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SCIENCE DEFENDER
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Jayhawk Welcome Center
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CANCER CENTER

Talk and squawk in the news



STEVE PUPPE

“If anything about the pandemic is remembered as positive, it will be how science was applied to rapidly produce medical countermeasures.”

—Barney Graham, m’79, in a March 26 opinion piece in The New York Times about global preparedness for future pandemic threats. The physician and scientist was a principal creator of COVID-19 vaccines while working at the National Institutes of Health (“Make the Dream Work,” issue No. 3, 2021). He is now a professor and senior adviser for global health equity at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

“Each time the group reunites the following year, it feels a bit like coming home.”

—Elena Macaluso, g’98, writing for Sacramento Magazine about KU men’s basketball watch parties hosted by the Sac Jayhawks of the KU Alumni Association. The flock convenes at Players Sports Pub & Grill in Fair Oaks, California, and has cheered on the ‘Hawks together for over 20 years.



BETH BAUGHER

COURTESY DOLE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS



“Bob Dole was the first person to teach me that compromise is the oxygen of democracy.”

—Former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle, speaking April 25 at the Dole Institute of Politics during the groundbreaking ceremony for an earthwork portrait that will honor Dole, ‘45. Read more about the project on p. 15.

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“Joe’s! Somehow egg salad on white and jelly-filled donuts went great together.”

—Bryan Swan, j’91, commenting on the Alumni Association’s April 24 Facebook post that asked Jayhawks to share their go-to restaurants from their student days. Joe’s Bakery—pictured here in 1995—Yello Sub, Pyramid Pizza and Vista Hamburgers were the top spots that brought back mouthwatering memories.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



COVER STORY

Grand Entrance

The recently opened Jayhawk Welcome Center is KU's front door for Jayhawks—new and established—coming home to the Hill.

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Cover photograph by Steve Puppe



Bright Book of Life

With a bestselling debut novel that mixes elements of mystery and literary fiction, a journalist digs into the unrealistic expectations facing Asian immigrants.

by Steven Hill



Consequence of Conspiracy

A professor's defense of critical thinking takes on a popular Netflix series and America's appetite for the half-baked theories of pseudoscience.

by Chris Lazzarino



SPRING 2023

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Please limit your comments to 350 words. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity.

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STEVE PUPPE



A FEW SEMESTERS AGO, I was lecturing to a class of about 100 students here at KU. While presenting, my habit is to wander up and down the walkways and stairways of the lecture hall like a fitness enthusiast trying to get his steps in for the day.

The benefit of my nervous tic is this: My wanderings bring me closer to my students than if I anchored myself at the front of the classroom behind a lectern. On this particular day, that up-close view revealed something about one of my students that I would have otherwise missed.

She had tiny earbuds in her ears. Poking out from under her hair were tiny white speakers—so small that we can't call them "headphones" anymore. After all, they don't have anything to do with our heads when we bloop them into our outer ears.

I only noticed the earbuds when I pivoted to her to ask her opinion on an example that was projected on the screen. My curiosity about what she thought morphed into curiosity about what she was listening to.

And why was she listening to it in my class?

The fact that I didn't confront her about the earbuds says something about me as a teacher. It also says something about college campuses, where people wear earbuds as much as anywhere I have lived or visited. In almost choreographed

unison, students exit classes, meetings and buildings and reach into their pockets to find their Bluetooth earbuds. One for each ear. Hit play on the music.

Solitary auditory clouds form around each student.

Such public and widespread use of earbuds has crept into locations we would never have expected. A few years ago, I heard a man conducting a work meeting while using a urinal at the airport. He even flushed. I was so surprised that I told the next 50 people what I saw. Today, that anecdote is commonplace.

Just this week, I have seen people with earbuds listening to who-knows-what while others are speaking to them, during mindless tasks at work and during meals with others. Most startling, I have seen people listening to something else entirely while interacting with a client, whether at a restaurant or here at the University.

The size of earbuds leads many people to believe they aren't distracted—and that the accessory is not distracting.

"It's not like I am wearing a huge set of noise-canceling headphones," they seem to say. "I am just wearing these little things."

This excuse ignores how earbuds encourage our sensory distance from others. To hear a Taylor Swift song in one ear and the words of your co-worker in the other is to have your attention divided.

We might be tempted to simply invite more sights and sounds into our world. We watch sports on TV with our phone in our hand for social media. We side-watch "Sex and the City" while doing homework. We listen to Beyoncé while reading Karl Marx.

However, each stimulus that we invite into our perception not only stimulates but also blocks part of the real world. My student from the lecture hall might not have lost much from popping in her earbuds that day (especially because it was me lecturing), but something was lost.

Along with that divided attention, truly quiet time is evaporating. When I drive to campus, I listen to podcasts through the car speakers. When I walk to my office, I wear earbuds with a comedian barking at me. When I get to my office, instrumental music plays through my office speakers.

The routine is so ingrained that yesterday, when a co-worker ended our conversation by leaving my office, I reflexively reached for my earbuds.

We are curating omnipresent soundtracks to our days, with little or no relief. Even when we sleep, we cue the white noise.

Quiet time itself has been silenced. Many of us habitually seek noise when quiet would be just as good.

So, yes, it's great that during my idle time I am listening to podcasts that deliver an Ivy League course on the Early Middle Ages. But is learning about the Merovingians actually better than hearing the voices of the people in my workplace, on my campus or in my home? Would I be better off hearing the proverbial bird chirping on my stroll down the idyllic campus sidewalk?

It's a constant decision between real-life quiet and curated sound piped into our heads. That choice mirrors many other decisions that technology is presenting at the moment. Real life competes with an on-demand comforting world.

How do we choose between the bleak realism of the evening news and the fantastical comfort of our favorite show? Should we opt for the tumult and energy of a thriving office or the calm and predictable cocoon of our home office? Should our middle schoolers get out of the house and plunge into the social uncertainty of meeting up with one another? Or, should we let them retreat into the familiar landscape of video games?

Framed that way, the questions seem huge.

But those profound questions come in a small package: the two little earbuds sitting here on my desk and the split-second decision of whether to listen to them, or the world around me.

—ERIC THOMAS

Thomas directs the Kansas Scholastic Press Association and teaches visual journalism and photojournalism.

He contributes to Kansas Reflector (kansasreflector.com), where this essay first appeared.



THEIR ALREADY HIGH SPIRITS boosted with a surprise greeting from Baby Jay, School of Medicine grads Anna Thomsen (l) and Jordan Anders-Rumsey on May 14 glided hand in hand through the Campanile, embracing the hallowed and happy walk down the Hill as the heart and soul of KU Commencement.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE



“Our mission is to bring world-acclaimed artists to the region to mentor, inspire and engage with audiences, with the community, and most importantly, with underserved youth.”

—Jesse Henskensiefken



STEVE PUPPE

Henskensiefken

ARTS & CULTURE

All together now

Opera reunion caps debut season for group promoting classical music

THE ALL-STAR LINEUP of alumni invited to perform in the “Voices of the Metropolitan Opera” concert May 6 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center is a testament to the talent level of the School of Music’s opera and voice program, according to Jesse Henskensiefken, the organizer of the show.

Presented by the Mid-America Performing Arts Alliance (MAPAA), the concert capped a successful first year for the group and brought back to Lawrence three graduates of the program who are affiliated with New York City’s Metropolitan Opera: Andrea Coleman, f’03; Kristee Haney, g’09, DMA’14; and Lindsay Ohse, f’06, g’08. A fourth, Hugo Vera, g’02, DMA’10, withdrew because of illness.

“It’s one thing to sing once at the Met, but it’s entirely different when you’re on the roster as a recurring soloist or cast member, as every one of them has been,” says Henskensiefken, f’04, g’06, DMA’11.

“It absolutely speaks to the talent that Joyce Cas-

tle, John Stevens, Genaro Mendez and other music faculty attract. The Met is the tippy top of the opera world, the most prestigious in the U.S. without question, and arguably the most prestigious in the world.”

But the lineup also speaks to the energy and enthusiasm Henskensiefken brings to MAPAA, a nonprofit organization he founded one year ago to make classical music more accessible to listeners and musicians across the Midwest. He used his connections to the singers, whose time at the School of Music overlapped his own, to pull off the concert, which doubled as a farewell tribute to Castle, f’61—herself a Met veteran who retired in May after two decades on the School of Music faculty.

“Our mission is to bring world-acclaimed artists to the region to mentor, inspire and engage with audiences, with the community, and most importantly, with underserved youth,” he says. “Every time we have one of these residencies, whether the artists come for a week or only a few days, we always do some sort of outreach.”

In its first year, the organization has served students from kindergarten to college. Events included an “instrument petting zoo” conducted with Lawrence music store Beautiful Music that let elementary students try out a variety of instruments; a “Classics in South Park” outing that featured a performance by the Free State High School Cham-

ber Orchestra, an appearance by the Kansas City Symphony Mobile Music Box, and a “Juggling for Musicians” workshop by Kansas City Symphony cellist Larry Figg; and a concert of Schubert and Brahms quintets featuring violinist Stephanie Chase and violist Paul Neubauer, both world-renowned musicians who gave master classes to School of Music students and performed at an elementary school during their visit.

By holding events in parks, churches and schools in addition to traditional performance venues like KU’s Swarthout Recital Hall, MAPAA hopes to attract a broader audience to the classical genre.

“One of the main pillars of our organization is to transcend the elitism that is very often associated with classical music,” Henskensiefken says. “We want to get into folks’ comfort zones and make this music accessible to a wider range of people, and that includes financially accessible. Though we do have a suggested donation, all of our concerts are free.”

Henskensiefken majored in cello performance at KU and has a degree in conducting from the Manhattan School of Music. He was previously director of orchestra and string studies and director of the string division at Kansas Wesleyan University, where he started the International Music Festival with his wife, Tatiana Tessman, who also taught at

the school. They founded MAPAA together after returning to Lawrence, where Jesse is director of sacred music for the St. Lawrence Center, which serves KU students, faculty and staff.

As the organization starts its second year this fall, he hopes to add new offerings, including scholarships that bring private music lessons to aspiring musicians who can’t afford them. The leitmotif running throughout MAPAA’s expanded repertoire will continue to be youth outreach.

“It’s really all about giving students in this part of the country opportunities they otherwise might not have,” he says. “How can we help elevate our aspiring youth, to give them a leg up so they can go out and compete with musicians from New York or from around the world?”

The proof that Kansas singers can compete was there for all to hear on the St. Lawrence Center stage.

“I think that’s the true allure of the concert, just celebrating all this talent,” Henskensiefken says. “I played a lot of opera with these people at KU as a cellist in the orchestra pit. We went through a lot of things together, and it’s incredible to have this reunion. It’s special that they were able to come back and do this.”

—STEVEN HILL

DAN STONEY



School of Music alumnae (l-r) Andrea Coleman, Kristee Haney and Lindsay Ohse returned to campus in May for the “Voices of the Metropolitan Opera” concert organized by cellist and alumnus Jesse Henskensiefken.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Lied Center

June 17 Freedom Has a Voice: A Juneteenth Celebration

Oct. 4 Air Supply

Oct. 29 Nikki Glaser

Nov. 6 Buddy Guy

Nov. 28 “Annie”

Jan. 27 Ira Glass

Jan. 31 “Mean Girls”

lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

June 22 Gallery talk with artist Lisa Grossman, f’99

“Dissent, Discontent, and Action: Pictures of US by Accra Shepp,” **through June 25**

spencerart.ku.edu

Academic calendar

June 6 First day of summer classes

July 28 Last day of summer classes

Aug. 21 First day of fall classes

“Precipitation, or the lack thereof, is just one variable that goes into water level changes. Soil types, evaporation, water availability and a variety of aquifer conditions are all key factors in how water is used across our state.”

—Brownie Wilson



PASCVILL/PIXABAY

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Aquifer water levels plunge

KU scientists identify drought impact across much of Kansas

AVERAGE GROUNDWATER levels across western and south-central Kansas fell by nearly 2 feet in 2022, according to preliminary data compiled by the Kansas Geological Survey.

The KGS, based at KU, and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the Kansas Department of Agriculture measure about 1,400 wells every year to monitor the health of the High Plains aquifer and other aquifers in western and south-central Kansas. Those measurements showed an overall average decline of 1.89 feet last year.

KGS is so vital to the state that this year the Kansas Legislature designated funding increases for KGS research and salaries in the fiscal year 2024 budget (see story, p. 19).

Most parts of the region saw well-below-average precipitation throughout the year. Some areas in Kansas were the driest ever based on historical records, some of which go back to the late 1800s. Dry years lead to increased pumping demands, primarily for irrigation, which in turn typically cause greater declines in water levels.



KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

“We anticipated and saw declines pretty much across the aquifer,” says Brownie Wilson, KGS water data manager. “Because of the ongoing drought, the pumping season lasted a little longer this past year, and there were a notable number of wells pumping in January and February. As such, some of the measured declines will likely be slightly excessive given the aquifer didn’t have its normal time to recover.”

The overall average decline of 1.89 feet in 2022 is the third largest in 25 years, on par with notable dry years of 2011 (when water levels fell 1.93 feet) and 2012 (a decline of 2.01 feet). It also marks the third straight year of overall declines.

At the end of 2022, all 105 counties in Kansas were under a drought watch, warning or emergency status. As of the end of February, the western and southern parts of the state covered by the groundwater monitoring program were experiencing severe to exceptional drought, according to U.S. Drought Monitor maps produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The High Plains aquifer is a network of water-bearing rock that extends into eight states. In Kansas, the aquifer comprises three components: the Ogallala aquifer, the Great Bend Prairie aquifer and the Equus Beds. Of these, the Ogallala aquifer underlies most of western Kansas and consists mainly of the Ogallala Formation, a geologic unit that formed from sediment eroded off the uplifting Rocky Mountains.

Most of the wells in the network monitored by the KGS and DWR are within the boundaries of the state’s five Groundwater Management Districts (GMDs), which are organized and governed by area landowners and local water users to address water resource issues.

In Southwest Kansas GMD 3, average groundwater levels dropped 2.77 feet in 2022, following declines of 2.08 feet in 2021 and 1.25 feet in 2020. The region experienced the most severe drought conditions in the state in 2022, with widespread areas receiving 50% to 75% of long-term precipitation averages.

“Precipitation, or the lack thereof, is just one variable that goes into water level changes,” Wilson says. “Soil types, evaporation, water availability and a variety of aquifer conditions are all key factors in how water is used across our state. Southwest

Kansas tends to have higher rates of decline but also has some of the greatest thicknesses in the aquifer.”

Aquifer thickness is the vertical amount of aquifer that is saturated with water and is an indicator of how much water is in storage.

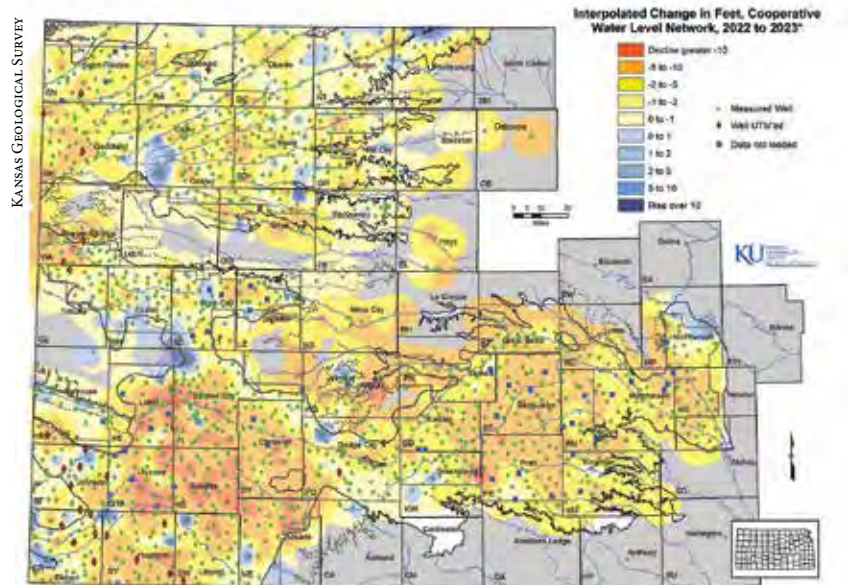
In contrast to the overall long-term declines observed in western Kansas GMDs, increases and decreases in water levels in Great Bend GMD 5 and Equus Beds GMD 2 in the south-central part of the state tend to even out over time. Last year, however, both districts saw larger than normal decline rates.

The KGS measured 615 wells in western Kansas, and DWR staff from field offices in Stockton, Garden City and Stafford measured 221, 263 and 350 wells, respectively, in western and south-central Kansas. Most of the wells, spread over 49 counties, are used for irrigation and have been measured for decades with landowners’ permission.

Measurements are taken primarily in January, when water levels are least likely to fluctuate from seasonal irrigation. The measurement results, available on the KGS Water Well Levels Database (geohydro.kgs.ku.edu/geohydro/wizard), are provisional and subject to revision based on additional analysis.

—KGS is a KU research and service division that studies and provides information about the state’s geologic resources and hazards.

KGS senior scientist Rick Miller, g’84, (opposite) measures aquifer water levels during the winter irrigation lull.



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STUDENTS

Goldwater scholar

Aspiring astrophysicist earns national accolades

KATE WIENKE, a St. Louis junior studying physics, is the University's newest Barry M. Goldwater scholar.

She is the 77th KU undergraduate to receive the honor, which recognizes achievements in the STEM fields, since the Goldwaters were first awarded in 1989.

"We are delighted for Kate, and we are thrilled for the opportunity to congratulate her on being named a Goldwater scholar," says Chancellor Doug Girod. "Kate has demonstrated an outstanding record of scientific achievement as an undergraduate, and we look forward to seeing her continue to excel in the future."

Congress established the Goldwater scholarship program in 1986 in tribute to the retired U.S. senator from Arizona and to ensure a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers. The only students eligible for nomination are sophomore- and junior-level students with outstanding academic records, significant research experience and high potential for careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

Wienke aspires to earn a doctorate in astrophysics and lead a team conducting research on astrobiology or exoplanets. She also hopes to teach at the university level and start a mentorship program for young, underrepresented students in physics.

Beyond the financial support the Goldwater offers, Wienke says the award also will expose her to the expansive network of former and current Goldwater scholars and connect her with more experienced colleagues in her field.

"The Goldwater really does open doors," she says.

As an undergraduate, Wienke has already made her mark in physics. In 2021,

within KU researcher Ian Crossfield's KU ExoLab, she compared the densities of exoplanets with the elemental abundances of their stars. She presented on this work at KU's Undergraduate Research Symposium in spring 2022.

Wienke spent last summer doing research at the California Institute of Technology, which she says was one of the most valuable experiences she has had both personally and academically. A surprising lesson she learned was that research is not necessarily how it looks in the movies, with physicists dashing around on an hour of sleep with an endless to-do list.

"There is still plenty of work to be done, and I had my fair share of late nights," Wienke says. "But I also spent hours just waiting for my code to finish running or to get an email back from a colleague. I definitely received a lesson in patience."

In September 2022, she was one of 36 students invited to participate in Caltech's FUTURE of Physics for junior and senior undergraduate gender minorities in physics. She is now conducting research on using Spitzer Phase Curve Analysis to detect an atmosphere on the Super-Earth HD with NASA Exoplanet Science Institute research scientist Jessie Christiansen.

At KU, Wienke is an honors ambassador and University Scholar, and she served as the project leader on a team examining diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging within the department of physics and astronomy.

She is also co-captain of the Women's Rugby Club and was a member of the KU rowing team her freshman year. She has received numerous accolades, including the KU Gene R. Feaster Physics Scholarship and KU Francis W. Prosser Physics Scholarship, and she was on the 2021 Academic All-Big 12 Rookie Team for



KU MARKETING

Wienke

achieving a 4.0 GPA while participating as a Big 12 athlete.

Wienke's advice to fellow students who want to pursue nationally competitive scholarships is to get involved with their passions, not just what makes a student look good on paper.

"Let the 13-year-old in you that loves science peek through," she says. "The Goldwater, like many scholarships, is merit-based, but they want to see the passion for science and research, too. I got involved in research I found interesting and ended up with the most amazing mentor, Professor Crossfield, who has guided and supported me since the day I stepped into his office."

—ERINN BARCOMB-PETERSON
Barcomb-Peterson, j'01, directs the KU News Service.

"Let the 13-year-old in you that loves science peek through. The Goldwater, like many scholarships, is merit-based, but they want to see the passion for science and research, too."

—Kate Wienke, on pursuing nationally competitive scholarships

“If we do this well, what will come out is a model of the geographic, operational and individual-scale behavior of a pandemic-potential virus. Part of that potential is, does it stay just in one place? Or does it spread? If it does spread, does it take years, or does it spread in days?”

—Townsend Peterson



istock (2)

BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Avian influenza focus of NSF-funded center

Noted KU ornithologist joins global effort to predict and prevent pandemics

AS HUMANITY TRIES TO FIND its footing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the University is taking steps to help ready the United States and the rest of the world for future global health crises.

A. Townsend Peterson, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and curator of ornithology at the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, is part of a team of researchers that earned funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish the International Center for Avian Influenza Pandemic Prediction and Prevention, dubbed “ICAIP3.”

The mission of the new multi-institutional center is to tackle grand challenges in global health with a focus on avian influenza. Most famously, the 1918 flu pandemic showed influenza viruses that start off in birds can kill millions of humans. But avian influenza, or “bird flu,” has triggered outbreaks around the world in recent years that have killed billions of poultry and wild birds, as well as hundreds of people.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been a wake-up call for the world, highlighting the importance of investing in public health and the basic science underpinnings of public health,” Peterson says. “It has had a scale of economic and public health impact that is unparalleled in our lifetime. This center

would have ongoing viral monitoring around the world, but particularly in regions that tend to give rise to pandemic flu strains.

“We would have a predictive understanding of which types of new bird flu strains have pandemic potential. You can imagine the value of monitoring wild bird populations and seeing all the standing variation in flu viruses, and being able to say, ‘Hey, this one virus—this is what we need to watch.’”

The center will be supported by the Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Preparedness (PIPP) Initiative, part of the NSF’s efforts to understand the science behind pandemics and build the ability to prevent and respond to future outbreaks.

“We need to be thinking big-picture when it comes to pandemics,” Peterson says. “COVID-19 is just one example of many diverse pandemics that have occurred throughout history. The Spanish flu, the plague pandemics, typhoid fever and avian influenza are all examples of diseases that have had a significant impact on human health and the economy. We need to be proactive in our approach to understanding and preventing these types of outbreaks, rather than waiting for them to happen and scrambling to respond.”

The total award for the PIPP project, currently in an 18-month proof-of-concept phase, is roughly

\$1 million. Aside from KU, the ICAIP3 project has partners at the University of Oklahoma, the University of California-Berkeley, and the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Influenza at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The team will work to establish ongoing viral monitoring around the world, focusing on regions that have historically given rise to pandemic flu strains. The goal is to understand new strains holding pandemic potential and help predict and prevent outbreaks in coming decades.

Peterson and his collaborators will test available computer models that track "spillover," where a disease can spread between animal species. ("Reservoir-poultry spillover" happens when wild birds give



a disease to chickens, for example.) Next, the team will work to improve these modeling approaches and run spillover simulations.

"If we do this well, what will come out is a model of the geographic, operational and individual-scale behavior of a pandemic-potential virus," Peterson says. "Part of that potential is, does it stay just in one place? Or does it spread? If it does spread, does it take years, or does it spread in days?"

With avian influenzas, part of this work must incorporate data about birds' migratory patterns.

"You get some early warning of an outbreak going on and you say, 'OK, we're pretty sure it's a specific hypothetical virus—now, what are its most likely patterns of behavior?'" Peterson says. "How quickly will it leak from wild birds into domestic birds? If it's coming from Asia, where would we expect it to appear in the U.S.? If you had this thing spread in the summer and get up to Siberia, then the jump may be way down into the U.S. because some of those birds think eastern Siberia is western Alaska and migrate south into the Americas in the fall. We would have a model that's far better than what we have right now."

—BRENDAN M. LYNCH

Lynch, g'21, g'22, g'22, is a public affairs officer for the KU News Service.

Landmark celebration

The Dole Institute of Politics has commissioned nationally acclaimed earthwork artist Stan Herd of Lawrence to create a portrait of U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, '45, on the institute's grounds to honor the 100th anniversary of the late senator's birth and the 20th anniversary of the institute. The work will be dedicated July 22, Dole's birthday, as part of a free, daylong public event that also will feature special guests, family activities, a military flyover and more. On April 25, former U.S. Sens. Tom Daschle and Trent Lott delivered the annual Dole Lecture and joined Herd, '86, and the institute's student advisory board in a groundbreaking for the earthwork. This summer, the institute invites K-12 students and Kansans of all ages to submit drawings that will be sealed onto tiles for Herd to incorporate into his final design. For more information or to submit a drawing for the earthwork, visit doleinstitute.org.



STEVE PUPPE



EARL RICHARDSON

The annual **University Research Awards**

recognized outstanding researchers from the Lawrence campus, KU Medical Center and K-State during an April 25 event at the Burge Union hosted by Chancellor Doug Girod:

Chancellors Club Research Award: **Susan Carlson**, AJ Rice Professor of Nutrition and University Distinguished Professor

Research Postdoctoral Achievement Award: **Vadim Karatayev**, postdoctoral researcher, ecology & evolutionary biology

Research Staff Achievement Award: **Blair Schneider**, g'12, PhD'18, associate researcher and science outreach manager at the Kansas Geological Survey

Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award: **Teri Garstka**, g'94, PhD'98, associate director, Center for Public Partnerships & Research

Continued on p. 16



University Scholarly Achievement Awards:

Erik Scott, associate professor of history; **Sandra Billinger**, g'04, PhD'09, professor of neurology; **Timothy Jackson**, professor of chemistry; and **Jeffrey Hall**, professor of communications

Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards:

Donna Ginther, Roy A. Roberts and Regents Distinguished Professor of Economics; director, Institute for Policy & Social Research (Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities & Social Sciences)

Mark Shiflett, Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering; director, Institute for Sustainable Engineering (Irvin Youngberg Award in Applied Sciences)

Timothy Musch, University Distinguished Professor of Kinesiology and Physiology at Kansas State University; director, Cardiorespiratory Exercise Lab (Dolph Simons Award in Biomedical Sciences)

Uwe Thumm, University Distinguished Professor of Physics at Kansas State University (Olin Petefish Award in Basic Sciences).

BOOKS

Citizen, scientist

One of biology's titans looks back on a life well lived

AFTER THE 1968 PUBLICATION of *The Population Bomb*, the blockbuster book that warned humanity must control its population growth or face oblivion, Stanford biology professor and author Paul Ehrlich was labeled by critics a child-hating, anti-human “population nut” and received death threats. The book, written in three weeks and inspired by a speech Ehrlich gave in response to Rachel Carson’s seminal work of environmental advocacy, *Silent Spring*, struck a more harmonious chord with readers, going on to sell more than 2 million copies: “not bad,” Ehrlich, g’55, PhD’57, writes in his new autobiography, “for a book by two academics!”

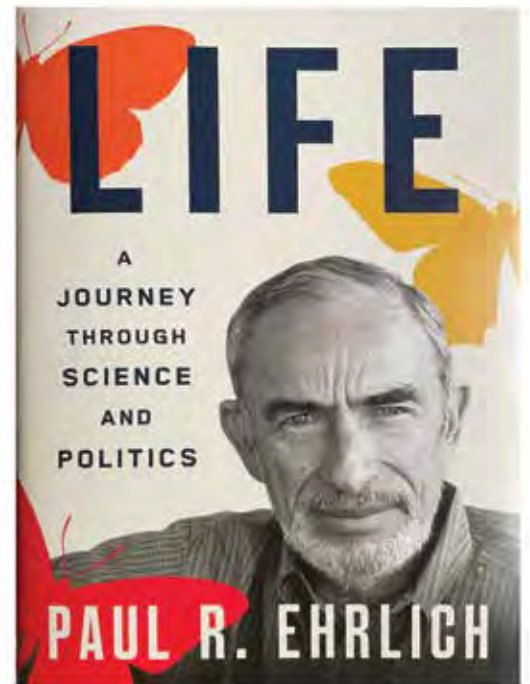
As he does throughout *Life: A Journey Through Science and Politics*, Ehrlich takes the opportunity, in discussing a key moment in a life bursting with highlights, to set the record straight. His wife, Anne Howland Ehrlich, ’56, was his co-author (the publisher insisted on crediting only Paul), and their preferred title was the more measured *Population, Resources, and Environment*. Far from “anti-human,” they were if anything too optimistic in their projections of humankind’s ability to rein in our out-of-control impact on the Earth. And while many of their dire predictions of global famine did not come to pass, as critics have pointed out, most of their broader arguments about the unsustainable relationship between people and our planet have largely held up.

The Population Bomb and Ehrlich’s 10-year run as a frequent guest of Johnny Carson on “The Tonight Show,” which began in 1969, may have marked the peak of his life as a pop culture phenomenon, but Ehrlich’s impact as a scientist and nature advocate is far broader, as *Life* explores with great detail and good humor. During a Depression-era childhood in Philadelphia’s Germantown neighborhood, young Paul began a lifelong fascination with butterflies in particular and the natural world in general. This “early interest in butterflies as beautiful and diverse organisms,” he writes, “evolved into a fascination with much broader scientific issues.”

He arrived at KU in 1953 to study with Charles Michener; the renowned bee expert was “the best

scientist working with insects,” Ehrlich had been told, “correctly, it turned out.” Graduate school on the Hill—which earns an entire chapter—introduced him to the rough-and-tumble politics of academic science and life. Ehrlich writes that he and a KU friend “organized mixed groups of African American and white students to patronize Lawrence restaurants,” which, along with movie theatres, were then segregated. The protesters received death threats (a taste of things to come, for Ehrlich) but no actual harm, and he credits their campaign, alongside the well-documented efforts of Chancellor Franklin Murphy, c’36, and Wilt Chamberlain, ’59, for persuading Lawrence businesses to desegregate. At KU he also met Anne, in the Kansas Union, and after a two-week courtship convinced the woman who would become his partner in life and scholarship that they should marry.

By 1959, Ehrlich was ensconced as a faculty member in Stanford University’s biology department, in a job he later learned had been offered first to E.O. Wilson, another prominent bioscientist with whom Ehrlich would share the discipline’s most prestigious award, the Crafoord Prize, in 1990. “I was interested in using insects as a tool



Life: A Journey Through Science and Politics
by Paul Ehrlich
Yale University Press, \$30

for looking at evolution and ecology,” Ehrlich announced early on, “and I wanted to use field studies (in nature, not the lab) to answer questions I considered important.”

The extent to which he did so in the course of a long and impressively varied career as a “conservation biologist with broad interests” is thoroughly detailed in the scientific breakthroughs (most prominently, the co-founding of the field of coevolution), heavily cited papers, planetwide field studies, and legions of professional partners and friends remembered fondly in *Life*. That he did it while enjoying fine wine, good humor and good company seems to be a sustaining joy as he looks back, from his 90s, on the long fight to convince his fellow man that survival depends on adopting a more sustainable mode of living.

“The biggest question is: How to get from where we are to where we want to go?” he writes near the end of the book. Recognizing our situation, identifying solutions, and following through with the big changes needed will be difficult, he admits. “But it has long seemed to me that the very least we should do is try.”

—STEVEN HILL

BOOKS

Spur honors Toland's Funston trilogy

Amateur historian writes definitive account of singular American figure

MORE THAN 25 YEARS in the making, a three-volume biography of Jayhawk Frederick Funston—a free-spirited adventurer, military hero and national celebrity of the sort that only the late-19th-century American frontier could give rise to—arrived in a trio of installments across 2022.

American Hero, Kansas Heritage; Heat and Ice; and Yankee Hero each drew praise from retired military leaders, notable politicians and academic historians, all of whom lauded author Clyde W. Toland's remarkable achievement in finally gathering a complete account of the freewheeling adventures that eventually led to Gen. Funston leading U.S. Army forces in the Philippines, commanding the Presidio when the 1906 earthquake leveled San Francisco, receiving the Medal of Honor, and, at the



time of his 1917 death, leading consideration for command of the expeditionary force being assembled for the U.S. Army's entry into World War I.

Toland, c'69, l'75, a semiretired attorney in Iola, turned his boyhood fascination with Funston, '1890, into a lifelong quest. He began his research and writing in 1995 and continued his work through the next 27 years. Toland, the amateur historian who aimed high, was promptly rewarded with a prestigious Spur Award for best first nonfiction book from the Western Writers of America.

“His stick-to-it approach over more than a quarter-century,” says Bill Crowe, KU Libraries' dean emeritus, “is something to behold.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

American Hero, Kansas Heritage: Frederick Funston's Early Years, 1865-1890

Heat and Ice: Frederick Funston's Exploration of Death Valley, Alaska, and the British Northwest Territory, 1891-1894

Yankee Hero: Frederick Funston, Expedicionario in the Cuban Liberation Army, 1896-1897

by Clyde W. Toland
Flint Hills Publishing

Generous gifts: The sixth-annual One Day. One KU. fundraising drive on Feb. 16 generated \$3.2 million from 4,740 gifts, supporting programs and initiatives across all five KU campuses. “Every gift makes a difference, whether it is \$5, \$500 or \$5,000,” says Chancellor Doug Girod. “Reaching out and making a statement is what matters.” A notably successful aspect of this year's drive was nearly 1,200 gifts, worth more than \$240,000, generated by more than 350 One Day. One KU. ambassadors, each of whom urged giving among their personal contacts.

“The strength of this day is built on personal acts of generosity from Jayhawks around the world,” says KU Endowment president

Dan Martin, l'93, g'93, EdD'98. “It is inspiring what we can do in 24 hours when everyone unites.”



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BUDGET

Lawmakers fund student scholarships

New budget includes targeted spending but no additional operating funds

KANSAS WILL PROVIDE MORE need-based scholarships to help students attending the state's universities in fiscal year 2024, thanks to the budget approved by the Kansas Legislature in late April. Lawmakers also provided funds for a new health sciences campus in Wichita to be jointly operated by KU and Wichita State University.

But they did not approve critical increases in funding for universities' basic operations, which would have helped the schools mitigate the impact of inflation. In recent years, this vital investment in operations has helped KU maintain flat tuition for four consecutive years.

"We are appreciative of the funding for project enhancements," says Chancellor Doug Girod. "At the same time, we are disappointed that lawmakers were not able to continue the partnership between the state and the universities that has helped keep tuition stable for Kansans, especially in this high-inflation environment."

Key components of next year's budget include:

- Nearly \$21.8 million in need-based aid for students attending the six Regents universities and Washburn University—Kansas has trailed behind most other states in providing need-based scholarships to increase access to higher education.
- \$155 million for a new health education campus in Wichita, where KU has long operated branches of its School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy to help prepare health care professionals to work in underserved counties in the state; the new campus will combine KU's programs with health sciences training offered by Wichita State.
- \$8.5 million to enhance centralized student advising at universities (KU will receive about \$2 million).
- \$3.8 million to help provide additional laboratory space for the Kansas Geological Survey, based at KU, plus \$1.9 million in ongoing funds for additional scientists' salaries.

Lawmakers also approved infrastructure spending across the Regents universities, including:

- \$20 million for facilities enhancements.
- \$5 million for cybersecurity and information technology.
- \$10 million for demolition.

In addition, the Legislature allocated \$13 million for salary increases across all Regents universities.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER



DAN STOREY

MONEY MATTERS

"Transformational changes" are underway for Allen Field House, including upgrades for all concessions outlets and restrooms, additional chairbacks and accessible seating, improved lighting and other modernizations on all concourses, a "Jayhawk Pub" and enhanced donor and hospitality spaces, enhanced Wi-Fi, and a new scoreboard and sound system. Work already in progress will cease during the 2023-'24 basketball season, and, once resumed, work will conclude in fall 2024.

The adjacent Wagnon Student-Athlete Center will also be remodeled and modernized to meet the needs of coaches, athletes, staff, recruits and visitors. "These major improvements inside the arena and throughout all three floors of the concourse," says men's basketball coach Bill Self, "ensure that Allen Field House will always be recognized as a top venue in America, regardless of sport."



Thomas Torma, formerly NAGPRA liaison at the University of California-Berkeley and cultural director and tribal historic preservation officer for the Wiyot Tribe of California, this spring joined KU as repatriation program manager, charged with coordinating University compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Torma will guide KU's ongoing efforts to repatriate Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. "He possesses a very unique skill set," says Melissa Peterson, g'11, director of tribal relations, "and I am ready for him to lead the work we started."



KU NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

NEWS BRIEF

Armor-plated dinosaur named official state land fossil

GOV. LAURA KELLY on April 7 signed into law legislation designating *Silvisaurus*—the only known skeletal specimen of which is featured in the KU Natural History Museum—as the official land fossil of Kansas. The specimen of the 3-foot-tall armor-plated dinosaur was found in 1955 by Ottawa County rancher Warren Condray, who

invited KU paleontologists to recover fossilized remains and later donated them to the University. Although Kansas was partially covered by the Western Interior Seaway during the Cretaceous period, *Silvisaurus condrayi*—so named by KU researchers in Condray's honor—roamed a forested region, as indicated by fossilized leaves found with its remains. "We owe a debt of gratitude to Warren Condray for bringing his discovery to our attention," says fossil preparator David Burnham, PhD'07, "and all Kansans can be proud that this rare find is unique to our state."

Pal power: *A study co-written by "friendship expert" Jeffrey Hall, professor of communication studies and director of KU's Relationships and Technology Lab, found that even one daily conversation with a friend can boost good feelings: "This supports the idea that we use communication to get our need to belong met, and, in doing so, it helps us manage our stress." More than 900 participants on five college campuses were asked to engage in at least one of seven specific conversation types during a given day—including catching up, joking around and showing care—and report their moods at the end of the day. While a greater number of quality interactions showed the best results, the study also indicated that even one was enough to boost mood. "If at least one of their quality conversations was face to face," Hall says, "that mattered."*





**EASY TO DRINK.
EASY TO ENJOY.**





“Getting faster and stronger is definitely something that I have to do. After that, the bars will make themselves.”

—Rylee Anderson, on preparation for the final stretch of her senior season



Steve Puppe (4)

TRACK AND FIELD

High-flying 'Hawks

Pink and blue shine at Kansas Relays' historic renewal

HIGH JUMPER RYLEE ANDERSON, a three-time Big 12 champion harboring NCAA title dreams, on April 14 competed in only the second Kansas Relays of her collegiate career. Because of COVID-19 cancellations since 2020, Anderson, a fifth-year senior from Longmont, Colorado, was one of the few Jayhawks who had ever donned the beloved pink and blue uniform at KU's track carnival—which this year marked its 100th anniversary with traditional blustery spring weather that turned into storms strong enough to cancel much of the event's final afternoon.

“I feel like being able to kind of close out my fifth year and compete in the Kansas Relays,” Anderson said, “is really special.”

Anderson, a self-described “bouncy” 6-foot-1 former volleyball player, in 2019 won her first Kansas Relays as a freshman with a jump of 1.75 meters (6 feet). As a fifth-year senior, she won again, this time clearing 1.78 on her first attempt, and soaring over 1.83 meters on the first attempt of her second bar. Wichita State's Destiny Masters also cleared 1.83, a personal best, but required three attempts to do so; when both athletes missed at 1.87—which would

have been Anderson's best-yet outdoor jump—Anderson secured her second relays title, thanks to fewer attempts on the previous height.

“I think she's a little bit of a finesse jumper,” said vertical jumps coach Tom Hays, d'90. “She's tall, and as she gets older, her fitness level gets better, so her strength-to-weight ratio is better.”

Anderson exited the relays as the NCAA's second-ranked high jumper, although Hays conceded that Texas A&M senior Lamara Distin—who swept the NCAA's indoor and outdoor championships in 2022 and this spring repeated in the indoor—“is a step ahead of all of them.” Perhaps unexpectedly for those of us not versed in details of training for field events, Hays explained during the April relays that Anderson would require only “six or seven intense, intense workouts,” and even at that seemingly low

Relays return: Rylee Anderson (above) soars to win the high jump; (opposite, from top) Chandler Gibbens and Avryl Johnson on their way to victories in the 1,500-meter runs, and winner Cameron Wilmington flashing fine form in the 400-meter hurdles.



I won the Stanford Invitational 5K in 13 minutes, 28.71 seconds, bettering his own personal-best time by 31 seconds and slicing 19 seconds from the KU 5K record—a mark previously held by Jim Ryun, j”70.

“I told him he was slacking a little bit,” joked coach Stanley Redwine, “so that’s why the PR was so big.”

Gibbens, victorious in the relays’ 1,500, said his strong performance at Stanford was made possible by increased self-confidence: “I genuinely thought that I belonged at the front. And then, as the race went on, my strength kind of helped me out a little bit.” Gibbens, who hails from Columbia, Missouri, and grew up surrounded by Mizzou fans, has learned to appreciate KU track and field tradition, noting that capturing a record Ryun set in international competition in 1967 will be a treasured memory of his time on the Hill.

“Not only because it’s Jim Ryun, but also just the length of how long the record stood,” Gibbens said. “That meant a lot to me, because there’s been a lot of really good runners who have come through here, and no one else was able to get that record until now. Being able to take one away from Jim Ryun is really exciting.”

number, Hays cautioned, they were “pushing the envelope.”

“You’re going to try to have intensity once a week, and then we’ve got to recover from that,” Hays said, “and hope that we’re not so hard that we break her.”

It’s a challenge Anderson welcomes, not only to chase titles, but also to put herself in the best possible position should she choose to turn professional after the season.

“Getting faster and stronger is definitely something that I have to do,” she said. “After that, the bars will make themselves.”

Also jumping into the track and field spotlight this spring was junior distance runner Chandler Gibbens, who on April

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Hoops hoopla

Fans fill field house as women’s basketball turns disappointment into WNIT gold

COMING OFF THREE consecutive conference victories to close the regular season—including coach Brandon Schneider’s 500th win to start the mini-run, Feb. 26 against Oklahoma State; a home victory over No. 23 Iowa State; and a road win at TCU to hit .500 in league play—women’s basketball entered the postseason on a roll.

Senior center Taiyanna Jackson (unanimous) and senior guard Zakiyah Franklin were both named First Team All-Big 12, senior guard Holly Kersgieter was named to the Honorable Mention All-Big 12 team, and the Jayhawks’ first opponent in the Big 12 Championship would be TCU, which KU had defeated days earlier by 23.

And then came the crushing disappointments: a five-point loss to TCU in the Big 12 tourney’s first round, followed three days later by the news that the NCAA



The Jayhawks celebrated their Women’s NIT championship April 1 on James Naismith Court after their 66-59 victory over Columbia. Said coach Brandon Schneider: “I think our girls played their hearts out.”

KANSAS ATHLETICS

Tournament's selection committee had left KU out of the premier postseason event.

"We all know in life there are setbacks," mused Schneider, last year's Big 12 Coach of the Year, "that you have to figure out a way to turn into comebacks."

After the NCAA letdown, the Jayhawks accepted a bid from the Women's National Invitational Tournament. Buoyed by playing all six games in Allen Field House—against Western Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Washington and Columbia—KU on April 1 emerged as WNIT champions with a 66-59 victory over the Ivy League's Lions. Franklin led all scorers in the title game with 19, and, with her fifth double-double in six games, Jackson was named the WNIT's Most Valuable Player.

With average postseason attendance of 5,611, including 11,701 for the trophy game, women's basketball boosted its average attendance from a year ago by 122%. The celebration continued with a team appearance at a Kansas City Current women's soccer game, and, in an honor reserved for sports champions from across the metro area, Union Station was draped in crimson-and-blue lighting.

"What I thought was great was that our players got to experience a crowd like this one today," Schneider said after the title game. "I felt as though it was as juiced as when the men play here."



DAN STOREY

Leaders emerge as football gets back to work

MATT GILDERSLEEVE, football's director of sports performance, this spring opened weekly instructional sessions for the team's 16-member Leadership Council to all players interested in studying the basics of leadership. More than 50 accepted the invitation.

"A big part of it is protecting what we've done," Gildersleeve said. "They don't ever want to go back to where it was."

Although last season's breakout performance landed the 'Hawks in the Liberty Bowl, which proved to be a thrilling matchup with Arkansas, they still lost and

finished 6-7; close, but work remains.

"The more we can teach our young guys how to keep us accountable, the better they'll do once they're older," junior defensive lineman Jereme Robinson said of teammates embracing leadership responsibilities. "It's a generational thing for this whole program."

KU opens the 2023 season with a Thursday-night home game, Aug. 31 against Missouri State. Conference play begins Sept. 23, when the 'Hawks welcome BYU, one of four new Big 12 schools.

UPDATE

Led by a 3-under 69 from sophomore **Jordan Rothman**, women's golf on Feb. 7 shattered its 54-hole team scoring record by 11 strokes at the UCF Challenge. The 'Hawks placed second in the Big 12 Match Play and qualified for NCAA postseason, as did tennis and men's golf. ...

Terry Nooner, c'00, g'03, women's basketball's associate head coach the past two seasons, on April 17 was named Wichita State's head women's



KANSAS ATHLETICS

Rothman

basketball coach. Among his first hires was former teammate **Nick Bradford**, c'02. ... Junior **Jalen Wilson**, a hopeful for the

June 22 NBA draft, on April 1 received the Julius Erving Award, honoring the best small forward in NCAA men's basketball. Wilson led the Big 12 in scoring (20.1 points per game) and rebounds (8.3), was unanimous Big 12 Player of the Year, and became KU's 32nd consensus All-America First Team honoree. ... Men's basketball coach **Bill Self**, who missed the postseason with heart issues, on April 5 announced that he'll return for his 21st season at KU. "I don't know if you guys can believe

this," Self told reporters, "but they told me I need to improve my diet and exercise more." ...

Record-setting running back **Tony Sands**, c'94, and linebacker **Nick Reid**, c'15, KU's only Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, on Oct. 7 will be inducted into the Ring of Honor, KU football's highest honor. ... Philadelphia 76ers forward **Joel Embiid**, '17, on May 2 was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player—a feat previously achieved by only one other Jayhawk: four-time MVP **Wilt Chamberlain**, '59.

UNANIMOUS BIG 12 PLAYER of the Year and consensus All-American Jalen Wilson registers the early end to men's basketball's season after a second-round NCAA Tournament loss to Arkansas March 18 in Des Moines, Iowa.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE

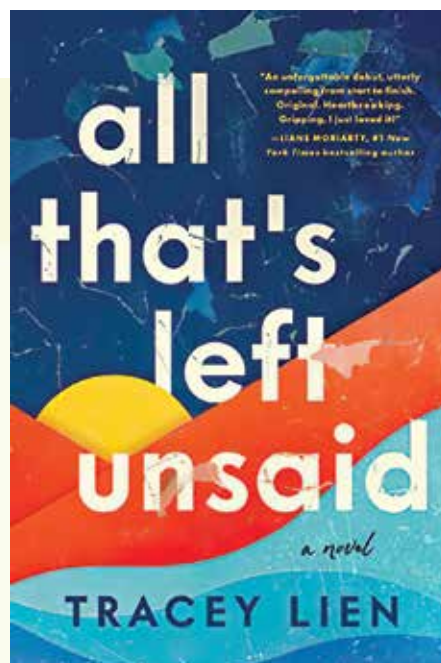


Bright Book of Life

**In debut novel,
former journalist
confronts mystery
and myth while
writing of her
childhood home**

- As a student in KU's Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing, Tracey Lien sometimes indulged in a bit of harmless reverie. A daydream. A fantasy.
- Lien moved to Lawrence in 2018 to begin the three-year program on the fiction-writing track, relocating from the Bay Area, where she'd covered the Silicon Valley tech beat for the Los Angeles Times after reporting on the video game industry for Vox. She'd also written a few personal essays on the side, publishing one in a small literary magazine. She was accustomed to seeing her name in print.
- Fiction writing, however, was a whole new adventure.
- By coming to KU, Lien was leaving a steady writing job at a major metropolitan newspaper, abandoning a profession that had been her dream career since her high school days in Sydney, Australia. She was trading a regular paycheck and a clear vocational path for a graduate school stipend and a long-shot apprenticeship in a crowded field where rewards are far from guaranteed. She was moving from a discipline

built on facts, statistics and strict quotation to a realm where she would have to *make things up*—anathema to a reporter trained in the rigors of sourcing and confirmation and attribution, and guided by the cranky skepticism espoused by certain old hands: *If your mother says she loves you, check it out.*



by Steven Hill
Portrait by Alison Grasso



To claim one's territory, one's subject, is part of the fiction writer's task. It would take Lien some time to make the transition from journalist to novelist, to determine precisely what story she was meant to tell. When she got there, with help from her teachers and fellow students in the MFA program, there was still the daunting climb of learning how to write a novel. She gave herself a daily assignment of 300 words and mapped out the plot as she wrote. Line by line, she says, "I was giving myself a chance to see if I could produce something worthwhile."

Eventually, she began to believe she could. And that's where the reverie came in.

During the 2023 Indie Book Awards of Australia, presented online in March, booksellers from the country's independent bookstores announced the winning titles, followed by brief remarks from the books' authors. The novel that Lien, g'21, wrote at KU and sold to HarperCollins

in a nine-way auction near the end of her final semester, *All That's Left Unsaid*, was named Australia's best debut novel. Speaking from her Brooklyn, New York, apartment, Lien thanked the independent booksellers who nominated and voted for her work. And she shared a story.

"When I was a grad student still writing my novel, I used to pop into independent bookstores all the time, and I would have this fantasy where I thought, 'OK, one day, when I finish my manuscript, if I'm lucky enough to sell it and have it published, how incredible would it be to see this novel on the shelves of indie bookstores or on one of those tables where the staff pick their favorites?'" Lien said.

"So to know that not only have you all given my novel a chance, but you've now given it this incredible platform, I'm absolutely blown away. It means so much to me. I've been freaking out ever since I found out."



All That's Left Unsaid, published in Australia, North America and the United Kingdom last fall, is set in Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb where many Vietnamese refugees settled upon immigrating to Australia in the wake of the communist takeover that ended Vietnam's civil war in 1975. Lien's parents were among them, immigrating to Australia in 1979 and moving to Cabramatta shortly after. She was born in southwest Sydney in 1988. By 1996—the year most of the novel's action takes place—the bustling enclave called "Little Vietnam" was riven by a heroin epidemic that fueled gang violence and rampant street crime.

The story begins when Ky, a young newspaper reporter who left Cabramatta for a career at a Melbourne daily, returns home after her younger brother, Denny, a straight-A high school student, is murdered. Though the killing takes place in a crowded restaurant, none of the witnesses will cooperate with the police, who seem ready to write off Denny's death as just another drug crime. Drawing on the skills she honed as a journalist, Ky tracks down and interviews each witness herself, each encounter bringing her closer to knowing what happened. As she grieves for her brother and copes with the guilt she feels at having left behind her family and friends—most significantly Minnie, her troubled best friend from childhood—she is drawn back into conflicts and resentments deeply rooted in her coming-of-age as an Asian Australian, an outsider estranged from both the dominant white culture and the immigrant experience of her parents.

Lien came to the story's setting and themes only gradually. First she had to get used to the idea of writing fiction at all.

"When I arrived at KU, my stories were quite autobiographical in nature because I didn't feel comfortable making things up, which is kind of the name of the game when it comes to fiction writing," she says. "Because I'd been a journalist for so long, and making things up is the thing that you are definitely *not* meant to do, I just felt really uncomfortable with it.



ALISON GRASSO

Citizen of the world: Lien grew up in Sydney, worked in the Bay Area for Vox and the LA Times, then came to Lawrence for graduate school. She lives now in Brooklyn, where she's at work on her second novel.

“It took me about a semester to sort of loosen up and say, ‘OK, you can just make up whatever you want. You do not have to base everything on your own life.’”

That transformation was helped along by reading the work her fellow students put up for critique in the workshops that form the heart of the MFA curriculum.

“My peers were writing science fiction and fantasy, and I was like, ‘OK, that is definitely not autobiographical.’ I felt like I had permission to start playing around a bit more. And once I let go of the fear of making things up, my other journalism skills proved to be really valuable in helping me write fiction.”

A classmate noted that many of the short stories Lien was then writing seemed to be connected.

“It hadn’t occurred to me at the time,” she says, “but they pointed out that the stories were all set in this place called Cabramatta in the ’90s; all the main characters were young Asian girls who are the daughters of refugees. It really got me thinking, ‘What am I circling? I’m clearly circling an idea I’m not even conscious of.’”

Talking with Kenneth Nguyen on his podcast, “The Vietnamese,” Lien spoke of how the Cabramatta of her childhood was a microcosm of Australian attitudes toward immigration and multiculturalism.

“When in the ’90s things were pretty bad in Cabramatta, a lot of politicians looked at it and said, ‘There’s an example of why multiculturalism doesn’t work,’” Lien explained. “‘There’s an example of how some people don’t have it in them to be Australian. The problem is the refugees.’ In doing that, they were playing to xenophobia. They were playing to their own prejudices. They never stopped to think, ‘Why is this community struggling?’ Yeah, there is something wrong with this community: It’s full of untreated and undiagnosed PTSD. There are high levels of poverty. There’s not enough social support. A lot of the kids don’t feel seen or

What Lien wanted to accomplish with her book was to show people how it felt to grow up Asian in Australia in the 1990s. For that, no research was necessary.

supported at school, and their teachers don’t really know how to respond to them.”

The time and the place made for a dramatic setting, but there was a hitch: As an 8-year-old, Lien had not been privy to the inner workings of gang life or the criminal justice system. To fill in those gaps, she turned to research skills learned as a journalist, tracking down academic studies through KU Libraries and combing through newspaper morgues to glean from history’s first draft a contemporary take on the era. She discovered a news brief about a fashion show interrupted by a knife fight between rival gangs. Several people were injured, but none of the 200 attendees could give firsthand accounts. “All 200 claimed to be in the bathroom when it happened,” Lien says. That small detail offered big insight into how insular and fearful of authority the community was.

Lien showed an early draft that mixed stories and a longer narrative to Laura Moriarty, s’93, g’99, professor of creative writing. The author of *American Heart* and four other novels, she worked closely with Lien as she developed *All That’s Left Unsaid* at KU. Though Moriarty felt the experiment in melding the story and novel forms wasn’t working, she saw the strength of the material Lien was then beginning to probe and would explore fully in the completed book, which served as her master’s thesis. “It’s clear that it’s about identity: How does Ky see herself as an Australian and a person with parents who are refugees

from Vietnam?” Moriarty says. “How does she see herself as opposed to her friend who did not leave the rough neighborhood that they grew up in? She is straddling two different communities.”

On Moriarty’s advice, Lien ditched the experiment with form and focused instead on writing a novel. She had been reading Jane Harper, the bestselling British-Australian crime writer, and was taken with the narrative momentum a good thriller can generate. She wanted to harness

that page-turner energy to create a book that tackled serious topics but didn’t, in her words, “feel like homework.”

“Upon deciding, ‘I’m going to focus on writing a novel, I’ve got this kernel from this news clipping, I’m so inspired by Jane Harper, and I’ve been circling an idea’—all of that sort of clicked, and I was like, ‘OK, this is going to open with a murder.’”

What Lien wanted to accomplish with her book was to show people how it felt to grow up Asian in Australia in the 1990s. For that, no research was necessary.

“Growing up, I was often told, ‘Of course you’re doing well in school. You are Asian,’” she says. “‘Of course you are nerdy, because you are Asian. Of course you are quiet and reserved and shy and docile, because you are Asian.’ These are just such ridiculously generalized things to say about someone, and if you hear it often enough, you start to wonder if it’s true. Unfortunately, you might even start to live up to it, because you are not sure what else you’re allowed to be.”

What Asian immigrants are allowed to be, in Australia or America or other Western countries, she came to believe, is contingent on their behavior.

The idea she had been circling, Lien realized, was the concept of conditional citizenship.

“It’s this idea that Asian Australians and Asian Americans and Asians in the U.K. all have been told from a very young age

“It was about being quiet. It was about not taking up space. It was about not challenging people, and it took a long time for me to regain the confidence to be myself again.”

that they belong. But really their belonging is conditional. It’s conditional on their impeccable behavior, on their gratitude, on not being perceived as threats. And the moment they cross the line in any way, they no longer belong.

“To be on the receiving end of that, it’s very confusing,” she says. “It’s painful.”

For Lien, the constant pressure and expectations—“the paper cuts I experienced throughout childhood and my early 20s,” in her recounting—caused a major transformation over time.

“I’ve seen home videos of myself as a young child, like kindergarten age, where I am the biggest ham ever,” she says, laughing. “And then I see myself in college, where I became so quiet and started to feel invisible. I was a bit more of a wallflower. When I was writing this novel, I reflected on what changed. How do I go from this attention-seeking ham to someone who feels like she doesn’t even have a voice? I think a large part of it was the external pressure to live up to the stereotype of what it meant to be Asian Australian. It was about being quiet. It was about not taking up space. It was about not challenging people, and it took a long time for me to regain the confidence to be myself again.”

That stereotype is known as the myth of the model minority, and it began in the 1960s in the United States, where it was used to hold up Asian Americans as paragons of assimilation and exemplars of how the American melting pot works.

In Learning for Justice, a magazine

published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Sarah-SoonLing Blackburn describes the model minority myth as a harmful stereotype that “perpetuates a narrative in which Asian American children are whiz kids or musical geniuses. Within the myth of the model minority, Tiger Moms force children to work

harder and be better than everyone else, while nerdy, effeminate dads hold prestigious—but not leadership—positions in STEM industries like medicine and accounting.

“This myth characterizes Asian Americans as a polite, law-abiding group who have achieved a higher level of success than the general population through some combination of innate talent and pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps immigrant striving.”

Social scientists have identified many problems with the model minority myth. Far from benign, it adversely affects those who believe it, those it excludes and even those it describes. By pointing to one racial group as evidence that a society is fair and equal and open to all, the myth absolves that culture of any responsibility for inequality and lays the groundwork for judging all racial groups as a whole rather than as individuals. That creates a situation in which any group—even one purportedly held in esteem by the broader culture—can quickly become the target of ugly scapegoating. That was the case with the rise in violence and hate speech against Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic, which set in while Lien was in year two of her coursework at KU.

“What the pandemic did was it sort of validated those feelings even more, because initially, when I was circling these ideas and writing the first draft of *All That’s Left Unsaid*, I would sometimes second-guess myself. ‘Is this all in my head, these feelings that I have had, these experiences that I

have had and the scenarios that I’m concocting in order to evoke those feelings in the reader? Am I imagining a lot of it? Are things really not that bad for Asian Australians and Asian Americans?’ And then when the pandemic hit, it was like, ‘Oh, no, it’s real.’ If anything, it emboldened me to stop questioning myself so much, stop doubting my own experiences. Writing during the pandemic was eye-opening, and it validated the idea I was circling.”

A novel, of course, is more than just a recitation of ideas. It’s an entertainment, a world made up of characters, scenes, settings. “The novel is,” in the words of D. H. Lawrence, “the one bright book of life.”

In conceiving *All That’s Left Unsaid*, Lien kept in mind a different quote, from Viet Thanh Nguyen, who said of his acclaimed spy novel *The Sympathizer*, “I didn’t want to write another one of these historically and politically concerned novels that were long on mood and commitment, but short on the entertainment.”

Mission accomplished.

“What’s neat about this book is it sounds really serious, but it’s also funny,” Moriarty says. “Her characters are warm, and it ends up being a really moving study of family and identity and belonging.”

That’s down, perhaps, to the fact that Lien considers herself “a pretty optimistic person,” as she told Kenneth Nguyen on his podcast.

“I see that in the way that she interacts with people—she was so encouraging to other writers in the workshop, even though it was clear by her third year that she was a star,” Moriarty continues. “I see it in her novel, too, because you think, ‘Oh gosh, it’s about this poor kid who is literally stomped to death.’ But she manages to find the brightness in the world and run with it, even while taking a hard look at so much that’s hard and miserable.”

MFA graduate Cote Smith, c’05, g’09, author of the novels *Hurt People* and

Limetown, has known Lien since her days at the LA Times. He read some of her early fiction when she took an online class he taught. He points to her characterization of Cabramatta—which Lien presents as not only a gangland war zone, but also a vibrant hub of daily life filled with hard-working strivers—as particularly skillful.

“The way she captures the setting is really, really well done. That involves pointing out the telling details, but also pointing the story in a thematic direction,” Smith says. “She’s super observant, which is a valuable skill, being able to pick out the details that matter and seeing how those details add up to something larger, like a theme, or just understanding a bigger picture of what’s going on. It’s not just a murder mystery, because she’s taking on some larger issues like racism in that time and that particular place.”

In challenging the model minority myth, *All That’s Left Unsaid* shows how the stereotype mars those it claims to celebrate. That’s evident in the conflict between Ky and her immigrant mother. The older woman, the younger believes, has “no idea how it was to walk the narrow path where everyone expected her to be quiet and smart and hardworking and good—a narrow path not even laid out by her or people like her.” It cries out in the anguish felt by Eddie, who witnessed Denny’s murder but so fears making his parents feel they’ve failed at the one thing for which they’ve risked all—giving him a better life—that he cannot tell police what happened to his best friend. And it’s made starkly, heartbreakingly real in Minnie’s loneliness and alienation, brought on by rejection from the culture at large and from her parents, who are hardly Tiger Mom and Industrious Dad.

Minnie and Ky’s inevitable confrontation, when it finally comes, is all the more shattering because of the long history that Lien has created between the friends, each complex, vivid characters whose uniqueness puts a lie to the notion that a stereotyping “myth” could do justice to the complexity of human experience reflected

in two lives, much less in an entire group.

“I think what I’m trying to accomplish through the novel is to show readers that no community is a monolith, and we’re just like everyone else,” Lien says. “We are just as capable of success, yes. But we are just as capable of failure as well. We are just as complicated as everyone else. And that means we can be as wonderful, as petty, as stubborn, as generous, as funny, as smart. We’re just like you, whoever you are.

“And if a reader can understand, ‘OK, they’re just like me,’” she says, “then how can they justify treating a group of people any differently?”

The dream of writing a book that would find a place on the table didn’t stop with dreaming. “What was unusual about Tracey is how hard she was willing to work for it,” Moriarty says. “She didn’t get mired in any of the things that can trip writers up. Ego. Self-consciousness. Procrastination. It wasn’t just about the wanting: She was able to articulate what she wanted to do, and get feedback and try a chapter one way and then a different way.”

Nor did the dream stop at the indie bookstore. *All That’s Left Unsaid* won positive reviews from Kirkus, Publisher’s Weekly, The Washington Post, Australian Vogue and Oprah Quarterly. In addition to the Indie Book Awards of Australia honor, it was also nominated for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize. And the cover of the paperback edition, due out this September, will—thanks to strong sales in Australia, where the novel cracked the top 10—bear the words “international bestselling author.”

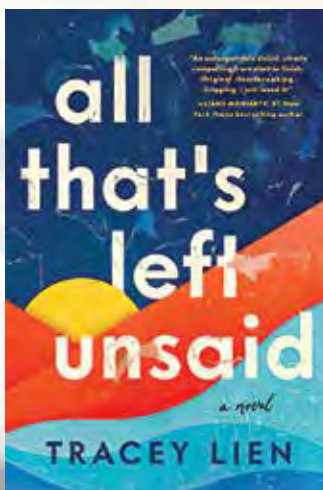
Lien landed an agent in January 2021, the start of her final semester of classwork and teaching. By April the manuscript was out on submission at multiple publishing houses. “I would be talking to editors during the day, and then in the evening I would be logging on to my Zoom class,” she recalls. “Then in the final week of the semester, as I was submitting my final papers and grading student assignments, I found out the novel sold in a two-book deal. The timing couldn’t have been better.”

Smith says Lien should be “super proud” of the novel.

“I read early drafts and saw how it evolved, and we talked all through the process, from looking for an agent to when it became clear that, ‘Oh, it *will* be on bookshelves sometime soon,’” Smith says. “I always try to remind her what an amazing accomplishment the book is. I mean, just writing a book is so hard. But she’s writing a story that hasn’t really been told. Hopefully, people who haven’t had their story told can now look at this book and feel like they’ve been seen. I think that’s something that can have a powerful and amazing impact. What more can you ask for in a book?”

All Lien asked for was a chance. An opportunity. A ticket to try.

“I didn’t come in with this grand idea of, ‘I’m gonna write a novel and I’m gonna have a career as a novelist,’” she says. “It was more, ‘Let’s see how I feel about fiction writing. Let’s give this a shot.’”



All That's Left Unsaid

by Tracey Lien
HarperCollins, \$27.99

GRAND

JAYHAWK WELCOME CENTER

ENTRANCE

Video wizardry and true-blue hospitality
convince recruits that the Hill can be home

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner



JAYHAWK
WELCOME
CENTER
AT
ADAMS ALUMNI
CENTER



As sunshine streamed through the two-story glass facade of the Jayhawk Welcome Center on the morning of Monday, Feb. 13, Marina Fadelli, a high school senior from California, walked into the luminous lobby with her parents. Their first visit to Kansas coincided with the first day of operations for the center. The Fadellis were among the first prospective KU families greeted by the KU Admissions team in the University's new home for student recruitment.

A few steps from the front door, Marina and her mom and dad were transfixed by a greeting on a 34-foot screen:

Marina Fadelli

Thanks for making the trek from El Cerrito!

"The second we walked in, my name was on the big screen," Fadelli recalls. "It was timed perfectly. It was really cool."

After snapping a few photos, Fadelli and her folks met student ambassadors, who handed the family a schedule for the day and explained that Fadelli could use her personal QR code, which the admissions team had emailed her before the visit, to select exhibit information and stories that related to her academic interest in psychology. Walking through the new building, which flows into the renovated Adams Alumni Center, she could learn what it means to be a Jayhawk through the stories of current students and accomplished alumni and an introduction to KU's distinctive origins and traditions.



The giant video screen displays photos and videos from KU Marketing, and the Admissions team loads the names of all visiting students to display on the screen, along with a custom tag line to welcome each student. The Alumni Association's hospitality team also uses the screen to highlight other events in the building.

As the Fadellis awaited the admissions presentation, they rounded the corner behind the screen and encountered the Jayhawk Experience, a 360-degree video display of quintessential KU moments from academics, athletics, Hawk Week, Commencement and other occasions, all vividly captured by the creative team at KU Marketing. On a winter morning, Marina and her parents could feel the excitement and energy of campus life in all seasons. “I chose the basketball game,”

she says. “I’d heard a lot about Allen Field House, and it was amazing to see the students throwing the confetti. I loved the school spirit.”

After a tour of Mount Oread, Fadelli told her parents over lunch she had found her school.

Months earlier, she had applied to KU as merely one of eight potential colleges—“almost as a joke” with family friend Lauren Fenton, a KU student from the St. Louis area who had followed her older

sister, Hayley, b’22, to the Hill. Fadelli had often talked about visiting the Fentons in Lawrence but had never made the trip.

“I knew the moment after the tour,” Fadelli says, praising student ambassador Lauren Spitaleri as a superb guide along Jayhawk Boulevard and throughout campus. “I hadn’t heard back from all my schools, so my parents assumed I would wait. They were surprised, but they were happy. They really, really liked the tour. Everyone was super friendly.



“This was the one school where I felt welcomed. There was a community, and there was lots of school spirit.”

The Fadellis returned to the Jayhawk Welcome Center and paid the enrollment and housing deposits on the spot. On Feb. 13, Marina became a Jayhawk.

Twelve days later, on Feb. 25, admissions director Lisa Pinamonti Kress recounted the Fadellis’ visit and shared other rave reviews as more than 400 donors and KU leaders gathered in the sparkling complex, officially known as the Jayhawk Welcome Center at the Adams Alumni Center, to celebrate the grand opening. The mood was positively giddy as guests explored the exhibits and marveled at the new and renovated spaces.

“This was the one school where I felt welcomed. There was a community, and there was lots of school spirit.” —Marina Fadelli

“The whole goal of this effort was to create a place where prospective students could learn what it actually means to be a Jayhawk, to really feel what it’s like to be part of this community,” Chancellor Doug Girod told the crowd. “We have so many exciting things going on at KU right now, the energy is just palpable, and this place is just one terrific example.”

Energy radiates from the KU Admissions team. After more than 20 years of greeting recruits at the Visitor Center at 15th and Iowa, then loading them on buses to tour the campus, the change of venue is refreshing. “It’s wonderful to be back on

Jayhawk Boulevard,” says Kress, g’98. “This is truly the best place to do a presentation, show people these amazing views and then walk directly out on campus to take tours down the boulevard.”

Zion Guevara, a student ambassador for four years, agrees that the new starting point for visits far exceeds the Visitor Center or the first floor of the Kansas Union, which became the site for hosting prospective students when the pandemic rendered crowded bus rides unsafe. “I’ve seen three versions of how we do tours, and this is the best,” says Guevara, a senior from San Antonio. “It’s so seamless and nice and easy for everybody to understand.”

Guevara was among the ambassadors who worked last summer and toured the building during construction. “It was cool for us to see how the planning was very intentional and how they were building this space for us,” he says.

Spaces throughout the Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams

Center were indeed designed and built with students in mind—a commitment that began with the first gift to fund the project in 2012, from Don, c’61, m’65, and Carolyn “Kay” Cromb Brada, c’61, longtime alumni leaders who have championed student recruitment and mentoring for many years.

The Bradas envisioned a space designated for student leaders from the Student Alumni Network and other campus groups in the Adams Center. Their dream expanded in 2015, as campus leaders began to discuss combining the reimaged alumni center with a new structure built specifically to create an unmatched campus visit to recruit future Jayhawks. Students would first glimpse their KU years from a place atop Mount Oread, with stunning views of historic Jayhawk Boulevard and the Campanile. That same place would become a haven while they were on the Hill, and it would become a home they would return to as alumni.



Student ambassadors are vital to successful campus visits. Shown are (l-r) Gabby Opdyke, Taylor Thomas, Damieon Boswell, John Dawkins and Zion Guevara.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little endorsed the concept, as did Girod, who succeeded her in 2017 and called the Jayhawk Welcome Center “a game-changer” for KU amid the increasingly intense competition to recruit students. Admissions experts have long known that many students choose a university based on the emotional connections—the “fit and feel” of a place they can call their own. Campus visits often seal the deal.

In 2018, a leadership gift to KU Endowment from the Sunderland Foundation of Kansas City meant the dream of a larger, more expansive project could become reality. Leaders across the University joined forces to begin planning, as Endowment and the Alumni Association continued fundraising. Meanwhile, KU architecture faculty designated the Jayhawk Welcome Center as a design project for their students, whose ideas helped convince the Association’s national Board of Directors to settle on a modern design that would feature the latest technology to tell KU stories (“New Chapter,” issue No. 2, 2021).

By May 2021, when construction began, donors had already pledged \$21 million toward the eventual \$29.4 million total cost, and project leaders had enlisted as partners several Kansas City firms with strong KU ties.

The new and new-again buildings, which are connected by Traditions Hall, combine to create an experience unrivaled in KU history and among universities nationally, says University Architect Mark Reiske, who praises the ways in which the complex appeals to KU faithful of all ages. “We’ve never had a facility that speaks to our alumni the way this facility can,” says Reiske, a’86. “We’ve never had one that speaks to current Jayhawks. There’s something for everyone.”

Dynamic digital exhibits that highlight the student experience, the global alumni network, the achievements and success of notable Jayhawks, KU’s world-class research and innovations, and Mount Oread’s unique origins and traditions will impress not only prospective students but

also current students, faculty and staff, Reiske adds: “The center gives you the ability, through Traditions Hall, through the experiential attributes of it, to really learn more about a place that you already love. And for our future students, no one in the country—and we do believe this, currently—no one in the country has the [campus visit] experience that we can now offer.”



Black & Veatch provided solar panels for the center that will annually generate electricity equivalent to the energy needed to power the field lights at David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium for 50 football games.

The student leadership suite on the first floor of the Adams Alumni Center provides plenty of comfortable space for members of the Student Alumni Endowment Board and other student leaders from across campus to connect, collaborate, study or just hang out.

The KU Alumni Association is honored to serve KU in a new and highly impactful way through an industry-leading welcome center and renovated Adams Alumni Center. We are immensely grateful to the dedicated donors, University leaders, students and project partners who came together to execute on a vision that will unite Jayhawks past, present and future. The experience embodies our unique culture and the people who truly make KU a special place.

We’ve created a space where all Jayhawks should feel a strong sense of belonging. We hope you will stop by to see us and explore your new home on the Hill.

—Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, president

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A few student ambassadors visited the construction site last summer and endorsed the project with their signatures. Gabby Opdyke, a junior from Rosemount, Minnesota, says she especially enjoys greeting visitors: “We get to see the way people’s faces light up when they walk in the door and see their names on the screen. People just seem so excited about the building, which is really fun. Alumni are excited about all that has changed and how KU is evolving to use all the latest technology.”

Of course, before prospective students arrive on Mount Oread, critical early steps in the recruitment process must convince them to make the trip. The admissions website, emails, texts, social media ads and posts, TV ads, snail mail, and in-person recruitment events all combine to help students forge connections and pique their curiosity about visiting Lawrence.

A recruitment event in Tulsa in early March proved pivotal for high school senior Josie Greene, who met student ambassador Taylor Thomas, a KU senior from Emporia. They found common interests: Thomas is a pre-med and psychology major; Greene wants to become a dentist, but she’s also interested in business. Thomas remembers the uncertainty she felt as most of her high school classmates opted to stay in Emporia; Greene was reticent to leave Tulsa because most of her classmates are staying in Oklahoma. “It was cool to hear about Taylor’s experience,” Greene recalls. “I could see myself following her path.”

When Greene and her mom arrived at the Jayhawk Welcome Center on March 23 for a visit, she immediately saw Thomas, who promptly rearranged her schedule for the day. “We had a little reunion,” Thomas says. “I wasn’t supposed to be giving tours that day, but I said, ‘I’ve got to be with this girl. I’ll quit my job if I cannot give her a tour.’”

The tour affirmed that Greene was making the right choice. “Taylor showed me things that helped her. She gave me

more of an insider look,” she says. “It felt more personal, and it felt right. I’m not going in blind, because Taylor provided resources. I’m enrolled, I’m excited and I cannot wait.”

Thomas says the opportunity to connect with future Jayhawks and the close-knit group of ambassadors has been the highlight of her KU years. “This is definitely my favorite job—no, it’s my favorite thing I’ve done here,” she says. “If I were to take a different route outside of medicine, it would 110% be college admissions.”

The new welcome center has provided a boost for all the ambassadors, says Brandon Shaw, assistant director of campus tours and events. “They’ve really taken to what the building has to offer, and they enjoy showing it off, getting people excited and getting that buy-in from prospective students,” says Shaw, g’21. “The building starts the conversation for them.”

The building also could have much to say about KU’s future. In a video describing the project’s origins and the ways in which many visionaries united to take a giant leap of faith more than a decade ago, Don Brada hailed the untapped promise of the Jayhawk Welcome Center at the Adams Alumni Center. “Early on, I don’t think anyone had any conception of what the final result might be,” he said. “I’m not sure even at this point that we have seen or really fully understand the total impact this will have on the University.”

The possibilities tower toward the blue.



Twenty-five admissions team members plus 109 student ambassadors work on the first floor of the new space. The rest of the KU Enrollment Management team continues to work in the former Visitor Center quarters at 15th and Iowa. The Adams Center remains the Alumni Association’s headquarters, with most of the team working on the revamped third floor.

University Architect Mark Reiske says the complex “takes two things that are very diverse, much like Jayhawks through time, and it melds the two together in a rather seamless fashion.” The new lobby connects to the former exterior brick wall of the Adams Center, “but when you start going down Traditions Hall, you lose sight that there were ever two buildings.”



Clockwise from top left: The larger, reconfigured pub remains a favorite gathering spot, combining traditional details such as the doors from Old Fraser Hall with modern touches. In the Leadership & Legacy exhibit, stories of accomplished alumni showcase the breadth and variety of Jayhawks' achievements. For students who want to share their KU visits on social media, the new space features several photo opportunities, including KU's signature greeting and a green-screen photo booth, where visitors can choose from multiple campus scenes and symbols to create custom backdrops. In the Jayhawk Network exhibit, students and parents can glimpse the career highlights of alumni mentors worldwide. The new All-American Room highlights KU's most recent outstanding athletes, complementing those captured in the original murals painted by John Boyd Martin, f'59.

Photo credits: exterior shot, p. 32, Dan Storey; student ambassadors, p. 38, courtesy KU Admissions; all other photographs by Steve Puppe

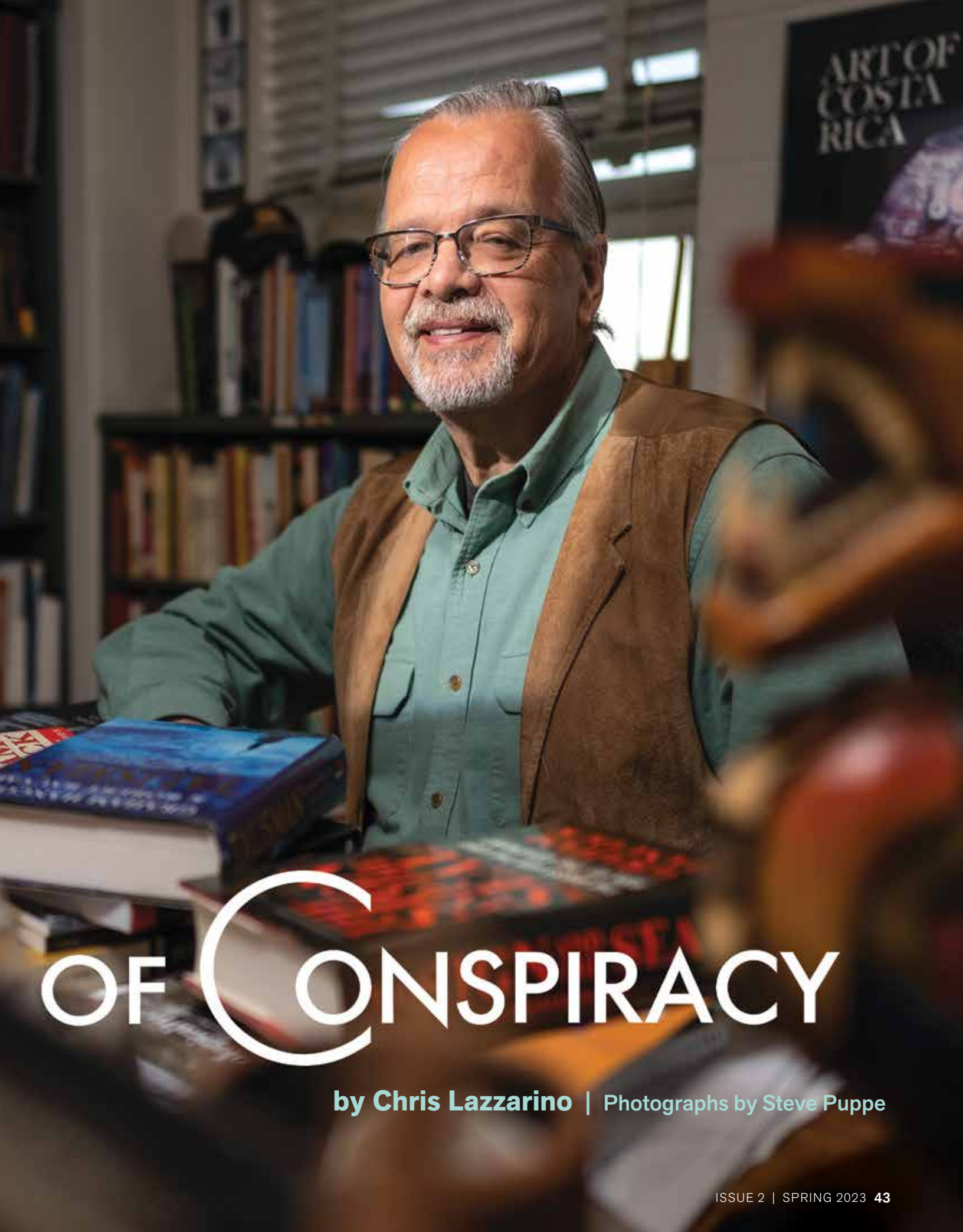
KU archaeologist not in the mood to laugh off pseudoscience as cheeky fun

When Professor John Hoopes arrived at KU in fall 1989, one of his first projects was to establish a critical-thinking course similar to one he had helped launch earlier in the decade as a Harvard graduate student. Hoopes has taught “Archaeological Myths and Realities” ever since, initially as a 400-level course designed for anthropology majors, and currently as a 200-level course open to all students seeking to fulfill a KU core requirement for critical thinking.

Three-plus decades later, the course is more relevant than ever.



CONSEQUENCE



OF CONSPIRACY

by **Chris Lazzarino** | Photographs by Steve Puppe

While teaching his students foundations of critical thinking, especially as applied to the complex worlds of scientific research and outreach, Hoopes is also engaged in a public quest to thwart what he sees as a particularly dangerous example of pseudoscience: the Netflix hit series “Ancient Apocalypse.”

The show’s creator and host, prolific British author Graham Hancock, has been on Hoopes’ radar since Hancock’s 1990s appearances on the late-night conspiracy outpost “Coast to Coast AM” with Art Bell and George Noory. Influential podcaster Joe Rogan has shared his platform with Hancock 20 times since 2013, and, thanks in part to that exposure, Hancock’s “Ancient Apocalypse” became one of the top 10 Netflix shows in 31 countries shortly after its November 2022 launch.

“Hancock should be studied by journalists, because he is such a master manipulator,” Hoopes says, explaining exactly how his coursework applies to real-world scenarios. “If you want to understand how to produce effective propaganda, watching how he does it is very instructive. He makes a systematic use of logical fallacies. He knows which ones most people are not going to be able to recognize, whether it’s cherry picking, or whether it’s setting up a straw man, or whether it’s making a bold statement or hasty generalization. All of these are techniques that he uses.”

To introduce his students to the concepts of critical and clear thinking in the sciences, Hoopes first turns to a deep read of Carl Sagan’s classic *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*, which includes Sagan recalling an encounter with an intelligent, well-read taxi driver who had an interest in, but no understanding of, Sagan’s work in astronomy: “All over the world,” Sagan wrote, “there are enormous numbers of smart, even gifted, people who harbor a passion for science. But that passion is unrequited.”

Education was failing its mission of teaching science and critical thinking, Sagan argued, enabling “spurious accounts that snare the gullible. ... Skeptical treat-

ments are much harder to find. Skepticism does not sell well.”

And that, Hoopes says, is “the linchpin of what we’re talking about here.”



Hoopes grew up in Baltimore with a typical boyhood interest in fantastic stories of ancient alien astronauts, the Bermuda Triangle, healing powers of pyramids and crystals. He even wrote a 10th grade research paper on the “lost continent of Atlantis,” and acknowledges that his passion for archaeology was spurred, at least in part, by his “interest in some of these alternative theories.”

But fanciful tales carried along on dreamy currents that defined the Age of Aquarius long ago outlived their innocent emergence; what once was playful has since grown the whiskers of unsightly aging.

“It was in 1973 when I went to see the film ‘Chariots of the Gods’ in a movie theatre,” Hoopes says. “That was 50 years ago. Here we are 50 years later and this stuff is bigger than it ever was. It didn’t go away, and I think it’s having pernicious effects.”

Hoopes majored in archaeology at Yale College. He spent six months after graduating on archaeological projects in Ecuador—his specialty is the archaeology of southern Central America and northern South America—and he worked as a professional archaeologist at varied sites that included subway construction in Washington, D.C., and pipeline easements for oil and gas projects in the New Mexico desert.

Although he earned only \$250 a week, Hoopes “lived on a shoestring” to save half of every paycheck, and in summer 1982 he was hired to assist Harvard archaeologist Stephen Williams in developing the course “Fantastic Archaeology.” Williams’ idea was to use popular pseudoscience topics such as the Great Pyramid of Giza, Easter Island, lost continents, ancient astronauts



After years of reading Hancock’s voluminous output, Professor Hoopes says he has concluded that “Graham Hancock is a very astute businessman, and he realizes that there’s a lot of money to be made by taking advantage of people’s ignorance and gullibility. I find it very hard to believe that he actually believes what he says and writes; I think it’s all very contrived and very cleverly done.”

As hucksters spin their tales for consumers who lack the skills to resist such deft salesmanship, a strange contradiction takes root: A belief in the unbelievable somehow fosters distrust of the provable. Conspiracies are both real and dangerous, and their existence is why pseudoscience that has far broader exposure than authentic science needs to be called out, exposed and ridiculed.



and Stonehenge—the same stuff that had thrilled Hoopes’ reading as a boy—to teach his students skills in critical thinking, while at the same time conducting his own research into the backgrounds of those who accumulated wealth by peddling lies.

Williams even clashed academic swords with a Harvard colleague, a professor of comparative zoology, who had fallen under the spell of what he thought to be stone inscriptions carved across North America by mysterious travelers from the mists of time who had somehow crossed the Atlantic Ocean; another Harvard colleague was selling popular books on similar tales of an unknown ancient America.

Hoopes continued developing the course as a graduate assistant while working toward his doctorate, and he found inspiration in his mentor’s dedication to teaching young scholars how to think.

“I think he understood that the authors were challenging authority, and, back then, that was a very appealing thing,” Hoopes recalls. “He saw how some very weird stuff resonated with the general public, and he found it insane that these books that were based on fantasy were getting so much attention.”

Hoopes believes the mission of his critical-thinking course is vital to a college curriculum, and he argues that it should be an academic staple for students in elementary and secondary schools. Sadly, that is not—and never has been—an easy sell.

“The problem is that in a capitalistic, consumer-based society, the powers that be benefit from having a population that

is not good at critical thinking,” Hoopes says. “The same kinds of logical fallacies that you see in Graham Hancock’s series are ones used in the commercials that you watch on a regular basis, and these deceptive advertising methods are something that the economy sort of depends on.”

As hucksters spin their tales for consumers who lack the skills to resist such deft salesmanship, a strange contradiction takes root: A belief in the unbelievable somehow fosters distrust of the provable. Conspiracies, Hoopes contends, are both real and dangerous, and their existence is why pseudoscience that has far broader exposure than authentic science needs to be called out, exposed and ridiculed.

Hoopes has dutifully done just that, especially since the sudden rise of predictions for a 2012 apocalypse based on absurd readings of Maya calendars (“The Gloom of Doom,” issue No. 4, 2010). Pop-culture conspiracy theories—whether a Maya death knell, the lost civilization trumpeted on “Ancient Apocalypse,” or JFK assassination tropes still championed by educated Americans who otherwise proclaim themselves immune from such maddening hysteria—have real-world consequences.

“They absolutely do,” Hoopes says, “and it’s all a distraction from real conspiracies to keep knowledge from the American public.”

Hidden within the chaos of the fanciful, there are also ominous conspiracies to “hide the truth of the treatment of Native Americans in American history,” including the Indian Removal Act, forced migra-

tion on the Trail of Tears, dishonored treaties, stolen lands. Hoopes also mourns an “active conspiracy to remove Black history from the American curriculum by labeling it ‘critical race theory,’ when that’s not what it is,” while “claiming that’s not something that should be taught because it makes white students feel bad about their own heritage.”

There’s also the ongoing conspiracy, as Hoopes sees it, “not to tell the truth about the reality of LGBT people who’ve existed for millennia in every culture on the planet, and that there have been trans people throughout history, and gender is a spectrum, not a duality. There’s a struggle to tell that story, as well, because there’s a conspiracy to hide it.”

When audiences tune in by the millions to watch television shows such as “Ancient Apocalypse,” which purports to link global advancements made within the past millennia or two to what Hancock describes as a far older “civilization that was lost in the great cataclysms of flood and fire that we know occurred near the end of the last Ice Age,” they can find themselves enamored of, and comfortable with, the notion that scientists, experts, are hiding the real truth.

Hoopes, whom Hancock has called “the most vehement and insulting of all archaeologists,” terms it the “cultic milieu of conspiracy theory,” which, once embraced, opens the door to such real-world dangers as vaccination conspiracies and climate change and election denial.

“All of those things,” Hoopes says, “go together.”



Shortly after “Ancient Apocalypse” made its Nov. 11, 2022, debut, it shot to the top of Netflix’s rankings, which helps explain the swift reaction against it. On Nov. 23, the prominent U.K. newspaper *The Guardian* bemoaned “the danger of a show” that “whispers to the conspiracy theorist in all of us,” while also slyly noting that the senior manager of unscripted originals at Netflix “happens to be Hancock’s son. Honestly, what are the chances?”

The Society for American Archaeology on Nov. 30 published an open letter (which Hoopes helped edit) to both Netflix and ITN, the eight-part show’s production company, denouncing the “docuseries” label as unwarranted for a program “based on false claims.” The letter also cited Hancock’s “willfully seeking to cause harm” to serious archaeologists with aggressive rhetoric, and, most damning, called out the show’s foundational theory for its “long-standing association with racist, white supremacist ideologies” that “does injustice to Indigenous peoples and emboldens extremists.”

“Contrary to Hancock’s claims, archaeology does not willfully ignore credible evidence nor does it seek to suppress it in a conspiratorial fashion,” the letter continues. “The assertions Hancock makes have a history of promoting dangerous racist thinking. His claim for an advanced, global civilization that existed during the Ice Age and was destroyed by comets is not new. This theory has been presented, debated, and refuted for at least 140 years. [The theory] steals credit for Indigenous accomplishments from Indigenous peoples and reinforces white supremacy. ... Hancock’s narrative emboldens extreme voices that misrepresent archaeological knowledge in order to spread false historical narratives that are overtly misogynistic, chauvinistic, racist, and anti-Semitic.”

Also within days of the series’ debut, *The Conversation*, a popular-audience online academic journal, proclaimed that “Netflix’s enormously popular new show ...

is an all-out attack on archaeologists.” The article’s author, Flint Dibble, research fellow at Cardiff University, wrote, “This sort of ‘race science’ is outdated and long since debunked, especially given the strong links between Atlantis and Aryans proposed by several Nazi ‘archaeologists.’ These are the reasons why archaeologists will continue to respond to Hancock. It isn’t that we ‘hate him’ as he claims, it is simply that we strongly believe he is wrong.”

Also joining the argument from the outset was Hoopes, who almost daily used his active Twitter platform to denounce Hancock. “Hancock’s series on Netflix was not to debate archaeologists, but to use or dismiss them as he saw fit,” Hoopes wrote Jan. 5. “He also features various non-archaeologists and pseudoarchaeologists talking about archaeological phenomena. It’s a mess.”

Hancock on Jan. 30 responded with a 16-page letter posted to his enormously popular blog, in which he states that “Ancient Apocalypse” continues the mission of his earlier books “to honour indigenous voices and perspectives in ways that the SAA, despite much virtue-signalling, does not.”

Hancock’s protests did nothing to slow worldwide archaeologists’ unified surge against “Ancient Apocalypse,” which the community of scholars had identified as a particular danger to their science because of the show’s global popularity, reaching audiences lacking in both academic resources and critical-thinking skills that would allow them to see the “docuseries” for what it really is, at least in Hoopes’ estimation: “speculative nonfiction.”

Hoopes is careful to note that his zeal for critical-thinking skills and his passionate dislike for “Ancient Apocalypse” should not be mistaken for a lack of interest in fantastic archaeology-based or science-adjacent stories of adventure and intrigue.

“There’s a very important place for speculative fiction,” Hoopes says, citing as examples Jean Auel’s wildly popular 1980 novel, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, and J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*, both clearly labeled as fiction.


Precisely in step with the emergence of the internet, with its immense power to generate enthusiasm for deliberate falsehoods, a pair of Charlton Heston-narrated specials—“The Mystery of the Sphinx,” in 1993, and 1996’s “The Mysterious Origins of Man”—proved big hits for network TV. The specials established a template for purveyors of pseudoscience to sidestep identifying their works as fiction.

But if such conspiracy-theory fueled TV filler can continually grab our collective attention, why can’t the real stuff sell, too? Why aren’t we enraptured by true tales about our ancient forebears and their very real human adventures, their loves and lives and foibles and fearlessness?

The problem, as Hoopes sees it, is that scientists “are very humble, in terms of what archaeology can tell us. And there are all kinds of parts of these stories that people want to know that we just don’t have the answers for.” Where Hancock would deftly insert a dramatic *but what if...*, actual scientists sharing the truth as they know it would instead be compelled to end the narrative. The “but what if” should happen in laboratories and on field expeditions, not popular TV shows.

“Archaeologists are reluctant to go beyond what the data says,” Hoopes says. “We can speculate ourselves, but we’re hesitant in saying things that we know will probably change, that we know new data will alter. That may be one of the reasons why we tend to not go there, and at the same time, that’s the big hook for people watching these shows: It could be this; it could be this other thing.”

“We as archaeologists need to be better about inviting the general public into that level of adventure, and imagination, and creativity, about possible answers to things in the past. And then say, ‘Well, how could we answer this? What information do we need to know this? How can we find that information? How can we use technology? How can we use a new approach to be able to recover these things that we’d really like to know that we don’t know yet?’”

Theories about humanity’s ancient past need not be conspiracies. In the right hands, they never were. 



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NEW TRADITION

Merry night in May

Jayhawks near and far reunite for reimagined KC celebration

ROCK CHALK FOREVER, an in-person and online KU celebration, made its debut May 6, when more than 600 alumni and friends converged at Kansas City’s Children’s Mercy Park, home of the Sporting Kansas City and Kansas City Current soccer teams, for an evening of reunions, revelry and raising funds to benefit programs that support KU students.

The event followed a three-year hiatus that began in 2020, when the pandemic canceled the Rock Chalk Ball, a tradition hosted by the Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network that began in 1996 to unite the KU faithful in the nation’s largest community of Jayhawks.

As a more casual soiree, Rock Chalk Forever invited guests to nix their tuxes and formal gowns in favor of creative “Jayhawk flair” attire, a change that was especially welcome on a sultry day in May.

In collaboration with Augeo, an enterprise engagement firm that helped create the Rock Chalk Forever concept, organizers added festive



KU touches throughout the four floors of the arena concourse, including lots of crimson-and-blue decor and Lawrence-inspired buffet fare that featured local chefs’ renditions of the crunchy chicken cheddar wrap (a KU Dining staple) along with “Wang-burgers” and pizza in tribute to The Wheel’s menu. Late-night sweets included Munchers Bakery treats.

Moving the party from a ballroom to a more sporting setting also provided opportunities to create an outdoor “Wescoe Beach experience,” featuring games (Pop-a-Shot, cornhole, Connect 4 and Jenga), a 360-degree photo booth and fire pits for roasting s’mores on the apron of the pitch.

Emcees Brian Hanni, j’02, the voice of the Jayhawks for Kansas Athletics, and Kansas City’s



Fox 4 News anchor John Holt, j'81, l'84, guided guests throughout the evening and introduced Chancellor Doug Girod; Association President Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09; a surprise guest, men's basketball coach Bill Self; and Allie Burch, a graduating senior from Lantana, Texas, and president of the Student Alumni Endowment Board, who shared gratitude for her KU experience.

The evening also featured the talents of students from the School of Music and the William Allen White School of Journalism: The Crimson and Blues A Cappella singers and the KU Fanfare Trumpets performed, and The University Daily Kansan staff produced a special commemorative edition of the newspaper for the celebration.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Association's Jayhawk Career Network and Student Alumni Network as well as KU programs that support all aspects of students' well-being, both inside and outside the classroom: academic advising, tutoring, career assistance and comprehensive health care, including mental health services.

"We are truly grateful to all the Jayhawks who came together to support Rock Chalk Forever," Peterson says. "It was so much fun to see Jayhawks reconnect and unite behind supporting our students and a vibrant alumni association, as we all affirm our commitment to building a stronger KU."



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Chancellor Girod flashed his Jayhawk flair; Katie and Jared Campbell joined Leah and Arlan Vomhof for a photo; student leader Allie Burch thanked alumni; coach Bill Self surprised guests; painter Ken Dela created a work for the auction; and Jayhawks toasted s'mores over the fire pits. This page: Brenda Vann, Michelle Wilson, Jill Hall, Tamara Huff Johnson and Reginald Mitchell celebrated; alumni mingled inside the concourse; John Dicus and others competed in cornhole; celebrants modeled for the 360-degree camera; Jenga jazzed up the games; and Dueling Pianos from Howl2Go Events provided late-night tunes.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the website below.

Alumni Association events

Aug. 8 KU Kickoff at Chicken N Pickle, Wichita

Aug. 25 KU Kickoff at Corinth Square, Kansas City

Please visit kualumni.org/kuconnection for the latest event information.



Steve Purpse (3)

COMMENCEMENT

Best feet forward

Traditions, triumphs showcased throughout graduation day

FOR 2023 GRADUATES Sarah Hood and Zach Krause, the customary walk down the Hill at Commencement was occasion to celebrate their connection to another rich tradition. As students who had embodied KU’s mirthful mascot, Hood and Krause sported the Jayhawk’s jumbo footwear one last time to make the journey through the Campanile and into the football stadium.

“It was so special to see so many people look over to my boots, look up at me, and erupt into cheers,” says Hood of the May 14 event. “All the time and hard work I put into bringing Baby Jay to life felt so appreciated.” Hood, who portrayed the younger ‘Hawk for four years, graduated with her bachelor’s degree in speech-language-hearing.

Although the path to donning cap and gown is unique to each Jayhawk, a video that kicked off this year’s post-procession ceremony spotlighted the shared highs and lows—a men’s basketball national title, the upheaval caused by a global pandemic—that bonded the Class of 2023.



Top: KU mascot team members Sarah Hood and Zach Krause strode into their next chapters wearing Baby Jay’s and Big Jay’s boots, a Commencement tradition for students who performed as the beloved birds.

Right: High spirits at the Chi Omega Fountain and high-fives at the Campanile.

Continued on p. 50



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- Discounted membership to the Ambler Student Recreation Center

Content

- *Kansas Alumni* print magazine and wall calendar
- Monthly member e-newsletter
- Exclusive content in the KU Alumni app
- Breaking news from KU
- Special digital and interactive features

Savings

- KU Bookstore
- KU Alumni National Discount Program (*featuring restaurant, retail, travel and more*)
- Lied Center
- Lawrence Country Club
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- Kaplan Test Services
- North American Van Lines



Special rates for new graduates

Half-Price Life Membership	\$500
12-Month Installment Plan	\$41.66/month
Young Alumni Annual Membership	\$30/year

Take advantage of this special offer by visiting kualumni.org/gradpack or call 800.584.2957 to join now!



STEVE PUPPE (6)

Milestone marked: A picturesque morning on Mount Oread made for an especially memorable Commencement. Top center: The Class of 2023 was invited to the first Commencement open house hosted at the new Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams Alumni Center. Bottom right: During the ceremony, Chancellor Doug Girod presented alumnus Fred Logan, a champion of higher education in Kansas, with the inaugural Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award.

In his remarks, Chancellor Doug Girod told the new graduates their achievements were not only a testament to hard work, but also to their ability to adapt to extraordinary challenges. "Today's Commencement is really about an opportunity to celebrate all that you've done on your way to earning your degrees," Girod said.

Krause, who completed his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, says attending Commencement in Big Jay's big boots was a perfect cap to his time at the University and the rare experience of representing such a treasured persona. "The highlight for me has always been the KU community and what the mascot means to them," Krause says. "I've met so many people from all walks of life."





Spray

New staff

JASON SPRAY is the new facilities service associate for the Jayhawk Welcome Center and Adams Alumni Center, where he maintains the building and grounds and prepares rooms for events. He enjoys cruising in his grandfather's 1962 Chevy truck, going to movies, playing video games, traveling, and spending time with his wife, Sarah; son, Freeman; and two daughters, Ellis and Gabriel.



New Life Members

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

Ruby K. Al-Lamadani
 Roderick Baugh
 Javen L. Betts
 & Brooklyn M. Winkel
 Amanda Ely Boening
 & James R. Boening
 Hayden D. Brown
 Patrick W. & Connie L. Brown
 Caitlin B. Carnivale
 James A. Elliott
 Hanna E. Ewart
 Joseph A. Falls & Jessica I. Hadl
 Alex W. Folsom
 Katie Bradford Gray
 & Walker R. Gray
 Levi Grove
 Jenica Wessels Harwood
 & Sam L. Harwood
 Anna Nelson Hecker

Nicholas B. & Donna J. Hoegler
 Norma Lee Hohn
 William D. Holiday
 Mary A. Horttor
 Kelly Galloway Huntington
 & Brian T. Huntington
 Olakunle O. Abina
 & Shalice S. Lott
 Danielle J. Kerr
 Samia F. Khan
 Harold S. & Pamela S. Kincaid
 Daniel J. Kocher
 Bryan J. Lawrence
 Mikayla L. Leader
 Stanley A. Martin Jr.
 Tasmin R. McDonald
 Kendra Michaels
 Beverly Ramsey Mitchelson
 Joanne E. Morando

Shelby L. Politte
 & Hannah L. Politte
 William W. Regier
 & J. Ellen House-Regier
 Christopher M. Rodenbush
 Lindsay Poe Rousseau
 & Trevor S. Rousseau
 Anthony R. Schmiedeler
 & Rachel A. Snyder
 Matthew T. Schwartz
 Kevin W. & Tiffany Hart Seaman
 Vivian C. Slater
 Whitney Antwine Stavropoulos
 Rebecca Synhorst Stockdale
 Linda A. Walker-Strauber
 & Michael D. Strauber
 Jaclyn Benoit Wise
 Kirsten R. Yunuba Stephens

Become a Life Member today!

Members support student and alumni success and career growth! Visit kualumni.org/join.



VAN awards challenge coins

THE KU VETERANS ALUMNI NETWORK each year presents honorary challenge coins to two individuals who have supported KU military-affiliated students. When the network's advisory board met May 10, Mike Denning, c'83, network president and director of KU's Office of Graduate Military Programs, presented coins to Bill Eckert, b'88, of Leawood (left), and Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, Association president (right). Eckert in 2011 co-founded KAMO Adventures to help veterans through hunting and fishing, scholarships, and transition assistance into the workforce. In addition to KAMO's scholarship, Eckert and his wife, Shanthi Gowdamarajan Eckert, c'87, d'89, also created a scholarship. Denning credits Peterson for his unwavering support, noting that "there are few alumni associations that have networks specifically for veterans—KU leads the way."

Jayhawk Profiles

Trudeau

ELIZABETH TRUDEAU**Telling America's story is diplomat's core mission***by* STEVEN HILL

Since joining the foreign service in 2004, Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau has seen a lot of the world and filled a wide range of roles at the State Department.

She delivered daily press briefings as the department's spokesperson and director for press operations in Washington, D.C.; served as U.S. consul general in Lahore, Pakistan, and Belfast, Northern Ireland; and worked in the press shops of the Pentagon, the National Security Council and NATO headquarters in Brussels. As press attache and spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in South Africa, she managed public events for Michelle Obama during

the first lady's 2011 trip to Soweto. While based in Nairobi, Kenya, she accompanied Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Khartoum, Sudan, for peace talks in 2005.

In the job she held until recently, as acting assistant secretary for global public affairs, Trudeau, j'91, traveled widely as part of a State Department effort to bring U.S. foreign policy to the public. That mission brought her back to Mount Oread Jan. 26 to meet with students at the William Allen White School of Journalism, where she earned a bachelor's degree on the news and editorial track.

Her Lawrence visit was part of a Midwestern swing to connect with students and encourage them to consider joining America's diplomatic corps. Trudeau's message to the Jayhawk journalists she met: First, you're in the right place to prepare for a career. Second, expand your idea of what that career can look like.

"KU and certainly the journalism school taught me the fundamentals I needed," Trudeau says. "I write well, I write quickly, I write factually. I can speak concisely, and I'm not afraid to ask questions. And that was really inculcated here at the J-school.

"But one thing I told the students is, 'Think outside the box.' If you had told me as a sophomore walking past Wescoe Beach that I would be representing the United States at NATO, I would never have believed it. Life is seldom a direct path. My philosophy has always been, do something that scares you a little."

As a freshman, Trudeau arrived from Columbus, Ohio, already steeped in the mechanics of writing and storytelling and set on becoming a reporter or editor.

"It was definitely the wonky side of the J-school at the time," she recalls of her news and editorial focus in Stauffer-Flint Hall. "All my cool friends were at KJHK, but

I was the one doing the copy editing and the wax-and-X-Acto-knife layout at The Kansan. We still used typewriters in our first reporting class—the stacks of paper, ripping it out. Walking into this building now, what I remember is the smell of the wax.”

As acting director of global public affairs, Trudeau led a bureau that employs 350 people in eight locations around the world; their primary job is to advance U.S. foreign policy through public diplomacy and public messaging.

“We’re basically telling the story of what America is doing, why we’re doing it, and why it matters,” Trudeau says.

That task hasn’t gotten easier in the two decades since she left her role as director of communications at Foundation for Seacoast Health to join the foreign service. With journalism facing many challenges—restrictions on press freedoms, threats to journalists’ lives, and collapsing economic models that are transforming the media landscape—telling America’s story is more complicated than ever.

“One of the things we do as we go abroad is understand that we’re not just advancing foreign policy in a vacuum. We’re advancing foreign policy in a really complex media landscape where we’ve got to counter state actors pushing disinformation, trying to sow chaos. We’re advancing information in a world where technology is changing every day, where digital platforms can lead to polarization. Sending out a press release is not how anyone does

business anymore. You have to be where the audience is, you have to measure it, and you have to adapt your message. So it’s a very agile, very nimble tradecraft we’re doing now.”

Nimbleness has been a hallmark of her career, too. Weeks after her campus visit, Trudeau moved to her next posting as a commissioned foreign service officer, at the U.S. Agency for Global Media, the executive-branch home of the federal government’s five international media outlets, including Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. Still employed by the State Department, she will be the agency’s first director of external affairs, talking to foreign governments about the importance of media freedoms and handling all congressional and public affairs engagement.

It’s one more opportunity to practice the skills she learned on the Hill.

“Over the last few years, working at the National Security Council and the Pentagon and as head of public affairs at the State Department, I realized more and more that we have to make sure that not only our colleagues, our adversaries and our allies overseas, but also the American people, understand our foreign policy initiatives and our decisions,” Trudeau says. “It’s absolutely the fundamentals I learned at the J-school: storytelling, making it relatable, and making sure people have access to information so they can understand the context around this vision. I’m just so excited to have the chance to do that job.”

“One thing I told the students is, ‘Think outside the box.’ If you had told me as a sophomore walking past Wescoe Beach that I would be representing the United States at NATO, I would never have believed it. Life is seldom a direct path. My philosophy has always been, do something that scares you a little.” —Elizabeth Trudeau

STEVE MARTENS

Businessman aims to fuel KU connections for future generations

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

Steve Martens’ dad, R.D., graduated from Wichita State University, but when Steve began to consider his options after Wichita Southeast High School, R.D. urged him to look to Lawrence.

“Dad felt very strongly that if you were going to live in Kansas and be in business, which was my plan, the contacts and relationships you’d make at KU would serve you well, and he was spot on.”

Martens, c’75, knew he would most likely follow his dad into the commercial real estate business R.D. had founded in 1948, but KU beckoned. He heeded his dad’s advice, and he has no regrets.

This year, as The Martens Companies celebrate 75 years in business, the son surveys a thriving, Wichita-based enterprise that employs more than 120 professionals across five divisions: brokerage and consulting, appraisal and consulting, property management, hotel and motel management, and hotel and motel development. As president of the companies, Martens oversees one of the state’s largest commercial real estate appraisal operations, along with brokerage services that span 12 states as part of an international consortium.

Martens says his KU history degree and courses in the School of Business prepared him well. He especially credits Professor Jack Gaumnitz, from whom he took two business courses, including a class in real estate. “He was an excellent teacher,” Martens recalls. “We’ve developed an ongoing friendship, and continuing that professor-student relationship long after college has certainly meant a lot to me.”

Martens was the first of three Jayhawks in his family (along with his younger brother, Michael, j’78, and his oldest daughter, Kelly, b’08, g’08), so when an



As a freshman, Martens played tuba with the Marching Jayhawks. He vividly remembers preparing to haul brass down the stadium steps for the pregame ritual. “I always had to have my moment with God: ‘I’m not gonna trip, dear God,’” he recalls with a laugh. “Once you made it down the stairs, you had to remember where you were supposed to stop on the field. Just like the football team, we’d watch film come Monday. You did not want to be the person who was not where you were supposed to be.”

opportunity arose to expand his business in Lawrence, he jumped at the chance. After opening Best Western hotel properties in Kansas City in 2014 and Norman, Oklahoma, in 2016—and earning Best Western’s Developer of the Year honor—Martens in 2018 opened Best Western Plus Inn & Suites in Lawrence, now known as StoneHill Lawrence, part of the Trademark Collection by Wyndham.

He finds the pace of the hotel business enticing. “In commercial real estate, you can work on a deal for months or years, and it may happen or it may not happen, and your fee is a contingency fee,” he says. “I love the hotel business because every 24 hours, it’s a new day. If you did something wrong on Tuesday, you rewrite the plan for Wednesday and you’re off and running. It’s a nice balance in management and workflow.”

Martens also relishes the opportunity

to support the University and the Alumni Association. “We are part of the Lawrence experience,” he says. “Someone’s not going to decide to come to KU because they had a good hotel stay, but if they’re impressed with what they see at the University, they like the community, they enjoy the restaurants, the hotel, it does all go together.”

He commends the Association for continuing to foster the Jayhawk relationships his father touted many years ago. “People here are very friendly and willing to help, and the Alumni Association has done a great job with its mentoring program and connecting people around the state and beyond,” he says, adding that new graduates can reap the benefits, just as he did. “With the combination of the ability to develop those relationships and the high, high level of education that a person receives, you’re walking out the door with the toolkit, ready to go.”

CHRIS ROGALA

Alumnus delivers direct aid to Ukraine refugees

by MICHAEL PEARCE

Chris Rogala was driving an Arizona highway in February 2022 when he experienced a life-changing, “enough is enough—I’ve got to do something” moment.

Rogala, c’91, was listening to National Public Radio reports of the horrors Russia was unleashing on the people of Ukraine.

By the next month, Rogala was near the Polish-Ukraine border, hurrying from town to town, using money he’d raised before the trip to buy supplies for desperate refugees. (He paid for all travel and in-country expenses from his own pocket.)

What he saw and experienced during his 10 days helping Ukrainian refugees along the border cemented his resolve to return this September and do even more.

“I’ll never forget the sight of an old woman, probably well into her 80s, walking with a suitcase in each hand. She was walking into the unknown, having to start totally over, at that age, with only what she could carry,” Rogala says. “I couldn’t believe one man, Putin, could have so much power to make all of those horrible things happen to innocent people. I saw those people fleeing their own country, many leaving as their homes were being bombed by the Russian military. Words can’t describe how bad it is.

“Thinking of ways to help those people has been on my mind ever since.”

Rogala, who earned his degree in communication studies, owns an office space marketing business in his native Chicago and sells real estate near Phoenix. He has often worked with well-established American charities. Figuring out how to directly help refugees half a world away took research.

He finally came across Siobhan’s Trust, a Scottish charity group previously dedicated to causes in Scotland. Like Rogala,

Siobhan's leaders felt a deep need to help the Ukrainian people after the unprovoked invasion. Tom Hughes, Siobhan's director of field operations, urged Rogala to join him and his staff in eastern Poland.

Following a personal trip to England, Rogala flew to Kraków, rented a car and headed toward the border.

"I didn't really know where I was going, or exactly what I'd end up doing," he says. "I was both nervous and excited. I just knew I had to get there and get involved."

Rogala used about \$17,000 he'd raised in a GoFundMe account ([tinyurl.com/Rogala](https://www.tinyurl.com/Rogala)) to buy diapers, food, coloring books and anything else he thought might make life better for the refugees.

He stopped at a "tent city" at the border. The sight of so many Ukrainians crossing the border was worse than he'd feared.

"It was a muddy mess, and we had people coming literally with nothing," he says. "Some were missing limbs from the war. There were so many mothers carrying tiny babies and leading small children, while their husbands had stayed to fight the Russians. Everybody was scared."

Rogala continued to make daily drives deeper into Poland for supplies, because towns close to the border crossings quickly ran out of most goods. He hurried back to give whatever he'd found to refugees who were often hesitant to take handouts. Most had been hardworking, successful people, Rogala says, and may have felt ashamed to rely on charity.

"You had to learn ways to reach them, to make them smile and feel comfortable," he says. "Sometimes I'd drop to a knee and act like I was begging them to take what I was offering as if it was a favor to me."

His dedication didn't go unnoticed.

"I remember Chris's generosity and passion to help," Hughes, of Siobhan's Trust, said via email.

"When Chris arrived, [humani-

"When Chris arrived, [humanitarian groups and volunteers] were serving millions of refugees fleeing Putin's war. Chris spent so much time driving back and forth, buying supplies of food, water and fuel for fires that kept people from freezing. We hope to see Chris again, soon."

—Tom Hughes, Siobhan's Trust

tarian groups and volunteers] were serving millions of refugees fleeing Putin's war. Chris spent so much time driving back and forth, buying supplies of food, water and fuel for fires that kept people from freezing. We hope to see Chris again, soon."

Rogala was exposed to some of the worst sins of humanity. In addition to the devastation of war, the crisis drew predators trying to take advantage of the charities and stealing from the refugees, he says. Human traffickers were rumored to be preying on young, desperate women.

Still, it was the amazing generosity of others that left the largest impression on Rogala.

"As heartbreaking as it was, it was the coolest, most rewarding thing I've ever done," he says. "I met people from Indianapolis to Australia. Most were just normal people, like me, who came because they wanted to help however they could. We had chefs come from all over, making everything from soup to pizzas to give to the Ukrainians. People were doing whatever they did best to help. It was so inspirational."

Rogala credits the generosity of Polish citizens in helping their Ukrainian neighbors, yet he is frustrated by the response of Americans. In early 2022, he raised about \$17,000 for aid in a few weeks. This year, however, donations to his GoFundMe effort were only \$3,300 by late April, even though he has promised to match the first \$5,000 with his personal funds.

"It's been a harder go, and I think a lot of it is Americans have seen some good news and might think the Ukrainians are winning the war and don't need any more help. That couldn't be any further from the truth. These people are still devastated and have lost so much," he says. "I'm trying to keep people's awareness high as to what's still going on. I just have to go back and do whatever I can."

—Pearce, '81, is a Lawrence freelance writer and frequent contributor to Kansas Alumni.

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Rogala

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by MEGAN HIRT

1957 John Curry, e'57, and **Jane Hicklin Curry**, f'57, recently celebrated 65 years of marriage. John, a retired airline executive, and Jane, a watercolorist, have two children and five grandchildren. They live in Ivins, Utah.

1965 Ineta Bebb, d'65, g'68, is music director at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and a longtime music director and accompanist at Muskogee Little Theatre. Her colleagues, friends and former students recently raised \$50,000 to endow a vocal music scholarship in her name at KU.

1967 Daniel Suiter, c'67, m'71, and **Marcia Johnson Suiter**, '67, live in Pratt. Daniel retired in 2020 after 40 years of practicing gastroenterology. He currently serves on the Kansas Medical Mutual Insurance Co. claims committee. Their granddaughter, Emily Suiter, attends KU as a fifth-generation Jayhawk.

1968 Jack Willome, b'68, was elected to the board of directors of Cullen/Frost Bankers. He lives in San Antonio.

1969 Robert "Rocky" Entriken, '69, in January was

inducted into the Sports Car Club of America's Hall of Fame and received the organization's highest honor, the Woolf Barnato Award. A decorated autocross competitor, he won an SCCA national championship in 1986 and has been a freelance motorsports writer since 1995.

1971 Roger Bain, j'71, wrote *Hardly Working*, a memoir, published in February. He and his wife, Linda, live in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

1974 William Brown, j'74, retired as regional video engineer for Mediacom Communications in Des Moines, Iowa.

Robert Dysart, '74, retired as a library technician at Johns Hopkins University, where he worked for over 40 years. He and **Marcia Jones Dysart**, c'70, d'73, g'79, live in Baltimore.

Fred Logan, '74, an attorney and longtime civic leader, received the inaugural Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award. He is former chair of the Kansas Board of Regents and helped form Kansans for Higher Education, a political action committee. He led the 2008 effort to create the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle, which expanded the KU Edwards Campus and KU Medical

Center, and he helped secure additional funds for the KU Cancer Center.

1975 Cynthia Hunt, c'75, lives in Estes Park, Colorado, where she performs as a solo and collaborative pianist.

Dave Murfin, b'75, e'75, and **Janet Lusk Murfin**, d'75, longtime hosts of the Association's annual Jayhawk Roundup at their Wichita stables, were recognized for their generosity with the Kansas Board of Regents' recent approval to name KU football's outdoor practice fields in their honor. Dave, a former chair of the Board of Regents, is active in oil and gas exploration and owns one of the country's largest John Deere dealerships.

Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, j'75, is an attorney at Future Forward, a property development and management firm in Omaha, Nebraska. She was previously an assistant U.S. attorney and served as executive director of the Peter Kiewit Foundation for 30 years.

1976 Jan Noyce DeLyser, j'76, retired as vice president of marketing for the California Avocado Commission. She worked for the organization for 24 years.

David Flood, c'76, m'79, is an orthopedic surgeon at Caduceus Specialty in Yorba

Linda, California, and former team physician for the San Diego Chargers.

1977 Chuck Fischer, f'77, a mixed-media artist, exhibited a solo show, "Geometric Abstractions," at Atlantic Gallery in New York City.

1979 Jay Howard, b'79, owner and president of JDH Asset Management and JDH Investments in Austin, Texas, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Business. He is a past chair of the Association's Board of Directors and received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2014 for his service to KU.

1980 Gene Eckenberg, b'80, retired as central region sales director for KEEN Footwear.

1981 Julia Hwang, c'81, m'85, practices family medicine at Christus Trinity Clinic in Tyler, Texas.

Greg Sippel, b'81, has been a business analyst for Electronic Data Systems and Kansys Consulting for 40 years. He lives in Overland Park.

Debbie Travers, n'81, received the School of Nursing's Distinguished Alumni Award. She is associate consulting professor in the school of nursing

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- c** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- d** School of Education and Human Sciences
- e** School of Engineering
- f** School of Fine Arts

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- j** School of Journalism
- l** School of Law
- m** School of Medicine
- n** School of Nursing
- p** School of Pharmacy
- PharmD** School of Pharmacy
- s** School of Social Welfare

- u** School of Music
- AUD** Doctor of Audiology
- DE** Doctor of Engineering
- DMA** Doctor of Musical Arts
- DNAP** Doctor of Nursing Anesthesia Practice
- DNP** Doctor of Nursing Practice
- DPT** Doctor of Physical Therapy
- EdD** Doctor of Education
- OTD** Doctor of Occupational Therapy

- PhD** Doctor of Philosophy
- SJD** Doctor of Juridical Science
- (no letter)** Former student
- assoc.** Associate member of the Alumni Association



at Duke University and associate professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina.

1982 Angela Harris, c'82, is business development director at GreenEarth Cleaning.

Darren Karst, b'82, in April was named chief financial officer at Heritage Grocers Group. He and **Teresa Cosentino Karst, b'81, g'82,** live in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Sue Peterson, g'82, retired in April as chief government relations officer and assistant to the president at Kansas State University, where she worked for 34 years.

Louis Wetzel, m'82, professor of radiology in the School of Medicine, was honored with the school's Distinguished Alumni Award.

1984 Brad Hollenbeck, a'84, a'85, is founding partner at Hollenbeck Architects, a residential design firm in Houston.

Steven Hood, b'84, retired as senior director of software development and product management at Hitachi Vantara. He lives in Overland Park.

Mark Mears, j'84, published the book *The Purposeful Growth Revolution: 4 Ways to Grow from Leader to Legacy Builder*. He is chief growth officer for LEAF Growth Ventures, a consulting firm. He lives in Lenexa.

1985 Steve Bratton, f'85, manages fundraising programs for Eventage. He lives in New York City, where he has worked at Lincoln Cen-

ter Theater for 25 years and performs with the Manhattan Prairie Dogs.

Barbara Etzel, j'85, g'93, is a real estate adviser with The Corcoran Group in New York City. She was honored in February with the New York Junior League's Outstanding Sustainer Award for 26 years of volunteer work with the organization.

Sam Gilliland, e'85, received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award from the School of Engineering. He is CEO of Accelya, a technology company serving the travel and transportation industries, and previously led Sabre Corp. and Cherwell.

Greg Grimm, e'85, director of global manufacturing partner management at Google,

was honored by the School of Engineering with the Distinguished Engineering Service Award.

1986 Moree Mullins Ronning, d'86, g'89, is a substitute teacher at Westminster Christian Academy in Town and Country, Missouri.

Paulos Yohannes, PhD'86, is professor of chemistry and associate dean of STEM/research at Georgia State University's Perimeter College.

1987 Michelle Tyrene Johnson, j'87, is a producer and host for Louisville Public Media in Kentucky. She wrote the play "Only One Day a Year," which premiered at The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City in January and harks back to

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Fairyland Park, a former amusement park in Kansas City that at one time granted Black people admission only one day a year.

Bob Kealing, j'87, wrote *Good Day Sunshine State: How the Beatles Rocked Florida*, his fifth book, co-published in March by Florida Humanities and the University Press of Florida. He lives in Orlando and is a retired broadcast journalist.

Johanne Cote Lewis, c'87, is an insurance broker at American Heritage Financial.

Scott Mattivi, h'87, chief operations officer at the technology company PathologyWatch, was recognized by the School of Health Professions with its Distinguished Alumni Award. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Monument, Colorado.

Masayuki Nakanishi, PhD'87, is professor emeritus

of communication at Tsuda University in Tokyo.

1988 Gary Anderson, c'88, is a clinical pharmacist for the Indian Health Service.

Heather Hiatt Haakenson, c'88, is an anesthesiologist in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Raphael Haddad, e'88, is president of Jetcraft Commercial and principal at AviaPro Consulting. He lives in Toronto.

Michael Leeson, c'88, c'88, PhD'95, m'96, is chief of staff of the Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

John Montgomery, j'88, g'91, directs international sales for BLOX Digital. He lives in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Kathleen McAlpin Sandness, m'88, practices internal medicine at Ascension

Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg and directs the student health center at Pittsburg State University.

1989 Susan Honeyman, c'89, g'94, is professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

1990 Dave Peacock, j'90, in January was named CEO of Advantage Solutions.

Eric Thompson, c'90, retired in March as an investigator with the U.S. Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.

1991 Phil Duran, b'91, e'91, is vice president of renewable energy business development at DEPCOM Power. He lives in Leawood.

Scott Flucke, b'91, is chief

operating officer and general counsel at Highmount Capital. He and **Dawn Stanton Flucke**, d'90, g'93, live in Wichita and have two daughters, **Brooke**, b'21, and **Brenna**, b'23, who are both law students at KU.

Tedrick Housh, l'91, is a partner at Lathrop GPM in Kansas City and leads the firm's data privacy and cybersecurity compliance group.

1992 Melissa Lackey, j'92, is president and CEO of Standing Partnership, a marketing consulting firm. In January, she was named to the St. Louis Titan 100, which recognizes the city's top business leaders.

Diane Cook Stoddard, c'92, g'95, is Leawood city administrator.

1993 Peter Mallouk, b'93, c'93, g'97, l'97, is president and CEO of Creative Planning, a wealth advisory firm based in Overland Park. He founded the Kansas City Children's Assistance Network and the nonprofit Pathway Financial Education. He and **Veronica Yaghmour Mallouk**, b'96, have three children, Michael, JP and Gabby.

Cheryl Robitzsch, e'93, leads the design-build team at the engineering firm Freese and Nichols. She specializes in water and wastewater infrastructure.

Virginia Klemme Treadwell, c'93, l'96, is county attorney in Concho County, Texas.

Frank White III, c'93, is CEO of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority.

Daryl Williams, c'93, g'96, is senior director at the DeBruce Foundation in Kansas City.

1994 Danyel Bischofforsyth, g'94, was promoted to chief technology officer at Tyson Foods.

Eric Carlson, j'94, is a workstation support associate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Greg Farmer, j'94, in February was named executive editor of The Kansas City Star. He has worked at the newspaper for 26 years.

Margaret Hu, c'94, is professor of law at William & Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia.

John Wilcox Jr., l'94, is president of Dysart Taylor McMonigle Brumitt & Wilcox in Kansas City. He joined the law firm in 2000.

1995 Elaine Gallagher Adams, a'95, g'95, works for

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the design firm Arcadis, where she leads net-zero facilities and sustainable communities solutions in North America. She lives in Port Royal, South Carolina.

Kim Marschman DiMarzio, c'95, is an account executive at Ethicon, a medical device company.

Jason Greenwood, j'95, is vice president of customer success at the cybersecurity company Code42.

Angie Hilsabeck Rodgers, c'95, lives in Phoenix, where she directs the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Corey Shoup, j'95, is communications coordinator for the Kansas Bar Association.

Joseph Swanton, b'95, is a senior business analyst for Baker Tilly accounting firm.

1996 Nataliya Grekh Anon, g'96, is founder and CEO of Svitla Systems, a software development company based in Corte Madera, California.

Jeremy Bezdek, b'96, is executive vice president of global corporate development for Freyr Battery and president of the company's U.S. division. He lives in Wichita and has worked in the energy sector for over 25 years. His son, Jackson, attends KU.

Julie Faust Francisco, j'96, directs external affairs for the School of Law.

Jason Hatfield, c'96, m'00, is an emergency medicine physician at Ally Medical in Round Rock, Texas.

Tyrone Humphrey, c'96, is a foreman for Allstate Tower.

Rick McClellan, g'96, is accounting controller at Grey Snow Management Solutions. He lives in Shawnee.

Traci Gisel Neely, g'96, is a regional sales manager for BSN Sports. She lives in Austin, Texas.

John Sergent, s'96, g'03, is the St. Louis regional representative for the KU Office of Admissions.

Ron Sullivan, l'96, a brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve, is chief judge for the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. He also serves as chief of acquisition, personnel and ethics law for the Army Futures Command.

1997 Joan Kramer, PharmD'97, is a clinical and research specialist at VigiLanz,



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Lori Curtis Luther, g'97, is Overland Park city manager.

David Reintjes, f'97, is a shareholder at Polsinelli in the firm's private equity practice group.

Thom Schembs, p'97, is lead pharmacist at CVS Health in Surprise, Arizona.

1998 Nate Bukaty, j'98, is a national play-by-play announcer for MLS Season Pass, a Major League Soccer streaming service. He has been a commentator for Sporting Kansas City since 2015 and Fox Sports since 2018. He and **Kelly Howell Bukaty**, d'03, g'05, live in Overland Park and have two children, Benny and Ophelia.

Danielle Rand Coffman, c'98, is a district court judge in Flathead County, Montana.

Jenea Hooge Havener, c'98, a freelance writer, received the Lawrence Arts Center's 2023 Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award for fiction for her story "As Human As It Gets," published last year in Narrative Magazine.

Christie Humphries, j'98, is local sales manager at KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas.

Stephen Kok, e'98, is director of contract management at the software company Optiva.

Casey Liebst Toomay, c'98, g'02, f'02, is Lawrence assistant city manager. She and her husband, **James**, c'04, have a daughter, Ryan.

David Wood III, g'98, is director of engineering at Sky-Nano Technologies. He lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

1999 Andrew Bengtson, b'99, c'99, a real estate lawyer, is a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton in Dallas.

Patrick Brown, '99, owns Starlight Painting in Lawrence.

Jennifer Keith Collier, f'99, in February was named superintendent of Kansas City Public Schools. She has worked for the district for 23 years.

2000 Chris Curtis, g'00, is recreation superintendent for the Manhattan parks and recreation department.

Kerri Ashworth Jones, c'00, in December was named chief people officer at Front-door.

Malorie Bartelson Maddox, j'00, is chief marketing officer for Scooter's Coffee

at the company's headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska.

Terry Nooner Jr., c'00, g'03, in April was named head women's basketball coach at Wichita State University. He was previously associate head coach of the KU women's basketball team.

2001 Doug Everhart, e'01, was promoted to community sector operations director at Lenexa-based Henderson Engineers, where he has worked since 2001.

Chris Fickett, j'01, is senior content specialist at Firesign, a marketing agency in Prairie Village.

Peter Gitau, PhD'01, in February was appointed vice chancellor of student affairs, student health, and equity, diversity and inclusion at

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Holly Lofgreen, c'01, l'05, a writer and editor, owns Graf Editorial Services.

Steven Lumetta, d'01, is executive director of educational services for Fort Osage School District in Independence, Missouri. He lives in Kansas City with his wife, **Jessica Rucker Lumetta**, j'03, c'09, who teaches French at Liberty High School in Liberty, Missouri.

Joseph Nash, c'01, is a district judge in Butler County, Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Fecke Pittman, c'01, is assistant director of claims customer support for The Hartford. She lives in Lakeville, Minnesota.

Matt Tait, j'01, in April was named managing editor for a new storytelling initiative from

Perpetual Sports Network and Mass St. Collective. He was previously sports editor and KU basketball beat writer for the Lawrence Journal-World.

2002 Max Carr, a'02, b'02, is associate vice president and senior project manager at the design firm HGA in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Doug Heady, c'02, is chief meteorologist at KOAM News Now in Pittsburgh.

Terah Isaacson, c'02, m'06, is a surgeon at Republic County Hospital in Belleville.

Jonathan Wirth, a'02, is studio director at Patterhn Ives, a St. Louis-based architecture practice.

2003 Dara Cox Bachman, c'03, in January was promoted to president of Fulton Private

Bank in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Mike Brownlee, g'03, is chief pharmacy officer and associate hospital director for ancillary services at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. He is also a professor and associate dean in the university's college of pharmacy.

Nick Dawson, d'03, is vice president of programming and acquisitions at ESPN.

Jenni Glass, j'03, is director of communication and development at Sacramento Adventist Academy in California.

Julie McCarver, l'03, owns McCarver Law Firm in Farmington, Missouri.

Michelle McCormick, g'03, is executive director of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

John Paul Schroepfel, c'03, m'07, is an orthopedic surgeon at KU Medical Center and head team orthopedist for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Katie Allen Schultz, e'03, is vice president of talent development and management at Black & Veatch.

Ganendra Selvaraj, e'03, is chief commercial officer at Measat Satellite Systems in Malaysia.

Jabari Wamble, d'03, l'06, a federal prosecutor, has been nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for Kansas.

2004 Matthew Brandt, c'04, in December was named chief financial officer at Saint Francis Healthcare

System in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Jason Lindstrom, c'04, teaches history at Barton Community College in Great Bend. He and **Nicolette Raya Lindstrom**, PharmD'05, live in Hutchinson and have three children.

Johanna Maska, c'04, j'04, is CEO of Global Situation Room, a public affairs agency, and a contributor to NewsNation.

Lindsay Hanson Metcalf, c'04, j'04, co-edited the children's book *No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Global Climate Change*, published in March. She lives in Concordia with her husband, Will, and sons, Quinn and Bennett.

Matthew Tomc, l'04, was promoted to vice president of regulatory policy and energy supply at Ameren Illinois,

an electric and natural gas utility.

2005 Grant Crawford, PhD'05, professor of mechanical engineering at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, was elected president of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Andy Hyland, c'05, j'05, g'17, in January became assistant director of public affairs and communications for Johnson County.

Stephen Mayer, b'05, g'12, is associate principal at Lamar Johnson Collaborative, an architecture firm. He lives in Denver.

Kristen Wirsig Miller, c'05, is director and editor-in-chief of Sarabande Books. A poet and translator, she was awarded a 2023 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for

translation of poetry by Marie-Andrée Gill. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

Laura Peek, g'05, PhD'06, is vice president of laboratory operations at Biodesix.

Justin Pennington, g'05, PhD'07, is associate vice president of small molecule analytical research and development at Merck in Rahway, New Jersey.

Robert Perkins, c'05, j'05, is a content and media strategist and emergency communications coordinator for the California Institute of Technology.

Amy Stecklein Phillips, g'05, leads the St. Louis office of the architecture firm CanonDesign.

Angela Stueve, m'05, practices family medicine at Stormont Vail Health in Topeka.

Reneé Watson, c'05, is vice president of student affairs at Central Michigan University.

Chelsea Demars Young, a'05, is a principal at TEI Planning + Design in Houston. She and her husband, **Bryan**, b'06, have two daughters, Madeline and Nora.

2006 Valentine Baumann, f'06, is a research project coordinator at KU's Center for Accessible Teaching, Learning and Assessment Systems.

Augustus Piazza, j'06, is director of marketing and product at WaterWalk, a lodging and hospitality company.

Greg Ramsdell, DMA'06, is professor of choral music education and directs choral activities at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.

Sridhar Reddy, c'06, m'10, is a hematologist-oncologist with New York Cancer & Blood Specialists. He practices in Brooklyn.

Nick Stevens, b'06, is vice provost for strategic enrollment management at KU.

Heather Brantman Torpey, f'06, is a graphic designer and concept artist in Kansas City. She has worked with Honda, HP, Mastercard and other prominent brands.

Richard Yang, c'06, is assistant professor of molecular and gynecologic surgical pathology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

2007 Gabriel Bargen, g'07, PhD'10, is associate professor of audiology at Idaho State University and executive director of its Meridian Health Science Center.

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Anthony DeFilippo, b'07, e'07, is director of solutions engineering at Heliogen, a renewable energy technology company.

Scott Ferguson, b'07, was promoted to partner at Summit Partners investment firm in Menlo Park, California.

Bryan Meyer, l'07, a patent attorney, was promoted to partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City.

Jabraan Pasha, c'07, m'10, is vice president of health equity at Juno Medical and medical director at the company's Tulsa, Oklahoma, location.

Elizabeth Penfield, c'07, lives in Destin, Florida, where she is an account executive at Acentria Insurance.

Nick Ryan, c'07, is chief of staff of the Geisel School

of Medicine at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

2008 Tyler Buck, c'08, g'11, is a product manager at Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions. He lives in Thornton, Colorado.

Greg Clay, g'08, in February was appointed by Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens as executive director of the city's Office of Constituent Services.

Jon Gripka, a'08, g'11, is design director and associate at BRR Architecture in Overland Park.

Brianne Koester, c'08, is a dentist at the office of John H. Hay, DDS in Eudora.

Matt Lindberg, j'08, is public communications manager for the city of Columbus, Nebraska. He and **Sarah Strath-**

man Lindberg, c'09, have a son, David, and daughter, Riley.

James Sumaya, b'08, is vice president of asset management at Orion Real Estate Partners in Denver. He and his wife, Stefanie, have a daughter, Amalia.

2009 Rachel Burchfield, j'09, is a senior editor at Marie Claire magazine.

Nick Murnane, c'09, was promoted to vice president and general manager at The Opus Group, a commercial real estate company in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Kendall Matous Schellhorn, j'09, is a brand manager at Greteman Group, an aviation marketing and communications agency in Wichita.

2010 Kathryn Clark Jorawsky, c'10, g'13, is a

content project manager at Amazon. She and her husband, **Alex**, c'11, live in Reno, Nevada.

Aaron Knudsen, g'10, is an insurance agent at State Farm in Liberal.

James McParland, PhD'10, l'12, is a partner and intellectual property lawyer at Foley & Lardner in Madison, Wisconsin.

Emily Welch, c'10, coordinates administrative services for the Kansas City office of Sandberg Phoenix law firm.

2011 Mark Arehart, j'11, in February was named executive director of The Newark Partnership in Newark, Delaware.

Nick Kirkman, c'11, is national sales and distribution manager for Ziwi USA, a pet food company.



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Christie Kriegshauser, c'11, was promoted to vice president of political affairs at the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

Stephanie Petersen Kucera, c'11, g'14, manages spiritual care at LMH Health in Lawrence.

Adam McGonigle, c'11, is a trial attorney and partner at HeplerBroom LLC. He lives in St. Louis.

Michael Tetwiler, c'11, m'17, is an emergency medicine physician at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California.

Born to:

Andrew Posch, j'11, and his wife, Alexandra, son, Jordy, Dec. 2. He joins an older brother, Layton. They live in Kansas City, where Andrew is communications manager at Service Management Group.

2012 Jordan Decker, j'12, is social media director at the marketing firm Digital Division.

Noah Garcia, l'12, is senior corporate counsel at Kansas City Southern Railway Co. and a member of the American Bar Association's Military Pro Bono Project.

Thomas Hiatt, c'12, l'15, a trial attorney, was elected partner at Spencer Fane law firm in Kansas City.

Jessie Anderson Rainey, j'12, is senior director of development at the Wichita State University Foundation.

Lauren Schimming Tobaben, a'12, c'12, is senior creative planner at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City.

Ben Wilinsky, c'12, j'12, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is director of part-

nerships and innovation at the Arbor Day Foundation.

Born to:

Nathaniel, e'12, and **Taylor Teague Jones**, c'12, son, William, May 27, 2022.

2013 Jake Allen, c'13, g'19, g'21, g'21, is a senior financial analyst at Abbott Laboratories.

Lauren Anderson, g'13, a singer, songwriter and guitarist based in Nashville, Tennessee, released her third album, "Burn It All Down," in September.

Barack Matite, c'13, g'15, is deputy city manager of Rockville, Maryland.

Sarah Nettels, c'13, j'13, is senior consultant on strategic communications and stakeholder engagement

at Environmental Resources Management.

Brandi Roberts, g'13, is human resources director at KMM Telecommunications.

Sarah Bodbyl Roels, PhD'13, an evolutionary biologist, is associate dean of the Van Andel Institute Graduate School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mark Sprecker, l'13, is an attorney at Polsinelli. He practices in the firm's real estate group.

Valerie White, d'13, is director of community advancement and development for the Kansas Food Bank. She lives in Wichita.

2014 Jaime Wilson Abshier, e'14, is senior fire protection engineer at Introba in Kansas City.

Cole Finley, c'14, g'20, is marketing manager at Explore Lincoln City in Lincoln City, Oregon, where he lives with his wife, **Kate Miller**, j'16.

Brad Kaufmann, g'14, is a senior software engineer at Adobe. He lives in Seattle.

2015 Danny Devlin, PhD'15, is arts education manager at Hampton Arts in Hampton, Virginia.

Max Mikulecky, a'15, is an editorial and documentary photographer based in New York City.

Lois Stevens, g'15, PhD'22, is assistant professor of First Nations studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

2016 Andrew Boppart, e'16, g'18, is a mechanical engineer at Cellares, a biotechnology company in San Francisco.

Nicole Humphrey, c'16, PhD'20, is an assistant professor in the department of political science at the University of Miami.

Rachel Melson, g'16, DNP'18, directs outreach services at Swope Health in Kansas City.

Danny Miller, PhD'16, g'18, m'18, a pediatric geneticist, is an assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

Dan Peterson, g'16, is an assistant director at Jayhawk Academic Advising.

Patrick Sesker, e'16, is director of asset management at Woods Capital, a real estate investment firm. He and

Abby Teinert Sesker, b'16, g'17, live in Dallas, where she is an accounting manager at Embark.

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We will continue to update the schedule as events are finalized

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Born to:

Paul, b'16, g'17, and **Sarah Holland Logan**, d'17, g'20, son, Henry, March 3. The family lives in Kansas City.

2017 Ryan Banes, b'17, is a commercial lender at Country Club Bank in Kansas City.

Tina Ellsworth, PhD'17, assistant professor of education at Northwest Missouri State University, in February was elected vice president of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Jorden Hale, c'17, g'19, is a case supervisor for Court Appointed Special Advocates in Jackson County, Missouri.

Madelyne Moloney Heeney, j'17, is a communications manager at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Chicago.

Dylan Severson, n'17, DNP'22, is a nurse practitioner at Family Health Care KC.

2018 Tanya Grover, c'18, j'18, is director of accounts at Screen Pilot, a hospitality marketing agency. She lives in Denver.

Allison Schwartz Rose, d'18, is a registered nurse at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park. She and her husband, **Alec**, b'17, live in Olathe.

Carson Vickroy, c'18, is chief meteorologist at KETK NBC and Fox 51 in Tyler, Texas. A former KU cross-country and track athlete, he won the men's half-marathon at the Dallas Marathon in December.

Jaci Benoit Wise, b'18,

is a purchasing manager at Midwest Energy Inc. She and her husband, Colton, live in Plainville.

2019 Lauren Hakmiller, a'19, is senior visual designer at Dropbox.

Dhaval Patel, g'19, is associate director for campus life operations at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Marcette Perales, c'19, j'19, is a morning news producer at KPTV Fox 12 in Portland, Oregon.

Evan Rodriguez, l'19, in March was appointed general counsel for the office of Missouri Gov. Mike Parson.

2020 Jared Coffman, g'20, g'20, is general accounting

manager at Multivac, a packaging equipment supplier.

Kayla Cook, c'20, a poet, freelance photographer and part-time librarian at Lawrence Public Library, won the 2023 Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award for poetry from the Lawrence Arts Center.

Wyatt Henton, b'20, owns Mighty Dog Roofing in Lenexa.

Abbey Keirn, d'20, g'22, is an academic adviser in the School of Business.

Trent Lythgoe, g'20, PhD'22, a U.S. Army veteran, was named 2023 Educator of the Year at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, where he is assistant professor of military leadership.

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Joe Oberle, c'20, is senior operations specialist at LPL Financial. He lives in Shawnee.

Carla Rivas-D'Amico, c'20, in March became executive director of the Kansas Hispanic & Latino American Affairs Commission.

Miranda Roberts, b'20, is an ABC sales planner at Walt Disney Co. in New York City.

Cassie Hunt Williams, PhD'20, is assistant professor of special education at Louisiana State University Shreveport.

2021 Amirah Abdullah, c'21, is a forecasting analyst for Irresistible Foods Group.

Lexi Bajardi, c'21, manages community relations for St. Louis City SC, a professional men's soccer club.

Michelle Brady, l'21, is a law clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C.

Zac Collins, n'21, is a registered nurse at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis in Wichita.

Julia Feinbloom, j'21, is a junior publicist at J/PR in Los Angeles.

Lindsay Hummer, g'21, is vice president of institutional advancement at Boston Architectural College.

Madison Meyer, c'21, is a senior recruiter at Next Move, a health care staffing agency in Kansas City.

Brandon Shaw, g'21, is assistant director of campus tours and events at KU.

2022 Kalie Belt, l'22, is associate attorney at Norton,

Wasserman, Jones & Kelly in Salina.

Heidi Bradford, c'22, is a legal assistant at Harris & Henderson law firm in Leavenworth.

Payton Enzbrenner, j'22, is an event coordinator for Outlyr.

Camden Gregory, j'22, is international relations coordinator at Matsudo City Hall in Matsudo, Japan.

Po Sim "Fanny" Head, DMA'22, is a pianist and instructor in Kansas City. She founded the Scientific Piano Teacher, an online resource for teachers and students.

Caroline Kenagy, b'22, is a brand manager at Cornerstone International Group, an executive search firm. She lives in Shawnee.

Amber Vogan, g'22, g'22, is assistant city manager of Bonner Springs.

Alex White, c'22, is a French-language bilingual product support specialist at Garmin. He lives in Overland Park.

ASSOCIATES

Mary Liebert, assoc., is a consultant at RGP, a professional services firm. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Tom Mulinazzi, assoc., received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award from the School of Engineering, where he joined the faculty in 1979 and served as associate dean from 1992 to 2001. He is professor emeritus of civil, environmental & architectural engineering.



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- Robert Simari, Executive Vice Chancellor
- Karla Leeper, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Communications and Public Affairs
- Roy Jensen, Director, KU Cancer Center
- Rick Ginsberg, Dean, KU School of Education and Human Sciences
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1940s James Boyd, b'42, l'48, Wichita, 101, Aug. 8, 2022. Jim, a U.S. Navy veteran, worked as an attorney and in banking. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Morris Boyd, c'48, and his second wife, Cora Thayer Boyd, '48.

Sam Crow, c'49, Topeka, 96, Dec. 2. Sam served in the U.S. Navy and was a U.S. district court judge for 41 years. His wife, Ruth, preceded him in death.

Lee Rice Knuth, '49, Prairie Village, 98, Jan. 21. Lee sang in the choir at First United Methodist Church. Her husband, Kenny, c'47, m'50, preceded her in death.

Owen Peck, c'48, m'51, Palm Springs, California, 97, Sept. 7. Owen played basketball at KU for coach Phog Allen. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and doctor, and later taught at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Pat Tomlinson Roth, c'49, Kansas City, 94, Nov. 27.

Marie Larson Tompkins, b'46, Kansas City, 98, Dec. 24. Marie worked alongside her late husband, Tom, b'43, g'48, in higher education.

Ann Cowan Van Doren, c'46, Manhattan, 98, May 7, 2022. Her husband, Claude, a'50, preceded her in death.

1950s Barbara Mills Adam, '57, Overland Park, 87, Aug. 1, 2022. Barbara was a teacher and deacon. Her husband, Jim, e'56, preceded her in death.

Norman Arnold, b'57, Overland Park, 89, Oct. 13. Norm, a U.S. Army veteran, was an accountant for Mobil Oil, Sinclair Oil and H.D. Lee. He is survived by his wife, Iola.

Thomas Bath, e'59, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 84, April 16, 2022. Tom worked for the Environmental Protection Agency

and in renewable energy. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Blake Bath, c'59, g'61.

Susan Lowry Bland, d'59, Newport News, Virginia, 86, March 14. Susan was a VA and cardiac nurse. She is survived by her husband, Anthony.

Patricia Hafer Buck, g'58, Grinnell, Iowa, 90, March 3. Patricia was an ordained minister and served at churches in Iowa and Texas. Her husband, John, preceded her in death.

William Cohn, b'59, Prairie Village, 85, March 15. Bill worked as an insurance agent and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. His first wife, Alice Jones Cohn, c'60, preceded him in death. He is survived by his second wife, Barbara Eichhorn-Cohn, d'59.

Dale Corder, d'50, Kansas City, 96, Nov. 1. Dale, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a teacher for 20 years. His wife, Jean Hausserman Corder, '52, preceded him in death.

Fred Dunmire, b'55, Overland Park, 90, March 17. A U.S. Army veteran, Fred worked at Commercial National Bank in Kansas City, retiring as president in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Campbell Dunmire, c'55.

C. R. "Bob" Dunne, b'52, Wichita, 91, July 6, 2022; and **Sara Lawrence Dunne**, c'58, Wichita, 86, Nov. 3. Bob served in the U.S. Army and managed businesses in the oil, gas and ranching industries. Sara was a longtime volunteer with the Junior League of Wichita.

Weston George Jr., f'57, Cupertino, California, 87, Sept. 12. Wes served in the U.S. Air Force and worked in electronics, interior design and medical technology. He

is survived by his wife, Jennie Chaney George, '59.

Beatrice Parks Kabler, n'50, Green Valley, Arizona, 94, July 28, 2022. Beatrice championed several humanitarian causes. Her husband, JD, c'47, m'50, preceded her in death.

Lloyd Koby, d'55, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, 90, March 6, 2022. Lloyd was a captain of the 1953 KU national championship cross-country team. He worked in the aerospace and computer industries. His wife, Betty, preceded him in death.

Nannette Pitman Martin, d'55, Emporia, 88, Oct. 17, 2021. Nannette was a librarian at Emporia State University for 28 years. Her husband, Loren, d'57, preceded her in death.

Thomas McMahon, e'50, g'67, Topeka, 95, June 30, 2022. Tom, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a civil and environmental engineer. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Oliver McMahon, c'48.

Virginia Jean Cox Mitchell, f'53, Lawrence, 91, March 17; and **Bill Mitchell**, c'59, Lawrence, 90, March 26. Jean was a renowned quilter and displayed many of her works at the Spencer Museum of Art. Bill served in the U.S. Coast Guard and was a librarian at Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

Barbara Burkholder Nordling, '51, Lawrence, 94, March 27. Barbara was a member of the School of Fine Arts advisory board and several other committees at KU. She established a scholarship for students from western Kansas, and in 2001 received the Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion for her service to

the University. Her husband, Bernie, l'49, preceded her in death.

Donald Relihan, c'50, m'54, Wichita, 96, Jan. 27. Don served in the U.S. Army and practiced ophthalmology for 47 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary McGinty Relihan, '51.

Bernard Rooney III, '55, Minneola, 88, July 16, 2022. Bernard, a U.S. Army veteran, was a farmer and worked in banking.

Gene Schillie, m'55, Prairie Village, 94, Sept. 5. Gene practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Kansas City for 37 years. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice Sailor Schillie, g'85.

Richard Sias, c'51, l'54, Oklahoma City, 94, July 28, 2022. A U.S. Army veteran, Richard worked in the oil industry and was a prominent philanthropist. His wife, Jeannette, preceded him in death.

Judith Scott Stallard, n'54, Orlando, Florida, 90, June 16, 2022. Judith was a registered nurse at KU Medical Center.

Robert Stephan, '54, Overland Park, 89, Jan. 3. Bob served four terms as Kansas attorney general. A former member of the Association's Board of Directors, he was recognized for his service to KU with the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Ed Stollenwerck, c'50, Spring, Texas, 93, Oct. 28. His wife, Pat, preceded him in death.

Martha Nichols Swegle, c'50, Wichita, 93, Dec. 31. She is survived by her husband, William, c'50.

Keith Young, b'53, Dallas, 91, Dec. 21, 2021. Keith, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked

for General Electric. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

1960s Frank "Bill" Addis, e'60, g'64, PhD'68, Kennewick, Washington, 84, Dec. 24. Bill was a photovoltaics researcher. He is survived by his wife, Judith Boyer Addis, c'64.

Rebecca Williamson Andrews, f'65, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 81, Dec. 18. Rebecca was an interior designer. She is survived by her husband, Jack.

Sandra Moore Annesley, c'64, Calgary, Alberta, 81, Nov. 11, 2021. Sandra worked in microbiology for over 45 years. She is survived by her husband, David.

James Brinkman, c'60, m'64, Spokane, Washington, 87, Jan. 16. James, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was a surgeon and taught at the University of Washington. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Ruckdashel Brinkman, c'60.

Lorelei Richardson Brown, c'64, Overland Park, 80, July 7, 2022. Lori taught elementary school and worked at a bookstore for many years.

Connie Plummer Downing, n'63, g'87, Prairie Village, 81, July 23, 2022. Connie was a nurse and master gardener. Her husband, Don, preceded her in death.

Donald Duffy, b'65, Seal Beach, California, 80, Jan. 31. Don was an inventor and owned several businesses in the transportation industry. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

George Edman, e'69, Overland Park, 74, April 4, 2022.

Robert Friesner, g'69, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts, 77, May 9, 2022. Bob worked in finance and was a longtime Boy Scouts volunteer.

He was fluent in Mandarin and served as an interpreter. He is survived by his wife, Kate.

Sharon Winslow Gernon, d'66, Lawrence, 78, Sept. 29. Sharon taught elementary school and was house mother for Beta Theta Pi fraternity for many years.

Jerry Glenn, b'60, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 89, March 29. Jerry served in the U.S. Army. An inventor and entrepreneur, he was awarded multiple patents for medical equipment. His wife, Arden Weston Glenn, d'59, preceded him in death.

Cesar Godinez, p'66, Wichita, 78, Sept. 22. Cesar was a pharmacist. He is survived by his wife, Karen.

Arnold Grundeman, c'63, Springfield, Virginia, 86, July 30, 2022. Arnold, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, was an attorney with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Edson Grundeman, d'62, g'64.

John Hall, g'67, Evergreen, Colorado, 86, Aug. 14, 2022.

Terry Heidner, e'68, Berryton, 77, July 27, 2022. Terry worked for the Kansas Department of Transportation for 40 years. He is survived by his longtime companion, Marilyn Griggs-Kozloff.

Cheryl Hentsch Hoople, j'67, Bellevue, Washington, 77, Aug. 9, 2022. Cheryl, a writer and editor, wrote two books and was a content development manager for Microsoft. She is survived by her husband, Douglas, e'68.

Sandra Kingry Hornung, c'67, d'75, Olathe, 77, Sept. 8. She is survived by her husband, George, d'67.

Joan Skinner Kampschroeder, d'69, Lawrence, 75, Oct. 8. Joan taught preschool and elementary school in Lawrence.

She is survived by her husband, Halley, c'67, l'70.

Judith Clark Kerr, d'60, Aurora, Colorado, 84, Oct. 15. Judy was a teacher and owned a craft gallery for many years. She is survived by her husband, Duff.

George Long, c'68, l'82, Denver, 94, Oct. 3. George served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 31 years and worked for the city of Olathe. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

Kenneth Lyons, c'62, Annapolis, Maryland, 82, Aug. 10, 2022. Ken, a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked for Aeronautical Radio Inc. for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Serio.

Suzanne Sevr Mackenzie, d'64, Overland Park, 79, Oct. 10. Sue owned a cleaning business and later worked for a mortgage company. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Robert.

William Martin, e'61, g'67, Huntsville, Alabama, 83, Aug. 12, 2022. Bill served in the U.S. Army and was a technology director for the military.

Fredrick Miller, e'63, g'69, Sunrise Beach, Missouri, 81, Sept. 12. Fred, a U.S. military veteran, was a businessman and civic leader in Ames, Iowa. His wife, Barbara Boots Miller, '62, preceded him in death.

Lawrence Page, g'64, Syracuse, New York, 81, Sept. 9. Larry was a teacher and established the computer science program for the Syracuse school district. He is survived by his wife, Joan, g'64.

Reed Peterson, b'65, Lawrence, 81, July 26, 2022. Reed managed the Lawrence Salvation Army thrift store for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Marylouise Tate.

George Puckett, d'68, Wichita, 77, Aug. 6, 2022. George was a teacher, real estate agent and association executive. His wife, Barbara Rundle Puckett, '68, preceded him in death.

Bill Robinson Jr., b'65, l'68, Basehor, 81, Aug. 24, 2022. Bill was a Kansas district court judge. He is survived by his wife, Donna.

Gary Schwartz, d'66, Springdale, Arkansas, 78, April 3. Gary was a KU track and field athlete and coached collegiate track and field and cross-country for 34 years, including 12 as head coach of the KU men's and women's teams. He is survived by his wife, Myrna.

David Stanton, b'65, Allison Park, Pennsylvania, 79, Aug. 17, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Mary Kennedy Stanton, '66.

Alice Stone Woodburn, c'63, Glendale, Arizona, 81, Feb. 20. She is survived by her husband, Bill, j'63.

1970s Roger Casper, c'72, Paola, 72, Feb. 7. Roger practiced dentistry for 30 years and taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is survived by his wife, Eileen.

Christopher Claterbos, e'75, g'81, Lawrence, 70, March 30. Chris, a U.S. military veteran, built business analytics systems for several prominent companies. He developed the bachelor's and master's degree programs in business analytics at KU. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Aumick Claterbos, d'75, g'83.

Stephen Cloud, b'71, Lenexa, 73, Aug. 24, 2022. Steve worked at IBT Industrial Solutions for 50 years and served in the Kansas House of

Representatives. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Verron Cloud, j'72.

Julia Nunemaker Eggert, n'72, Bluffton, South Carolina, 71, July 14, 2022. Julia was a professor at Clemson University and worked in the field of cancer treatment. She is survived by her husband, Doug.

Bruce Galli, b'72, e'72, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, 73, Nov. 21, 2021. Bruce was a proposal manager for Marsulex Environmental Technologies for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Kathy.

Thomas Morrill, b'74, Denver, 70, March 16. Tom developed commercial and residential properties in the southwest U.S. for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Kim Chapman Morrill, f'74.

James Owens, EdD'70, Lenexa, 89, July 24, 2022. Jim was a principal in the Shawnee Mission School District. His wife, Deborah, preceded him in death.

Joleen Schovee Patterson, d'78, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 88, June 19, 2022. Joleen was a fitness instructor and health educator. She is survived by her husband, Everett.

Douglas Price, c'76, l'79, Abilene, Texas, 67, Sept. 1. Doug taught political science and worked in district court. He is survived by his wife, Teresa.

Thomas Prochazka, c'72, Seward, Alaska, 71, July 17, 2022. Tom worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and later at a fish hatchery. He is survived by his wife, Teddy Berglund.

Glenna Long Weir, '71, Wichita, 73, Oct. 19. Glenna taught preschool and elementary school. She is survived by her husband, John, b'70.

Raymond Wilbur, EdD'73, Lawrence, 88, Aug. 18, 2022. Ray, a U.S. Army veteran, taught math at Lawrence High School for 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Marian Mathews Wilbur, '81.

1980s Jeanne Lee Cunningham, d'89, Lawrence, 74, March 6. Jeanne worked in information technology at KU for 35 years.

Dallas Dunn, b'84, g'85, Salina, 61, Jan. 27.

Marie Colleen McCullough Janner, n'85, Shawnee, 59, Feb. 8. Colleen was a nurse in The University of Kansas Health System for 27 years. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

Jill Jordan, c'87, Kansas City, 60, Jan. 23. Jill was an assistant producer for National Public Radio in Kansas City and a dedicated community volunteer. She is survived by her husband, Steven, e'86, g'90.

Teresa Bratton Peterson, d'80, Lawrence, 64, Jan. 1.

Thomas Wilkerson, g'80, Lawrence, 76, Aug. 23, 2022. Tom worked for the Lawrence parks and recreation department for 20 years, retiring as assistant director. He is survived by his wife, Vicki.

1990s Leilana McKindra, g'98, Kansas City, 49, Jan. 12. Leilana was a communications coordinator at KU Medical Center.

Lois Schrag, g'90, McPherson, 82, March 21. Lois was a social worker in the McPherson school district.

2010s Tyler Craig, c'18, Wichita, 32, May 2, 2022. Tyler was a foreman for Nowak Construction.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Del Brinkman, assoc., Overland Park, 86, Feb. 19. Del was dean of the School of Journalism for 11 years and later served as vice chancellor for academic affairs. His first wife, Evie, and his second wife, Carolyn, preceded him in death.

Jack Brooking, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 95, March 14. Jack was a professor of speech and debate and was involved in numerous University Theatre productions.

Robert Campbell, assoc., Lawrence, 82, April 2. Bob was vice president of medical affairs at KU Endowment. He volunteered for Audio-Reader Network for over 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Trudy Rinne, g'77.

Donald Chambers, assoc., Lawrence, 93, Feb. 3. Don was a professor in the School of Social Welfare. His wife, Mary Anne McKillip Chambers, d'70, l'81, preceded him in death.

Maribeth Kirchhoff Crawford, assoc., Lawrence, 80, Jan. 14. Beth was a professor of voice and conductor of the Lawrence Civic Choir. She was preceded in death by her husband, George.

Ted Frederickson Jr., assoc., Tonganoxie, 78, March 20. Ted was a journalist and taught reporting and media law in the School of Journalism for 31 years. He is survived by his wife, Merrilee Cooper.

Gary Grunewald, assoc., Lawrence, 85, Feb. 20. Gary was professor emeritus in the School of Pharmacy, where he taught for 50 years. He chaired the medicinal chemistry department from 1994 to 2003.

Grace Holmes, Lenexa, 90, Feb. 8. Grace was professor emerita of pediatrics and preventive medicine at KU Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Frederick, g'98.

Thomas Patton, assoc., St. Louis, 74, March 29. Tom was professor of pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacy practice and served as an associate vice chancellor. He is survived by his wife, Pam.

Stanley Rolfe, assoc., Valley, Nebraska, 88, Jan. 23. Stan was on the School of Engineering faculty for over 40 years, retiring in 2012 as Distinguished Professor of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering. He received the school's Distinguished Engineering Service Award in 2014. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.

Harold Rosson, assoc., Lawrence, 93, Jan. 12. Harold was professor emeritus in the School of Engineering, where he joined the faculty in 1957 and later served as associate dean. His wife, Missy, preceded him in death.

Donald Vine, Wichita, 83, April 11. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Don was a cardiologist and professor in the School of Medicine in Wichita. He is survived by his wife, Nancy.

ASSOCIATES

Sharron Hamilton, assoc., Salina, 89, Feb. 21. Sharron was an elementary school secretary and a devoted KU volunteer. Her husband, Bob, d'61, preceded her in death.

Martha Poos, assoc., Wichita, 100, Feb. 11. Martha and her late husband, John, b'42, were longtime supporters of the Williams Education Fund and the School of Business.

PHOTO FINISH

COMMISSIONED BY the Class of 1956 and one of the enduring campus masterworks by the late Professor Elden Tefft, f'49, g'50, "Academic Jay" in 1975 was moved from its original perch on the west side of the KU Memorial Union to its now-iconic Strong Hall post, guardian of all Jayhawks who parade past daily.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
STEVE PUPPE



FLOCK FOREBEARS

'Joyous soul'

Recent honors rekindle memories of the remarkable Hannah Oliver

BORN IN CORNWALL, England, in 1852, Hannah Oliver arrived in Lawrence in 1860 and was 11 when Quantrill raided in 1863. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree as a member of KU's second graduating class, in 1874, and her master's in 1888. She joined the faculty in 1890; taught Latin at the University for more than 40 years; served as a member of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1887 to 1906; and was a founding member of I.C. Sorosis, later known as Pi Beta Phi, KU's first sorority, which this spring celebrated 150 years on the Hill. Oliver retired in 1931 as an associate professor.

The department of classics honors her to this day with its annual Hannah Oliver Latin Prize; wider recognition finally arrived in April with her long-overdue induction into the KU Women's Hall of Fame.

In 1943, the Omicron chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional society for women educators, honored Oliver, then thought to be KU's oldest living graduate, with its Pioneer Teacher Award. To appropriately fete her, the group solicited testimonials from colleagues, students and neighbors. These letters, preserved at University Archives in the Spencer Research Library, paint vivid, crimson-and-blue portraits of a beloved teacher, philosopher, naturalist, historian and mentor. For eight decades, from the time she arrived in Lawrence until her death in 1947, Oliver left an indelible mark on the

city, campus and everyone she met, from neighbor to peer to freshman to chancellor.

Oliver was a "stimulating" and "patient" teacher who was "alive to all movements for the better of humanity." She was praised for "kindliness and sincerity," "beauty of diction," and her "understanding of and sympathy for youth." Paul Lawson, g1917, PhD1919, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences from 1934 to 1954, wrote that Oliver "brought brightness and courage" into his life "at every contact with her." Chancellor Deane Malott, c1921, recalled his first interaction with Oliver at length: "... the wind was blowing a perfect gale and the thermometer was registering about 108 degrees," he wrote. When he griped about the weather and the "brown river Kaw," Oliver would have none of it, Malott recalled: "I like this Kansas wind, she exclaimed, 'there is such strength in it,' and, "'The brown river Kaw ... always reminds me of the richness of the Kansas soil.'"

Given her long history on Mount Oread, it is perhaps no surprise that Oliver was asked to speak on the early history of the state and University at Freshman Initiation, a precursor to Traditions Night, every year from 1925 until 1933. University Archives' trove of her handwritten speeches—which is where I first encountered Oliver, during my dissertation research into early uses of Memorial Stadium—recalls the hardships, natural beauty, mythical beginnings and national



importance of Kansas, Lawrence and KU.

Fred Ellsworth, c1922, the Association's longtime executive secretary, wrote of Oliver, "This joyous soul will remain a part of Lawrence and the University as definitely as a building of great beauty or a book of rare inspiration."

And yet, outside of the classics department, Oliver, so important to so many for so long, is now largely forgotten.

The Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity on April 20 helped remedy this by honoring Oliver with its Pioneer Woman Award—recognizing "exemplary Kansas women who have made historic contributions of local or statewide significance"—and induction into the KU Women's Hall of Fame, bringing her contributions to the KU community back into public view.

In one of my favorite letters on Oliver, E.F. Engel described her as a "prism through which her students saw the white light of knowledge and wisdom in rainbow color." Oliver was a refraction of Lawrence and KU, her historical memory, personal characteristics and talents dispersing the "historic city with a soul," to draw from yet another letter, into its spectral parts for her students, colleagues, and now, for us, her fellow alumni.

—HOWARD GRAHAM
Graham, g'09, PhD'20,
is the Association's director of career and professional development.

KU campus, circa 1920



CONGRATS to the CLASS OF 2023

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