardy and Robinson spoke, images of powerful native women towered over them, and the artist who created those magnificent photographs had difficulty believing what he was hearing.

Ryan RedCorn explains his mixed emotions about Kansas and KU by noting that perfectly tended red corn seeds planted in Oklahoma, where his tribe was forced to relocate, will perhaps reach about 5 feet tall.

"If I take that same seed and plant it next to the Campanile," RedCorn says, "that shoot will grow 10 feet tall."

His message is that the Osage lost something of great value when forced to leave Kansas, and RedCorn feels that loss still. He felt the sting throughout his student days. It made him reticent to return and inspired him to reclaim Osage space with two soaring works of Osage art.

And then came Reece Hardy and Robinson's affirmations of indigenous history on Mount Oread.





Top: Rick Mitchell, f'72, *Bottleneck*, 2017 Above: Marcie Miller Gross, *Beyond the Wall*, 2019

Right: Mark Goodwin, f'81, Star System, 2012

Far right, top: Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds, *Dead Indian Stories*, 2015

Virginia Jean Cox Mitchell, f'53, China Trade with Miss Liberty, U.S.A. quilt top, 1986

"Hearing the Osage nation mentioned was like, KU had a concussion after I left and something's wrong with them," RedCorn says. "Maybe they'll wake up sometime and be back where they were. Hopefully not."

"Tick-tock, time's wasting here," Cris Bruch says during one of the Feb. 21 artists' symposia. "We have important things to convey."

Bruch made that comment to chide himself for his ruminations on place and time that drifted along swirling currents of his interwoven ideas. The comment also applies in a broader context: There are important images to consider, vigorous ideas to discuss. Tick-tock. "I read *A Moveable Feast* shortly after undergrad," Oregon-based artist Julie Green, f'83, g'96, tells her audience Feb. 21. "It's a Hemingway book about how you take places with you. This show captures that for me."

Lawrence painter Lisa Grossman has lived the opposite experience: Rather than taking place with her, she needed to travel to find it. After finishing art school in Western Pennsylvania, Grossman moved to Kansas City for a job at Hallmark Cards.

"I discovered the Flint Hills pretty quickly," she says, "and I thought, 'This is the home I didn't know I had."

Determined to make a career by producing art inspired by the Flint Hills, Grossman decided to first complete her bachelor of fine arts degree. She spent a


year catching up on required courses at Johnson County Community College, and, after seven years at Hallmark, left Kansas City for Lawrence and KU, "to get my degree and to build community, network with people, get all those pieces that I missed in that nontraditional past."

Much like the Kansas River she so lovingly renders in "Navigating," Grossman's artistic passion meandered through its own best path. Now she finds herself as a featured artist in the "sanctuary" where she "found inspiration and solace," a museum that she says was "central to my KU experience."

"Most of us can't fathom the behind-thescenes work it takes to put this together," she marvels. "And then you walk into a place like this and it kind of miraculously appears, all beautifully hung and interestingly arranged."

His installation now open to public inspection, Richard Klocke savors the joy others find in "The Power of Place." He explains how, as an artist himself, he is "always keen to honor what I think the artist's intent might be. I try to empathize with what they might have had in mind and not let other ideas step on those."

As he installs exhibitions, Klocke says, he watches for "the little ways in which certain things compare." For Klocke, the interaction of art is endlessly fascinating.

Rather than focus on such large-scale exhibitions as complex and daunting, he views them as "organic." When colleagues from across all Spencer departments have finally completed a show, from conception to installation, Klocke steps back and admires what came to be.

"What strikes me, almost every time, is that we finally get everything in place, and I'm standing there thinking, 'What's the big deal?' It all looks so easy. Everything in its place. Everything looks good.

"I very quickly forget."

Yet another power of place, especially this place: the opportunity to lose ourselves in serenity that sustains us.

🖸 More online

The Power of Place: KU Alumni Artists video features artists discussing their work. **kualumni.org/extras.**

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ANONYMOUS NO MORE

WITH RHYMES THAT BEDEVIL AND DELIGHT, A SECRET POET STEPS INTO LIGHT

BY TOD MARSHALL

or over a decade, thousands of newspaper subscribers in Spokane, Washington, enjoyed the poetry of "The Bard of Sherman Avenue." Often witty, sometimes poignant, and always brief, the poems attracted a devoted following. Consider:

Thoughts on a Canada Goose

This is no doubt a remarkable species: one half is honk and the other half's feces.



Iraq Humvees

Great warrior leaders of the free (who fight from Washington, DC) perhaps will note at some late date they're armored like a paper plate.

Reflections on a Tofu Entrée

The nutrients are rich and rare, and yet it's much like chewing air. Readers "just couldn't wait for the next one. They loved him," said Dave Oliveria, newspaper columnist for The Spokesman-Review. "People would call me and write to me and guess at The Bard's actual identity. No one had any idea." Who was this Bard of Sherman Avenue? Well, for one thing, he was a Jayhawk, and that's why he and I first met.

I am a KU grad (PhD'96), and professor at Gonzaga University—yes, *that* Gonzaga, the small Jesuit school with a decent basketball program. (How many times have I said, "Sure, I like the Zags, but I'm a Jayhawk" to naïve questioners?) One of my professorial duties involves introducing visiting writers to our campus. In 2006, during one of those introductions, I digressed (as I am prone to do) about the historical origins of Rock Chalking and Lawrence and Quantrill's Raiders, and a few days later, I received an email from Tom Wobker, a KU grad who had been at the event. We met a few days later for coffee and conversation about poetry and literature and Kansas stuff. We met again. We swapped some favorite books. We watched a KU basketball game together. We became friends.

Who was Tom Wobker? Well, although he was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Tom's family relocated to Allentown, Pennsylvania, before he began school. In Allentown, which he described as the quintessential "Rust Belt blue-collar city"-struggling, chemically befouled-Tom attended Catholic schools. His eighth-grade teacher, Sister Josephine, read one of his poems and gave him strong encouragement as a writer, enthusiasm that he took to heart and took with him to college; during his first years at Marquette University, Tom read widely, and, although he enjoyed the rigor of the Jesuit professors, the icy shores of Lake Michigan were not for Tom; after his sophomore year, he transferred; hoping to become part of a top-notch journalism program, he left Wisconsin for Lawrence and the University of Kansas.

Cuisine

The hot dog's largely tripe and fat with snouts and tails and such as that; because of this some folks eschew them, but I'm quite pleased to barbeque them.



awrence in the mid-1960s was quite different from the Jesuit institution he'd left—for background reading, check out Beth Bailey's Sex in the Heartland or This is America? The Sixties in Lawrence, Kansas, by Rusty Monhollon, g'95, PhD'99. The campus and community were frenetic places, and Tom-or "Wobs," as his friends called him—found himself a new home in a place of stimulating ideas, wild pranks and devoted camaraderie. Immediately upon arriving at KU, he pledged Phi Gamma Delta, a fraternity in which he had many adventures and through which he met Dave Marden, d'68, PhD'75; Steve Heck, c'68; and Mark Kirkpatrick, c'68, people with whom he'd backpack and hike and foster deep friendship over the next 50 years. Everyone around Tom knew that he was a writer-from classmates who sought out his help on assignments to journalism professors who gave him high marks. He particularly praised Elmer Beth, a journalism and humanities professor well known for a challenging and irascible style in the classroom.

Kirkpatrick offers this portrait of Tom's range of interests: "He was an unusual combination of intellectual sensitivity and an attraction for contact sports. He was an

ILLUSTRATIONS BY VALERIE SPICHER AND SUSAN YOUNGER



excellent boxer and boxed at the KU gym. He fought and knocked down Michael Murray ... who later was the Golden Gloves Champion of the Kansas City tournament." After undergraduate studies, Tom was drafted into the Air Force. Appointed as a captain, he manned a control panel for the Minuteman nuclear missile silos in South Dakota. This caused him a lot of consternation. His wife, Sharon, recalled him talking about this weight: "He'd often talk about how he'd 'have to push the button' if given the command. This upset him, I think. No one should be in that position."

After his discharge, Tom returned to his old stomping ground in Lawrence to pursue a law degree; he finished in 1974, graduating in the upper quarter of his class. He worked for the attorney general in Topeka for a year, AT&T in Kansas City, and then moved to the Detroit area to practice law for a private firm. There, at a jazz club in downtown Detroit, he met Sharon, and they soon married and went on to raise three children together.

Attracted by the Pacific Northwest's natural beauty and opportunities for backpacking and hiking, Tom found another job that brought him to Idaho. The employer for which he moved and at which he ended up retiring was Pennaluna and Company, an investment firm. The main office was located in downtown Coeur d'Alene, on the city's main street. The name of the street: Sherman Avenue.

TSA

They pay us good wages to feel up your granny in case she's got A bombs concealed in her fanny.

Coeur d'Alene is a very small town, and politics—especially local politics brings out satire and frustration. Tom, who had kept his pen active over the years by writing historical articles and legal documents, was compelled by local news to return to the versifying of his younger days; consequently, he approached his friend Dave Oliveria to ask about sharing some of his satirical poems through Dave's columns in The Spokesman-Review. The date was May 2002. The Bard of Sherman Avenue began his versifying.

November Ritual

This month turkeys are selected: some get stuffed and some elected.

Dead Eye Dick

On a Texas hunting journey bagged three quail and one attorney.



Although initiated by satire, The Bard's poems eventually took on a variety of subjects. For the next 14 years, Oliveria shared more than 600 of The Bard's poems via his columns. Exceptionally popular, the poems would poke fun at local and national politics, lament and lambast, decry and declare, elegize, celebrate, satirize and eviscerate. People would chuckle and cringe and wistfully smile; readers would ask Oliveria again and again who The Bard was; people would hazard guesses. No one had any idea.

Those Zucchini from Your Garden

You can grill them or fry them or stuff them or bake; you can put them in soup or in bread or in cake; you can use by the bushel, the quart, or the cup, but try like the devil, you can't use them up.



Summer Travels: Dead Pigeon in Arizona

Smashed flat by a semi just outside of Bisbee, if he flies again, it will be like a Frisbee.

, too, had no clue that Tom was The Bard; even as he and I became friends—and he knew that I was a practicing poet and professor of poetry—he never said a word about writing poetry. I knew *of* The Bard, but I had no idea that I was regularly sipping coffee and chatting *with* The Bard. What I did know was that Tom was a generous friend; he and his wife Sharon contributed to our visiting writers' series at Gonzaga, our only private donors to the events that we held for the community. "He enjoyed literary things of all sorts," Sharon said about him. "Poets, novelists, essayists. He liked hearing all of them read."

As our friendship grew, I did begin to get a sense of *his* writing range. Just as he enjoyed a variety of outdoors activities, he wrote in multiple genres. He shared a historical article that he was working on about an important yet critically ignored Native American artist, William Standing. He gave me a poignant short story about his induction into the service. We talked about writing and shared books, but in all those literary exchanges, he never once hinted about being The Bard of Sherman Avenue—until he was diagnosed with cancer.

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet X$

The Cancer Clinic

Within this building you will see small countless acts of bravery and kindness shown to fellow man; it teaches more than sermons can.

e were watching a KU basketball game together in 2014 when he told me. A comic backdrop: Watching games, I tend to be, uhh, overly passionate in a Christian Moody jersey, someone who shouts at the television; Tom, a reserved and sardonic commentator, cared about the outcome but kept a calm demeanor. During halftime, Tom turned to me and said, "I told you about the cancer, but I need to tell you something else."

"ОК."

"You know those poems in the paper by The Bard of Sherman Avenue?"

"Yeah, of course. They're pretty good," I said, sometimes slow on the uptake.

"That's me."

"What?"

"I'm The Bard. I've written around 800 poems."

I don't know if I spat my drink or just stared shocked, but I do know that I said, "We have to share them with people."

Toilet Paper Shortage in Venezuela

In Caracas it's now thought a treat to sit down with more than just one sheet.



Canines and Felines

It has been said, perhaps for laughs, that dogs have masters and cats have staffs.

Infortunately, the next few years were difficult for the Wobkers. Tom's chemo was brutal; I'd hear from him from time to time, his emails full of wit and self-deprecation, always with a mention of how the chemo was "knocking him out" (always using the boxer lingo), but I didn't see him for many months until he came over to watch the first half of a Jayhawk game. He was frail, but the sparkle was still in his eye—he made cracks about the unsteadiness of the team. He lasted a half and then excused himself to go home and rest. The illness was beating him up.

Tom's KU friends came to visit or sent gifts as his condition worsened. Remembering that Tom grew up a Catholic schoolboy and that his spirituality was still important to him, Kirkpatrick sent him a vial of Lourdes holy water. Grateful, Tom replied: "I just received the Lourdes water, and I thank you very much for thinking of me and going to all the trouble of smuggling it home—undoubtedly in violation of numerous international laws and treaties and a multiplicity of statutes and regulations, for which a reward may be offered to an informant. In any event, I am very grateful. I am happy for any edge I can get at this point, and, as a former altar boy I probably put a little extra faith in this. Seriously." Of course, Tom's seriousness always had a little rub to it; he continued, "But what is the exact etiquette with Lourdes water? I'm not certain. Do you drink it? If so, all at once or in small amounts? Rub it on the afflicted areas? Or what? What did you see them doing there?"

He ended his letter with his usual kindness and sincere graciousness: "Thanks again. I'm tickled to have this and Lord knows I need it. I really appreciate the kindness. Yours, Tom"

Cutting Trees

Be sure to recall before striking the blow they come down real fast, but they go up real slow.



S adly, though, even with the holy water and the blessings of many friends, Tom's condition did not improve. It was time to let adoring readers know the actual identity of The Bard of Sherman Avenue. In early 2016, Dave Oliveria, his longtime friend, arranged an unveiling event in Coeur d'Alene; at the time, no one was sure that Tom would be able to attend. Always the fighter, though, Tom rallied and sat in a jam-packed restaurant with around 150 other people, everyone waiting 'LER TJ OMSLAND/ THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



Tom Wobker was revealed as The Bard of Sherman Avenue during Blogfest 2016 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Wobker, j'67, l'74, on one of his beloved Pacific Northwest hikes (p. 38) and during a college fishing trip with friends (p. 36).

in anticipation. The moment came. Dave announced Tom as The Bard. The room roared. Many rose up in applause. Tom stayed seated in a booth with Sharon at his side; he waved and smiled. A few weeks later, in the care of Hospice of Spokane, he passed away. universities, book stores, retirement communities, high schools, libraries and other venues. At each event, I'd share some of The Bard's poems and tell the story of Tom and his incredibly popular work and sell books. The second print run sold out, and so we ordered more. Since its first printing, *The Bard of Sherman Avenue* has raised more than \$4,000 for the work of the hospice. That fact—and the praise of so many readers—would have given "Wobs" a smile.

Marshall, PhD'96, the poet laureate of Washington from 2016 to '18, is an English professor at Gonzaga University in Spokane. His latest book of poetry is Bugle.

New Grandchild

The door of life revolves about; she's coming in, I'm headed out.

Just a few months after Tom's passing, *The Bard of Sherman Avenue* appeared in print; his undergraduate friends from KU and local fans subsidized an initial press run of 500. Sharon asked that the proceeds benefit Hospice of Spokane. The first press run sold quickly. We reprinted the book. At the time, I was serving as Washington state's poet laureate; my service took me around the state—to The Bard of Sherman Avenue



Poessa by Tom Wohker

GIFT FOR RHYME

The Bard of Sherman Avenue by Tom Wobker \$10

Available at Auntie's Bookstore (www.auntiesbooks.com), Spokane, Washington, and The Well-Read Moose, (www.wellreadmoose.com), Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Proceeds benefit Hospice of Spokane.



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1 Retrieved on January 9, 2019, from

2 Retrieved on January 9, 2019, from linkedin.com/pulse/getting-mba-worth-marc-miller/

Association



Jayhawk Book Club

Virtual discussion group unites KU book-lovers

Last year, the Alumni Association partnered with KU Libraries to introduce the Jayhawk Book Club—an online discussion group for all KU alumni, students, faculty and staff. The new program began in fall 2018 with the selection of the No. 1 New York Times bestseller *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, and continued this spring with *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova. A new book will be chosen at the start of summer.

Here's how it works: Each semester KU Libraries staff select a book and create discussion questions, which are posted to a closed Facebook group. Participants who are not on social media can opt to receive questions via email. At the end of the semester, the Association and KU Libraries host a live conversation and reception for local participants at the Adams Alumni Center.

"It definitely fits with outreach we want to do as part of our mission to campus and the larger community as well," says Evan Washechek, research and information management assistant for KU Libraries, who selected the spring book.

Nearly 700 people are currently participating, and about 90 percent of those



individuals have joined the Facebook group. Several alumni in large metropolitan areas like Kansas City and Chicago have also expressed interest in getting together locally to discuss the books in person.

This semester, the Association also partnered with the KU Bookstore, which donated five books to distribute to select participants. Alumni Association members can also take advantage of the KU Bookstore discount to purchase the books in store or online.

Michelle Miles Lang, b'02, director of alumni programs, says response to the new program has been overwhelmingly positive. "People can participate as much or as little as they want," she says. "It's a really good way to engage with alumni who maybe don't come to watch parties or happy hours. It's just a different group and a different focus than a lot of the things we do."

For more information and to join the group, visit kualumni.org/ jayhawkbookclub.

Student Alumni Network

New programs, partnerships pay off with growing membership

Thanks to a packed slate of student programs and events over the past few semesters, the Student Alumni Network is experiencing record membership growth with more than 5,000 active student members—up from about 1,500 just two years ago.

The Alumni Association and KU Endowment laid the foundation for success in fall 2016, when the two organizations partnered to provide free SAN gift memberships for all incoming freshmen. In fall 2017, the program expanded to provide four-year gift memberships for all undergraduates.

Since then, under the leadership of Ally

-Continued on p. 44

Stay connected to the Hill! Half-price Life Membership for New Graduates

Buy your grad gift of Life membership by May 31* and we'll send you a *Graduation Gift Pack* featuring a commemorative KU tassel.

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Membership benefits:

- Access to the Jayhawk Career Network
- National Discount program
- Invitations to alumni network events
- Kansas Alumni magazine in print, online and via the app.
- KU wall calendar
- Merchandise discount at the KU Bookstore (in store and online)
- Savings on insurance
- And much more! Visit **kualumni.org/benefits** for a complete menu of benefits

Association







Students enjoyed a cereal bar during Big Jay's Recess (above), an annual spring social event hosted by the Alumni Association, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Student Involvement and Leadership Center. Home Football Fridays (right) always draw a crowd for free food and giveaways.



Continued from p. 42

Stanton, j'10, g'12, and Keon Stowers, c'15, director and assistant director of student programs, SAN has developed several career and networking events, like Mocktails & Mingle; free-food activities, including Home Football Fridays and Big Monday Brunch; and Big Jay's Recess, a large social event in the spring.

"Over the past couple years, we've looked at the things that work really well and we've stuck with those," Stanton says. "A lot of the things that had varying success, we have re-evaluated and partnered with people on campus who have a similar goal."

Big Jay's Recess, an evening event that drew 350 students last spring, is a good example of that. By teaming up with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Student Involvement and Leadership Center, SAN was able to connect with more students, including marginalized and first-generation Jayhawks, and offer a more effective, engaging experience.

Another valuable program Stanton and Stowers have developed is Senior Slate, a series of activities for fourth-year students that mimics popular alumni network events, like watch parties and other gatherings. "It's kind of like practicing to be an alumnus or alumna," Stanton says. "They'll start to see faces that they'll see out in networks. It's creating a bridge."

In order to participate in events hosted by SAN, students must activate their free memberships via the KU Alumni Association app or online. The app contains students' membership cards, which can be scanned at events for prizes and special drawings.

Donors double gifts in One Day. One KU.

Association gifts support growth of Jayhawk Career Network

KU Endowment's second-annual giving day Feb. 20 was a resounding success, raising \$1,084,062 from 2,635 gifts.

For the Alumni Association, donors stepped up again, contributing \$66,571 in 130 gifts to support the continued growth of the Jayhawk Career Network (JCN) and doubling last year's one-day total in Alumni Association gifts.

"Thank you to all of the alumni and friends who believe in the JCN's potential to add immeasurable value for students, alumni and the University," says Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, Association president. "Your gifts, and the support of our University partners, will create a powerful new avenue for Jayhawks to help fellow Javhawks."

Recent milestones demonstrate the JCN's impact:

• The KU Mentoring platform now includes 3,254 alumni and 1,222 students. The Association and local partners

hosted a successful career event Feb. 19 featuring 16 regional employers.

• Partnering with the Edwards Campus, the Association will host a panel discussion with CEOs April 2 in Overland Park.

• The JCN continues to inspire collaborations across the University-most recently discussions with KU Undergraduate Admissions and the Office of First-Year Experience.

• The JCN's Alumni Job Board currently includes 15 positions throughout the nation. If you would like to highlight career opportunities in your company or firm, please contact Kristi Laclé, assistant vice president of the JCN, kristilacle@ kualumni.org.

Networking Night



Sixteen regional employers visited with students Feb. 19 during a networking event at the Adams Alumni Center. The event was hosted by the Alumni Association, campus career centers and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce.

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Thank you

to the more than 4,500 alumni and students worldwide who have already joined KU Mentoring.



Need a mentor? Want to be a mentor? **It's not too late to join our growing network.**





Life Members

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

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Jayhawk Roundup 2019 Friday, April 12 Murfin Stables 14515 E. 13th St. North Wichita, KS 6 p.m. VIP guest reception 6:30 p.m. Doors open This year's special entertainment includes a live wood carving from artist **Dan Besco** and live music from **The Source.**

Jayhawk Roundup's "Hawkstock" theme celebrates the 50th anniversary of Woodstock.

For a fun, far-out experience register online: **kualumni.org/jayhawkroundup** Proceeds from Jayhawk Roundup will support our alumni and student programs, including the Jayhawk Career Network, the KU Alumni Association's newest initiative to enhance career successes for all Jayhawks at every life stage.

Special thanks to our sponsors









by Heather Biele Class Notes

52 William Turner, b'52, l'60, wrote Arcadia—A Memoir, which was published in January. The book details his life in Arcadia in the 1930s and '40s.

60 Janet Fevurly Weld, n'60, '98, is a nurse for Mesa Public Schools in Arizona. She makes her home in Gilbert.

64 Robert Rumpf, c'64, is general director of the English Theatre of Hamburg in Hamburg, Germany.

67 Kay Orth Kendall, c'67, wrote *After You've Gone*, the third book in her Austin Starr mystery series. Her second book, *Rainy Day Women*, won best mystery and best book at the Killer Nashville writers' conference in 2016.

68 David Booth, c'68, g'69, in November was awarded the University of Chicago Medal by the board of trustees. He earned his MBA from the university in 1971.

70 Judith Diebolt, j'70, is on the board of trustees of The Helm, a nonprofit organization at the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Life Center in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. She's a retired reporter and editor at the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News.

Larry McElwain, c'70, retired in December as president and CEO of the Chamber in Lawrence, a position he held since 2014. He is co-founder and chairman of 21st Century Funeral Company, which owned Warren-McElwain Mortuary.

71 Judy Davis-Cole, n'71, g'83, in November received the 2018 AARP Kansas Ardus Award for Community Service. Judy is a retired nurse and lives in Ottawa, where she volunteers as a member of the AARP executive council and the AARP Capital City Task Force advocacy team.

Jane Henderson, c'71, c'72, is a retired teacher in Eatonville, Washington.

Lee Polson, c'71, retired from law practice at Clark Hill Strasburger. He lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Sherry.

Priscilla Reckling, c'71, g'75, retired as

director of organizational improvement at KU Medical Center. She and her husband, Robert, make their home in Kansas City.

72 John Mize, c'72, retired in December after 43 years of law practice with Clark, Mize & Linville Chartered in Salina. He focused on health care law as general counsel for the Salina Regional Health Center and its predecessors for more than 40 years.

Jane Farr Polson, '72, is president of Keep Nebraska Beautiful. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, with **David,** '71.

73 Carla Ernst, j'73, wrote Life Without Pockets: My Long Journey into Womanhood, which was published in 2018 by Henschel HAUS Publishing. She owns CarlaAnne Communications in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Bob Matreci, g'73, retired as part of senior technical staff at Hewlett-Packard/ Agilent Technologies. He lives in Santa Rosa, California.

74 Nathan Jordan, p'74, has been a pharmacist for the past 44 years and currently works at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and **Debbie Frost Jordan**, c'73, live in Broken Arrow and enjoy traveling. They recently went to Israel.

75 John Newman, d'75, g'82, in November received the Pioneer Award from the University of Arkansas, where he retired in 2013 as associate professor. The award recognizes contributions made to the university and the state.

76 Janet Simpson, f'76, retired after nearly 30 years as executive director of the Kansas City Arts Coalition.

77 Denise White Gilmore, b'77, works for the city of Birmingham, Alabama, where she directs cultural preservation. She lives in Hoover.

78 Kathy Rose-Mockry, d'78, g'85, PhD'15, longtime director of the University's Emily Taylor Resource Center, will retire in June. She established KU's first sexual assault response policy in 2001 and led the creation of the Women of Distinction Calendar. She was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

79 Glenn Hollis, c'79, is an associate at Cushman & Wakefield in Greenville, South Carolina. He specializes in land development, retail sales and leasing.

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

.....

а	School of Architecture
	and Design
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
1	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing
р	School of Pharmacy
PharmD	School of Pharmacy
S	School of Social Welfare
u	School of Music
AUD	Doctor of Audiology
DE	Doctor of Engineering
DMA	Doctor of Musical Arts
DNAP	Doctor of Nursing Anethesia
	Practice
DNP	Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT	Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD	Doctor of Education
OTD	Doctor of Occupational
	Therapy
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SJD	Doctor of Juridical Science
(no letter)	Former student
assoc	Associate member of the
	Alumni Association

Class Notes

Deborah Jordan, e'79, g'81, lives in Berkeley, California, where she's deputy regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest.

Andrew Lear, b'79, is a city councilman in Springfield, Missouri. He's a retired CPA and partner at BKD, CPAs & Advisors.

James McCarten, b'79, a partner at Burr & Forman in Atlanta, was appointed in December to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

Timothy McCarthy, j'79, a judge on the 10th District Court in Olathe, received the Distinguished Public Service Award from United Community Services of Johnson County for his work on Veterans Treatment Court. He lives in Overland Park with **Kay Small McCarthy,** c'81, l'87, who owns a law firm.

John Mog, c'79, lives in San Francisco, where he retired as staff affairs officer at Stanford University.

Nancy O'Malley, g'79, wrote *Boonesborough Unearthed: Frontier Archaeology at a*

Revolutionary Fort, which will be published in June by University Press of Kentucky. She's an archeologist who specializes in the early settlement and Revolutionary War period in Kentucky.

Steven South, j'79, is vice president and general manager at KSN TV in Wichita. He was a DJ at KJHK during his years on the Hill.

81 Barb Krumme Geiger, c'81, n'83, is an expert consultant at NDA Partners, a life sciences management consulting and contract development organization in Rochelle, Virginia.

Greg Hadel, b'81, owns Hadel Financial Advisors in Overland Park. He and his wife, Linda, have three children.

Becky Hofer, s'81, s'87, is retired director of graduate admissions for KU School of Social Welfare.

Bob Kiely, g'81, retired in January as city manager of Lake Forest, Illinois. He was appointed in 1990 and is the city's longestserving manager.

Tamara Tickel Tool, b'81, manages

customer contracts at NASCO in Plano, Texas.

82 John Best, c'82, lives in Houston, where he's senior vice president of energy at INTL FCStone Financial Inc. He also serves on several local nonprofit boards.

J. Eric Hallman, c'82, is president and CEO of Nebraska Independent Community Bankers. He and his wife, Shirlee, live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Rick Zuroweste, j'82, wrote *Christmas Comes to Prairie Dog Village*, a children's book that was published in December. He owns Zeroweste Marketing Consulting in Lewisville, Texas.

B Dennis Allin, m'83, '13, associate professor of emergency medicine at KU Medical Center, was named a 2018 patient preferred emergency medicine, undersea and hyperbaric specialist in the state of Kansas by Patient Preferred Physicians and Practitioners.

Darryll Fortune, j'83, is principal



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ROCK CHALK BALL, APRIL 27

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Grand Ballroom at Bartle Hall 301 W 13th St. Kansas City, MO

> Purchase your tickets or reserve your table at **rockchalkball.org**

Order of Events

5-7 p.m. Check-in, Silent Auction, Cocktails and Passed Appetizers

7 p.m. Dinner

7:45 p.m. Live Auction, Program and Fund-A-Need

8:30-11 p.m. Entertainment, Cocktails, Photobooth, Fun! Hosted by the KU Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network, this annual event unites Jayhawks in the nation's largest KU community.

All proceeds will go to alumni and student programs, including the Jayhawk Career Network.

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Class Notes



consultant at SmallFortune Public Relations & Marketing in Milwaukee. He also owns FortuNuts, a packaged nuts business, with his wife, Melanie.

Doug Hobbs, c'83, l'86, lives in Wichita, where he's a retired attorney. He practiced law at Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs for more than 25 years.

84 Christine Dudgeon Wilson, l'84, g'85, is a librarian in the Community Consolidated School District in Grayslake, Illinois.

85 Laurie Harmance-Moore, c'85, is an accredited genealogist and strategy and research lead at IBM iX. She lives in Columbus, Ohio.

86 Cynthia Ball, c'86, is an occupational medicine physician at UT Health East Texas North Campus in Tyler, Texas.

Colleen Niedens Burton, b'86, is an accountant at Evers and Company CPAs in

Osage Beach, Missouri. She makes her home in Camdenton.

87 Cheryl Allen, s'87, l'90, retired in November as Reno County magistrate judge in the 27th District, a position she held since 2015. She is moving to Lawrence.

Jeff Andersen, b'87, is vice president of payor and market strategy for the University of Kansas Health System.

Danielle Morlock Fournier, c'87, works at Jasco Products Company in Oklahoma City, where she's an executive project administrator.

88 Sally Streff Buzbee, j'88, in April will receive the 2019 William Allen White Foundation National Citation. She's executive editor and senior vice president of the Associated Press news agency.

Mary Padilla, j'88, manages plant communications at General Motors in Kansas City.

Chris Stanley, d'88, f'89, an associate

professor of art at the University of Texas Permian Basin, was recognized at the Odessa College Honors Luncheon for his community volunteerism. He and **Annie Seeley Stanley**, c'88, live in Odessa, Texas, and have two children, Max and Mia.

Phil Wilke, c'88, j'92, lives in Chico, California, where he's general manager of North State Public Radio.

Hannes Zacharias, g'88, is a professor of practice in the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration.

89 Pam Enright, c'89, is senior director of expatriate benefits solutions at Willis Towers Watson in Leawood.

Susan Honeyman, c'89, g'94, wrote *Perils of Protection: Shipwrecks, Orphans, and Children's Rights,* which was published in January by the University Press of Mississippi. She's a professor of English at



the University of Nebraska in Kearney.

Honora Hundelt Lindenberg, c'89, is an assistant business office manager at Life Care Center of Grandview in Grandview, Missouri.

Julie White Lorenz, g'89, in January was named interim Kansas Secretary of Transportation by Gov. Laura Kelly. She previously served as senior strategic consultant in the Burns & McDonnell Transportation Group.

Roger Templin, b'89, l'92, is a principal in the business practice group at Payne &

Jones in Overland Park. He lives in De Soto with **Mitra Marashi Templin**, c'90, and has two children, **Sophia**, j'17, and Rex, who's a senior in business at KU.

90 John Pascarella, c'90, c'90, is professor of biological sciences and dean of the College of Science and Engineering Technology at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He lives in The Woodlands with Mary Carlson Pascarella, c'99, the university's associate director of graduate admissions, and their daughter, Grace.

91 Joni Brophy Colwell, s'91, manages the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison.

92 James Danoff-Burg, g'92, PhD'95, directs conservation at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, California.

Kenneth DeBoer, c'92, is president and CEO of Prairie Lakes Healthcare System in Watertown, South Dakota.

PROFILE by Kurt Anthony Krug

KU telemedicine launches alumna's higher ed career

Pamela Sasse Whitten says serendipity has led her to a "great place" in her career as president of Kennesaw State University, a public institution of 37,576 students on two campuses in the metropolitan Atanta area.

She became president in July 2018, just a few months before the university's ascent to the ranks of R2 research institutions designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

"It's a wonderful opportunity in terms of being at the helm just as the university moves into a new stratosphere—that's very exciting," said Whitten, PhD'96. "That very rapid growth also presents challenges in terms of setting the appropriate vision and making sure everyone has the wherewithal and resources they need to be successful. Everyone's got a spring in their step here."

Whitten's path to a university presidency began at KU Medical Center, where, as a doctoral student in communication studies, she was part of the team that launched the telemedicine program that now spans the entire state. She became its first director and created the first partnership with the Kansas City schools.

Working with students and pursuing

research eventually led her to the classroom as a professor at Michigan State University. She later became dean of the College for Communication Arts & Sciences, overseeing growth in faculty and research and the college's transition to a digital curriculum.

Steve Lacy, MSU professor emeritus and former associate dean, says Whitten champions change: "She isn't afraid to make difficult decisions to improve a university's operations. She has the ability to analyze academic problems accurately, create a plan to solve them, and see the plan through to completion."

In 2014, Whitten became provost at the University of Georgia, guiding an increase in undergraduate faculty, external research funding and endowed professorships.

Now that she leads Kennesaw State, Whitten will focus on enhancing student success and increasing retention and graduation rates. "The student population here is incredibly smart and gifted. It's diverse as well," she says. "It's really the right recipe for the thing I like to do, which is going to an outstanding academic institution to work with the people there to move and elevate the university in a rapid time period."

Whitten says she will follow her guiding principles for forthright leadership: "Always be the hardest working person in



Whitten describes Kennesaw State as "an exciting school that's on the move" and says she looks forward to developing new scholarships and increasing research at the university.

room," she says. "You don't have to be the smartest one, but always be the hardest working one.

.....

"Honesty always wins out; even if it's painful in the short run. ... One thing I've learned to appreciate over time is how very significant effective listening is in making sure you do right thing."

—Krug is a freelance writer in Detroit.

Class Notes

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Mike Gabrawy, c'92, is chief creative officer at Arclight Films. His new film, "Hotel Mumbai," opens in March nationwide and stars Dev Patel and Armie Hammer.

ENDOWMEN

Darrin Good, g'92, PhD'95, in February was named the 17th president of Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. He previously served as vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Whittier College in California.

Greg Hughes, c'92, was promoted to president of the North America region at Beam Suntory. He's been with the Chicago-based beverage company since 2015.

Bayo Joachim, PhD'92, is a professor in the School of Communication and Mass Media at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

Scott Stucky, c'92, j'92, lives in Atlanta, where he's vice president and news director at Fox 5 Atlanta/WAGA-TV.

93 Gregory Gertz, '93, is a financial representative at Northwestern

Mutual in Deerfield, Illinois.

Debra Hart McLaughlin, l'93, is a prosecuting attorney for Jefferson County in West Virginia. She and her husband, Kevin, have three children.

Jennifer Miller Pesanelli, j'93, c'94, lives in Rockville, Maryland, where she's executive officer at the Biophysical Society.

Hale Sheppard, j'93, l'98, g'99, is a partner in tax controversy and litigation and chair of the international tax section at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta.

Stephen Sigler, c'93, l'96, is a shareholder at Neil, Dymott, Frank, McCabe & Hudson in San Diego, where he specializes in litigation in defense of physicians, hospitals and businesses. He recently joined the American Board of Trial Advocates.

94 Yoso Furumoto, g'94, is the Washington bureau chief for Mainichi Newspapers. He and his wife, Yuko, live in Alexandria, Virginia. **Eric Mikkelson,** l'94, a partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Kansas City, was elected mayor of Prairie Village. He has served on the city council since 2014.

Allana Pettigrew, c'94, directs digital strategy at ER Marketing in Kansas City.

Pat Ryan, g'94, is chief operating officer at Second Sight Medical Products in Sylmar, California.

95 Paul Broughton, b'95, lives in Basehor, where he's a portfolio manager at Advisors Capital Management.

Mary Hinton, g'95, is president of the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She was the keynote speaker at Misericordia University's commencement ceremony in December.

Linda Moreau Pletch, g'95, received the employee Spirit Award from the Spaulding Youth Center in Northfield, New Hampshire. She has been with the organization since 1989 and supervises the behavioral therapy team.

Brad Satterwhite, a'95, co-founded

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Class Notes



KEM STUDIO, an architecture and design firm in Kansas City.

96 John Blosser, s'96, '98, is president of Integrated CareGroup and PainPro in Overland Park, where he lives with his wife, **Sheila**, assoc.

David Burns, c'96, lives in Aurora, Colorado, where he's a prep cook at Panera Bread Company.

Richard Harlan, c'96, is a project manager at CMI. He makes his home in Santa Cruz, California.

Teresa Loftin, m'96, is a physician at Swan Mountain Family Practice in Buena Vista, Colorado.

Joseph Nyre, g'96, PhD'00, in February was named president of Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.



Since 2011, he has served as president of Iona College in New York.

97 Erin Curtis-Dierks, j'97, is marketing project manager at Firesign/ Enlightened Legal Marketing in Prairie Village.

James Hughes, f'97, lives in San Antonio, where he's a designer and developer at the Watermark Group.

Jonathon Kemnitzer, f'97, is co-founder of the architecture and design firm KEM STUDIO in Kansas City.

98 Christopher Warren, c'98, is curator of American history and literature in the Rare Book and Special Collections division of the Library of Congress. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Jenny, and their two sons, Donovan and Dempsey.

99 Ryan Barnhart, d'99, g'01, wrote *The Imagined Adventures of Ramsey Barrett*, which was published in November. It's the second book for the assistant principal at Northwest High School in Justin, Texas.

Cathleen Carothers, l'99, is consulate general in Athens, Greece. She has been a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State since 2001.

Mindie Miller Paget, c'99, g'01, directs external affairs at KU's Office of Research. She previously worked for the School of Law, where she led communications and marketing efforts for 11 years.

Serena Roberts, PhD'99, directs the center for academic success at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee.

David Toland, c'99, g'01, is the new Secretary of Commerce for the state of Kansas. He was appointed in January by Gov. Laura Kelly. David previously served as president and CEO of Thrive Allen County, a nonprofit organization in Iola.

Ryan Bartlett, c'00, PhD'07, is vice president of innovation at Com-

pass Minerals in Overland Park. He makes his home in Basehor.

Kristi Kiyabu Ching, c'00, g'02, is a nurse at Oueens Medical Center in Honolulu. She has two children. Noah and Micah.

Eric Dippel, m'00, is a cardiologist and chief medical officer at American Vascular Associates. He makes his home in Bettendorf. Iowa.

Toland Harris Hippe, c'00, lives in Lawrence, where she's a real estate agent at Keller Williams Integrity.

Jesse Van Dyke, c'00, is a real estate broker and vice president at WeWork in Chicago. He oversees the co-working company's expansion in the Midwest.

Jeremy Viscomi, c'00, is principal partner at PIKA Industries in Houston. **Bill Woodard,** j'00, is a media relations specialist at Stormont-Vail Healthcare in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence.

Aldon Corle, c'01, m'06, is an obstetrician and gynecologist at Baptist Health Women's Clinic in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Matthew Hulver, PhD'01, is assistant dean of health sciences at Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Cop brings new meaning to community policing

nyone who's seen LaMar Sharpe interact with children in his hometown of Canton, Ohio, would never guess there was a time when he wasn't the community's most popular police officer.

In his first few years on the job, Sharpe, a former KU football player who's been a police officer for 18 years, recalls patrolling low-income housing districts and waving at children playing outside. Rather than returning his friendly greeting, the youngsters would raise their middle fingers as he drove by.

"I was like, what in the world?" says Sharpe, '99. "I got to a point one day where I said, the next kid to flip me off I'm getting out of my cruiser, and I'm going to have a talk."

Sure enough, a young boy flashed the obscene hand gesture a few days later, and Sharpe stopped. But instead of scolding the child, Sharpe offered to share his lunch and struck up a conversation about video games. A week later, when Sharpe returned to the same area, he was greeted by a swarm of excited children eager to meet the cool cop.

One of Sharpe's endearing qualitiesand what sets him apart from many of his fellow officers—is that he understands children's distrust of the police. Growing up in Akron, a neighboring city about an hour south of Cleveland, Sharpe and his siblings lived in an area known for

rampant drug and gang activity.

"We viewed the police as the enemy," says Sharpe, who recalls being thrown on a cruiser when he and his friends were mistaken for a group of troublesome boys. "We felt like they were just coming in and arresting people. They weren't taking the time to get to know us."

Today Sharpe is celebrated in his community for strengthening the relationship between local residents and law enforcement. He's a frequent guest at elementary schools and birthday parties, and he

keeps his cruiser stocked with candy and other snacks, which he passes out to children. He also brings stuffed animals on domestic violence calls to help calm youngsters during the visit.

In 2016, Sharpe and his wife, Deidra, started Be a Better Me Foundation, which aims to empower and encourage youths and assist disadvantaged community members. In addition to serving hot meals and distributing winter clothes to those in need, the foundation hosts eight-week mentoring academies for young girls and boys. Each week, participants learn about etiquette, healthy relationships and the importance of earning and saving money.



"I had no intentions in my wildest dreams of being a police officer," says LaMar Sharpe, an 18-year law enforcement veteran who has reached celebrity status in his Canton, Ohio, community.

.....

This year, the foundation also started providing free tutoring for young residents.

"We're starting to see a change in our boys," Sharpe says. "I have about six boys who have been with me since we started two years ago. Their parents say, 'My son is going to stay in this program because I don't want him to backtrack."

After years of cultivating change in his own community, Sharpe hopes to extend the foundation's reach outside of Canton and help other police departments build relationships with their residents. "I've been blessed from all of this," he says. "It's been a great experience."

Class Notes

Sciences in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Diane Kern Bellquist, l'02, is a Z member of Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Topeka. She joined the firm in 2014 and specializes in professional licensure and professional liability defense.

Mary Vernon, d'02, is a senior coordinator at KU School of Medicine-Salina.

BORN TO:

Holly Anderson Keefe, f'02, and her husband, Brian, son, Cody, Jan. 3 in St. Louis. Holly is a senior specialist at Stifel Financial Corporation.

O3 Sean Aikmus, Coo, worker and Financial Advisors in Overland Sean Aikmus, c'03, works at Hadel Park, where he's a certified financial planner.

Katie Hollar Barnard, j'03, g'06, is CEO of Firesign/Enlightened Legal Marketing in Prairie Village.

Nick Collison, c'03, who retired in 2018 after spending his entire 15-year NBA

career with the Seattle SuperSonics/ Oklahoma City Thunder, will have his No. 4 jersey retired on March 20. It's the first number to be retired by the team.

Eric Gasper, b'03, is a financial analyst and accountant at TSYS in Broomfield, Colorado.

Anissa Parra-Grooms, c'03, works in resource development at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City. She and her husband, Joseph, live in Kansas City.

Leita Schultes Walker, c'03, j'03, l'06, is a litigator in Ballard Spahr's media and entertainment law group. She lives in Minneapolis.

MARRIED

Kimberly Moore, m'03, to John Hudspeth, April 28, 2018, in Lawrence. They live in Aviston, Illinois.

Jesse Beier, c'04, lives in Minne-🕇 apolis, where he's a shareholder at Lommen Abdo. He specializes in estate planning.

Kelly Dreyer, e'04, a'04, is an associate principal at Gould Evans in Lawrence. He was lead designer on two recent University projects: the Earth, Energy and Environment Center and the DeBruce Center.

Ingrid Gerdes, '04, is a professional musician and recording artist. She lives in Boston.

David Gnojek, f'04, is creative director at KU Marketing Communications. He lives in Lawrence.

Jennifer Patty, c'04, co-owns Vero Home Audio in Sebastian, Florida, with her husband, Greg. She also performs in theatre productions.

Sidney Butcher, l'05, is a judge in The District Court of Anne Arundel County in Maryland. He previously worked as an attorney in the Office of the Attorney General.

William Cross, j'05, l'11, is an associate at Lathrop Gage in Kansas City. He specializes in labor and employment law. Brandon Kent, a'05, was promoted to



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associate principal at Gould Evans in San Francisco.

Brooke Spicer, c'05, directs business development at HealthInsight.

BORN TO:

Dereck, c'05, m'13, g'16, and **Kysha** Nichols Totten, m'13, son, Turner, Dec. 27 in Colby, where Dereck is a physician at Citizens Medical Center.

Daniel Britton, b'06, is vice president and unit leader at

Lockton Companies in Kansas City.

Stephanie Craig, c'06, has a travel and history blog and podcast called "History Fangirl," which she started in 2015.

Kirk Hinrich, c'06, in March was inducted in the Iowa High School Athletic Association Basketball Hall of Fame. He was a point guard at KU from 1999 to 2003 and played 13 seasons in the NBA. Kirk is a lead academy specialist at Sanford POWER Basketball Academy in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Cullin Hughes, c'06, l'09, is a share-

holder at Polsinelli in Kansas City. He specializes in health care alignment and organizations.

Justin Langford, c'06, is associate director of data strategy and insights at VML in Kansas City.

Kelly Malmstrom, n'06, is a registered nurse at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, where she lives with Ben Jacobi, '17, a web developer at the Federal Reserve Bank. They're celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary in March.

Darren Reed, c'06, owns Curts & Reed

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Humanitarian work spurs career change for lawyer

With degrees in human biology and law, Jomana Qaddour was working as a patent attorney in Washington, D.C., in 2011, when war broke out in Syria during the Arab Spring protests. The first city to turn violent was Homs, where Qaddour was born and her father grew up.

Jihad Qaddour brought his family to the United States when Jomana was 3, earning his master's and doctoral degrees at Wichita State University. With friends and family living in Syria when the war began, including a brother who is a physician, he quickly learned that people needed help.

"My father has always been very social-justice oriented, and he raised us to be that way too," says Qaddour, c'06, l'09. When he decided to start a humanitarian group, he asked Jomana to help set it up.

"He said, 'I just need you to do the paperwork; I won't drag you into anything else," Jomana recalls. "But I quickly became very intertwined with what was happening, and the response was so great that I really couldn't walk away."

She joined her father to found Syria Relief & Development (SRD), which has delivered \$60 million in humanitarian aid to Syrians affected by violence, poverty, hunger and displacement in the eight-year conflict.

SRD eases suffering with emergency housing, health care and food, but the "biggest hope" is to promote long-term development that prepares Syrians to provide their own food and shelter. "We're trying to rehabilitate housing, for example, instead of throwing families into tents," Qaddour says. SRD also targets women's health and social issues, such as ending early childhood marriage. Using its large network of Syrians in-country, SRD focuses on what Syrians say they need, not solutions imposed from outside. "We're not putting people's lives at risk to achieve something that looks great on paper in Washington," Qaddour says, "but is useless to people being barrel-bombed in Aleppo."

Her work at SRD also inspired a career change—to foreign policy. In 2012 she joined the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy as a research assistant, and from 2015 to '18 worked as a senior policy analyst with the federal **Commission on International Religious** Freedom. In November she was appointed to the Anti-Defamation League Task Force on Middle East Minorities, which promotes protection of religious, ethnic and other minority communities that often



"People want to be able to provide for their families," says Jomana Qaddour. "Foreign policy that keeps in mind that universal goal makes for strong allies and long-term friends."

face repression and discrimination.

"As an immigrant—and as someone involved in U.S. foreign policy—it's my goal to help policymakers better understand the regions we work in," Qaddour says. Foreign policy should reflect U.S. principles and values, but also account for the values and needs of local cultures, she believes.

"At the end of the day, we're all human beings; we all want to live dignified lives. That's a universal thing."

Class Notes



Calling all bookworms!

The KU Alumni Association has partnered with KU Libraries to create the Jayhawk Book Club for alumni, students and friends.

Here's how it works

Each semester. KU Libraries staff will select a book and create discussion questions. The discussions will take place in a closed Facebook group, and you can participate as much or as little as you like.

We'll hold a reception and discussion, led by KU Libraries staff, at the end of

Spring 2019 book Every Note Played by Lisa Genova.

How to join

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

2. Join the Jayhawk Book Club Facebook group. Discussion questions will be posted in this group.

Questions?

Contact Michelle Lang, director of alumni programs, at michellem@kualumni.org or 785.864.9769.

Optometry in Olathe. He's been practicing optometry in the Kansas City metro area since 2010.

Christine Pina Rosengreen, l'06, is a family law attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Kansas City.

Lori Baxter Underwood, d'06, g'13, a music instructor at Ottawa High School, was named Outstanding High School Choral Teacher of the Year in the East Central District of the Kansas Music Educators Association.

Luke Wohlford, c'06, l'09, is a partner in the litigation department at Barnes & Thornburg in Dallas.

Jessica Lerner, '07, is a registered nurse and organ procurement coordinator at Midwest Transplant Network in Mission.

Seve Palacioz, b'07, is CEO of Air Capital Transportation in Wichita.

Chris Pumpelly, c'07, j'07, lives in Wichita, where he directs operations at Bodhala.

Andrew Ricke, c'07, l'10, in January was promoted to partner at Lathrop Gage in Overland Park. He specializes in personal injury, business and employment claims.

Meghan Kinley Shreve, c'07, directs education and communications at InterHab in Topeka.

BORN TO:

Ryan, c'07, j'07, and Erinn Schaiberger **Colaianni,** b'07, g'08, Stella Doretta and Landon Lawrence, Jan. 3 in Arlington, Virginia. Ryan serves on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors.

08 Ryan Boomsma, g'08, works for PMG, a digital advertising agency in Dallas, where he's chief financial officer.

Kimberly Wallace Carlson, j'08, is director of engagement at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City.

David Wise, c'08, b'08, lives in Chicago,



where he's chief operating officer at Platform Purple, a technology solutions company.

109 Joel Balzer, c'09, works at KU Endowment in Lawrence, where he's a development officer for major gifts.

Brandon Blakely, g'09, is an associate at Briggs and Morgan in Minneapolis. He works in the firm's business litigation section.

Justin Hendrix, l'09, lives in San Diego, where he's intellectual property counsel at Collins Aerospace.

Matthew McCulley, g'09, is a colonel in the U.S. Army. He's stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Mandie Nech, c'09, is director of finance at Travel for Teens in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Julie Feldt Perricone, c'09, coordinates membership at Mid-Hudson Children's Museum in Poughkeepsie, New York. She and her husband, Robert, live in Wappingers Falls.

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Class Notes



Kara Brack Stucky, b'09, directs marketing at KU Memorial Union. She previously managed digital merchandising for AMC Entertainment.

10 Chad Gerber, d'10, is an assistant professor of sport marketing and administration at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he lives with his wife, Jessica, and their daughter, Grace Helen.

Andrew Gilfillan, l'10, is vice president and a geologist in the acquisitions and divestitures team at Seaport Global. He makes his home in Katy, Texas.

Austin Hausmann, e'10, g'13, lives in Kansas City, where he's vice president of research and product development at Chanje.

Amy Johnson Nouri, j'10, is vice



president of public relations and programming at Firesign/Enlightened Legal Marketing in Prairie Village.

Ashley Siebert, a'10, is a design engineer at Dimensional Innovations in Overland Park.

Daniel Stockman, c'10, is an enterprise account executive at Adobe. He lives in Dallas.

Madeline Tritsch Tenbrink, d'10, is a physical educator at Eisenhower Middle School in Manhattan.

Bryan Tilson, e'10, is an electrical engineer at the Federal Aviation Administration in Kansas City. He makes his home in Pleasant Valley, Missouri.

Lisa Zirkel, b'10, g'11, lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she's a senior tax compliance manager at Avalara.

BORN TO:

Brenna Hawley-Craig, c'10, j'10, and her husband, Dennis, sons, Joel Vincent and Everett Curtis, Dec. 26 in Baldwin City. Brenna is a business analyst at DEG Digital in Overland Park. **Mike**, e'10, and **Sasha Roe Kuchinski**, c'09, j'09, son, Parker Michael, Oct. 21 in Derby. Mike is an engineering lead at Spirit Aerosystems and Sasha is associate director of college counseling at Wichita Collegiate High School.

1 Becky Blackman, c'11, is a freelance writer, editor and proofreader in Overland Park.

Alyson Smith Bull, b'11, is an employee benefits specialist at Performance Contracting Group in Lenexa, where she lives with **Michael**, e'13, a mechanical engineer at Henderson Engineers.

George Diepenbrock, g'11, lives in Lawrence, where he's a communications officer for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Mason Heilman, c'11, d'11, is a legislative aide for Massachusetts Rep. Michelle Ciccolo. He makes his home in Boston.

Elliot Johnson, b'11, g'14, manages digital marketing at Rexel USA in Dallas. He lives in Addison, Texas.

Danielle Larrabee Johnston, d'11, '12, teaches in the Kirkwood School District in Missouri. She and **Scott**, b'11, g'12, an associate at Greensfelder Hemker & Gale, live in St. Louis.

Alexandra Panagakos, c'11, is a senior account executive at Rapid7 in Boston.

Rachel Preisner, c'11, is a destination sales executive for Marriott International. She makes her home in Kansas City.

Liz Raynolds, c'11, '15, lives in Phoenix, where she sells medical devices for Medtronic.

Vivek Sharma, g'11, manages enterprise application strategy and integration at Grant Thornton in New York City.

Nathaniel Williams, PhD'11, wrote *Gears and God: Technocratic Fiction, Faith, and Empire in Mark Twain's America,* which was published in 2018 by University of Alabama Press. He is a lecturer for the University Writing Program at the University of California-Davis and serves on the advisory board for the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction.

Kendra Zink, c'11, manages marketing and theme tickets for the Kansas City Royals. She lives in Roeland Park.

MARRIED

Katherine Aucott, c'11, to Mark Hammond, Aug. 25 in Lawrence. They live in Eugene, Oregon, where Katie works in health communications for Johnson & Johnson Health and Wellness Solutions.

Tyler Cini, g'11, to Sarah Pulliam, Aug. 18 in Dallas. They live in Richardson, Texas, where Tyler is an architect and project leader at GFF Architects.

Laura Marshall, b'11, g'12, to Mitch Kerr, May 19, 2018, in Fairway. They live in Overland Park, where Laura is an engagement controller at Cerner Corporation.

12 Andy Brown, s'12, is interim commissioner of behavioral health sciences for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services in Topeka.

Kate Favrow, g'12, manages corporate marketing at Associated Wholesale Grocers in Kansas City.

Devinee Fitzgerald, j'12, '17, works at Yelp, where she's a senior account executive.

Pearce Ramsey, c'12, lives in Salt Lake City, where he's an associate consultant at Cerner Corporation.

Theresa Sahrmann Schorr, g'12, was promoted in October to project architect at Kraemer Design Group in Detroit. She lives in Royal Oak, Michigan.

MARRIED

Joshua Baden, c'12, to Kara Protasio, Dec. 21 in Lawrence, where they live. Josh is an actuarial specialist at SE2 in Topeka.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Combat veteran leads engineers' Alaska District

A s commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' sprawling Alaska District, with operations throughout the largest U.S. state and nine Southeast Asian countries, Col. Phillip J. Borders oversees more than \$650 million of annual work by nearly 400 employees—only 16 of whom are uniformed military.

It's a big change for a combat engineer who spent much of his career in war zones or supporting combat preparations.

"I see it as a personal growth and learning opportunity," says Borders, a'96, a Lawrence High School grad whose parents still live here. Now that the workforce he commands includes not just engineers but an array of specialties that include contractors, lawyers and environmental experts, "I'm no longer the most experienced guy in the room."

Although accepted by the School of Engineering after applying to KU, Borders quickly realized he didn't have enough money and enlisted in the Army. When he made his way back to Mount Oread on the Montgomery GI Bill, he switched to the School of Architecture & Design—and was promptly activated for a six-month tour in Operation Desert Storm. As his schooling stretched into his 20s and funds again dwindled, Borders joined Army ROTC, eventually graduating as a 26-year-old lieutenant in the Engineer Regiment. After completing the engineers' basic course Borders immediately moved on to the rigorous Ranger school, where he earned the coveted "Ranger tab" shoulder patch.

"You meet an infantryman and he'd want to know whether you have a tab," Borders says. "It's a rite of passage in that sense."

The Army in 2003 deployed Borders to Baghdad just as the war zone was transitioning from major combat into counterintelligence operations.

"That was a great team because we were able to adapt and adjust to an environment that was undefined," Borders says of the soldiers he led on his 18-month tour. "We were figuring it out on the fly."

He returned to Iraq in 2008 as a battalion operations officer and in 2014 he deployed to Afghanistan as commander of an air assault engineer battalion. He also served in leadership positions for the U.S. Central Command at Florida's MacDill Air Force Base and the Joint Multinational Training Command, where he led training to counter improvised explosive devices.

Alaska District is readying a base for the



Phil Borders began his three-year command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Alaska District in August. "The work this district is doing keeps people safe every night."

first F-35 airwing outside the continental United States, yet Borders also takes satisfaction in humanitarian work. When he handed over a new school in the Vietnamese highlands, Borders reminisced about his father, Jonathan Quick, who fought there during two tours of duty with the 101st Airborne Division.

"I thought, 'What a different world we're in.' But it's strategically important because it's about relationships."

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June 9-19, 2020



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

13 Brandon Beck, b'13, g'14, is an assurance senior associate at PwC in New York City.

Kayleigh Brooks Berning, PharmD'13, lives in Leoti with her husband, Craig, and their son, Collin, who just turned 1.

Jessica Bjorgaard Crozier, j'13, directs public relations and social media at InQuest Marketing in Kansas City. She commutes from Lawrence, where she lives with **Derrick**, '11.

MARRIED

Lauren Moore, g'13, to Jay Shifman, Dec. 15 in Cincinnati, where they make their home. Lauren manages program and policy for the Cincinnati Preschool Promise, a nonprofit organization.

14 Alex Beck, c'14, is a senior engineering technician at Johnson County Wastewater. He and his wife, Nicole, live in Kansas City.

Joe Carr, u'14, u'14, is a sales professional at Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate in Overland Park.

Carolina Gahn, d'14, is a physical therapist at Summit Rehab and Wellness in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Caleb Hays, g'14, lives in Washington, D.C., where he's an associate attorney at Holtzman Vogel Josefiak Torchinsky.

Halie Barnes Paulson, d'14, g'16, is a teacher in the Blue Valley School District in Overland Park. She lives in Lenexa with **Thomas,** e'14.

Elaina Smith, u'14, manages production at Patient Resource in Overland Park.

Lydia Young, c'14, j'14, is a social media specialist at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City.

15 Victoria Kirk, j'15, lives in Los Angeles, where she's a proposal specialist at Chrome River Technologies.

Nadia McCann, g'15, is a family nurse practitioner and owns McCann Medical Clinic in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Christopher Nesmith, PharmD'15, is a pharmacy manager at Walmart in Olathe.

Jessica Noble, c'15, works at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, where she's associate director of the Stanford Fund.

Objects on these pages are from the collection at the Adams Alumni Center.

MARRIED

Taylor Hanna, c'15, g'17, and **Dan Peterson**, g'16, Oct. 6 in Lawrence. They both work at KU, where Taylor is an academic adviser in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Dan is an academic adviser in the Undergraduate Advising Center.

Allison Kite, j'16, is the City Hall reporter for the Kansas City Star. She lives in Overland Park.

Galyna Korniyenko, g'16, is a teaching associate at Ohio State University in Columbus.

MARRIED

Connor Webb, l'16, to Chloe Treece, Dec. 1 in Scottsdale, Arizona, where they make their home. Connor is an associate attorney at Pincus & Associates in Tempe.

17 Nathan Bachynski, j'17, coordinates digital marketing at Allebach Communications in Souderton, Pennsylvania.

Danny Caine, g'17, wrote *Continental Breakfast*, a book of poetry that was published in March. He owns the Raven Book Store in Lawrence.

Ruben Castillo, g'17, is an artist and second-year resident at Charlotte Street Foundation Studio in Kansas City.

Jeremy Goldberg, b'17, is an enterprise business development representative at BetterUp in Phoenix.

Devante' Green, d'17, is a personal trainer and coach at IdentiFIT in Newark, New Jersey.

Austin Knoblock, l'17, is co-founder and partner at Access to Justice in Joplin, Missouri.

Laura Stallbaumer, s'17, lives in Overland Park, where she's a therapist at Journey to Hope Counseling.

Pauline Witmer, g'17, is a digital fraud data analyst at UMB Financial in Kansas City. She lives in Overland Park.

18 Alyssa Barratt, c'18, who teaches math at Free State High School in

Lawrence, received the school district's 2018 Horizon Award in September. She also was one of 82 graduate students nationwide to receive a scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Alyssa is pursuing her master's degree in educational administration at KU.

Jordan Cook, e'18, lives in Austin, Texas, where he's a structural engineer at Structures PE.

Alden German, c'18, is a meteorologist at KLKN-TV in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dylan Jones, c'18, is a staff assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Wendi Fleming Murphy, c'18, is director of Calvary Lutheran Church in Kansas City. She has two daughters, Brooke and Alexandra.

Justin Schmidt, g'18, g'19, is an accreditation coordinator at the University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Shawnee.

19 Michael Jenkins, g'19, lives in Greenville, North Carolina, where he teaches in Nash-Rocky Mount public schools.

Leigh Kaulbach, g'19, teaches photography at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, where she and her husband, Andy, live.

Justin McCubbin, g'19, makes his home in Arkansas City with his wife, Katie, and their daughter, Erin, who just turned 1.

Michael Voth, c'19, is a distance-learning specialist at AGCO Corporation in Hesston. He and his wife, Tracy, live in Buhler.

ASSOCIATES

Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel, assoc., was named one of the top 50 influential Jewish leaders in 2018 by The Forward, a Jewish publication. He directs the Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Life at KU.



In Memory

40SDec. 9 in Leawood. She was a high school teacher and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Surviving are her husband, Ray, c'48, b'50; two daughters, one of whom is Virginia Alderson McGaha, c'73; a sister; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Mary Caton Norris Allen, n'49, 91, Oct. 31 in Dallas, where she was a retired nurse and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. A daughter, Nancy Norris Cadigan, c'77; and a granddaughter survive.

Julia Fox Been, d'48, 92, Dec. 21 in Calgary, Alberta. She was a speech therapist. Survivors include two sons and three daughters.

Rebecca Vallette Bright, j'46, g'81, 93, Nov. 7 in Olathe. She was a freelance writer and later became a travel agent. She is survived by a son, a daughter, five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Gerald "Jerry" Dick, b'48, 94, Sept. 5 in Overland Park. He had a 33-year career at the Topeka Capital-Journal, where he was news editor and assistant managing editor. Surviving are his wife, Glenna; three daughters, two of whom are Linda McDougall, d'74, and Cheri McDougall Nash, c'80; a son; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Georgia Bear Gregg, '42, 98, Dec. 12 in Hamilton, Ohio, where she was a graphic artist. Two daughters, a son, two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren survive.

John Ise, c'40, 95, Oct. 2 in Santa Barbara, California, where he was a professor and nuclear physicist. Survivors include a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Mary Young Martin, c'48, 96, Jan. 18 in Norton. She was a high school teacher. She is survived by a daughter, Virginia Martin Will, '71; two sons, Robert, d'74, and Christopher, '76; a sister, Elizabeth Young Smith, '47; a brother; and eight grandchildren.

Marilyn Brubaker Moore, n'48, 92, Nov.

3 in Olathe, where she was a retired nurse. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is James, g'77; a sister, Patricia Brubaker Landis, d'51; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth "Jimmie" Hall Reid, c'45, 96, Sept. 14 in Fort Worth, Texas. She and her husband operated a dairy farm and she also served on several community boards. She is survived by three sons; two daughters; a sister, Barbara Hall Marshall, c'45; a brother, Donald Hall Sr., assoc.; 11 grandchildren; and 14 greatgrandchildren.

Edward Rolfs, c'48, 93, Aug. 16 in Topeka. He lived in Junction City, where he was president of Central National Bank. Surviving are his wife, Eunice Carlson Rolfs, c'48; a daughter, Christine Rolfs Munson, d'74; two sons, one of whom is Ed, b'76; a sister, Betsy Rolfs Waters, c'48; four grandchildren; and four greatgrandchildren.

Wayne Stallard, b'48, 92, Dec. 6 in Mission. He was an executive at several companies and later formed Stallard Associates, a consulting firm. He is survived by three daughters, one of whom is Melanie, c'82; a brother, Carl, b'51, l'56; two grandchildren; and two greatgrandchildren.

Mary Jeanne Waymire Tinberg, b'49, 91, Dec. 20 in Prairie Village. She volunteered at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Surviving are two sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

50SFrank Becker, e'58, 82, Nov. 28 in Lawrence, where he was CEO and president of Becker Corporation and Becker Investments. He served as chair and a member of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors in the early '80s, and he received the Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 1988, KU's Distinguished Engineering Service Award in 1991 and the Distinguished Service Citation in 1996. He also was a trustee and former chair of KU Endowment. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Barbara Brinkman Becker, assoc.; three daughters, one of whom is Ann Becker Logan, b'87; a son; two sisters, one of whom is Betty Becker Timmerman, c'55; and 12 grandchildren.

Sheila Nation Brown, d'58, g'70, PhD'75, 82, Nov. 18 in Boulder, Colorado. She taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for several years and created an educational program for Nebraska Public Television. She retired as director of visual and performing arts education for the state's department of education. Survivors include her husband, Hubert, PhD'71; two sons, one of whom is Chris, c'89, g'92; a sister, Rosemary Nation King, d'60; and four grandchildren.

Oscar Chowning, c'53, m'56, 87, Oct. 25 in Albany, Oregon, where he was a retired ear, nose and throat specialist. His wife, Thelma, two sons, a daughter, a brother, a sister and three grandchildren survive.

Janetha Schmalzried Girotto, d'58, 81, Aug. 25 in Rochester, Minnesota. She lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she taught music. Surviving are her husband, John, e'60; two sons; five siblings, one of whom is Donald Schmalzried, '63; and four grandchildren.

Bert Gordon, '55, 93, Dec. 13 in Lenexa, where he retired after a 37-year career as a mechanic and electrician at Trans World Airlines. He is survived by his wife, Geri; a stepson, Gregory Rieke, c'72, g'75; two stepdaughters, Janet Rieke O'Neal, d'74, and Robin Rieke Neville, c'77; a sister; seven step-grandchildren; and 14 step-great-grandchildren.

Ruth Lill Griswold, f'58, 82, Nov. 13 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was an occupational therapist and later owned Page One Paperback Book Exchange in Lincoln. Survivors include her husband, Norm, c'57; two daughters; and a granddaughter.

Gordon Hamilton, '55, 85, Nov. 17 in Prairie Village, where he had a 53-year career as a stockbroker. Two sons and seven grandchildren survive.

Nancy Harbes Hobbs, d'59, 81, Jan. 4 in Leawood. She was a teacher and volunteered in her community. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a son, John, b'87; a daughter; and six grandchildren.

J.D. Holmberg, e'51, 94, Oct. 4 in Overland Park. He retired as sciences director at Marley Cooling Tower Company. Survivors include his wife, Jan; a daughter, Donna Holmberg Mehl, d'78; six stepchildren; and a grandson.

Marguerite Unrein Houchins, f'54, 87, Nov. 21 in Olathe. She was a homemaker. She is survived by a son; two daughters; three brothers, one of whom is George Unrein, f'62; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Georgia Tipton Kidwell, d'53, 86, Nov. 2 in El Paso, Texas. She lived in Hurst, Texas, for several years, where she was a teacher and community volunteer. In 2008, she received the Hurst Citizen of the Year-Leadership Award. Surviving are a daughter, a sister and three grandchildren.

John Kongs, d'51, 92, Oct. 26 in Topeka. He retired from General Motors and moved to Seneca, where he and his family ran the Seneca Theatre. Survivors include his wife, Gladys Hunninghake Kongs, '50; two daughters, Janet Kongs Hickman, c'74, and Laura, g'95; two granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

Duane Krug, b'55, 87, Dec. 27 in Wichita. He was a retired financial analyst for the IRS. His wife, Marcia, a son, a daughter and two granddaughters survive.

Richard LaGree, b'53, 88, Oct. 21 in Overland Park. He had a 40-year career at Western Resources and Kansas Power and Light. Surviving are his wife, Beverly; a daughter, Jane LaGree Allingham, c'77, l'80; a son, Bryan, b'80, l'84; and three grandsons.

Roger Lovett, c'50, l'51, 92, June 7 in Topeka, where he was a retired lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard and an attorney for the Kansas Civil Rights Commission. Survivors include his wife, Chris; two sons, Brent, c'82, m'87, and James, '76; two daughters; a stepdaughter, Elizabeth McCoy Schraeder, '82; three stepsons, one of whom is Patrick McCoy, e'80, g'82; 11 grandchildren; 10 stepgrandchildren; and 16 greatgrandchildren.

JR Majors, c'50, s'52, 93, Jan. 18 in Edina, Minnesota. He served as executive director of Family and Children Services of Kansas City for 25 years and was the first recipient of the KU School of Social Welfare Alumni of the Year Award. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Ruth; two daughters, Janis Majors Howard, c'77, s'79, and Karen Majors Bogle, j'80; six grandchildren; and two greatgrandchildren.

Lillian Bernard Mann, n'55, 86, Dec. 2 in Urbana, Maryland, where she was a retired nurse. She is survived by two sons; two brothers, John Bernard, b'51, and Dewey Bernard, d'57; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

David Martin, c'56, 83, Nov. 22 in Lake Winnebago, Missouri. He was an industrial engineer before becoming an insurance agent. His wife, Sharon, a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter survive.

Shirley Shriver Miller, d'50, 88, Sept. 21 in Richland, Washington. She was active in politics and served as a delegate at the 1976 Democratic National Convention. She also owned a local bookstore. Survivors include a daughter, two sons, two sisters, five grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

JoAnne Wellman Nelson, '52, 88, Dec. 21 in Casper, Wyoming. She was a teacher and later became a travel agent. Surviving are a daughter, Nancy Nelson-Moore, f'83; two sons, Eric, '86, and Jay, j'94; eight grandchildren; and six greatgrandchildren.

A. Ramona Woolley Landers Ruggles, n'56, 89, Dec. 25 in Sioux City, Iowa. She had a 43-year career as a nurse and clinical instructor. Survivors include a son, Kevin Landers, p'86; four sisters, one of whom is Anita Woolley Jenkins, n'62; and two grandchildren.

Beverly Wilson Shurtz, **d'52**, 88, Dec. 23 in Topeka, where she taught music and retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield. She is survived by her husband, Donald, f'52; two sons, Ronald, e'76, and Steven, b'78; a daughter, Vicki Shurtz Harding, c'83; five grandchildren; and six greatgrandchildren.

Kenneth Sperry, d'50, 94, Oct. 14 in Lisbon, North Dakota. He was a beekeeper and president of Sperry Bros. Apiaries. Surviving are a daughter; two sons; a brother, Bryan, d'50, g'55; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Charles "Louie" Stroup, j'57, 83, Jan. 16 in Pittsburg, where he was retired executive director of Kansas Municipal Utilities. He was a member of KU's track and field team from 1953 to '57 and helped the Jayhawks win eight Big Seven team championships. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Corene; a daughter, Kim Stroup Wells, d'92, g'95; a son; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Marianne Kreissler O'Nelio, '81; two stepsons, one of whom is Tom Kreissler, '04; a brother, Larry, j'57; four grandchildren; and six step-grandchildren.

Marilyn Curt Vincent, d'55, PhD'70, 84, Dec. 4 in Muncie, Indiana, where she coordinated undergraduate studies for the School of Music at Ball State University. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Jim; two stepsons; a sister, Carol Curt Enos, d'57, g'00; a brother; seven grandchildren; and three greatgrandchildren.

Dennis Chalus, m'67, 77, March 5, 2018, in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. He was a radiologist. Surviving are his wife, Carolyn, a son, two daughters, two stepsons, a stepdaughter, a brother, three sisters, four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.

Paul Clendening, c'69, 72, Nov. 11 in Overland Park. He had a 40-year career in banking and also served as CEO of Community Health Charities in Washington, D.C. Surviving are his wife, Nancy Cole Clendening, '71; a son, Paul Jr., c'94; a daughter, Barbara Clendening Krueger, c'01; three sisters, one of whom is Jane, c'94; a brother; two stepsisters, Jill Pettegrew O'Connor, d'75, and June Pettegrew Schiff, '75; and six grandchildren.

Robert Dickerson, m'64, 84, Nov. 19 in Leawood. He practiced internal medicine for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Carole; a daughter, Lisa Dickerson Marquis, b'82; three sons, John, c'86, David, c'89, m'93; and Tom, c'96; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

In Memory

Edward Fischer, e'60, 87, Jan. 10, 2018, in Jenks, Oklahoma, where he was a petroleum engineer and owned KC Oil. Survivors include his wife, Joyce, two sons, two daughters, 12 grandchildren and13 great-grandchildren.

Philip James, c'60, 80, Nov. 10 in Fort Collins, Colorado. He co-founded United Agri Products and retired as senior vice president of ConAgra Foods. He is survived by his wife, Susan; four daughters, two of whom are Elizabeth, f'92, and Melinda James Day, c'95; a son; and eight grandchildren.

Carl Johnson, d'64, g'70, 77, Nov. 28 in Horton, where he was a music teacher. He also installed pipe organs at Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence.

Richard Laing, f'60, 83, Dec. 12 in Topeka, where he was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Surviving are his wife, Blossom Frakes Laing, '60; two sons; a stepdaughter, Beth Swanson, c'81; a stepson, Brent Swanson, '81; a sister, Carolyn Laing Hemphill, '55; eight grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Duane Lowry, '67, 74, Oct. 30 in Dripping Springs, Texas. He lived in Elizabethton, Tennessee, where he was an optometrist and founding member of the Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee. Surviving are his wife, Carolyn; two sons; a daughter; a sister, Joyce Lowry Jackson, '69; and four grandchildren.

R. Kent Nanninga, b'62, 79, Dec. 2 in Garden City, where he was president of his family's business, Western Motor Company. He is survived by his wife, Carol, assoc.; a son; a daughter; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Diana Smith Nuss, d'69, 72, Oct. 27 in Hoisington, where she was a retired high school teacher and coach. Surviving are her husband, Kenneth; two sons; three stepsons, one of whom is Todd Nuss, '93; 17 grandchildren; and eight greatgrandchildren.

Karen Snyder Rowe, n'65, 75, Nov. 28 in Overland Park, where she was a school nurse for more than 30 years in Kansas City school districts. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, a son, a sister and eight grandchildren.

Gary Schugart, g'68, PhD'74, 83, Nov. 5 in Houston, where he was professor and chair of accountancy and taxation at the University of Houston. Survivors include his wife, Edna; three sons, one of whom is Charles, b'83; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donald Sobocinski, PhD'63, 88, July 30 in Houston, where he was a research adviser at ExxonMobil. He is survived by his wife, Joan, three daughters, a brother, nine grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

Patricia Wulf Steinkuehler, d'66, 74, Sept. 25 in Tallahassee, Florida. She was a teacher and school administrator and later worked for the Florida Department of Education. Surviving are a son, Eric, '91; and a brother, John Wulf, c'75.

Janet Meserve Tidwell, '60, 80, Nov. 6 in Garfield, Arkansas, where she was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. Survivors include her husband, W. Ted, j'60; a son, Scott, c'85; a brother, G. Donald Meserve, e'58; five grandchildren; and four greatgrandchildren.

Gerald Weatherby, c'62, d'63, PhD'69, 78, Dec. 24 in Oklahoma City, where he chaired the department of chemistry at Oklahoma City University. He is survived by his wife, Francene Stepanich Weatherby, n'68; two daughters; a brother, Kent, '65; and a grandson.

70S⁶⁸, Nov. 21 in Lawrence, where for more than 30 years she co-owned and managed Medical Arts Pharmacy with her husband. She is survived by her husband, Marvin, d'71, p'73; two sons, Todd, c'94, and Timothy, p'03; and eight grandchildren.

Ronald Ferguson, b'72, g'73, 69, Dec. 1 in Naples, Florida. He was CEO of National Advisors Trust Company. Surviving are his wife, Chae; two sons, Matt, b'06, and Scott, b'07; a stepdaughter, Katie McCue, c'08; a stepson; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Kathleen Huber Higley, g'76, 66, Dec. 6 in Overland Park, where she was a speech pathologist and homemaker. She also was

a liturgical singer. She is survived by her husband, David, assoc.; three sons, Brian, '00, Robert, b'02, and Matthew, '09; a daughter, Megan, c'06, g'08; her mother; three sisters, one of whom is Jean Huber Holman, g'79; three brothers; and two grandchildren.

Rachel Slawson Hollingsworth, d'73, 70, Oct. 26 in Augusta, where she was a seamstress and teacher. Survivors include her husband, Steven; two sons; two sisters, one of whom is Coleen Slawson DeHoff-Botts, d'64, g'86; three brothers; and two granddaughters.

Carol Jean Clement Johnson, j'77, 63, Jan. 10 in Austin, Texas. She was a development specialist for constituent relations at the University of Texas. Her husband, Romulus, a daughter, a son, a sister and a brother survive.

Maureen "Twink" Canfield Lynch, g'71, PhD'81, 84, Nov. 18 in Topeka, where she was administrative director of the Topeka Civic Theatre and a national consultant for community theatre. Surviving are three sons, Gregory, c'89, m'93, Christopher, m'92, and Mark, m'95; a daughter; a brother; a sister; and 10 grandchildren.

Douglas Nelson, c'79, 68, Jan. 1 in Bonita Springs, Florida, where he retired after a 42-year career in law enforcement in Lawrence. Survivors include his wife, Elaine McNally Nelson, c'74, g'79; two sisters, Marla Nelson Smith, j'75, and Mala Nelson Barnes, j'78; and a brother.

Daniel Rounda, d'78, c'80, 62, Dec. 18 in Kansas City. He lived in Leavenworth for several years, where he retired from a 35-year career as a software engineer and architect at Texas Instruments, Innovative Software/Informix and DST. He is survived by his wife, Judith Bowen Rounda, d'79; a son, Luke, '09; and a daughter, Nancy, '15.

Keene Wilson, g'75, g'78, 71, Sept. 17 in Fullerton, California. He had a long career in city management and also was a painter and art instructor. His wife, Debra, and two sons survive.

80 Mary Reed Copeland, g'80, 84, Dec. 23 in Olathe. She taught elementary school for 25 years in the Shawnee Mission School District. Surviving are her husband, Roger, assoc.; two daughters, Joanne Copeland Herre, h'79, and Christina, c'83; a son, John, b'85; three sisters; a brother; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Keith Flanery, j'82, 62, Dec. 10 in Tucson, Arizona, where he was a retired protection ranger for the National Park Service. In 1996, he received the U.S. Department of the Interior's Valor Award for his heroic service. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A daughter survives.

Charles Hoag, '86, 57, Jan. 28 in Kansas City. He made his home in Lawrence, where for more than 30 years he was an operations manager at Black Hills Energy. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Lisa Mumford Hoag, '81; two sons, one of whom is Austin, d'15; two daughters; his mother, Donna Carter Dennis, '55; three sisters, Cheryl Hoag Gasiewski, b'82, Karen Hoag Kosbab, '82, and Deanna Hoag Roth, '87; and two grandchildren.

Arline Six Seely-Bensch, g'86, 82, Dec. 25 in Lawrence. She was an elementary school teacher and volunteered at KU's Audio-Reader Network. Survivors include her husband, Larry Bensch; a son, David Seely, c'79, I'82; two daughters, Diana Seely Frederick, c'82, and Doreen Seely-Francis, f'86; two stepsons; two stepdaughters; six grandchildren; a step-granddaughter; and a great-grandson.

905 Kwamie Lassiter, '95, 49, Jan. 6 in football at KU from 1992 to '94 and helped lead the Jayhawks to a victory in the 1992 Aloha Bowl. He went on to play 10 seasons in the NFL, eight of which were with the Arizona Cardinals. He is survived by his wife, Ericka, and eight children, one of whom, Kwamie II, is a junior and wide receiver at KU.

10SAndrew Marsh, g'12, 35, Nov. 24 in student at KU and an adjunct professor at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. His wife, Valerie, a son, two daughters, his parents and two sisters survive.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

John Alexander, assoc., 78, Dec. 6 in Lawrence. He was professor of Russian history. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Maria, assoc.; a daughter, Darya, m'99; a son; a sister; and two grandsons.

Lelon Capps, assoc., 88, Jan. 19 in Lawrence, where he was a professor in the School of Education for more than 50 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Lois Plank Capps, g'83; a son, Karlin, c'79; a daughter, Kandis Capps Taylor, '82; and four grandchildren.

Catherine "Katie" Cox, assoc., 95, Nov. 11 in Lawrence, where she had a 26-year career as an administrative assistant for KU Student Housing. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Kent, PhD'70, m'75, and Robert, '74; a sister; three grandchildren; and six greatgrandchildren.

Francis Ellis, 87, Nov. 10 in Lawrence. He worked in the School of Journalism. His wife, Colleen, a daughter, a brother, a sister and four grandchildren survive.

James Fishback, m'83, 63, Jan. 13 in Kansas City, where he was a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and professor emeritus of pathology and laboratory medicine at KU Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Meg, a sister and a brother.

Laurence Johnson, 94, Jan. 5 in Parker, Colorado. He was a retired professor of journalism. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a daughter, Judy Johnson Becerra, s'85; a son; and three grandchildren.

Janice Kozma, 72, Nov. 9 in Lawrence. She was professor of Italian language and literature and chaired the department of French and Italian studies from 1987 to 1992. A brother survives.

Wiley Mitchell, b'43, g'47, 97, Jan. 15 in Lawrence, where he was professor and associate dean at the School of Business. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Nancy Mitchell Moore, '70; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. **Paul Schloerb,** 99, Dec. 29 in Leawood. He was professor emeritus of surgery at KU Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Louise; two sons, Ronald, j'73, and Paul Richard Jr., j'80; three daughters, two of whom are Patricia Schloerb Johnson, '72, and Dorothy Schloerb Hoban, f'77; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert Shelton, assoc., 84, Dec. 23 in Lawrence, where he was professor and chair of the department of religious studies. He also served as the University ombuds for 18 years. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Voss Shelton, c'71, n'74, g'83, '10; two daughters, Heidi Shelton-Jenck, j'84, and Wendi, c'85; two sons, one of whom is David, '09; a sister; a brother; nine grandchildren; and two greatgrandchildren.

Fred Van Vleck, 83, Dec. 6 in Lawrence. He was a professor of mathematics for more than 40 years. Surviving are his wife, Charlotte; three sons, Erik, c'85, Paul, e'93, and Karl, c'93, g'94; two daughters, Teresa Van Vleck Munk, f'93, and Kristina Van Vleck Ingram, f'93; a brother; and six grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Marilyn Larrick Blowey, assoc., 82, Dec. 4 in Lenexa. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Richard, b'56; two daughters, Cheryl Blowey Rude, b'81, and Jennifer Blowey Godfrey, j'96; a son, Douglas, c'83, m'87; a brother, David Larrick, '63; a sister; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Elva Jean Hummer Draper, assoc., 91, Dec. 8 in Topeka, where she was a court reporter. Survivors include her husband, John, e'64; and two sisters.

Kenneth Turner, assoc., 73, Dec. 16 in Denton, Texas. He lived in Topeka for many years, where he was an engineer at Southwestern Bell and later worked for Waddell & Reed as a financial adviser. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Hunn Turner, e'72, g'81; a daughter, Kristin, b'04; two sons, Trent, j'07, and Grant, c'09; a sister; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review





Legendary letters

KU designers create typeface that mimics national park signs

Like any good designer, Jeremy Shellhorn pays special attention to visual details—even when he's on vacation. So it was no surprise that in summer 2012, while on a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, Shellhorn noticed that the park's informational materials could use some work.

"The graphic design that you see in the parks oftentimes just doesn't have that same attention to detail or passion or expertise behind it," says Shellhorn, f'99, associate professor of design. "Most of the time that's because the parks just don't have the resources to put a lot of money into those things."

Shellhorn, an avid outdoorsman and frequent park visitor, wanted to help. He contacted Rocky Mountain National Park's chief of interpretation and education and offered his design services during a semester-long sabbatical. Nearly seven years later, Shellhorn has not only redesigned the park's newspaper and a series of six waysides at the top of the Alpine Ridge Trail, but he has also digitized the typeface found on those iconic wooden park signs.

Shellhorn was motivated to create the letter form after requesting it for a park project. "They didn't have it and they didn't know what typeface it was," he says, explaining that historically park staff used a CNC router, which follows computergenerated vector lines, to carve letters in the signs.

Concerned that the typeface would one day disappear if a different router were used, Shellhorn took rubbings from some of the signs and returned to campus, enlisting the help of Andrea Herstowski, f'91, associate professor and chair of design, and two students, Chloe Hubler, a'18, and Jenny O'Grady, a'18, to digitize the letters. The new letter form, called "National Park Typeface," is available for public use and can be downloaded for











Jeremy Shellhorn, associate professor of design, led the creation of the National Park Typeface, a digitized version of the distinctive letters found on wooden park signs.

free at nationalparktypeface.com.

This is not the first time Shellhorn has recruited students for an outside project. Six years ago, he started taking groups of 15 students each summer to Rocky Mountain National Park to camp and assist rangers with design. He also hosts the Design Outside Studio on campus each spring, which provides a handful of students with outdoor industry-related opportunities.

"Our students are really taxed in terms of their time commitments, and they're usually inside most of the time," Shellhorn says. "We're asking them to be really creative, but oftentimes they're in these spaces that maybe aren't the most creative."

Shellhorn hopes to bring more students to Rocky Mountain National Park this summer to create additional graphics that complement the new typeface. In the meantime, he's pleased that the newly digitized letters—which were downloaded 14,000 times in just two weeks—are getting so much global attention.

"The reception has been kind of unbelievable," Shellhorn says. "A lot of people have memories of those letter forms, and that's why it's taken off." —Heather Biele

Rock stars

Stalwart Lawrence family funds purchase of geology field camp

When one of KU's longest-running academic traditions—geology field trips to a Colorado research station known as Blue Ridge—was recently threatened with what could have been an abrupt and untimely end, the family of one of the program's most earnest supporters stepped in to save the day.

The Harrison Family Fund, currently under the stewardship of Alumni Association Life Member Beth Harrison, '86, last year donated \$360,000 for the KU department of geology to purchase 600 acres of mountain land near Cañon City, Colorado, where generations of geology students have completed mapping exercises for GEOL 560, a required course for all KU geology majors.

The late Bob Harrison, c'39, a geology graduate who went on to become a beloved Lawrence business leader as president of Gill Real Estate and Insurance Agency, so thoroughly enjoyed his time at Blue Ridge in the 1930s that when his son, the late Phil Harrison, c'65, inquired about his ideas for charitable distribution of family funds, Bob Harrison immediately cited the Blue Ridge camp among his primary interests.

"It was a life experience that he never forgot," Beth Harrison says of her fatherin-law, "and he wanted to be able to assist future KU geology students to have similar opportunities."

The property's previous owner, Ron Gifford, had for decades generously offered KU geology students free access to Blue Ridge. When Gifford's family decided to sell the property, KU geology faculty quickly realized that their access could be threatened by new owners, or the site might even be subdivided and developed.

That's when the Harrison Family Fund stepped up not only to purchase the property, but also support scholarships for students attending the camp and even reimburse them for summer-job wages lost during their fieldwork.

"Thanks to the Harrison family, Blue Ridge is going to be preserved for future generations to use," says field camp director J. Douglas Walker, Union Pacific Resources Distinguished Professor of Geology.

Blue Ridge's topography is well suited to learning geologic mapping. Its distinguishing features include metamorphic rocks that are created when rocks are subjected to high heat and pressure.

"It's an invaluable geologic exercise that they couldn't get anywhere else in the vicinity," Walker says. "The geology is well-exposed and clear. Students can make a large number of supporting measurements in the area on the outcrop. They can just walk up to the rocks and make observations."

Along with Blue Ridge, GEOL 560 students also travel to a research station in Utah, where they complete mapping exercises while hiking through the desert. At the Colorado site, 13 miles outside Cañon City, the Jayhawk geologists are mapping while hiking mountains.

The Harrison Family Fund at the Douglas County Community Foundation donated the money for the Blue Ridge property purchase through KU Endowment, which in turn enabled the geology department to secure its purchase.

"We are deeply grateful for all the Harrisons have done for our students," says Jennifer Roberts, professor and chair of geology.-----

-Chris Lazzarino



Blue Ridge research station near Cañon City, Colorado

Rock Chalk Review





Ode to Kansas

'Naming the glory' of Kansas fuels 'walkumentary'

J oshua Nathan and Patrick Ross both grew up in Kansas, both graduated from KU and both found themselves in Los Angeles working in the film industry. They even shared a house in LA with a third Jayhawk who also worked in films.

What else they shared was a desire to make a documentary film about their home state that would dispel clichéd notions about Kansas hatched partly by the very industry that employs them.

"It's an attempt to redefine a misunderstood state for those who just think of the 'Wizard of Oz," says Ross, c'11.

"It's something you deal with every day if you're a Kansan," adds Nathan, c'11, of the 1939 movie. "If people don't know anything about the state, they gravitate toward the one cultural element they are familiar with."

The method they settled on had them following roads of dirt and gravel—not yellow brick—as they walked across Kansas guided by the loosest of itineraries: After riding Amtrak's Southwest Chief to Garden City in spring 2015, they began walking to Lawrence, following a zigzag route that took them to each of the Eight Wonders of Kansas. The details, such as where to stay each night and where their next meal would come from, they left largely to chance.

"We said, 'Let's approach the state that

way and see what comes of it," Nathan says. "It made for a memorable trip, but in terms of art-making, it was very risky."

The film, "Kansas an Eclogue," won funding support from Humanities Kansas and was the topic of Chautauqua events hosted by the state humanities council in Lawrence, Wichita, Hays and Garden City in November. The filmmakers are still working to finish the movie, but the friends they made and the stories they gathered suggests the risk was worth taking.

"It forced us to engage with the people of Kansas in ways we probably would never have interacted with them," Ross says of their "walkumentary," which the filmmakers describe as a portrait of Kansas told by its people. "When you're walking you're really left to the resources you have on your back and the kindness and generosity of people you encounter. We were graciously brought into homes and fed by the kind shepherds we came across."

Many of those kind shepherds—who provided meals, tent space on their lawns, and, in one case, a badly needed pair of hiking boots—appear in the film. Walking, it turned out, was an effective way of meeting and interviewing an eclectic mix of people, Ross says. Traveling on foot was also a good method for capturing the state's charms.

"Someone in the film says, 'There's a beauty in Kansas, but it's a subtle beauty," Nathan notes. "It's not like the Grand Canyon or the Rockies or the oceans. And you find it moving very slowly and looking



Joshua Nathan and Patrick Ross filmed lonely prairies, dusty backroads and Kansas monuments like Castle Rock on their crossstate trek.

very carefully and then it starts to emerge."

Striking images abound. Nathan and Ross mix sweeping prairie vistas with close-ups of less obvious wonders: A molting locust emerges glistening from its shell; a dusky armadillo, belly up on the roadside, drips a single drop of vivid red blood on the pavement.

An eclogue is a pastoral poem, a mode of verse favored by Virgil; the filmmakers say they want "Kansas an Eclogue" to be their ode to Kansas. In this, they took inspiration from Stanley Lombardo, professor emeritus of classics (one of several familiar KU faces in the film), who recites his own translation of a Virgil eclogue in the movie, and from filmmaker Werner Herzog, whose Rogue Film School Nathan attended in 2014.

Faced with capturing the spirit of a vast, seemingly monochromatic land in "Encounters at the End of the World," his film about Antarctica, Herzog decided to "do it like Virgil." Virgil, he says, never



explains; "he just names the glory," and he decided he would do the same with Antarctica. "We do not need to explain," Herzog said in an interview. "We find people there who are marvelous and we do not go into psychology. We just present them in all their wondrous attitudes and free spirit."

"That, more than anything, is what our film really is," Ross says. "It's naming the glory of Kansas."

Nathan and Ross hope to complete "Kansas an Eclogue" late this year or early next. PBS stations in Wichita and Topeka have expressed interest in broadcasting the finished film, and they want to submit it to festivals by the end of 2020.

Most important, they want to tour their home state again, to share their pastoral ode to Kansas in the same grassroots spirit in which they made their nine-week trek.

STEVE PUPF



"If we could share our film with a national audience, we'd certainly welcome that," Ross says. "But before that even happens, we want to celebrate this film with Kansans, because they deserve it. They are going to be the true critics." —Steven Hill

Botanical bonds

Chapbook explores connection with earth's 'sentient beings'

Megan Kaminski hasn't always identified so closely with the natural world. Years ago, the up-and-coming poet preferred living in fast-paced urban areas like Los Angeles, New York City, Paris and Casablanca, never imagining she would find satisfaction in more rustic surroundings. That all changed when she was accepted to graduate school at the University of California-Davis.

"I was just overwhelmed in really profound ways by the natural landscape the expanse of fields and the wideness of the sky," says Kaminski, a Virginia Beach, Virginia, native and associate professor of poetry in the University's graduate writing program. "That happened again when I came to Kansas."

Since arriving in Lawrence more than 10 years ago, Kaminski has published two books of poetry, *Desiring Map* and *Deep*

City. In December she released *Each Acre*, a chapbook containing a single, 10-part poem that examines botanical forms and behavior.

"They're really these fascinating creatures," Kaminski says of plants. "I was interested first in considering them as fellow sentient beings and what that would mean on a personal level: What are my responsibilities to these plants? But also thinking more largely about how we interact with the natural world."

Kaminski, who frequents the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Strong City, explores this concept in *Each Acre*, taking readers on journeys through shifting landscapes and describing the living beings that dwell in each space.

of cloud blanket and too-tight air lines are painted in asphalt people join together in halls white petals unfold slowly and tomatoes stay green on vines this carry and fall this whistle wolf-ward this echo of bear-fall and moose on the mountain

sung half-heard unto prairie onto field

Kaminski found inspiration for *Each Acre* and a forthcoming book as the 2016 Spencer Museum of Art's Integrated Arts Research Initiative Faculty Research Fellow. She worked closely with Carrie Wessinger, a postdoctoral researcher in ecology and evolutionary biology, and quickly became enamored with wild plants.

Her passion for earth's rooted beings blooms in *Each Acre*, as Kaminski thoughtfully conveys the complexity of the space we inhabit and invites readers to consider that if a single acre is cherished by one person, plant or animal, then all land and living things must be significant as well.

"I guess on some deep level I'm trying to help develop a sense of compassion and a sense of ethical responsibility," Kaminski says, "but in a gentle, compassionate way."

Kaminksi

—Heather Biele

^{...} but even with these days of unending gray

$Glorious \ to \ View {\tt Photograph by Chris Lazzarino}$



January snow blanketed the cascade of stairs in Marvin Grove. Since late November, the harsh winter forced campus closures or delayed classes a half-dozen times—more than in any academic year in at least 40 years.



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