

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair and glasses, smiling slightly. She is holding a petri dish in her hands, which is out of focus. The background is a blurred blue and white.

KANSAS ALUMNI

No 5, 2017 ■ \$5

War on Bugs

*Can a professor's invention turn the battle
against antibiotic-resistant bacteria?*

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The Protein in the Freezer

A bioscience researcher tackles one of public health's most pressing problems: how to defeat drug-resistant bacteria and restore the healing power of antibiotics.

By Steven Hill

*Cover photograph
by Steve Puppe*

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Hold the Corner

The new Health Education Building is a grand addition to the Medical Center neighborhood, and a giant step forward in KU's training of students for the medical professions.

By Chris Lazzarino

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Ready to Ride

Lawrence Unchained saves old bikes from the scrap heap, and gives riders—from kids to commuters—the skills to keep them rolling.

By Heather Biele

Professional Alumni Style



A. Jayhawk Gingham L/S Button-Down	\$48.00	19688
B. Jayhawks Microfleece 1/4 Zip Jacket	\$54.00	19694
C. Jayhawk Sleeveless Button-Down Tunic	\$42.99	18352
D. Jayhawk Alumni Merit Polo	\$54.00	19422
E. Jayhawks Infinity Scarf	\$20.00	19660
F. Jayhawks Tunic	\$48.99	19560
G. Jayhawk Striped Spirit Tunic	\$54.99	19642



H. Kansas Laser Engraved Luggage Tag	\$14.99	18608
I. Jayhawk Sport Watch	\$80.00	15687
J. Heavy Hitter Stainless Steel	\$69.95	18543
K. Jayhawk Bow Tie	\$19.99	15200
L. Jayhawk Brandish Brown Belt	\$32.00	18924
M. 1912 Jayhawk Sterling Silver Earrings	\$40.00	17731
N. Jayhawk State Sterling Silver Necklace	\$52.95	16457
O. Kansas Forever Charm Bracelet	\$55.00	17732



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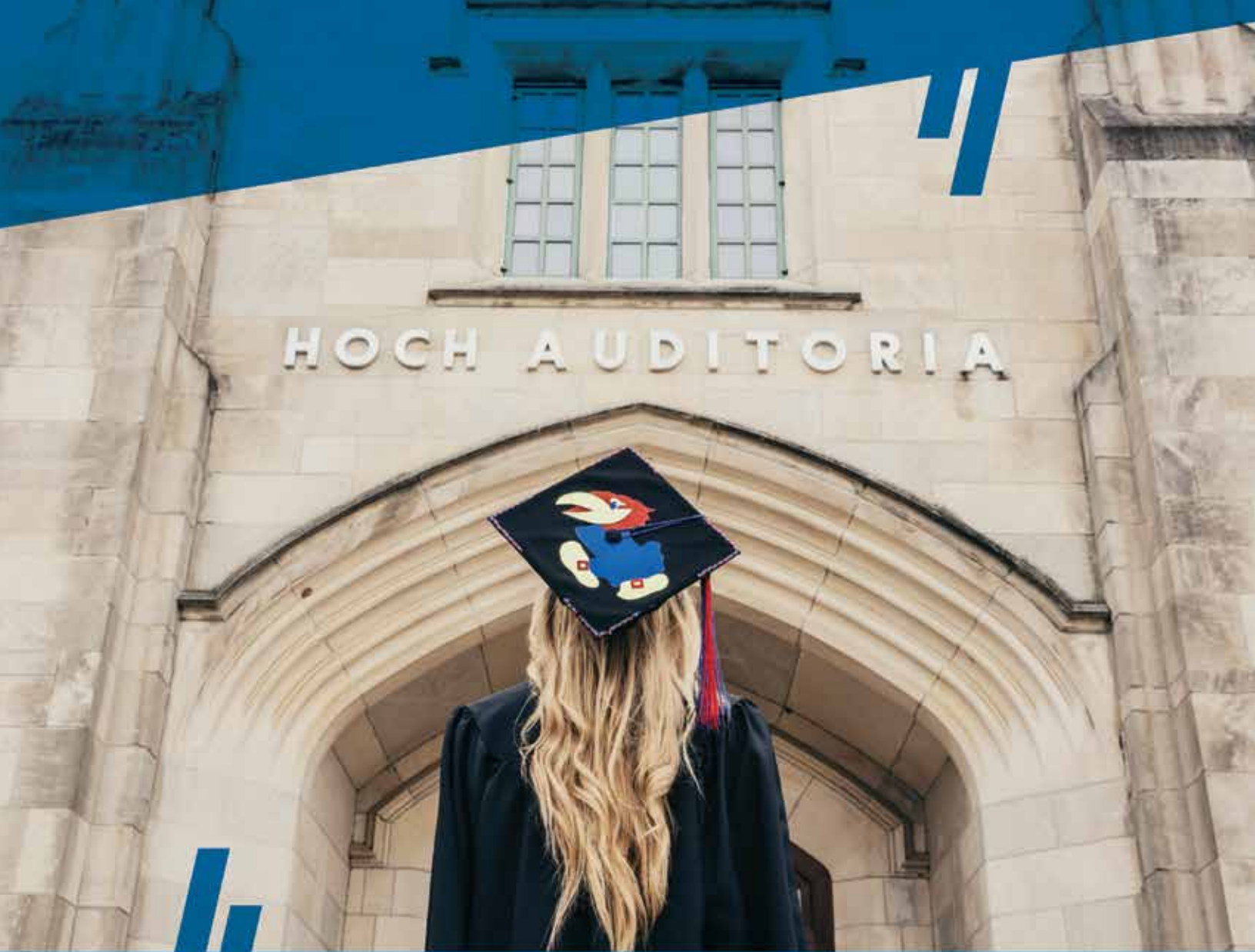
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STEVE PUPPE



Joanna Slusky with senior Virangika Wimalasena

Among KU's many extraordinary professors, Joanna Slusky is a young star. As Steve Hill, associate editor, explains in our cover story, Slusky last summer learned she had won one of the nation's most prestigious—though little-known—prizes for scholars, as one of five Moore Inventor Fellows (moore.org). Slusky achieved the feat after only her third year on the University faculty. KU's Moore Inventor Fellow is an assistant professor of computational biology and molecular biosciences. She has invented a protein that shows promise as a potential foe of antibiotic-resistant infections.

In her lab, Slusky's students can't help but share her exuberance. When the *Kansas Alumni* crew arrived for our photo shoot, the professor proclaimed to the five students at work, "You're all going to be in the alumni magazine!" (Yes, they all are included in our photo collage, page 25.)

But Slusky is quick to point out that those five are only part of her 12-member team. "They all do tremendous work. My lab would not be doing any of this research if it weren't for all the people," she says. "We're a team. They think creatively, they work hard, and it's great to work with them."

Her students include undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows—and a high school junior. Slusky herself was a high school student in New Jersey when she landed a lab

"They all do tremendous work. My lab would not be doing any of this research if it weren't for all the people. We're a team. They think creatively, they work hard, and it's great to work with them."

—Joanna Slusky

internship, thanks to the fact that she babysat for a Rutgers professor who knew of an opportunity in a lab next door to his. "That I was able to start doing research when I was 16 allowed me to figure out so early what I wanted to do with my life," she says. "It was such a gift. It takes so much energy and time to figure out what you want to do. My experience was a time-saver, and it was so much fun."

Slusky's husband, David, is a KU assistant professor and Oswald Scholar in economics. They count themselves lucky to work at KU. "We're blessed to be at a public institution that affects so many Kansans' lives by educating them or their children," she says. "Almost every week I say to myself I'm so fortunate to be here and get to do the work I'm doing."

She underscores the fact that teaching and research go hand in hand, and starting her lab three years ago opened up new opportunities. "Until then, I didn't have the freedom to decide which questions I want to work on. ... It's the most exciting and scariest part about being a professor, period. ... There's a whole universe of questions and problems that need solving, so on my path toward doing that effectively is figuring out what is my unique skill set ... and trying to sail this ship to have the most impact as possible, to make the world better as much as possible."

As Chancellor Doug Girod began his tenure July 1, he affirmed that, like Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and her predecessors, he counts the retention of talented professors and enhancing KU's research productivity among his chief goals. Both are essential to KU's continued membership (since 1909) in the prestigious Association of American Universities, which includes the top 62 public

and private research universities in the United States and Canada. As a public university that relies on state funding and the essential private gifts through KU Endowment that have lifted KU to prominence, the University is constantly challenged to retain those professors who no doubt will be courted by other universities.

The next time someone asks you about the value of a research university, tell them about Joanna Slusky, and remember that she and many other brilliant and passionate scholars must remain on Mount Oread to help students thrive for years to come.

On the Boulevard

SUSAN YOUNGER



DAN STOREY (3)



Students gathered Aug. 21 across campus to catch a glimpse of the first total solar eclipse to span the continental United States since 1918. The physics & astronomy department, School of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Natural History Museum distributed 11,000 pairs of eclipse glasses to Lawrence public schools and 15,000 pairs to KU students and staff. Although cloudy skies obscured the moon's passage over the sun, Mount Oread embraced the midday darkness during the event.

Exhibitions

“Separate and Not Equal: A History of Race and Education in America,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Oct. 1

“Terra Anima,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Oct. 15

“Civic Leader and Art Collector: Sallie Casey Thayer and an Art Museum for KU,” Spencer Museum of Art, Oct. 28 through Jan. 28, 2018

“Power Clashing: Clothing, Collage and Contemporary Identities,” Spencer Museum of Art, Nov. 18 through April 1, 2018

“The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Allies & Advocates,” Dole Institute, through December

Lied Center events

SEPTEMBER

22 Black Violin

24 Kenny Rogers’ Final World Tour: “The Gambler’s Last Deal” with special guest Linda Davis

25 KU Wind Ensemble

28 KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Simone Porter, violin

29 Tango Buenos Aires: “Spirit of Argentina”

OCTOBER

5 Juilliard String Quartet

8 Underwater Bubble Show

12 KU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band

14 All The Way Live!

17 United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants

18 Bales Organ Conference

20 “Dirty Dancing”

21 Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn

22 Chen Guang, piano

25 Crowder: American Prodigal Tour

29 Susan Werner, singer-songwriter

30 Kansas Women’s Choral Festival

NOVEMBER

3 American Brass Quintet

5 Garrison Keillor: Just Passing Through

8 KU Wind Ensemble with special guest Jim Walker, flute

10 ODC Dance with University Dance Company

27 University Band and Symphonic Band

29 Cantus: Three Tales of Christmas

University Theatre

OCTOBER

6-8, 10-12 “Metamorphoses,” directed by Henry Bial, William Inge Memorial Theatre

20-22, 27-29 “... And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi,” directed by Kevin Vavasseur, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

NOVEMBER

11, 12, 14-16 “Rhinoceros,” directed by Ric Averill, William Inge Memorial Theatre

Murphy Hall

SEPTEMBER

30 Non-Western Art Music Concert

OCTOBER

8 Borromeo String Quartet with Genaro Mendez, tenor, Visiting Artist Series

10 New Music Guild

20 Douglas Humphreys, piano, Visiting Artist Series

22 KU Choirs: Concert Choir and Women's Chorale

25 KU Jazz Combos

26 Sunflower Baroque

27 Jazz Ensemble I with Deborah Brown

28 International Alliance for Women in Music featuring Kansas Virtuosi

NOVEMBER

3 KU Brazilian Steel Drum Band

3 New Music Guild

5 KU West African Drumming Ensemble

9 Dan Goble, saxophone, and Russell Hirshfield, piano, Visiting Artist Series

15 Helianthus Contemporary Ensemble

16 KU Saxophone Quartets

18, 19 Steven Spooner, piano, and David Dubal, curator, Faculty Recital Series

19 New Morse Code with Triplepoint

20 KU Horn and Trombone Choirs

Performances

SEPTEMBER

24 Trombone Quartet, Faculty Recital Series, First United Methodist Church, Lawrence

24 Carillon Recital, Campanile

OCTOBER

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Carillon Recital, Campanile

3 KU Jazz Ensembles I, II, III, Lawrence Arts Center

NOVEMBER

5, 12, 19, 26 Carillon Recital, Campanile

Lectures

SEPTEMBER

26 "The Gene: An Intimate History," Siddhartha Mukherjee, Humanities Lecture Series, Lied Center

OCTOBER

4 "Fighting Hunger in a Changing World," Catherine Bertini, Dole Institute

5 "The Parthenon Enigma," Joan Breton Connelly, Humanities Lecture Series, Lied Center Pavilion

NOVEMBER

8 "The Future of the Middle East," Joseph Westphal, Dole Institute

14 "Evicted: Poverty & Profit in the American City," Matthew Desmond, Humanities Lecture Series, Woodruff Auditorium

15 "Anchoring 'Nightline': Juju Chang," Juju Chang, Dole Institute

Academic Calendar

OCTOBER

14-17 Fall break

Alumni Events

SEPTEMBER

20 Dallas: Jayhawks & Java

20 Happy Hour, Tom's Town Distilling Company, Kansas City

20 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

21 COOP Ale Works Tour, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

21 ArcD Reception, Chicago

21 Denver: Jayhawks & Java

21 KU alumni online networking

23 KU vs. West Virginia, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

23 KU vs. West Virginia watch parties

OCTOBER

1-7 Homecoming (for complete schedule, visit kualumni.org/homecoming)

6-8 KU Black Alumni Network Reunion, Adams Alumni Center

7 KU vs. Texas Tech, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

7 KU vs. Texas Tech watch parties

14 KU vs. Iowa State watch parties

18 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

19 KU alumni online networking

20 Lessons in Leadership with Delano Lewis, winner of the College of Liberal Arts

and Science's Distinguished Alumni Award, Adams Alumni Center

21 KU at TCU, football tailgate, Fort Worth, Texas

21 KU vs. TCU watch parties

24 Hawktoberfest, Kansas City

26-28 KU School of Architecture & Design alumni symposium and banquet, Lawrence

28 KU vs. Kansas State, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

28 KU vs. Kansas State watch parties

29 KC Crew KU Kickball Tournament, Kansas City

NOVEMBER

1-30 KU Cares Month of Service (for complete schedule, visit kualumni.org/monthofservice)

4 KU vs. Baylor, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

4 KU vs. Baylor watch parties

11 KU at Texas, football tailgate, Austin

11 KU vs. Texas watch parties

12 KU Vets Day 5K, Lawrence

15 Houston: Jayhawks & Java

16 KU alumni online networking

18 KU vs. Oklahoma, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

18 KU vs. Oklahoma watch parties

25 KU vs. Oklahoma State watch parties

Jayhawk Walk

Lifesaver

She's a Wynner

Wynne Mihura retired from Hallmark 25 years ago, but she didn't slow down.

"I can't sit still," she says. "I just can't. I gotta do!"

A longtime pitcher on the company's coed and women's softball teams, Mihura, '75, took up horseshoes a year later. Wynne (rhymes with Penny) was a natural, winning a roomful of trophies at local, state and national tournaments. In 2000, she took the National Horseshoe Pitching Association (NHPA) World Title in her age group.

A broken wrist two years ago led to a layoff, but the on-the-go nonagenarian is back. She won gold in the 90-94 age group at the National Senior Games June 14 in Birmingham, Alabama.

"Long as I can pitch a little and have fun," she says, "I decided to go ahead and come back."

The sport's competitive and social nature—the Lawrence Horseshoe League, which Mihura directs,

meets weekly for friendly match play—is what she likes best.

"I love people," she says, "and I love pitchin'."

The game wasn't always ringers and roses: When she started, a few horseshoe veterans—men, mostly—weren't happy losing to a brash newcomer.

"I'd beat 'em and they'd get upset," Mihura confides. "But I won 'em over by being nice."

Us, too.



FOR ONE HAYS FAMILY, July 19 will always be the day Morgan Mathews became their hero.

Mathews, a Hays junior majoring in geology, was on duty as a lifeguard at the local aquatic park when 3-year-old Joanna Hodges nearly drowned.

His quick response and CPR efforts revived her. One week later, Hays and Ellis County leaders honored Mathews in City Hall.

"The recognition that I received from the community was really surprising," he says. "I wasn't expecting all the attention."

Mayor Shaun Musil presented Mathews an Award of Excellence and a key to the city, and Joanna's parents, Daniel and Gwen Hodges, expressed their gratitude. "We are just so appreciative," Gwen said through tears. "You will always be an important part of and a very important person to our family."

Police officers, emergency responders and city commissioners attended the ceremony, which concluded when

From crimson to blue

SINCE 1997, WHEN COCA-COLA became the University's exclusive beverage provider, the agreement, renewed in 2008, has generated about \$33 million to benefit students, staff, faculty and families.

Coca-Cola merit scholarships, funded by interest on contract funds, provided tuition aid to faculty and staff dependents as well as National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic scholars. The Coke contract also largely



funded early recycling efforts on campus.

When the agreement ended June 30, a switch was signaled not by an official announcement but by the sudden appearance of blue, inbound Pepsi trucks, jockeying for space on Jayhawk Boulevard with the outbound red trucks—and

outrageous commentary peppering campus social media sites.

Yep, soft-drink battles bubbled anew, with scarcely a mention of scholarships. Despite the fizz

and fuss, it seems likely that at least one Jayhawk is smiling wide: former Pepsi pitchman Sen. Bob Dole, '45, whose namesake KU buildings no longer suffer the indignity of hosting the competitor's vending machine.

New Look. Same Great Benefits.



Mathews and Hodges

Joanna gave Mathews an engraved lifeguard whistle.

Before heading back to Lawrence for fall classes, Mathews checked in with the preschooler and her family. “She’s doing great now,” he happily reports.



Calling all pollinators

BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND hummingbirds have a new hot spot on the Hill, thanks to John McGrew, a longtime Lawrence real-estate developer who led the metamorphosis of a section of Capitol Federal Hall’s lush grounds into a native-plant habitat for our prairie’s pollinators.

The McGrew Family Butterfly Garden, which was planted May 10 by a group of volunteers from the School of Business, KU Endowment, Facilities Planning & Development, and the Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners, has special meaning for McGrew. He hopes that the garden will not only welcome bees, butterflies and other wildlife, but also encourage students, faculty and staff to step away from their computers and enjoy the great outdoors.

“Too many of us, especially our children, are spending too much time on screens and not enough time outside,” says McGrew, b’60, who founded Outside for a Better Inside, a Lawrence-based nonprofit group that has built more than 15 butterfly gardens at local elementary schools.



nearly 1,200 flora used. “They’ll all be very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators.”

And surely appealing to Jayhawks.

A man in full

When the conference room’s door swung open, Del Shankel’s happy smile proved that, for once, a surprise birthday party was truly that: a surprise.

“I was told Dr. Girod wanted to see me,” the chancellor emeritus said of his most recent successor. “So yes, I was surprised. Very surprised.”

The Aug. 9 party in Chancellor Doug Girod’s suite (Shankel turned 90 Aug. 4) included a cake baked by KU Dining Services—featuring an early faculty photo of the rising star of KU microbiology, unearthed at University Archives by senior administrative assistant Melissa Simpson Rhodes.

Many friends and colleagues came to Strong Hall to offer sincere birthday wishes to the man Neeli Bendapudi, provost and executive vice chancellor of the Lawrence campus, calls “Mr. Jayhawk.”

“Whenever I have lunch with him, I never feel like he is formally giving me advice, but I walk away with something I’ve learned,” Bendapudi, PhD’95, says of the chancellor emeritus, professor emeritus and former Alumni Association interim president. “There’s a great tact to the way he does it. I think the world of him.”

Also celebrating was Reggie Robinson, c’80, l’87, interim vice chancellor of public affairs, who first met Shankel in the late 1970s, when he was involved in student government and Shankel was—among the many leadership roles he’s held on Mount Oread—executive vice chancellor.

“Here’s this University bigwig, I’m this second-year student from Salina, and he’s just this wonderfully warm and engaging guy who would *listen*. Just think about all the people who have felt the impact of his approach and his grace. If they’re anything like me, they tried to take that as a model for how they engage with other people.

“There’s nobody who better embodies all that is good about KU.”

Three cheers to Chancellor Shankel, man of many missions and truly one of a kind.



Shankel



STEVE PUPPE

Funding windfall

Longtime research center earns grants worth \$7.5 million

The Juniper Gardens Children's Project, located on the Children's Campus in Kansas City, Kansas, has won four grants totaling \$7.5 million from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. The grants support research projects on literacy, problem-solving and social-emotional development in preschool age children.

Juniper Gardens Children's Project was founded in 1964 to link KU faculty members and northeast Kansas City residents to address concerns about child development in the low-income community. The research center is part of KU's Life Span Institute, and its studies identify practices and tools that promote children's social well-being and academic achievement.

"The IES holds competitions for field-initiated grants every year, and typically they fund about 100 grants per year," says John Colombo, director of the Life Span Institute and interim vice

chancellor of research at KU. "Field-initiated" means that the grant competition is open to all scientists in the field, Colombo explains, and a successful application signifies that a proposal has succeeded in the most open and competitive marketplace of ideas. "The fact that these four groups of investigators have all been successful in the most recent competition means that they have all conceptualized and executed independent ideas that were identified through rigorous peer review as being worthy of support," Colombo says. "The fact that all four of these investigators were funded at the same time speaks to the strength and rigor of the group of scientists at Juniper Gardens."

• A \$3.3 million grant will allow researchers to evaluate a preschool literacy intervention called Literacy 3D that is designed to improve interactions between preschool teachers and their students. "One of the ways children learn literacy skills in preschool is through interactions with their teachers," says Charles Green-

wood, professor of applied behavioral sciences and senior scientist. "Literacy 3D helps teachers increase these interactions threefold or more." Joining Greenwood on the project are postdoctoral fellow Alana Schnitz and Judith Carta, PhD'83, professor of special education, senior scientist and interim director of Juniper Gardens.

wood, professor of applied behavioral sciences and senior scientist. "Literacy 3D helps teachers increase these interactions threefold or more." Joining Greenwood on the project are postdoctoral fellow Alana Schnitz and Judith Carta, PhD'83, professor of special education, senior scientist and interim director of Juniper Gardens.

• A \$1.4 million grant for the CIRCLE project will support researchers who are helping preschool teachers develop language and early literacy instruction for children who don't respond well to traditional instruction. Investigators on the project are Carta, Greenwood and Dwight Irvin, assistant research professor.

• A \$1.4 million grant will aid development of a Web-based system that helps preschool teachers promote problem-solving skills in infants and toddlers. Irvin, along with Associate Research Professors Jay Buzhardt, g'99, PhD'02, and Dale Walker, g'86, PhD'88, lead the project, which uses a data-based system to provide individualized guidance to help educators identify children who need extra support and the type of support they need.

• A \$1.4 million grant will fund a project to develop, test and refine a professional development program for early education teachers who are using a three-tiered framework for addressing the social-emotional needs of children who are at risk for delays and challenging behavior. Kathryn Bigelow, g'97, PhD'06, assistant research professor; Carta; Irvin and Schnitz lead the project, joined by colleagues at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.

Since its founding in the Juniper Gardens Housing Project in the mid-1960s, the children's project has focused on practical research that contributes to

the science of the field while finding practical solutions to problems identified by local parents, teachers and community leaders. In 2015, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, issued a proclamation honoring Juniper Gardens' half century of service to the community.

"A center doesn't last 50 years unless it's constantly changing and adapting to respond to the challenges of the scientific field in which it operates," Colombo says. "The fact that Juniper Gardens scientists continue to be competitive like this means that the research faculty who work there have continued to represent the top of their field."

Support system

TRIO programs assist University retention efforts

There wasn't an English major among the Jayhawks gathered for an alumni panel during OPTIONS, a five-day student orientation program organized by KU's TRIO program as part of 'Hawk Week, but their theme could have come straight from British novelist E.M. Forster: "Only connect! That was the whole of [their] sermon."

Kaleb Higdon, e'16, recounted a "reality check" delivered by his freshman calculus class. After sailing through high school without studying hard, he felt confident that he could do the same at KU. "I had a 61 going into the final," Higdon told the 70 or so incoming freshmen in attendance, "and I pulled out a B. How I did that was I started talking to people, I started making friends and I started to take advantage of TRIO support."

That advice, in one version or another, was echoed by fellow panel members

Dagoberto Heredia, c'11; Alexis Johnson, c'17; Jorge Salamanca, c'17, Andrew Williams, e'88, PhD'00, associate dean of diversity and inclusion in the School of Engineering; and by DeAngela Burns-Wallace, vice provost for undergraduate studies.

"These five days you really have the opportunity to connect with a lot of good resources and a lot of good people," Burns-Wallace told students. "When you need help, when you need someone to talk to, when you need anything, please reach out to someone," Burns-Wallace said. "It's important that you feel comfortable, you have somewhere you can go, some office or some professional staff member, if you have any problems, questions or challenges, especially during this first semester."

TRIO is a set of federally funded opportunity programs that motivate and support college students who are the first in their family to attend college, who come from low-income backgrounds or who have disabilities. The initiative started as three programs (hence the name TRIO) in the 1960s as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty and has since grown to eight. KU's program, TRIO Supportive Educational Services, which currently serves 370 students, has been continuously funded since 1973.

The weeklong OPTIONS (Opening Paths To Individual Opportunity aNd Success) orientation helps TRIO-eligible freshmen make the transition from high school to college. Organized by TRIO STEM (which targets science, technology, engineering and math students) and TRIO SES (which is open to students in all other disciplines), the program connects students to campus resources that boost their chances for success at KU, supporting the University's goal of achieving a 90 percent retention rate for first-year students.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **KU Hospital was named** the top medical facility in Kansas for the sixth consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report. It was also designated "Best Hospital in Kansas City" in rankings released in August. Eight care specialties ranked in the top 50 for their disciplines: urology (17th), geriatrics (18th), cancer (25th), neurology and neurosurgery (26th), pulmonology (32nd), gastroenterology and GI surgery (34th), cardiology and heart surgery (36th), and nephrology (46th).

■ **Reggie Robinson, c'80, l'87**, is interim vice chancellor for public affairs. Director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration since 2014, Robinson also was chief of staff to chancellor Robert Hemenway, CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents and a senior staff member at the U.S. Department of Justice. He succeeds Tim Caboni, who became president of Western Kentucky University in July.



Robinson

■ **KU Cancer Center's** application to upgrade its National Cancer Institute status to "comprehensive" was denied this summer, but the NCI designation achieved in 2012 was renewed for another five years. The renewal, achieved after the Cancer Center improved its overall score from "excellent" to "outstanding," comes with an 11 percent funding increase. The center can reapply for comprehensive status in five years. On average, NCI designated centers achieve comprehensive status after 15 years.

"Once I fit, I was able to contribute—and succeed. Find your academic family at KU and keep doing that in your career."

—TRIO alumnus Dagoberto Heredia

Hilltopics



Heredia



Higdon



Johnson



Salamanca



Williams

OPTIONS allows the Achievement and Assessment Institute, which manages KU's TRIO programs, to intervene early—and often.

“Our goal is to meet with students before they have

their first class, and it doesn't stop with the first week,” Heasty says. OPTIONS students agree to stay in TRIO for their entire first year, and they are put in teams led by upperclassmen who are TRIO alumni, with whom they meet regularly.

“The idea is to create a peer network and a sense of belonging,” Heasty says. “What we know from our experience and research is early intervention and regular contact—often, frequent and very individualized—is an effective strategy for retention and graduation.

“We've already had OPTIONS students from this year in our office saying, ‘I want to be a group leader next year.’ It's inspiring: Students stepping up to help other students.”

“Our federally mandated goal for TRIO is that 55 percent of students will graduate within six years, which is significantly higher than the national graduation rate for first-generation and low-income students,” says Gretchen Heasty, s'94, c'95, s'98, TRIO SES and STEM director. “One thing we kept in mind when we started OPTIONS is the former chancellor's mandate that 90 percent of first-semester freshmen persist into their second year, and that we'd raise our six-year graduation rate to 70 percent. So that's our goal, moving that needle.”

Currently, Heasty says, the six-year graduation rate for TRIO students tops 60 percent, which is in line with the general student population at the

University, despite the fact that these students face longer-than-average odds of dropping out.

“Despite being highly motivated to succeed in college, TRIO-eligible students are often the least likely to be retained and graduate,” Heasty says, noting that students who are the first in their family and also low-income typically face multiple barriers. “For instance, they may lack practical information about navigating a college campus, especially one as large as KU. They may also be students of color on a predominately white campus, they may be students who are nontraditional, they may be parents, they may have stopped and started school, they may be transferring in.”

VISITOR

Africa's summit

Mountain climber and global trekker Ian Taylor returned to campus to discuss his adventures on Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, which he has climbed 23 times.

WHEN: July 27

WHERE: Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics

BACKGROUND: Taylor, who is married to Lawrence native Laura Gravino, was 29 in 2008



COURTESY IAN TAYLOR

when he became the youngest Irish climber to summit Mount Everest, a feat he discussed on a 2014 visit to the Dole Institute. He uses his climbs to

raise funds for local charities, including school construction, student fees and clean-water resources in East Africa.

ANECDOTE: Taylor, whose Vail, Colorado, company guides clients on group treks worldwide, shared photos he took in 2007 of Kilimanjaro glaciers. “All these glaciers are gone now,” he said, adding that the rest of Kilimanjaro's glaciers are expected to disappear within 10 years and cause water shortages. He and other climbers are urging Tanzanian

officials to install rainwater collection systems to aid climbers and local citizens.

QUOTE: “It really is dramatic, the scale of the mountain as it pops up out of the landscape,” Taylor said of the 19,341-foot Kilimanjaro. Emphasizing the dangers of oxygen deprivation during exertion at altitude, Taylor said, “everyone acclimatizes differently. Understanding how you perform with a lack of oxygen in your body is super important.”

—Chris Lazzarino

HUMANITIES

Hall Center series brings eminent lecturers to campus

THE LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY running lecture series at KU kicks off its 70th year this fall with a talk by cancer specialist and acclaimed writer Siddhartha Mukherjee. Author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene*, Mukherjee opens the Hall Center for the Humanities' 2017-'18 Humanities Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Lied Center with "The Gene: An Intimate History." The lecture grapples with moral questions raised by humans' ability to read and write our own genetic information.

Other lectures in the series include:

Joan Breton Connelly, "The Parthenon Enigma," 7:30 p.m., Oct. 5, Lied Center Pavilion. The classical archaeologist and professor of classics and art history at New York University discusses her research, which produced a book of the same title, deepening our understanding of the Parthenon, one of the most iconic buildings of antiquity, and the ancient Greeks who constructed it.

Matthew Desmond, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union. Desmond, the John J. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University and a MacArthur Fellow, discusses issues raised in his 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning book that examines income inequality and economic exploitation as seen through the lives of eight Milwaukee families struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

Peter Balakian, "An Evening with Poet Peter Balakian," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 22, The Commons, Spooner Hall. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his 2015 book, *Ozone Journal*, Balakian engages a wide



Mukherjee

range of topics in his poetry, including genocide, war, terrorism, climate change, the AIDS epidemic, historical trauma and memory, and the personal domains of love, death, art and culture.

Brian Donovan, "American Golddigger: Law, Culture and Marriage in the Early Twentieth Century," 7:30 p.m., March 26, Lied Center Pavilion. A cultural and historical sociologist and professor of American studies at KU, Donovan focuses on the role of law and culture in shaping social inequality. His lecture traces the history of the "gold digger" from 1910s chorus girl slang to a powerful stereotype that shaped understandings of gender and matrimony in culture and legal attitudes toward alimony.

Andrea Wulf, "The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World," 7:30 p.m., April 19, The Commons, Spooner Hall. Historian Wulf revisits the legacy of the Prussian naturalist, explorer and geographer, who was among the first scientists to study Latin America and is considered the first person to identify and document human-based climate change.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Kansas Public Radio**, based at KU, earned seven awards from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, including first place in the spot news category for coverage of the 2017 Kansas legislative session. The station also earned three second-place awards and three honorable mentions. The awards will be presented during the association's annual convention in October.

■ **Spencer Museum of Art** selected "Magenta Colored Girl" by Carrie Weems as the KU Common Work of Art for the 2017-'18 academic year. The photo-triptych accompanies *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine, which was selected as the KU Common Book. The Spencer will display Weems' work in the museum's Jack and Lavon Brosseau Center for Learning through the fall semester.

■ **Alpha Gamma Delta** sorority's international council announced in August that it would shut down the Delta Epsilon Beta chapter at KU, which was founded in 1922. A press release from the council cited declining enrollment for the decision, which came after the sorority added 15 new members during fall recruitment. New members were released from AGD and allowed to join other sororities, while current members will transition to alumnae status, and those who live in the sorority house can stay for the remainder of the academic year.

■ **Christian Hardy**, Derby senior in journalism, is one of five winners of the prestigious Jim Murray Memorial Foundation scholarship. Hardy won the national award for excellence in college sports writing for his University Daily Kansan column on John McLendon, d'36. McLendon studied under James Naismith at KU, and later became the first African-American coach of a professional basketball team.

"I've had athletes who struggled because their bodies wouldn't let them adapt. Other people walk up the side of the mountain and don't understand what the big deal is about the lack of oxygen." —guide Ian Taylor



Respect the hustle

Loneker Jr. honors his father's legacy, in football and life

Less than 24 hours before KU football opened its pivotal season—the third year of coach David Beaty's tenure, with expectations high for significant improvement over last year's two-win effort—a most unlikely visitor appeared at the Anderson Family Football Complex.

Mark Mangino, who ran his eight-season record to 50-48 after taking over a program that had suffered through six consecutive losing seasons, was back in town for the 10-year reunion of his memorable 2007 squad, which went 12-1 and beat Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl. After years of tense relations with then-athletics director Lew Perkins, Mangino agreed to a contract buyout in 2009 and, understandably, had not since been seen anywhere near the state-of-the-art football center whose construction he pushed for and made possible with the fan enthusiasm generated by his program's consistent success.

Now Mangino was seated at a table in the Chancellor's Lounge, smiling, seemingly genuinely pleased to share his

memories of the huge 2007 season, players who meant the world to him and the grind of rebuilding a program.

Mangino said he was reluctant to discuss the current rebuilding project because he doesn't follow the Jayhawks closely, but he was willing to offer one suggestion: As players from 2007 assemble in Memorial Stadium for their reunion, the current 'Hawks should pay attention.

"Look at those guys. They have a swagger to them, even 10 years later. See how they carry themselves, how they're sure of themselves. They fear nothing. That's the lesson that these kids can learn."

Mangino built his program with overlooked recruits who were tough, strong, fast and focused. Few current Jayhawks fit that mold better than starting linebacker Keith Loneker Jr., a Lawrence native who had to play one season at Baker University to finally capture the attention of KU coaches. He transferred to his hometown university as a sophomore, and, after a redshirt year, started four

games and won a Special Teams Player of the Week award as a junior. Approaching his senior season, Loneker shined in the spring game with newfound speed and confidence.

What few outside of his family knew at the time, however, was that Loneker also spent the spring semester watching his father battle cancer.

Keith Loneker Sr., '94, was an All-Big Eight guard for coach Glen Mason's victorious 1992 Aloha Bowl team, then, after going undrafted, played three seasons in the NFL, followed by rollicking careers as a music producer, actor and screenwriter, as well as a paraeducator at Lawrence High School and volunteer youth sports coach.

Too ill to attend the spring game, "Big Keith," beloved in Lawrence for his exuberant personality and zest for life, followed his son's highlights via text messages with a friend at the game. His condition deteriorated in June, and his son left the team for about two weeks to be at his side.

When "Little Keith" resumed workouts June 20, Beaty pulled him aside and said, "Dude, you don't have to be here," to which Loneker replied, "No, I do need to be here. My dad wants me here."

His father died June 21.

"I remember when his dad passed about



Loneker Jr.

STEVE PUPPE (2)

three years ago, the next day he went to work,” Loneker says. “And so that’s what I did. When he passed, the next day I was up here at 6 a.m. with my guys. That’s just what he taught. It’s grind all the time.”

Loneker honored his father—a New Jersey native who “bled blue” and chose to raise his family in Lawrence despite a burgeoning film career that regularly took him to Los Angeles—by switching his jersey number to 47, a reversal of his father’s No. 74.

The more meaningful respect he showed for his father’s legacy, however, was on the field Sept. 2 in the season opener against Southeast Missouri State, a 38-16 KU victory. He recorded two tackles as a starting inside linebacker—alongside his Free State High School teammate Joe Dineen Jr.—while also playing on punt and kick coverage teams and the kick return team.

“He’s bigger, he’s faster, he’s stronger than he used to be, and I think he’s in for a huge year,” Dineen says of Loneker, 6-2 and 225 pounds. “He’s smart, he’s in the right spot at the right time, and he makes a lot of plays for us.”

Little Keith was not the only Jayhawk honoring Big Keith’s memory by playing a brand of football he would respect. As with his son, the elder Loneker was also Dineen’s first football and basketball coach; his passing was a deep wound for Dineen, who smiled as he recalled the time a youth-football teammate cracked an unfunny joke during practice and coach Loneker ordered his players to huddle up.

“He goes, ‘Listen, I say the jokes around here, and if you don’t laugh then you don’t play,’” Dineen recalls with a smile. “He taught me so much about football, but he also taught me a lot about life. I looked up to him. He was a great dude.”

When Dineen praises Loneker Jr. as a motivator, a friend who is easy to be around, loaded with charisma and a love for the game, he’s also praising Loneker Sr., who once wrote on Facebook, “There are no guarantees in life. We make our own paths and we are responsible for our own futures. Time to grind. Respect The Hustle.”

“He’s bigger, he’s faster, he’s stronger than he used to be, and I think he’s in for a huge year.”

—team captain Joe Dineen Jr., on fellow linebacker Keith Loneker Jr.

“That dude would lay anything out for Kansas, so it’s in my blood,” Loneker Jr. says. “It’s not about me. It’s about the Loneker name. It’s for him and it’s for Kansas University. It’s not even close to being about me.”

The big hitter

Volleyball’s Payne on the attack for another All-American season

With senior All-American Kelsie Payne, reigning Big 12 Player of the Year, stationed at right-side hitter, across the court from fellow senior Madison Rigdon, volleyball coach Ray Bechard knows his team is loaded with dynamic offensive threats at outside hitter.

But if the Jayhawks are going to defend their first Big 12 championship—the highlight of last year’s 27-3 season—Bechard also knows his team can’t rely too heavily on Payne and Rigdon.

“It’s important we have some offensive balance so people aren’t camping out in front of Payne,” Bechard says. “We know Rigdon’s going to get kills, we know Payne’s going to get kills. But we need to distribute at least 30, 35 percent of our offense to the middle, so when Payne does get set it’s not like we have two or three blockers in front of her.”

Payne played middle blocker as a freshman. Once she switched to outside hitter, her 6-foot-3 frame, jumping ability and elite athleticism all blossomed during KU’s magical run to the 2015 NCAA Final Four. Payne and senior Ainise Havili, a four-year starter at setter, were named first-team All-Americans after that season, a feat Payne repeated last year.



Payne

Payne holds KU career records for hitting percentage and single-season kills, and could end up owning the career kills mark. She spent the summer playing on the USA Collegiate National Team on a tour of Croatia and Slovenia, and returned for her final KU campaign in midseason form, with two 20-kill performances in the first three matches.

If her stats dip as KU goes deeper into its grueling nonconference season—the Sept. 4 home match with 13th-ranked Kentucky, a three-set KU sweep, was followed within the same week (as *Kansas Alumni* went to press) with matches against Final Four contenders Purdue and Creighton—that’s fine with Payne.

Sports

“If there’s anything I can do to help my teammates be more successful, I’ll do that,” Payne says. “Maybe that means I’m not getting every single ball and sometimes giving it to someone else, and I’m totally fine with that, as long as it’s in the team’s best interest.”

The NCAA Volleyball Championships are Dec. 14 and 16 at Kansas City’s Sprint Center. It’s a tantalizing prospect that Payne calls “a dream come true,” and Havili says she’s buying into Bechard’s game plan for getting through the Big 12, and perhaps even all the way to the Final Four, by forcing defenses to worry about more than Payne and Rigdon.

“Kelsey and Madison are so good I can give them every ball and they’ll kill most of them,” Havili says. “Last year and the season before that, I relied on that too much. It was easy. This year I want to challenge myself and challenge the offense. I want them to hit balls from anywhere that I would be on the court, and that’s really my goal for this season.”



COURTESY CHRIS THEISEN

La dolce vita

‘Hawks live the sweet life with four-game sweep of Italy tour

Sophomore guard Malik Newman scored 32 points in a 118-74 rout of the Italian All-Stars A2, the final event in men’s basketball’s four-game tour of Italy, July 31 to Aug. 8.

The ’Hawks won their four games against outmatched Italian opponents by an average margin of 36 points.

“I believe the best thing we got out of it was traveling, team chemistry and

camaraderie,” said coach Bill Self, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Sept. 8. “We learned a lot about each other on the trip, but the best thing for us basketball-wise was probably the 10 practices we had back in the states before we came here.”

Late Night in the Phog is set for Sept. 30. A “Phog Festival” begins at 10 a.m. on the Allen Field House lawn. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for students and 5 for the general public.

The first exhibition game is Nov. 7 against Pittsburg State, and the season opens Nov. 10 in Allen Field House against Tennessee State.

UPDATES

Women’s soccer on Sept. 3 upset the seventh-ranked USC Trojans, the defending NCAA champions, 2-1 at Rock Chalk Park. Sophomore **Katie McClure** scored her first goal of the season in the 12th minute, and a Trojan own-goal gave KU a 2-0 lead midway through the second half. KU’s streak of 455 minutes without allowing a goal ended with 15 minutes left in the game when USC converted a penalty kick. “They worked their tails off today and deserved the victory,” said coach **Mark Francis**. “It would have been a shame if we hadn’t won it.” Senior goalkeeper **Maddie Dobyns** on Aug. 29 was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week, following



MIKE GUINDE

McClure

2-0 KU victories at Tulsa and Oregon State. KU’s first victory of the season, Aug. 20 over Central Michigan, was Francis’ 200th at KU. ...

Senior **Ben Burchstead** was the top collegiate finisher at the Sept. 2 Bob Timmons Invitational at Rim Rock Farm with a 6K time of 19 minutes,

10.2 seconds, with sophomore **Avery Hale** close behind in second. Junior **Alaina Schroeder** vied for the lead with a late kick, but finished second in the women’s 5K in 18:04.6. Cross-country’s next meet is the Sept. 30 Rim Rock Classic. ... Former setter **Maggie Anderson**, b’17, rejoined the volleyball program as director of volleyball operations. ...

Mason Finley, ’14, won bronze in the discus—the U.S. team’s first medal in the event since 1999—with a throw of 212 feet, 5 inches at the IAAF World Championships in London.

Mitch Cooper, ’18, who qualified for the Australian team with his Big-12 winning throw at Rock Chalk Park, posted a mark of 187-10, but

failed to advance out of the qualification round. **Michael Stigler**, 2015 NCAA champion in the 400-meter hurdles, was disqualified for a technical error in his first qualifying run. He finished second in the heat, only to later learn of the judges’ decision. ... Former KU guard **Frank Mason III**, c’17, consensus National Player of the Year, was named co-Big 12’s Men’s Athlete of the Year. ...

Kansas Athletics is “celebrating 50 years of KU women’s sports” with commemorative T-shirts to be worn throughout the year by all female athletes, along with reunions and other special events. **Marlene Lawson** launched women’s varsity athletics with an initial annual budget of \$2,000.



JAYHAWKS OF THE GALAXY

2017 Homecoming Oct. 1-7

Go where other Jayhawks have been before.
Join fellow Jayhawks in making this year's
Homecoming a stellar event.

Enjoy traditional Homecoming events all week—
Glow KU, Chalk 'n' Rock and Jayhawk Jingles.
CANstellation Jayhawk, Oct. 4, is a food drive for *Just Food of Douglas County*.
Bring a canned item to donate!

Friday, Oct. 6

4 p.m. Meet & Greet with KU Athletics, South Park
6 p.m. Homecoming Parade, downtown Lawrence

Saturday, Oct. 7

KU vs. Texas Tech

Visit homecoming.ku.edu for a full schedule of events.

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GAME DAY

at the Adams



Welcome Members!

Tailgate with fellow Jayhawks at the Adams Alumni Center! Join us for family-friendly activities before all KU home football games.

\$15 per person

Free for kids 5 and younger

Enjoy:

- A delicious meal
- Non-alcoholic beverages
 - Drink specials
- Marching band, Spirit Squad and mascots
- Kids coloring and activity sheets
- TV broadcasts of other college games

Home Games:

- Sept. 23, West Virginia
- Oct. 7, Texas Tech (Homecoming)
- Oct. 28, Kansas State
- Nov. 4, Baylor
- Nov. 18, Oklahoma

Tailgates start 3 hours before kickoff.

Kick-off times have not been determined for all home games.

Visit kuathletics.com for KU football updates.



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ASSOCIATION**

The University of Kansas

Tailgating space at the Adams is limited; **reserve your tickets** early to guarantee your spot. To sign up, visit kualumni.org/gameday, or call 800-584-2957.

Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Todd Reesing (above center), c'10, b'10, took a group selfie of former teammates who returned for a 10-year reunion and Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame induction of the Orange Bowl Jayhawks, including (far left, l-r) NFL veterans Aqib Talib, '09, and Darrell Stuckey, c'09, and coach (left) Mark Mangino, with his granddaughter Gabriella. The KU victory over Southeast Missouri State featured a 364-yard, four-TD debut for quarterback Peyton Bender (7), left tackle Hakeem Adeniji (78) hoisting tight end Ben Johnson after Johnson's 57-yard TD reception, and running back Dom Williams (25) cruising for a 10-yard score.





The Protein in the Freezer



A professor's invention holds promise in the battle against antibiotic resistance

In July 2016, Joanna Slusky stood in a conference room in Palo Alto, California, and told a story.

The previous summer, she had been nearing the end of her first year as assistant professor of computational biology and molecular biosciences at KU, her lab was up and running, and her family—her husband, David Slusky, assistant professor of economics, and their young daughter, Eve—was settling into life in Lawrence.

“Then one day, out of nowhere, David’s leg swelled up,” Slusky told her audience, “and the next day the entire back of his calf was raw, with pus coming out of it.”

A doctor diagnosed an infection and prescribed antibiotics.

“The antibiotics didn’t work,” Slusky said. “So we went back and the doctor prescribed more antibiotics—and the antibiotics didn’t work. So we went back again—more antibiotics—and they didn’t work either.”

Slusky, 38, who earned her doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the faculty in 2014 after

completing a two-year NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, where she studied the structure of proteins—the focus of her graduate research—to better understand their potential in the fight against cancer. Bacterial infection is not her area of expertise, but as her husband’s condition worsened she certainly knew of the frightening “superbugs” that have become resistant to the antibiotics that once made their treatment routine.

According to the Centers For Disease Control, each year 2 million people in the United States become infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria; at least 23,000 die from these infections. In countries with poor sanitation, the problem is far worse. The “Review on Antimicrobial Resistance,” commissioned in 2014 by the United Kingdom, found that, worldwide, at least 700,000 people die annually from drug resistance in illnesses such as bacterial infections, malaria, HIV/AIDS or tuberculosis. By 2050, the study projects, 10 million people will die each year because of the increasing resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs, surpassing the death rate from cancer.

by Steven Hill | Photographs by Steve Puppe

“We began to confront the idea that maybe this was a multi-drug-resistant infection,” Slusky continued. “And that was really scary. It was obviously extremely scary for my husband, but it was also very frightening for me, as somebody who was living with and sharing a bed with someone who might have a multi-drug-resistant infection.”

Slusky’s Palo Alto audience was an advisory panel convened by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to award the first five of a proposed 50 Moore Inventor Fellowships, a three-year grant worth more than \$800,000 that seeks to accelerate progress in scientific research, environmental conservation and patient care by funding the research of promising “scientist/problem-solvers with a passion for inventing.” Its founder and namesake, Gordon Moore, co-founded Intel and originated Moore’s Law: Asked in 1965 by Electronics Magazine to predict what would happen with electronic components in the next decade, he looked at recent trends in the manufacture of integrated circuitry and saw that the number of transistors in microprocessors was doubling every two years. Moore extrapolated—accurately, it turned out—that this trend would continue, unleashing huge gains in computing technology. “Rather than becoming something that chronicled the progress of the industry,” he noted in a 2014 interview, “Moore’s Law became something that drove it.”

The new Inventor Fellowship aims to trigger a similar creative tsunami for science, the environment and patients: The program’s tag line is “50 inventors to shape the next 50 years.”

Slusky applied in May and learned in June that she was one of 10 finalists invited to pitch her idea. She proposed to tackle one of the three main mechanisms that bacteria use to overcome antibiotic drugs, and her approach draws on a passion for protein design that she traces all the way back to her first laboratory internship, while still in high school. The target of her research proposal, Slusky told the panel, is nothing less than the fear of incurable illness.

“If you or someone you love has ever

“If you or someone you love has ever had a diagnosis of something difficult or impossible to treat, then you know that kind of fear. You know that gulf of helplessness, and then you have to wonder, ‘What if this is not only incurable, but what if it’s contagious?’” —Joanna Slusky

had a diagnosis of something difficult or impossible to treat, then you know that kind of fear,” Slusky said. “You know that gulf of helplessness, and then you have to wonder, ‘What if this is not only incurable, but what if it’s contagious?’”

A worrying shortage of new antibiotics in the drug development pipeline is a key factor in the growth of antimicrobial resistance. But making new antibiotics is extremely difficult.

“My goal, instead of making new antibiotics,” Slusky said, “is to make the antibiotics that we already have work like new.”

Four days later, she learned that she’d won the grant. She was a member of the first class of Moore Inventor Fellows, a research award with the funding heft (but not, as of yet, the hype) of a MacArthur “genius” grant, and a new enlistee in mankind’s global war on superbugs.

In her Haworth Hall lab, where the Moore-funded experiments are now well underway, Slusky says, “Our ultimate indication of success will be living in a world with less fear of the scourge of antibiotic-resistant infection.”

And if her work and the work of other scientists fail to find a solution to antibiotic resistance?

“This is how bad it’s gonna be,” she says: “Hospitals will become the source of our scariest infections.”

We will revert to a pre-antibiotic age. How people view surgery, how medicine is administered—even our faith that Western medical science is a progressive discipline, always advancing—would be fundamentally altered.

“The idea of something that is incurable and possibly contagious, it’s totally scary,” Slusky says. “It’s totally science fiction-

worthy. Except it’s looking less and less like science fiction.”

The method by which harmful microbes become resistant to antibiotics is a natural process: It’s called evolution.

Antimicrobial drugs such as antibiotics, antivirals and antifungals put pressure on populations of microbes: Individual microbes that can’t survive this pressure die off; those that can survive multiply, passing on their resistant genes. Over time, this process of natural selection allows these populations to adapt and proliferate, and the subtle but steady genetic changes eventually produce a microbe that’s no longer vulnerable to a drug’s old tactics. The antibiotic is like a military commander who knows only one strategy, while the bacteria are like an insurgent force that constantly morphs. The antibiotic stays the same, but the bugs change, rendering the drug less effective or even useless.

Science can—and does—call in new commanders capable of bringing different strategies to bear on these insurgents; it does this by developing new drugs. But introduction of new antibiotics has slowed. Lord Jim O’Neill, the British economist who chaired the “Review on Antimicrobial Resistance,” noted that a truly new class of antibiotics has not been seen for decades. “Essentially, the demand for new drugs has increased due to increasing resistance but the supply has dried up,” the review concluded, “leaving us in a precarious position.”

Rather than recruit new commanders with new tactics (by designing new antibiotics), Slusky wants to attack the

process by which bacteria defeat antibiotics, essentially disabling the microbial insurgents and robbing them of their most broadly effective tactic.

There are basically three mechanisms by which bacteria resist antibiotic drugs. One is target modification: Antibiotics typically target a specific part of the bacterial cell, and when they bind to this target in a particular way, the cell dies. Bacteria modify that target, usually via mutation; the antibiotic can't bind and is no longer a threat. Because each antibiotic drug has a different target, doctors can usually overcome this defense by switching drugs.

A second mechanism is antibiotic modification: The bacteria comes up with some way of modifying the antibiotic before it can bind to its target. Again, this can often be overcome by simply switching drugs.

The third mechanism, more common and much tougher to defeat, is called efflux. Essentially, the bacterial cell defends itself by pumping the antibiotic out before it can bind to its target. Disabling the bacteria's efflux pump is the mission of Slusky's Moore project.

To do this, she's relying on the protein in her freezer.

Slusky grew up in New Jersey. Her mother, Susan, now retired, was a physicist at Bell Labs. Her father, Ronald, is a patent attorney.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Slusky related how her parents' work shaped her early concept of career. During one family car ride, conversation turned to the topic of what do you want to do when you grow up?

"My mother was describing how, as a scientist, she shoots lasers at crystals. My father . . . told us how he talks to people and he writes things. And I said, 'OK, I'm going to be a scientist.' And my brother said, 'Can boys be scientists, too?'"

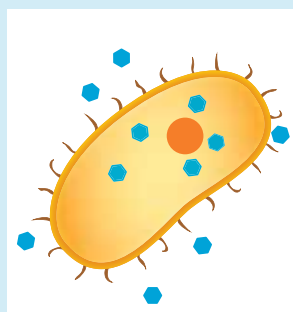
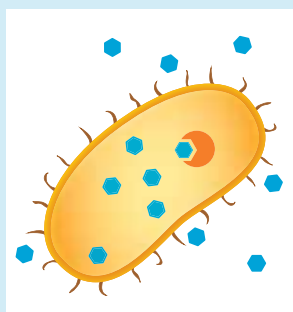
Between her mother and father, Slusky says, "my house was filled with science concepts all the time. I was lucky there."

She also considers herself lucky to have lived near New Brunswick, home to Rutgers University. She babysat for Jerome



Three ways bacteria resist antibiotics

KEY:  Antibiotic  Target  Efflux Pump

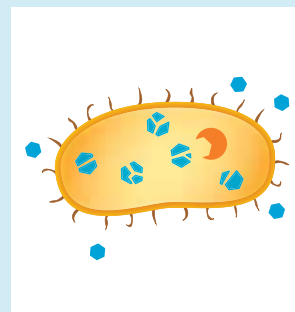
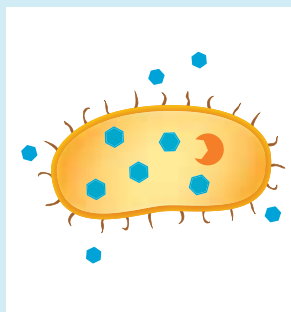


1. Target modification

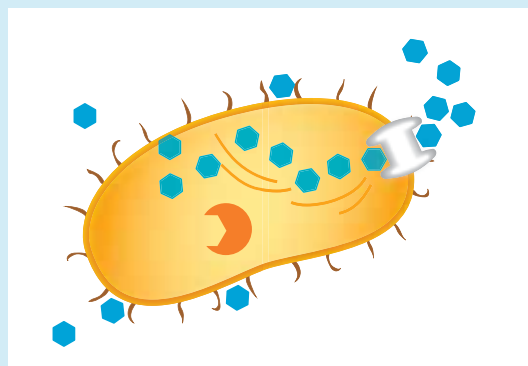
Bacterial cells mutate to stop the antibiotic from binding to target areas of the cell

2. Antibiotic modification

Bacterial cells attack the antibiotic with enzymes, rendering it ineffective



SUSAN YOUNGER (5)



3. Efflux

Bacterial cells pump the antibiotic out of the cell before it can bind to targets. Disabling the pump—the focus of Slusky's research—allows antibiotics to attack the cell.

Langer, a professor in Rutgers' department of pharmacology. A high school teacher had recommended that she look into a lab internship, and Langer helped her land one. The summer after her junior year, Slusky got her first taste of lab research. "That became my hobby, practically, as a kid," she says. "I started doing science really early and that was really fortunate."

The experience introduced her to working with proteins and the machinery that cells use to make them. Protein design became her passion. She was always good at spatial reasoning, geometry, puzzles. "That's a fundamental thing one needs when trying to design a protein that fits together with another protein," she says, "some sort of intuition about how a molecular puzzle fits together."

At Princeton (where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in chemistry), Slusky's undergraduate research led to co-author credit on five papers published in the journal *Nature*. At Penn she delved further into protein design; as a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow she designed the first peptides to bind to the transmembrane region of proteins, published a paper in *Science*, and received a patent. Two postdoctoral fellowships—four years on a Human Frontier Science Program fellowship at Stockholm University and two at Fox Chase—preceded her arrival on Mount Oread.

At KU, she began researching the principles of membrane protein folding: Specifically, she was interested in one type of protein-protein interaction that, Slusky says, "people didn't necessarily believe was important."

Proteins are made of long chains of amino acids that can fold into three-dimensional shapes. There are 20 types of amino acids, and arranging these 20 building blocks into different sequences creates an assortment of proteins with different shapes and functions. Some proteins work as antibodies, protecting us from viruses and bacteria; others work as enzymes, carrying out the chemical reactions that happen in cells; still others function as transporters, messengers or creators of hormones.



"Proteins are the molecules that nature uses to do biological chemistry, to do the chemistry of life," Slusky explains. "They are molecules that are extremely good at changing things and moving things. In the human body we have all of these biological chemical processes, and a very large portion of them are mediated by proteins."

But to do their jobs, proteins need to physically interact—sometimes with other molecules and sometimes with each other in protein-protein interactions. To better understand this process, Slusky designed a protein that had never existed before. She named it S1245.

She thought the protein might have some long-term therapeutic uses, in vaccine development, environmental remediation and cancer treatment, but mostly she was interested in learning how these protein-protein interactions work, to fill in gaps in science's understanding of life. "I was trying, perhaps foolishly, to understand the general question of, How do we make things that bind to the efflux pump, how does the binding work in the pump, and could we generalize that to all kinds of proteins?" It was pure science, a quest to fill in a missing piece of a huge informational puzzle. But this particular protein-protein interaction, Slusky says, "is really not so sexy. It doesn't really captivate other people's attention quite as much as it did mine." She applied for grants, but no one was interested. So she put her designed protein—literally—on ice.

Until some KU colleagues asked if she would be interested in joining a grant proposal they were making to the National Institutes of Health. That proposal eventually resulted in the \$11 million, five-year NIH grant that in 2016 established the KU Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE): Chemical Biology of Infectious Disease led by Thomas Prisinzano and Scott Hefty.

Hefty, associate professor in molecular biosciences, asked Slusky if she had any ideas for the effort. She pitched a different project—a diagnostic test for bacterial infection—but Hefty countered that they were more interested in dealing with antibiotic resistance. Did she have anything on that topic?

"I thought about it a while, and I said, 'You know, I have this protein in my freezer.'"

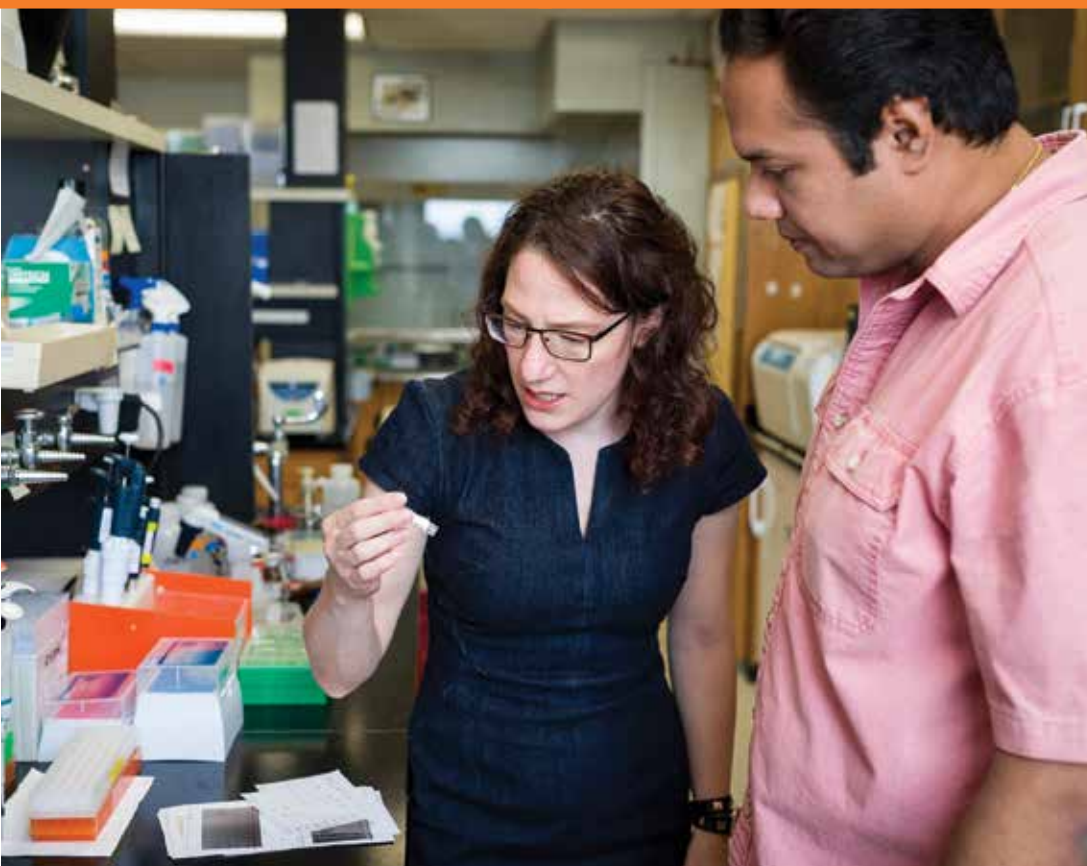
Carl Lejuez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, has counseled Slusky on how to build and expand a research program. "That's exactly the kind of thing that other folks who may be just as smart, just as talented—they get this sense of, 'Uh-oh, I'm putting myself up for another potential rejection'—and it doesn't go in," he says of Slusky's persistence. "In the sciences, no one goes around failure; they go through it. And a lot of people stop, because it's painful. She doesn't have that gene. She has what we call grit."

She asked her lab technician, Cyril Cook, '13, to test S1245 to see if it would make bacteria more susceptible to antibiotics. The results were promising: Slusky's invented protein was able to bind with the pump, disabling it and stopping the cell from pushing out the antibiotic. Turns out the protein she designed to answer an academic question was also a natural target of interest for scientists who study antibiotic resistance. Her forays into pure science had proved to have surprising real-world applications.

And then came the email from the KU Center for Research announcing a call for proposals for the new Moore Inventors Fellowship. All science investigators at the University got the notice, but only two would be picked to apply.

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Slusky involves students from the undergraduate to the postdoctoral level in her research lab: (clockwise from top left) senior Virangika Wimalasena; graduate student Meghan Franklin and summer graduate Ryan Feehan, e'18; graduate student Jaden Anderson; and postdoctoral fellow Pinakin Sukthankar.



"In the sciences, no one goes around failure; they go through it. And a lot of people stop, because it's painful. She doesn't have that gene. She has what we call grit." —Dean Carl Lejuez

"I deleted it," Slusky says, laughing.

Moore Foundation. Gordon Moore, author of Moore's Law. They'd be looking for engineers, computer scientists. I'm a chemist, she thought. A scientist, not an inventor.

"And then about an hour later, I'm like, 'You know what? Maybe that is me.'"

Science answers a question: It adds to a body of knowledge, and in that sense it's all about accretion. Slowly, surely, building on the progress others have made, it brings our picture of the world a little more into focus, broadens our frame of perspective a little wider. Its final product is an idea, something that you can hold in your mind.

Invention makes a thing: It adds to the world's toolbox, and in that sense it's all about creation. Like science, it supplies something that's missing: It tries to fill a need, solve a problem. Its final product is often something that you can hold in your hand.

Slusky says she has been trained to be an academic scientist her whole life. She never really saw herself as an inventor until the Moore fellowship came along.

"What I'm mostly being, who I'm employed to be, or at least my perspective of who I'm trying to develop myself into, has always been a pure scientist," she says. "And I think that perspective was probably wrongheaded because of who I am and what I want to do."

Pure scientists, academic scientists, work their way up academe's ranks by publishing. "And publishing is about what new piece of information do we have," she says, "what questions did we answer that we couldn't answer before.

"I'm very motivated by that, so that's no problem. But reframing myself to myself as an inventor and seeing that as worthwhile and important and a real contribu-

tion to society has allowed me to look back at the types of research I have gravitated towards . . . and see that they have something in common."

As an undergraduate, Slusky did a type of solid state physics that focuses on making new materials that exhibit exciting electronic properties—basically designing new superconductors—and she worked in the protein design lab of Michael Hecht, where she discovered "this idea of, 'Wow, I can really marry my love of making new things with my enthusiasm over actually solving scientific problems.'" In graduate school the patent she earned was for a protein she designed to make blood platelets clot. "I have always been trying to make things, and that is really at the core of scientifically what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to make things and at the same time do it in a way that really pushes science forward."

She is also deeply and broadly curious about the world. "I'm reading the New Yorker, I'm reading the Atlantic, and their job is to report the big problems that the country, the world, humanity is facing. And when I see that, I think to myself, 'What we really need is to be able to diagnose this, heal this, whatever it is.' That sends me down a rabbit hole of wondering how that works on a molecular level, and is there anything I could use from my molecular toolbox to deal with this problem or at least start to move in that direction."

Protein design, a fairly young discipline that dates back only to the 1970s, "is really at the interface of science and invention," Slusky says. "It's very easy to frame the design of proteins as an engineering discipline. But I think more and more there's a real respect and interest and enthusiasm for creating things that help the world, that fix problems, and it's moving outside of engineering departments."

There is also her faith. Slusky grew up attending Jewish day schools, both Orthodox and Conservative, and after earning her bachelor's degree she took a year before graduate school to study at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York City.

"It's something I think about a lot," she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I believe science is fundamentally answering the question of 'how,' and Judaism is answering the question of 'why.' They're very much two sides coming together."

Religion in general and, for her, Slusky says, Judaism in particular, are answering the question, What's our purpose?

"If my purpose is to alleviate the suffering of others, if that's everybody's purpose, fundamentally, then we're born with a deep sense of gratitude, with a deep sense of owing somebody else something, because nobody causes themselves to be born. We are deeply indebted, first to our parents and to society as a whole, and that leads us very naturally to want to make people's lives better, to lessen people's suffering. That's a deeply held belief that I think really gets at the root of invention—and the scientific question of how do things work—that can be made to act in service of creating better inventions."

Lejuez says it's important for researchers

\$825,000 Moore Inventor Fellowship

Funding sources:
Gordon and Betty
Moore Foundation:
\$675,000
KU: \$150,000

**No. of fellows in
inaugural class:**

5

Program goal:
Invest \$34 million in
next 10 years to
support 50 Moore
Inventor Fellows

to be true to themselves, rather than putting up a wall between their personal and professional lives. “I think we’re successful when they do reach that place,” he says. “What we don’t want is for someone to do only the narrow thing that they’re aware of. Something like the Moore prize allows her to ask that question: Am I an inventor, and is this the thing I want to do?”

Researchers who enjoy early career success risk losing focus because their attention gets pulled in so many directions, the dean says. He doesn’t see that as a problem for Slusky.

“This is perfect,” he says of the Moore Inventor Fellowship. “I would argue almost all basic scientists are inventors, but where she is on the continuum you can really see it. So I think embracing this maker piece will also make her a stronger basic scientist. And that’s who we want doing this work.”

Having proven that S1245 can disable the efflux pump and make cells more susceptible to antibiotics, Slusky hopes to move from proof of concept to a working prototype—a chemical compound drug developers can use to make a drug for human use—ready for preclinical testing by fall 2019.

“We have this idea, it seems to work, but we’re nowhere near being able to do even preclinical testing,” she says. “So what is left to do?”

First, she and her team hope to improve S1245’s ability to bind to its target, a protein called TolC, one of the three proteins that make up the efflux pump that is specific to the *E. coli* bacteria. This acradine efflux pump, as it’s called, is “the baddest of the bad,” Slusky says, because it expels an extraordinarily broad spectrum of antibiotics.

Second, they need to figure out a way to get their protein into the bacterial cell. Her experiments so far have focused on genetically modifying the bacteria to prod them to manufacture S1245 themselves. While that approach works fine in the lab, it’s an impractical strategy for battling infections in the body: Slusky needs to

find a vehicle for moving the protein into the cells from outside, some molecule that can ferry S1245 across a cell membrane that is particularly impervious to drugs, forming a kind of protective armor for the bacteria.

Third, they need to make S1245 smaller. “The idea is that if it’s smaller,” she says, “it’ll be easier to produce, it’ll be more druglike.”

Producing a drug is the ultimate goal. It may take someone else to see the challenge through.

“It may not be me who works on the public health aspect,” Slusky says. “Once we figure out the chemistry well enough to make a really good lead compound, I hope we can find great collaborators who can shepherd it to the next level.”

Slusky believes her discovery is already a breakthrough for science. Whether it also becomes a breakthrough for public health remains to be seen.

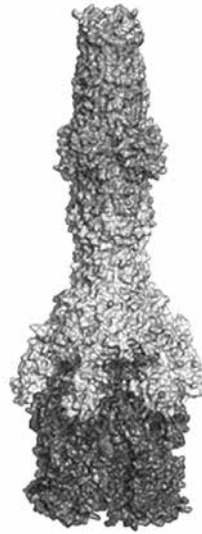
“Is this going to change the face of public health?” she says. “It’s not a breakthrough for public health yet; it’s a science breakthrough right now, but it’s a science breakthrough with the potential to be a public health breakthrough.”

If her invention does pan out, it won’t single-handedly conquer the scourge of antibiotic resistance, but it could potentially counter a majority of the most dangerous bacteria.

In 1714 the British parliament established the Longitude Prize, offering a large cash award to anyone who could solve the greatest scientific challenge of the day: how to pinpoint a ship’s position at sea by calculating its longitude.

In the spirit of that challenge, the Longitude Prize 2014, a contest sponsored by the English charity Nesta, identified six major concerns of the 21st century and asked the public to vote on the issue most important to them. Stopping antibiotic resistance received the most votes.

The challenge, still underway, will award £10 million to the team that develops a



A computer-generated model of Slusky's S1245 protein.

diagnostic test for bacterial infections that allows health professionals worldwide to administer the right antibiotics at the right time, ideally slowing their overuse, which is another important cause of antibiotic resistance. Organizers of the prize compiled a list of the 10 most dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria. “Six of those,” Slusky says, “should theoretically

be made susceptible to a protein like S1245.”

Slusky’s husband, David, turned out to be fine. (Doctors determined that his condition was caused by an allergic reaction, not a drug-resistant superbug.) Many won’t be so fortunate. According to the World Health Organization, antibiotics add, on average, about 20 years to the human lifespan. But averages can be misleading. Consider a world where infections that were routine in our childhood are suddenly debilitating or potentially life-threatening for our children or grandchildren.

“My grandmother had a rheumatic heart all her life because of a bacterial infection,” Slusky recalls. “That’s part of my memory. But my students, do they have a sense of it? I’m not so sure.”

On the other hand, it’s not necessary to have personal experience with antibiotic resistance to immediately understand, at a gut level, the kind of dire future it foretells. The dread of the incurable and the contagious is wired into our DNA and writ large in our history.

“If we could get six out of 10 reliably, how fantastic would that be?” Slusky asks. “That’s a lot of people, and we’re talking about lives.”

And if it turns out that the key to beating back the unconquerable foe—either for a time or for all time—is an invented protein in a laboratory freezer in Haworth Hall? Pretty fantastic indeed.

Hold the Corner



**KU Medical Center's
sparkling new
Health Education Building
transforms health care
education while enlivening
the neighborhood
at 39th and Rainbow**

Building dedications, while important in the life of the University, are often, truth be told, formulaic and dull. Rarely are the openings grand; more commonly, in the estimation of former KU architecture dean John Gaunt, a veteran attendee of many such affairs, they're "pretty perfunctory."

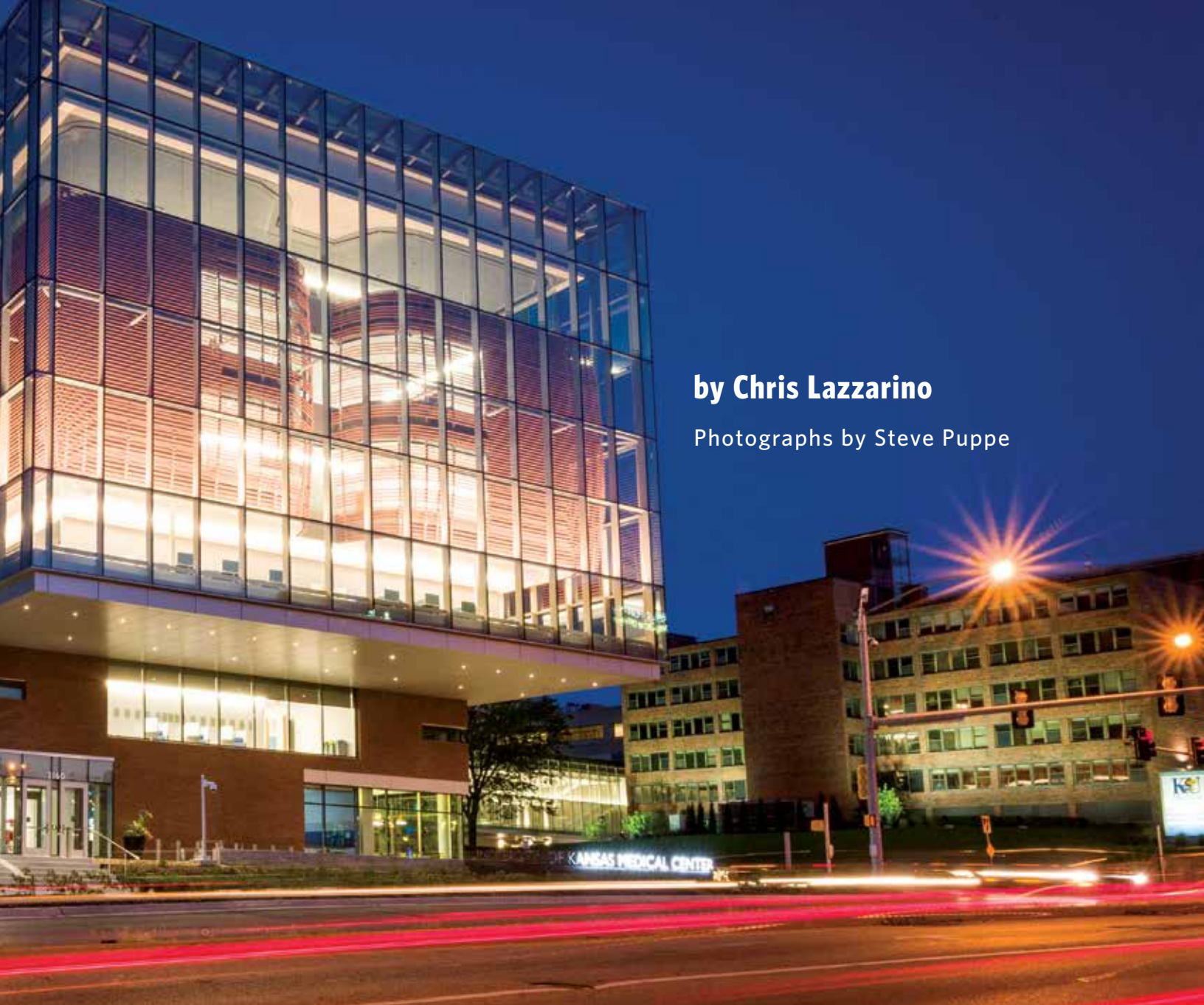
The striking physical beauty of KU Medical Center's 170,000-square-foot, \$82 million Health Education Building—and the structure's centerpiece role in the redefinition of medical, nursing and health professions education—promised to make

its July 20 dedication more memorable than most, but regardless of its sassy pedigree, the opening of another new building in a campuswide system rippling with construction projects could hardly be expected to generate buzz.

Right?

Well, no. Not right. Not even close, because more than a few odd things happened that scorching-hot summer morning at the corner of 39th Street and Rainbow Boulevard.

For one, the usual parade of dignitaries offered no boilerplate speeches or lifeless platitudes. Instead, their remarks were



by Chris Lazzarino

Photographs by Steve Puppe

heartfelt and moving, stirring a crowd of more than 500 that filled the spacious ground-floor assembly hall—actually a pair of large, airy classrooms with a removable dividing wall—with excitement for a new day in health education at KU and health care delivery for Kansans.

“This building was needed,” said Bill Hall, president of the Hall Family Foundation, which gave a lead gift of \$25 million to launch the project. “It is functional, transforms the teaching of health education, and, at the same time, is elegant.”

The program also celebrated a renewed partnership among the University, its

neighbors, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. As he introduced Mark Holland, mayor and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, Chancellor Doug Girod confessed, “39th and Rainbow is a mess,” due to its three concurrent construction projects: the Health Education Building, a much-needed parking garage, and the \$320 million Cambridge North Tower, nearing completion directly east of the HEB.

“Thank you for tolerating us through this process,” Girod said to Holland, to

which the mayor replied, “If you’re going to invest almost a billion dollars of economic development in our city, we’re going to make it work. It’s just a little rule of thumb.”

Such warm feelings were not always the case in the vicinity of 39th and Rainbow, Holland conceded, but rapid expansion, economic growth and, 20 years ago, unification of city and county governments spurred sorely needed improvements in relationships.

“We didn’t do a great job, historically, of working well together,” Holland said. “Now we’ve kind of grown up together.”



Dignitaries at the HEB's July 20 dedication included (l-r) Mayor Mark Holland; deans Sally Maliski, Robert Simari and Abiodun Akinwuntan; Regents chair Dave Murfin; Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, m'86; Regent Daniel Thomas; Regents president and CEO Blake Flanders; and Chancellor Doug Girod.



Now we have an opportunity that we've never had before and we have partners we've never had before."

Yet even with well-considered speeches from seven speakers, awe and appreciation for the light-infused building and the delightful glass skywalk spanning 39th Street to link the HEB with Orr Major and Wahl West, the day's most unexpected and welcome surprise was still yet to come: As University leaders, state and local officials, faculty, staff, philanthropists and friends of KU milled about the lobby, the crowd slowly began to grow as medical, nursing and health professions students filtered into their new academic home, even though classes would not begin for nearly a week.

A *building dedication* luring students back to campus on the cusp of their final free weekend before the arduous grind begins anew?

"I didn't expect them," said Robert Simari, m'86, interim executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center and

executive dean of the School of Medicine, "but it's wonderful that they're here."

Second-year medical students Joe Fritzen, c'14, and Levi Craghead, c'15, were the first of many to greet Simari and other faculty members, sharing their enthusiasm for the new learning environment that will be the focal point of the training that will guide their careers.

"I'm excited about my education here next year," Craghead told Simari, "but I'm also really excited about the potential this can have in attracting new talent and keeping quality talent here at KU."

Smiling, Simari replied, "I believe that's true. I think it will help in recruiting, there's no doubt about it. You guys go get a look around. Enjoy."

There was little to enjoy around the School of Medicine in 2005, after accreditors from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education issued a critical report that, in the words of Chancellor

Girod, "recognized something that we already knew": the school lacked adequate space and technology. About the same time, a study commissioned by the State of Kansas revealed health care workforce shortages across the state.

With more health care providers desperately needed but physical limitations hampering growth at the medical center, the University in 2011 upgraded its two-year clinical program at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita to the complete four-year medical school experience and launched a four-year

program in Salina, both designed to graduate new physicians planning to remain in Kansas. (Also supplementing future health care delivery to rural Kansas, the School of Nursing this fall opened a 12-student Salina campus, with a goal of 20-student classes by 2020.)

Within two years of expansions in Wichita and Salina, first-year medical classes grew from 175 to 211; total KU School of Medicine enrollment blossomed from 700 before 2011 to 844 in 2016.

“Two very big things to try and address those issues,” Girod said of the expansions, “but tackling the aging educational infrastructure here in Kansas City was a little bit more of a challenge.”

The critical 2005 report from accreditors spurred medical center and University leaders to launch a needs assessment, followed by meetings with business leaders, elected officials and others, Girod said, “to try and figure out how we can accomplish that.”

Shortly after taking office in 2011, Gov. Sam Brownback, R-82, convened a meeting at KU Medical Center, and, as Girod recalled, “really threw a challenge out there. Not surprisingly, the ever-visionary Hall Family Foundation stepped up and said, ‘You know what? That makes sense to us. We’re going to put up \$25 million if the state will match that.’

“That took a few years. Took some blood, sweat and tears, of the Regents, our legislators, the lieutenant governor, the governor, but a few years later we did get \$26 million from the state and we were off and running.”

Along with the \$26 million from the state and \$25 million from the Hall Family Foundation, KU Medical Center contributed \$21 million, and private support for the public-private partnership totaled nearly \$42 million, including funds for advanced technology and future needs.

“We approached this project with a vision to create an environment for a new way to provide health care education, one that’s very interprofessional, based on active-learning processes and experiential in nature,” Girod said. “I believe that this is the only building in the United States that has the educational facilities for a school





Medical students (l-r) Lauren Biggs, c'17, and Elizabeth Wolfe test drive the stress-relieving “spun chairs,” popular features on the glass skywalk that connects HEB with medical center buildings south of 39th Street. Also popular are attractive study carrels—here used by medical student Sonny Tallavajhala, c'15—dispersed throughout the new building.

of medicine, school of nursing, and school of health professions under one roof.”

Dave Murfin, e'75, b'75, current chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, recalled at the building's dedication that when KU officials first presented their ideas for a new, interprofessional education building, Regents were concerned that “it might be a tough sell.” But, behind the leadership of then-chair Fred Logan, '74, the board put its back into pushing the project through the statehouse.

“The State of Kansas was in the midst of a budget crisis, and [Regents] were well aware that getting the much-needed state support for this building would be challenging,” Murfin said. “But they realized how crucial the construction of this building was to our state and its people. Eighty-nine percent of Kansas counties have been designated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as primary-care health care provider shortage areas, and 30 percent of the practicing physicians are expected to retire in the next 10 years.

“They knew that to meet the state's growing need for health care providers, we

need to train more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, and this campus was already at 100-percent capacity when it came to accepting and educating students.”

Not only were learning spaces at KU Medical Center undersized, Murfin noted, they were aging rapidly, far behind the times in educational and health care technology, and ill-suited to house modern methods of health care education that encourage small-group collaborative learning rather than rote lectures.

“Even though the state's economy was slow and budgets for higher education were being cut, the Board of Regents made construction of this facility a top priority,” Murfin said. “Fortunately, the legislators recognized the importance of this facility in building health care communities across Kansas.”

The shift in health education allowed by construction of the new jewel at 39th and Rainbow is generational, Girod has been quick to note; when School of Nursing dean Sally Maliski was asked whether modern learning opportunities created by the Health Education Building might



improve health care for Kansans for the next 50 years, she replied, “Beyond.”

“It's a 180 change,” Maliski explained. “In the past, we existed in silos, physically as well as professionally. This breaks down those silos so that we learn together in order to practice together.”

Said School of Health Professions dean Abiodun Akinwuntan, “I say specifically to the people of this state, this building represents a promise and a hope for the best health care that we can aspire to have, for a long time to come.”

David Zamierowski graduated from Johns Hopkins University's medical school in 1968, and twice won Bronze Stars as a battalion surgeon during two years of service in Vietnam as a U.S. Army captain. Following his surgical residency at Vanderbilt University, Zamierowski completed his medical training as a plastic surgery resident at KU. He and his wife, Mary, who earned a doctorate at Vanderbilt and continued her studies as post-doctoral researcher at KU, chose to remain in Kansas City, where Zamierowski built his career in plastic surgery.

With a particular interest in treating burns and wounds, Zamierowski in the late 1980s founded Wound Care Centers of Kansas City, and there developed and patented wound dressings, proceeds from which allowed Zamierowski to retire in 2003 and focus on his true professional passion: simulation as a centerpiece of medical education.

Veteran nurses who worked alongside Zamierowski for years say he always encouraged teamwork and respect among health care professionals, but the issue was brought home for Zamierowski by a 1999 report by the National Academy of Medicine, detailing the actual number of medical errors committed by U.S. health care providers.

"You may remember the headlines: Deaths from medical errors are equivalent to crashing two 747s a day," Zamierowski told his rapt audience in the Health Education Building. "That got a lot of attention, and got us, all of us, working on this problem. But, for the next 10 years, nothing we did seemed to make a differ-

ence in the error-rate numbers that were tracked."

In recent years, though, a new philosophy has taken hold: a team approach that states, in Zamierowski's words, "I'm human. I will inevitably make mistakes and errors. The only way I can deliver error-free care is if I'm part of a team in which others watch out for, and pick up, my errors, and help correct them before they harm the patient, and in which I watch out for their errors in the same way."

Other significant problems remain, including incorrect diagnoses, health care provider stress, burnout, addiction, depression, compassion fatigue and even suicide. The American Medical Association recently found that 400 U.S. physicians take their own lives each year.

"That's the equivalent to the output of three medical schools in this country," Zamierowski said, shaking his head in despair. "Every year."

Other studies, Zamierowski noted, show that well-intentioned efforts at managing stress by sending health care providers through mandatory debriefings after significant stress events, such as the loss of a patient during a code blue, can generate even more post-traumatic stress.

"This sounds akin to where we were with mistakes and errors 20 years ago," Zamierowski said. "It does no good to say, 'Just sit down and talk and everything will be OK.' When you simply mandate, without training, the talking degenerates into finger pointing, blaming and accusations, instead of real team building. Culture change is what we need, and that is very difficult to do."

To help spur the culture change, Zamierowski devoted what he calls his "second career" to creating new philosophies and systems for medical education. After first launching a simulation center at Johnson County Community College's school of nursing and developing new courses and national seminars, Zamierowski found another partner in the KU School of Nursing, where like-minded researchers for years had been reimagining the educational process. That led to a formal collaboration with KU Medical Center and the University of Kansas Health Systems, and the Zamierowski Institute for Experiential Learning—ZIEL—was born.

Until the Health Education Building opened, ZIEL's location in Sudler Hall



Plastic surgeon David Zamierowski (right) is pioneering new educational systems based on the concept that teamwork learned in school will result in fewer mistakes throughout providers' careers. "If it is human to inevitably make a mistake or error," Zamierowski says, "then, in health care delivered by humans, it doesn't change things to simply keep telling people over and over to just stop making mistakes."





provided 234 square feet of simulation space; across the top three floors of the five-story HEB, KU educators now train their students in nearly 30,000 square feet of simulated exam suites, hospital floors and even operating rooms. (HEB includes only five staff offices, Dean Simari notes, one of which is reserved for the coordinator who hires local citizens to serve as “patients” in the ZIEL simulations.)

“Gone are the days of sitting bored in the back of a classroom while a professor drones on, slide after slide,” Simari said. “This facility will be a home for active and engaged students interacting with each other and with involved faculty. Students from all disciplines will interact as learners and colleagues.”

Although simulation rooms are loaded with the latest medical technology and video and audio recording equipment, Zamierowski—whom Chancellor Girod described as an “activist donor” whose “expertise in international simulation” was brought to fruition in HEB—asked visitors to look past the bells and whistles and also “pay attention to the rooms with the least in them. Look at the atmosphere created by just a table and chairs. These are the debriefing rooms. This is where culture change must happen.”

When medical, nursing and health

professions students meet with fellow students and faculty facilitators after simulated patient treatments, Zamierowski said, “every gap we can identify that is short of optimal performance by that group is eagerly sought by everyone in that group. Solutions are proposed. Mental frames and mindsets are identified, reflected on, and, hopefully over time, changed and improved. And this includes the mindset of true team building and sharing, rather than the past culture of shame and blame.”

Along with National Cancer Institute designation for the KU Cancer Center, construction of the Health Education Building had for years been one of the primary goals for KU Medical Center, and it was a focus of the four-plus years Girod served as executive vice chancellor. Girod, Simari and others felt certain they had considered every aspect of the building’s layout and design, until they one day realized: “What do you put on the walls in a new building?”

An art committee was promptly formed, featuring Gaunt, professor emeritus of architecture & design; Saralyn Reece Hardy, c’76, g’94, Marilyn Stokstad Director of the Spencer Museum of Art;

Amid its dazzling flourishes, a subtle feature not to be overlooked is HEB’s visually pleasing relationship with its neighbor, the less flashy Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences and Innovation Center (above). That was achieved, says adviser John Gaunt, in part with sloping and rooftop plant beds that feel connected with the small pool at Hemenway’s main entrance. “That was a big concern,” Gaunt says. “It could outshine Hemenway—which is not a dramatic building—but it doesn’t.”

and Leesa Fanning, PhD’98, curator of contemporary art at Kansas City’s Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Commissioned from regional artists, the artwork in HEB is inspired by items in the medical center’s Clendening Library collections, including centuries-old anatomy and surgical textbooks and handwritten letters from Florence Nightingale.

“We intended the work to prompt deeper exploration,” Hardy says. “We never intended it to be decorative. We wanted it to be about the work that was going on in the building and also the heritage of health education.”

While intended to inspire future



generations of students and faculty in moments of “reflection and discovery,” the building’s original artwork also serves as a tangible expression, in Hardy’s estimation, of “the level of care and commitment from KU for creating a facility that is so thoughtful and so extraordinary. In some ways, the art is symbolic of that care.”

The care that went into the structure itself is immediately evident, and Gaunt, who was involved from the beginning, says it’s thanks in large part to talented and thoughtful designers at Kansas City’s Helix Architecture + Design and CO Architects of Los Angeles, as well as general contractor McCownGordon, which Gaunt says advanced the project on time and under budget while being “very accommodating and very good. I was impressed.”

With a glass exterior surrounding the inner structure, the Health Education Building is suffused with daylight and glows invitingly at night: “We have worked in some dour facilities over the years,” Simari says. “The thing that appeals to me is the light.”

“It makes a beautiful building,” Gaunt says, “and that’s a very key thing. And then the circulation moves around within that space, and it *feels* so good. It feels good to walk around in it, which isn’t always what you get with a medical facility.”

As Gaunt stated at the outset, 39th and Rainbow, the keystone corner of the entire medical center and hospital complex, had been badly served by previous design decisions. It was time for that to change.

“John’s first statement was, ‘This is an important corner. This building has to hold the corner,’” Girod recalled of Gaunt’s earliest advice. “It does.”

The prospect of enlivening 39th and Rainbow and opening the medical center to its neighbors was a factor in attracting the Hall Family Foundation’s support.

“I know that they were concerned, in an urbanistic sort of way,” Gaunt says. “It provided the opportunity to do what the medical center needed and, at the same time, create an urban asset. A double gift.”

The building’s openness to its neighbors is evident at the southwest ground-floor corner, where a wraparound apron with picnic tables fronts the glass exterior of Tropicana, a charming cafe and juice and ice cream emporium. Open from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, the restaurant—a popular chain with three other outlets in Kansas City and one in Wichita—caters not only to students, faculty and staff, but also to folks from the neighborhood. Come on in. Savor a treat. Relax. Meet. Greet.

That sort of welcoming spirit has been

sorely lacking in the complex’s imposing brick structures, none of which encourage neighborhood interaction.

“It’s like a little village to me,” says co-owner Ruben Zaragoza. “We’re a family-owned business built here in Kansas City, so just because of our particular existence in Kansas City, we’re going to bring people in who don’t know much about KU. They’ve never been to KU before, so I think we’re going to be a draw to the medical center and this campus.”

Says Gaunt, “So many buildings, especially medical buildings, it seems to me, will come down to the sidewalk and people walk by and that’s it. This opens up at the street level. You’re invited in. Just looking at it from the outside as a passerby, and especially as an architect, it just makes that corner.

“It’s very exciting.”

A grand opening for a grand building: Nothing perfunctory about it.

More online

Videographer Dan Storey’s coverage of the Health Education Building’s grand opening can be seen at kualumni.org/magazine.



STEVE DUPPE

Erin Penner is determined to get back on two wheels again. The Prairie Village senior, who's majoring in global and international studies at KU, has had two bicycles stolen in the past six months—the most recent one, which she affectionately named Dakota, was taken just outside her apartment complex in Lawrence.

"They cut the chain," she says. "I was really upset about that."

In April, one of Penner's co-workers told her about Lawrence Unchained, a non-profit, volunteer-run bike shop that provides bicycles to community members in exchange for their time. For two hours every Monday night, volunteers meet at Art Emergency in East Lawrence, an unassuming art gallery and creative space in the trendy Warehouse Arts District, to return secondhand—and often damaged or broken—bikes to good health. It's here, surrounded by local artists' studios and supplies, that Penner hopes to secure her next set of wheels.

Cycling enthusiasts Michele Berendsen, Lisa Hallberg and Jessica Mortinger, who had grown close after years of biking recreationally together, conceived the idea for Lawrence Unchained in spring 2014, after visiting the Topeka Community Cycle Project, a neighboring organization that also promotes hands-on education as a means to earn a bike.

"We went up there and we were amazed," says Berendsen, j'01, who manages communications at Community Healthcare System in Onaga. "One day Jessica, Lisa and I were talking, and we realized we had all the skills that are necessary to start something like this."



READY TO RIDE

**Through education
and outreach,
Lawrence Unchained
revives secondhand
bikes and primes
cyclists for the road**

by Heather Biele

The women reached out to the Lawrence Central Rotary Club, a group that coordinates community bike rides, to help establish Lawrence Unchained as a not-for-profit cooperative. Word quickly spread of the new endeavor and before long bicycle donations were rolling in. However, unlike their counterparts in Topeka, who at the time were renting a spacious, 5,000-square-foot building in the downtown area, they had no place to put them.

"For us, the challenge was space, for sure," says Hallberg, '99, a database engineer at KU's Life Span Institute. "The challenge was not getting bicycles."

Short on storage for their growing inventory, the women contacted fellow cyclist Bill Anderson, a local businessman who owns Anderson Rentals, an equipment rental agency with a large store on Sixth Street. With regular business hours and ample space, the location seemed the perfect spot to collect donations. "Within a couple months we had 50 to 75 bicycles—all different shapes and sizes," says Hallberg. "Some were just dusty and old; some just needed air in the tires. Some of them had been run over by a car and needed to go back in the scrap heap."

But as more donations poured in, Anderson's facility became overwhelmed, and the women had to find a new home for the bicycles. "They ended up on a volunteer's back deck under a tarp and in my basement," Hallberg recalls with a laugh. "I moved all the furniture off to the side and made room for about 50 bicycles."

Hallberg invited friends and volunteers to her house, where she had a bike stand and some basic tools. There, to the best of their abilities, they repaired bicycles on her driveway.

"I didn't have any professional experience," Hallberg, a longtime bike commuter, admits. "I knew how to fix my own bike, because I hated paying somebody else to do something I ought to be able to figure out. When you're biking to work and you have a flat tire, you have to figure it out. I'd been trial-by-fire for some of those basic things."

Equipped with a handful of revitalized,



road-ready bikes, the three friends focused on community outreach, a critical component in the creation of Lawrence Unchained.

“A bike can provide opportunities for mobility,” says Mortinger, c’08, g’10, a senior planner for the City of Lawrence. “Pair it with transit and you get even further. It can make a lot of difference for people trying to access resources.”

In fall 2014, the women conducted a bicycle education and road safety workshop at the Lawrence Community Shelter, where they taught a small group of residents a few simple skills, including how to properly wear a helmet and how to change a tire, and led them on a short bike ride. In exchange for attending the class, the residents earned bikes.

Fueled by the success of their first community event, Berendsen, Hallberg and Mortinger stepped up their efforts, moving the operation to an old middle-school building in Eudora, recruiting a few more board members and holding regular shop hours every Monday. Within that

first year, Hallberg attended a weeklong bicycle maintenance class in Portland, Oregon, and Berendsen and Mortinger became certified League of American Bicyclists instructors, thanks to funding provided by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Every Monday evening, cyclists gather at Art Emergency in the Warehouse Arts District to learn new skills and repair secondhand bikes. Volunteers Erin Penner (below right) and Shelby Kim prepare to work on a bicycle Penner hopes to ride in a few weeks.



It was around this time that a clearer objective for Lawrence Unchained took shape: Individuals could earn bicycles by volunteering at least 10 hours in a calendar year or by participating in a safety and maintenance class. This process, Hallberg says, ultimately creates more informed bicycle owners through hands-on study—and ideally improves the chances of road-worn bicycles being repaired, rather than discarded.

“People are throwing away bicycles that are minutes away from being rideable,” she says. “Bicycles are actually pretty easy. Not always, but the basic things that fall apart are quite simple to fix, don’t require very complicated tools and the parts to fix them are very inexpensive. Most people just don’t have a clue how to fix them.”

On a sweltering Monday evening in August, half a dozen volunteers spill into Art Emergency, Lawrence Unchained’s home for the past year. Board members and shop managers Luke Beck and Justin Eddings clear a portion of the spacious warehouse to make room for bike stands and repair stations, as volunteers grab bikes and get to work.

At one station, middle-schooler Katie Eckert listens intently as Beck, ’04, guides her through the ABCs—Air, Brakes, Chain, Crank and Cassette—of a bike evaluation while Katie’s father, Mark, looks on. The young girl has her own bicycle at home, but she’s here to pick up skills to properly maintain it. As Beck gives the front wheel a gentle spin, he advises Katie to look for cracks, wear or bald spots in the tires. “Spin it around and check if you see anything,” he tells her. “We’ll air them up and see if the tubes work later.”

Nearby, Eddings, f’04, helps Penner release a broken cassette and replace it with a new one. It’s Penner’s third week working on this bike, a replacement for her two stolen ones. “This was my dad’s bike in college,” she says. “I wanted to figure out what was wrong and fix it.” With Eddings’ help, she identified that the cassette, a set of sprockets on the bike’s rear wheel, had several broken teeth.

“It’s just so freaking cool,” Penner says.



STEVE PUPPE (3)

Shop managers Luke Beck and Justin Eddings show volunteers how to properly evaluate and maintain bicycles. Second-year volunteer Kevin Liu (above) fine-tunes his repair skills at the weekly sessions.

“I came in not knowing anything about bikes at all. The first day I just carted bikes that were completely done for out to the dumpster and then worked on stripping down bikes. That’s how I got to learn little things and started fixing things.”

For other volunteers, like Kevin Liu, who’s been repairing bicycles for years and even brings his own tools to Art Emergency, these weekly shop sessions provide an opportunity to fine-tune his skills and interact with fellow cyclists. “I’ve been doing maintenance on bikes since about 2000,” he says. “Before it’s been mostly my own personal bike or my wife’s bike. When [Lawrence Unchained] opened up and they started getting more bikes coming in, it was a good opportunity.”

Last year, after contributing nearly 15 hours of volunteer work, he earned a bike. “My daughter had outgrown hers,” says Liu, d’96, g’05, a research specialist at the KU Center for Assessment and Accountability Research and Design, “so I got one

that needed work, took it home, worked on it over the winter and rebuilt it for her.”

Benefits abound for the shop managers, too. Eddings, who has been working with Lawrence Unchained since its inception, says the experience allows him to satisfy two of his favorite pastimes: fixing things and teaching people about bicycles. “It’s

really rewarding to get people some transportation, get them happy and moving,” he says. “Bicycles are a great way to do that.”

In addition to lending his services at the shop, Beck, a certified League of American Bicyclists instructor, also provides bicycle maintenance and safety training to local low-income families, thanks to a partnership between Lawrence Unchained and the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority.

“Lawrence is such a bike-friendly community,” says Heather Odell, director of resident services for the housing authority. “We really want to make sure our tenants feel like they can participate in the different community bike rides, participate on the bike trails, and have the skills and confidence to do it.”

Inspired by Lawrence Unchained and its model of distributing bicycles to volunteers, the housing authority developed a similar program for youths called Full Circle Wrecking Crew, with funds provided by the Douglas County Community Foundation. Children, typically aged 7 and older, not only earn bicycles after participating in a class, but they also become “wrenches” who can teach their peers the same valuable skills they learned. “I think it’s empowering for them,” says Odell, c’11, g’17. “It became a mentoring opportunity for some of the older kids to some of the younger kids.”

In 2016, 38 bikes were distributed to youths in the program, which was honored with the Award of Excellence from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. This year, the housing authority created a similar program for adults called SPOKES, which stands for Service, Physical Activity, Outside, Kinship, Employment and Safety. With the help of instructors from Lawrence Unchained, the organization has hosted three events and has distributed 25 bikes to low-income adults.

“It was all possible through this partnership with Lawrence Unchained,” Odell says.

Beck has taught several of those classes, and he’s thrilled when he sees participants putting their newfound



COURTESY HEATHER ODELL

In 2015, the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority partnered with Lawrence Unchained to create a program that allows children to earn bikes after participating in a cycling safety class. “They have really helped us out,” says Heather Odell, director of resident services for the housing authority.

skills to use. “I’ve actually seen them riding around town quite a bit, going to the grocery store, going to the pool,” he says. “These were people who were really timid getting on a bike when we first started. It’s cool to see them ride around with their kids.”

It’s been three years since Lawrence Unchained distributed its first four refurbished bicycles to residents at the Lawrence Community Shelter. Since then, nearly 125 bikes have been earned by a growing corps of volunteers and community members.

Although Berendsen and Mortinger are no longer as involved because of career changes and family responsibilities, they continue to support Hallberg’s efforts to expand Lawrence Unchained as a resource in the community.

“I still feel very passionate about it,” says Mortinger. “I like to hear what they’re doing. Just providing people with an opportunity to learn as a way to earn something provides a lot of incentive to care for it.”

Hallberg and Berendsen agree that at this point, the only thing stopping

Lawrence Unchained is manpower.

“Everybody works full time and has other jobs,” Berendsen says. “You can only do so much, even if you want to do more.”

Hallberg, who typically dedicates approximately 10 hours a week to Lawrence Unchained, says she’d like to recruit more shop managers like Beck and Eddings, individuals who can volunteer their time and talent at Art Emergency, and provide additional hours for bicycle repairs during the week.

“There’s a lot of people who just need to work on their own bikes and don’t have tools. We have all these tools,” Hallberg says. “It would be really nice to have a work day or timeslot that wasn’t about volunteering to fix the bikes we have, but rather bring your bike and get some help fixing things. We’ll show you. It might not be volunteer hours toward earning a bike, but if you want to get your bike fixed and donate a couple bucks to us for the parts or whatever, that would be a really nice service to provide. That would be my vision.”

If the last three years are any indication, Lawrence Unchained is on track to share its vision—and the road—for years to come.

Campus cycling

In summer 2012, the University created a Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) to advance some of the bicycle-related strategies set forth in the Campus Sustainability Plan, *Building Sustainable Traditions*, which was commissioned by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little in 2011. The committee includes faculty, staff and students, as well as a few individuals from the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, including Jessica Mortinger, who brings a broader, community-focused perspective to the group.

In addition to promoting bicycle use, safety and etiquette on campus, the BAC is charged with making recommendations to improve bicycle infrastructure and make campus a more bike-friendly environment.

"One of the things we're trying to do with that group is just encouraging people that you can get around our community by bike and get to campus by bike," says Jeff Severin, c'01, g'11, director of KU's Center for Sustainability and chair of the BAC.

Last year, the committee, with assistance from graduate students in the department of urban planning's transportation implementation class, developed the KU Bike Plan, a 93-page, comprehensive report that includes short- and long-term recommendations to improve bicycling conditions on campus. Priorities for KU include:

Short term

- Identify funding for and hire a campus bicycle coordinator
- Establish a review process for all construction projects to incorporate BAC feedback on bike infrastructure
- Adopt short-term and long-term bicycle parking guidelines proposed by BAC into design and construction management standards
- Identify locations for bicycle signage
- Consolidate bike-related resources to a single website
- Pursue Bicycle Friendly University designation

Long term

- Add bicycle infrastructure during construction or reconstruction of streets, buildings and parking lots on campus
- Develop a connection to the existing shared-use path north of Clinton Parkway and Atchison Avenue
- Add climbing lanes and signage to routes identified in the Campus Master Plan and Countywide Bikeway System Plan
- Develop standards for end-of-trip facilities in campus buildings

Work to accomplish these goals is underway. In 2016, KU was recognized as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists, joining more than 150



DAN STOREY

colleges and universities with this designation nationwide. The University also plans to launch the website, bike.ku.edu, this fall, which will feature ridability maps, bike safety and maintenance guides, information on recreational rides and other resources for cyclists.

Another recommendation nearing completion is the implementation of a bike-share program on campus, which would allow students, faculty and staff to access a network of bikes that can be checked out and used for a small fee. Last year, the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization conducted a study to gauge interest and determine the feasibility of this kind of program. Nearly 700 KU students responded to the short-form survey, with 81 percent supporting the bike-share venture. Seventy percent of students were in favor of using student fees to fund the program if the fees guaranteed a specified amount of daily ride time.

Donna Connolly Hultine, c'80, director of parking and transit at KU, has been researching options for the program, which she says could be on campus as early as October. "Cars don't have to be the only way to get here," she says. "If I can offer buses and bikes as reasonable alternatives, that helps everybody."

Severin says bike sharing would provide a way for students to test the waters as cyclists on campus. "Part of the challenge is that students come to campus and maybe they're not ready to buy a bike or they can't afford a nice bike or they're concerned about bike theft, but they're interested in riding from point A to point B on campus," he says. "This would really provide a great option for those students."

Ian Pepin, a Lawrence junior majoring in secondary special-education and president of the KU Cycling Club, says some students don't want to bring a bike to campus because of the lack of covered parking options. A bike-share program would alleviate that concern, he says. "I think it would be awesome." —H.B.

Association



A new era

Kansas Honors Program evolves to better serve students, families

For the past 46 years, the Kansas Honors Program, a longstanding Alumni Association and University tradition that honors the top 10 percent of graduating high school seniors statewide, has remained largely unchanged. But in February, prompted by recent funding cuts to higher education and decreased student participation at KHP events, the Association's national Board of Directors convened a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the program and determine whether changes were needed.

The task force surveyed past Kansas Honor Scholars, alumni volunteers, high school administrators, keynote speakers and other stakeholders. Thirty-six percent of those surveyed responded, and the most frequent recommendations for improving the existing program included creating additional scholarship opportunities for Kansas Honor Scholars and replacing the

dictionaries traditionally given to scholars with medallions or honor cords for scholars to wear at their local graduation or recognition ceremonies.

"We knew and understood that with the internet and the media the way it is today, the dictionaries were probably not appropriate," says Al Shank, b'77, task force chairman and a 33-year KHP volunteer in Liberal. "This was just a really good time to look at the program and say, 'How do we keep it viable moving forward?'"

The task force considered the entire range of options for the program, from continuing its current format to eliminating it entirely. "Our national Board of Directors, staff and campus partners spent a great deal of

Based on survey feedback, the task force outlined a plan that will ultimately provide greater flexibility for students and their families, reduce program expenses, and allow the University and the Alumni Association to create more scholarship opportunities.

time and effort evaluating the program," says Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, president of the Alumni Association. "Our primary two goals were to preserve the recognition of academic excellence in multiple ways and evolve the program to better position its long-term sustainability."

Based on survey feedback, the task force outlined a plan that will ultimately provide greater flexibility for students and their families, reduce program expenses, and allow the University and the Alumni Association to create more scholarship opportunities. The changes, which will be implemented this fall, include:

- Kansas Honor Scholar ceremonies will be reduced from 36 to 12. Invitations to all scholars will encourage them to attend the regional ceremony that is most convenient in terms of date and location. Ceremonies will occur in Colby, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Manhattan, Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka and Wichita.

- Ceremonies will include speakers and a video presentation, recognition of the scholars, and a reception for scholars, families, school administrators and alumni.

- Students who attend one of the 12 ceremonies will receive distinctive Kansas Honor Scholar medallions to wear at their local graduations and/or recognition events.

- The Association will mail certificates to all high schools for distribution to all 3,500 Kansas Honor Scholars. School administrators can determine the best



venue to recognize their scholars at school events during the academic year. The Association encourages alumni volunteers to represent the Association and KU at these school events.

- The Association will promote the 12 regional ceremonies to local and regional media by issuing press releases, which will include the names of all area Kansas Honor Scholars. The Association also will work with local alumni volunteers to promote the ceremonies in their areas through personal follow-up with local media, schools, students and families.

- KU Admissions and the Association will invite all Kansas Honor Scholars to visit KU on Crimson & Blue Day on Friday, Oct. 13, in Lawrence. The Lawrence Kansas Honor Scholar ceremony will occur that afternoon. Scholars are welcome to attend the Visit Day and Lawrence ceremony in addition to another ceremony in their area if they choose.

Michelle Lang, b'01, the Association's director of alumni programs, has managed KHP for nearly a decade and welcomes the

changes, particularly the creation of scholarship opportunities for students. "College is expensive," she says, "and it's great that we will be able to help mitigate those costs for some of our honorees.

"We are moving forward with a format that honors the best of the traditions from the old program and creates new opportunities for the Alumni Association to better recognize and support student success."

Leaders honored

Biennial Black Alumni Network reunion recognizes Jayhawks

Nine alumni will receive the KU Black Alumni Network Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award for their contributions to the University, their profession and their communities. The award is named for the late Mike Shinn, e'66, who helped found the KU Black Alumni Network and the Leaders and Innovators Project, and his wife, Joyce.

The nine recipients will be honored Oct. 6 during the Black Alumni Network's biennial reunion. They are:

- Nolen Ellison, d'63
- William Fleming III, c'67
- Zelema Harris, g'72, EdD'76
- Dwayne James, e'94
- Curtis McClinton, d'62
- Reggie Robinson, c'80, I'87
- Walt Wesley, c'79
- Andrew Williams, e'88, PhD'00
- Valdenia Winn, d'72, PhD'94



Ellison

Ellison, of Kansas City, has had a long and distinguished career in education. After graduating from KU, where he was an All-American point guard on the men's basketball team, he taught in the Kansas City, Kansas, school district before earning his doctoral degree in leadership and management from Michigan State University in 1971. The following year, at

the age of 31, he became president of Seattle Community College in Washington. He also served as president of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, where a building is named in his honor. Most recently, he was an endowed professor of urban leadership, management and economic community development for the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

He was a member of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1981 to '86 and has served on several other University committees. In 1983, he received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Association and KU for his service to humanity.



Fleming

Fleming, of Houston, has served as a leader in the medical community for more than four decades. A physician and neurologist, he became the first and only African-American president of the Texas Medical Association, the Harris County Medical Society and the Texas Neurological Society. He also holds the distinction of being the first African-American president of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States. He is a Texas delegate for the American Medical Association.

In addition to practicing at Memorial Neurological Association for the past 36 years, he also travels more than 100 miles twice a month to provide much-needed medical care to patients in rural, underserved areas of the state.



Harris

Harris, of Tucson, Arizona, is a veteran educator with more than 30 years of leadership in community colleges nationwide. She began her career in higher education in 1980, serving a seven-year term as president of Pioneer Community College in Kansas City. She later became president of Penn Valley Community



Camenzind

New staff member

Ryan Camenzind, j'17, joined the Association in July as digital media coordinator. A proud Wichita native, Ryan enjoys spending time with his family (two Cornhusker parents and three Jayhawk brothers), cheering on the Jayhawks and exploring the outdoors.

Association

College in Kansas City and Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, where she was recognized as president emerita in 2006. She served as chancellor of St. Louis Community College, and in 2013 she became acting provost and interim chancellor of Pima Community College District in Tucson. At each learning institution, she advanced campus growth, program development and educational opportunities for underrepresented students.

Her educational impact is also evident at KU, where she designed, implemented and directed a supportive educational services program that inspired the development of the University's TRIO SES program, a federally funded initiative that provides support to first-generation, low-income and disabled students. She was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

James, of Ferguson, Missouri, developed a passion for local politics early in his career as an engineer. In 2007, he was elected to Ferguson's city council, and for the next nine years, which included the tumultuous time following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014, he was the only African-American city council member for Ward 2. He also served as mayor pro tem from 2010 to '14. He spearheaded the Ferguson Youth Initiative, a program that encourages the city's teenagers to become more engaged in their community, and he currently serves on its board of directors. He also is a board member of Live Well, a local initiative that promotes healthy living in Ferguson.

He is the St. Louis County program director for the Missouri University Extension and an adjunct professor of mathematics at St. Louis Community College.

McClinton, of Kansas City, has pursued careers in athletics, public service and entrepreneurship. He distinguished himself as an All-American football player at KU, winning honors in the Big Eight, and he played professionally in the NFL as a running back for the Kansas City Chiefs.



James



Robinson

He later earned a master's degree from Michigan State University and an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama. He served as deputy mayor for economic development in Washington, D.C., before founding Swope Parkway National Bank in Kansas City. He launched McClinton Development Company, a construction firm that built affordable housing in several municipalities in Kansas, and he is currently chairman and CEO of Central Contracting Company. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His papers are housed in the Spencer Research Library at KU. He served two terms on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors, from 1969 to '72 and 2006 to '11.

Robinson, of Lawrence, laid the groundwork for an eminent career in leadership as a student at KU, where he served as student body vice president and president of the Memorial Unions board of directors. In law school, he was editor-in-chief of the Kansas Law Review, and he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class.

He was an associate professor of law at KU, where he was twice awarded the Frederick Moreau Award for Student Counseling and Advising. He also served as chief of staff to Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway. From 1993 to '98 he worked at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where he was deputy associate attorney general and acting director of the Office for Victims of Crime. In 1999, he was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Robinson also served as president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Board of Regents, overseeing the state's six universities and

its public postsecondary institutions. In 2014, he became director of the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration. He was named interim vice chancellor for public affairs in August.

Wesley, of Fort Myers, Florida, set the stage for his career in the NBA at KU, where he played basketball from 1962 to '66 under coaches Dick Harp and Ted Owens, who recruited him from Dunbar High School in Fort Myers during a time when many talented African-American athletes were not recruited to play at major universities. He led the Jayhawks in scoring and rebounding as a junior in 1965 and was named to All-Big 8 and All-America teams. He is currently ranked 29th on the University's all-time scoring list with 1,315 points.

He was selected in the first round of the 1966 NBA draft by the Cincinnati Royals, and for the next 10 years he played professionally for several NBA teams. He retired from the Los Angeles Lakers in 1976 and began a 25-year career as a Division I basketball coach at KU, Western Michigan University and the United States Military Academy at West Point. He also served as executive director of the Police Athletic League. He was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame and the National Negro High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and in 2010 he received the Jessie Owens Award of Excellence from Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. His jersey has been retired by KU and Dunbar High School.

Williams, of Lawrence, is recognized as a leader in the field of robotics. He has received awards from the National Academy of Engineering, Google, Microsoft Research and GEM, and he has been named among the Top 50 African-Americans in technology. He has a distinguished



Wesley



Williams

record of funding and has received grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and NASA, as well as several corporations, including Apple, Google, General Electric, Boeing and General Motors.

He is a former professor of electrical and computer engineering at Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he also directed the Humanoid Engineering & Intelligent Robotics Lab, and he is known for his work on programs for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion at universities nationwide, including the formation of the Spelbots, a competitive, all-female robotics team at Spelman College in Atlanta. In July, he became associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at the KU School of Engineering.

Winn, of Kansas City, has devoted her career to education and public service. She has served more than four decades as a



Winn

professor of U.S. history and political science at Kansas City Kansas Community College. She has worked internationally with the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program and has

traveled to Senegal in West Africa, where she developed curriculum units, created guides and a website, and coordinated workshops on African studies. She also has served as project director of the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Planning Grant, which focuses on multicultural education, student retention and student advising.

She has served in the Kansas House of Representatives since 2001 and is a ranking member of the Kansas House Education and Education Budget Committee. She also serves on several other legislative committees and commissions, and she is a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education. In 2015, she was elected to the USD 500 Board of Education in Kansas City, Kansas.

Photographs courtesy of recipients.



KU Alumni Association

In order to better serve KU students, the Alumni Association has rebranded its student program from the Student Alumni Association to the Student Alumni Network. New staff members Ally Stanton, j'10, g'12, and Keon Stowers, c'15, joined the Alumni Association in August to lead the program as director and assistant director, respectively.

Replacing the term "association" with "network" highlights a renewed focus on connecting students with the vast group of nearly 300,000 KU alumni worldwide, which will help students develop their own professional connections for career advice and opportunities long before they leave the Hill.

"The Student Alumni Network is the largest student group and the premier networking organization on

the KU campus, and the rebrand is a precursor to a much more robust plan to launch new programs to foster high-level career connections across industries," says Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, president of the Alumni Association. "The effort will include a dynamic KU alumni mentoring platform, programs featuring industry leaders across the country, new internship pipelines and job connections, enhanced career data and new partnerships across the KU enterprise."

In addition to these new initiatives, traditional events such as Home Football Fridays and Finals Dinners will be offered to all students, and the Student Alumni Leadership Board will continue to serve as the student representatives of the KU Alumni Association. Membership in the Student Alumni Network is free for all undergraduate and graduate students, thanks to funding provided by the Alumni Association and KU Endowment.



Stanton



Stowers

DAN STOREY (2)

KU Kickoff

photographs by Dan Storey

Wichita



Coach David Beaty (below, l-r), Chancellor Doug Girod and the Spirit Squad boosted preseason football spirits at the festive Wichita Kickoff Aug. 17 at picturesque Beech Lake Park.



Kansas City



Before they signed autographs for their young fans, All-Big 12 Jayhawks Daniel Wise (above, l-r) and Mike Lee were among the many speakers who rallied the usual packed crowd at the annual KU Kickoff Aug. 25 in Prairie Village's Corinth Square.



Life Members

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

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Class Notes by Heather Biele

39 Margaret Lewis Shirk, c'39, celebrated her 100th birthday in August. A dedicated volunteer, she received the Alumni Association's Mildred Clodfelter Award in 1989 and the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2014 for her longtime service to the University. Margaret lives in Lawrence.

51 Sidney Teaford, b'51, is a retired U.S. Navy commander and a former defense contractor. He lives in Annandale, Virginia, and has five children.

Gerald Waugh, d'51, g'59, who played basketball for KU and was a member of the 1950 Big Seven championship team, will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in October. He was assistant basketball coach at KU from 1957 to '60 and also coached KU men's and women's golf. Jerry was inducted in the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame in 1998.

52 Mary Gilles Johnson, c'52, lives in Olathe and was recently featured in an Aberdeen Village newsletter story that highlighted her Jayhawk loyalty and KU memorabilia. Her three sons, a daughter-in-law and four granddaughters are Jayhawks.

54 Mark Gilman, d'54, was named 2017 Johnson Countian of the Year by the Johnson County Community College Foundation. He chairs the board of Gill Studios, which he formerly led as president, in Lenexa.

55 Warner Eisenbise, c'55, l'58, is an attorney in Wichita. In May, he received the Wichita Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

56 Allen Frame, c'56, l'62, in October will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. He was a three-time All-American in track and cross-country at KU and won several conference titles. In 1954, Al was the NCAA national champion in cross-country.

57 Terry Tracy, c'57, is a retired obstetrician and gynecologist in Lawrence.

63 Allan Wicker, c'63, g'65, PhD'67, was named 2017 Outstanding Alumnus by Independence Community College, where he earned an associate's degree before coming to KU. He resides in Claremont, California.

64 Nancy Lane, d'64, is a retired teacher in Russell. She recently was inducted in the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame.

65 Bryan Shewmake, c'65, e'70, g'71, is retired and lives in Blairsden Graeagle, California, with his wife, Cheryl. They recently traveled to South Africa.

Gregs Thomopulos, e'65, lives in Iowa City, Iowa, where he's retired chairman of Stanley Consultants Inc.

66 Terry Fouts, c'66, m'70, is chief clinical officer at Empactful Capital in San Francisco.

Homer "Bud" Yazel III, d'66, a longtime high school track and field and cross-country coach, in June was inducted in the Heather Woodson Coaches Hall of Honor. Now at Lutheran High School in Kansas City, he began his 52nd year of coaching in August.

67 Gregg Lacy, g'67, g'71, PhD'72, is registrar at Long and Foster Institute of Real Estate in Chantilly, Virginia.

68 R. Dan Boulware, b'68, l'72, lives in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he's managing partner and shareholder at Polsinelli.

Ruth Murdock McRoy, c'68, s'70, is Donahue and DiFelice Professor of Social Work at Boston College in Massachusetts.

Judith Mills-Hinch, d'68, wrote *Cracks in My Heart: Forty Years as a Volunteer in Aberdeen*, which was published in May by Archway Publishing. She makes her home

in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Bob Wallace, g'68, in July presented "Spying: What Difference Did It Make?" at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene. The former director of technical services for the Central Intelligence Agency is an author and intelligence historian in Reston, Virginia.

69 David Mourning, a'69, lives in San Anselmo, California, where he is founder and former CEO of IA Interior Architects. He now serves on the firm's board of directors.

Roseann O'Reilly Runte, g'69, g'71, PhD'74, is president and vice chancellor of Carleton University in Ontario, Canada.

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

a	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b	School of Business
c	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d	School of Education
e	School of Engineering
f	School of Fine Arts
g	Master's Degree
h	School of Health Professions
j	School of Journalism
l	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing
p	School of Pharmacy
PharmD	School of Pharmacy
s	School of Social Welfare
u	School of Music
AUD	Doctor of Audiology
DE	Doctor of Engineering
DMA	Doctor of Musical Arts
DNP	Doctor of Nursing Practice
DPT	Doctor of Physical Therapy
EdD	Doctor of Education
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

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Class Notes

71 C. Peter Goplerud III, c'71, l'74, is of counsel at Spencer Fane in St. Louis.

Tony Gottlob, j'71, is a singer-songwriter. He wrote "Morning Comes Breaking," for which he also directed a music video.

72 Charles Hay, j'72, l'75, was inducted this year in the Clay Center Community High School Hall of Fame. He's special counsel at Foulston Siefkin in Topeka, where he lives.

Donald Loncasty, j'72, manages the Kansas City Chorale, which recently received its third Grammy Award in chorale performance. Don and his husband, Charles Bruffy, make their home in Kansas City.

Maureen Poulin, d'72, is associate director of the Diocese of Buffalo in Buffalo, New York.

74 Pamela Troup Horne, c'74, g'82, retired in June as vice provost for enrollment management at Purdue University. Her 43-year career in higher education administration included service

at KU and several universities in Michigan. She and **Stephen**, g'76, make their home in Interlochen, Michigan.

Ivan Thomas, d'74, is an organist and music director at Siloam Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York. He and his wife, Midge, live in Kearny, New Jersey.

75 Sheila Bair, c'75, l'78, is past president of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She resides in Kennedyville.

Lawrence Grewach, j'75, lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he retired from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Joseph Waxse, c'75, e'80, is retired after 33 years as a geotechnical engineer and senior principal at Terracon. He makes his home in Olathe.

Don Weiss, c'75, is executive director of the Center for Business at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington, Iowa. He also is a professional photographer and recently displayed his work at an exhibition at Fort Madison Area Arts Association.


76 Bill Noonan, g'76, senior vice president of industry and governmental affairs for Boyd Gaming Corporation, is the 2017-'18 chairman of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Melodie Boswell Woerman, c'76, g'83, directs communications for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas in Topeka. She's serving a three-year term as president of the Episcopal Communicators.

77 Laura Cook, d'77, is a retired special agent in the Office of Criminal Investigations at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Daryl Jones, d'77, lives in Austin, Texas, where he retired as music teacher and choir director at Berniece Kiker Elementary School.

Patrick Sullivan, s'77, s'84, PhD'89, a longtime auto-racing announcer and columnist for Sprint Car & Midget Magazine, in June was inducted in the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame. He's also professor of social work at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.




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MN	4
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MT	2
NC	19
ND	3
NH	1
NJ	1
NM	3
NV	9
OH	24
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**ALUMNI
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78 Steve Lauer, c'78, is associate chairman of the department of pediatrics at KU Medical Center. He makes his home in Leawood.

Gerald Seib, j'78, executive Washington editor at The Wall Street Journal, in June was recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists as a Fellow of the Society.

79 David Conrad, e'79, in May retired as project manager after 31 years at ExxonMobil. He makes his home in Houston.

David Seely, c'79, l'82, is an attorney and member at Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch and president of the Wichita Bar Association.

Douglas Trent, c'79, lives in Minas Gerais, Brazil, where he's president of Focus Tours.

80 Greg Anderson, PhD'80, retired as senior adviser at Afton Chemical Corporation. He makes his home in Hernando Beach, Florida.

Elizabeth Denton Daaleman, d'80, '00, directs the orchestra at Phillips Middle

School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was recognized as 2017 NCPTA Teaching Chair for Excellence in Teaching Cultural Arts.

Kelly Mirt, c'80, is publisher and vice president of advertising at the Wichita Eagle.

Tom Palen, '80, is a senior vice president at Wells Fargo Bank, where he has worked for the past 25 years. He and his wife, Carole, have two children, Drew and Kelli, and live in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Reggie Robinson, c'80, l'87, is interim vice chancellor for public affairs at KU. He

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Business exec tackles racial inequity in new role

Ten years ago, Jyarland Daniels was steadily climbing the corporate ladder. The business-savvy executive, whose résumé includes posts at Hallmark, Johnson & Johnson and Ford Motor Company, had just accepted a public-relations position with the British luxury-car company Bentley Motors, and she traveled the globe, promoting the lavish lifestyle the brand symbolized. But back home in Detroit, Daniels faced a different reality.

"I had this amazing education, I worked for Bentley, we lived in a really affluent suburb of metro Detroit, but I would still go to malls and be questioned about whether I could afford a certain item," she recalls. "It was surprising to me."

Daniels' young son experienced similar instances of racial injustice in his learning environment. "When you have a kid in elementary school and he's dealing with some of these things ... I was not prepared for it," she says. "I realized that we still have a problem with equity and racism in this country, and all the money I have doesn't necessarily shield me from it, the wonderful education I have doesn't necessarily shield me from it—and it doesn't shield my son."

At 35, Daniels, b'97, decided to make a change. She left Bentley Motors and enrolled at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. Shortly after graduating, she directed marketing and communications at Race Forward, a social justice organization based out of Oakland, California, and New York City, before striking out on her own.

Last year, Daniels founded Harriet Speaks, a consulting firm that provides racial equity training, crisis communications, conflict resolution and customized strategies for corporations, government agencies and educational institutions nationwide. The company's moniker honors the American Civil War abolitionist and civil rights activist Harriet Tubman.

"She was fearless and she was female," Daniels says of her inspiration.

In her new role, Daniels employs elements from her entire educational portfolio—a degree in business and East Asian studies from KU, an MBA from the University of Michigan and the Wayne State law degree—to perform "equity audits" and recommend changes in policies and procedures for her clients, which include Ford Motor Company, City University of New York and a Detroit-based nonprofit group.

Her work with Ford includes training at the dealership level, where she coaches




COURTESY JYARLAND DANIELS

"It's a challenge," Jyarland Daniels says of her new role as CEO and founder of Harriet Speaks. "But I've never, ever been afraid of a challenge."

.....
staff to connect with African-American and Hispanic customers. "Often when we talk about diversity, we get it at a corporate level," she says. "Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, they get it. But the face of the company for most people is the dealership."

In addition to expanding her client base, Daniels also has started an online advice column at harrietspeaks.com to answer public queries about race and equity. The response, she says, has been overwhelming.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," Daniels says. "There is something about a calling; when you hear it, you can't help but answer." 

Class Notes



Barbara Pikell Leonard, n'85, is a charge audit nurse specialist at Saint Luke's Health System. She and her husband, Christopher, live in Mission.

Martha Ridder McCabe, d'85, g'87, is executive director of the Kansas City STEM Alliance. She commutes from Lawrence.

C. Michele Pinet, f'85, is a harpist in Arlington, Massachusetts, whose solo harp transcription was recently published by Lyon & Healy. She also wrote an article that appeared in *The American Harp Journal*.

Richard Sheridan, c'85, g'88, is a journalist in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He also was professor of communications at Wilberforce University in Ohio.

Stanley "Glynn" Sheridan, c'85, is market president regional director at Sunflower Bank.

Denise Wernimont Young, b'85, lives in Overland Park, where she's a pricing manager at Sprint.

86 Steve Blackburn, a'86, retired after 18 years as principal and chief of business development at Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture in Denver.

Robert Peters, c'86, is general counsel and chief legal officer at Check-6 International Inc. in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Robert Simari, m'86, is interim executive vice chancellor at KU Medical Center. He has served as the executive dean of the School of Medicine since 2014.

Paul Winslow, f'86, lives in Arlington, Virginia, where he's a solutions consultant at Dell EMC.

William Woolley, g'86, l'86, is a judge on the 18th District Court in Wichita. In May, he received the President's Award from the Wichita Bar Association.

87 Jim Holt, l'87, in May retired as CEO of Mid American Credit Union in Wichita. He and his wife, Karen, make their home in Valley Center.

Bob Kealing, j'87, is senior public affairs administrator for the Seminole County sheriff in Sanford, Florida.

Shawn Stockman, c'87, directs business solutions at OnePak Inc. He lives in Camden, Maine.

previously directed the School of Public Affairs & Administration.

82 John Burke, c'82, s'84, is a licensed social worker at Burke Counseling & Consulting Inc. in Kansas City. He and his wife, **Gwendolyn**, s'99, who also is a licensed therapist, make their home in Grandview, Missouri.

Kristian Hedine, l'82, is a presiding judge at the District Court in Walla Walla, Washington.

John Kerstetter, a'82, a'83, is a missionary with Ethnos360. He resides in Camdenton, Missouri.

David Magley, c'82, in June concluded his two-year term as commissioner of the National Basketball League of Canada. He now serves as president and CEO of the North American Premier Basketball League.

Michael Teeter, c'82, is principal of K-12 schools in Hope.



83 Barry Zipp, c'83, g'86, is senior director of solution management and marketing at NCR Corporation. He resides in Cumming, Georgia.

84 Sarah Alderks Brown, l'84, in April received the Courageous Attorney Award from the Kansas Bar Association. She's a partner at Brown & Curry in Kansas City.

Steve Nicklin, g'84, lives in Washington, D.C., where he's vice president of marketing at the Outdoor Advertising Association of America.

Christopher Southwick, m'84, is a physician at Kansas Pain and Wellness in Topeka. He lives in Overland Park with his wife, Lee.

Pamela White, g'84, g'86, PhD'92, directs the museum studies program at Western Illinois University in Moline.

85 Robert Catloth, f'85, retired in June after 22 years as head coach of KU rowing.



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Class Notes

88 George Frazier, c'88, g'90, PhD'93, wrote *The Last Wild Places of Kansas: Journeys into Hidden Landscapes*, which was published in February by University Press of Kansas and won the Ferguson Kansas History Book Award. George is a writer and software developer in Lawrence.

Tina Armbruster Kinney, n'88, was promoted to provider engagement clinical leader at Humana Inc. She lives in Spring Hill.

Derek Rogers, c'88, lives in Lawrence, where he directs the city's parks and recreation department.

89 J. Christopher Brown, c'89, g'92, is vice provost for faculty development at KU. He also holds joint appointments as professor in the department of geography and atmospheric science and the environmental studies program, which he has directed since 2008.

Konni Kelly Flynn, j'89, is a development officer at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, where she lives with her husband, Mike.

Annie Gowen, c'89, j'89, works at The Washington Post, where she's the India bureau chief.

Mark Putman, f'89, g'94, resides in Basehor, where he owns SYZYGY1 Media Group.

Drew Sidener, j'89, directs creative services for KCNC-TV in Denver.

90 Thomas Clark, c'90, j'90, is a judge on the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in St. Louis.

Rick Knubley, c'90, manages accounts at CNX Distribution in Hurst, Texas.

Scott Mastenbrook, c'90, works in sales at Alexander Open Systems in Overland Park, where he lives with his wife, Deborah, and their children, Olivia, Trevor and Mitch, who's a senior at KU this fall.

91 Margaret Townsend Graff, j'91, resides in Barrington, Illinois, where she's an account director at Time Inc.

Mark Schuler, c'91, is CEO of 4M Restaurants in Platte City, Missouri.

Mary Bergman Simerly, '91, is principal



at St. Philip Neri School in Omaha, Nebraska.

Eric Swedlund, c'91, g'93, is principal at Carpi & Clay Inc., a government relations firm in Washington, D.C. He makes his home in Alexandria, Virginia.

John Valasek, g'91, PhD'95, professor of aerospace engineering and director of the Center for Autonomous Vehicles and Sensor Systems at Texas A&M University, was selected by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics as a 2017 AIAA Fellow.

92 Gianna Gariglietti, j'92, lives in Overland Park, where she's president and CEO of Lakemary Center in Miami and Johnson counties.

John Huy, c'92, is a financial adviser at AXA Advisors in Wichita.

Jadi Dlugosh Miller, d'92, directs assessment at Elkhorn Public Schools in Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Susan Steiger Tebb, PhD'92, is a professor of social work at Saint Louis

University. She makes her home in Shrewsbury, Missouri.

93 Kimberly Benson, c'93, directs special gifts at Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights, New York.

Ross McVey, c'93, works at Verizon Communications, where he's a manager solution architect. He and his wife, Donna, live in Appleton, Wisconsin, and have four children.

Stephen Six, l'93, is a partner at Stueve Siegel Hanson in Kansas City and former president of the Kansas Bar Association.

Rex Walters, d'93, a former KU basketball guard who played seven years in the NBA, in June was named assistant coach of the Detroit Pistons.

94 Ken Dorn, g'94, wrote *Our Time at Kansas*, which was published in June. He lives in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Scott Feldhausen, g'94, DMA'99, resides in Beaumont, Texas, where he directs music at St. Anne Catholic Church.

Kelli Ferguson Gargasz, c'94, is a

financial adviser at Stratos Wealth Partners in Powell, Ohio, where she makes her home with her husband, Timothy, and their three children.

Jill Vessely Greenwood, g'94, PhD'10, lives in Oberlin, Ohio, where she's the Eric and Jane Nord Family Curator of Education at Allen Memorial Art Museum.

Jamar Pickreign, g'94, PhD'97, is associate dean for assessment and accreditation at the State University of New York in Plattsburgh, where he lives with his wife, **Kelley**, g'00, who directs certification at the university.

Robert Reynolds, j'94, directs operations at Stanley Restoration in Cedar Hill, Texas.

95 Christine Barb, c'95, is a speech coach and owns Adastra Speech in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She lives in Jamaica Plain.

Mark Campbell, a'95, works at WSP in St. Louis, where he's a senior supervising architect.

Michelle Bradley Melland, g'95, a book reviewer and blogger, lives in Kansas City with **Paul**, c'88, g'95, who works in

information technology at KU Medical Center.

Steven Simpson, b'95, is a managing partner at CoastEdge Partners in La Jolla, California.

Amos Smith, g'95, is chief financial officer at Layers3 TV in Denver. He lives in Lone Tree, Colorado.

96 Kristi Kloster-Burritt, c'96, in October will be inducted in the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. She was a two-time All-American in track and field at KU and became the University's first

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Hockey history gets academic treatment

Bruce Berglund, professor of history at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, was a KU graduate student when he won a Fulbright Student Grant to conduct dissertation research in the Czech Republic. A Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Grant allowed him to return eight years later for research that resulted in the 2016 publication of *Castle and Cathedral in Modern Prague: Longing for the Sacred in a Skeptical Age*.

Next year, Berglund—whose published research has focused on the nationalism, religion and architecture in 20th-century Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia—again returns to the Czech Republic, this time as a Fulbright Global Scholar, but his research will have a decidedly different flavor: the history of world hockey.

"It's only been the last 15 years or so that history departments and academic historians have recognized the value of research into sports as a way of understanding cultural change, economics and politics," says Berglund, PhD'00. "Even better, it draws a lot of attention. I get a lot more attention for my research on hockey history than I do for my research on religion and culture in Prague in the 1920s and '30s."

Berglund grew up playing hockey in Duluth, Minnesota, and watching his father referee games. He played football and baseball, and officiated high school football in Lawrence while immersed in his doctoral studies in the 1990s.

"You have to step back and take a more dispassionate view of what's happening on the field or on the rink," he says. "That connects with my interest, going back to when I was a kid, in history."

A notable jewel uncovered in his hockey research is a detailed diary kept by a Canadian Rhodes Scholar who played hockey while studying at England's Oxford University in the early 1920s, which Berglund found in the archives at the University of Manitoba. Featuring rosters filled with talented Canadians, teams from Oxford and Cambridge were popular attractions at European club tournaments staged at the time on Swiss mountain lakes, and Berglund's diarist made careful notes about the experience.



Bruce Berglund was on an extended research trip to Prague when the Czechs won Olympic hockey gold in 1998, creating "a moment of euphoria." He returns to Prague in 2018.

"It's a dream source for a historian," Berglund says, "because he writes in such wonderful detail in these journals."

His 2018 Fulbright research will also take Berglund to the Winter Olympics in Korea, where he will follow the development of the Korean men's hockey team, and, next summer, back to Canada. The result will be a book in the "Sports in World History" project at the University of California Press.

"Why study hockey history? It's goes back to my old professor saying, 'Well, it's history.' All sports are such an important part of our lives."

Class Notes

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female NCAA national champion in track after winning the 800 meters in 1996.

Amanda Warren Martin, f'96, is a freelance graphic designer and illustrator. She makes her home in Fort Collins, Colorado, with **David**, b'97, and their two children.

Kelly McDonald, g'96, '98, lives in Honolulu, where he manages communications and planning at AlohaCare.

97 Janet Haskin Zarndt, PharmD'97, is division director of pharmacy at HCA Healthcare. She and her husband, Don, live in Layton, Utah.

BORN TO:

Christopher, e'97, and **Christina Gering Hurst**, c'12, son, Finnegan, June 21 in Andover, where he joins a brother, Declan, 3. Christopher is an engineer specialist at Textron Aviation, and Christina is a compliance specialist at Emprise Bank.

John, c'97, and **Melia Johnson Stockham**, d'04, g'06, son, James, April 17 in

Lawrence. John is a technology coordinator at KU, and Melia is a program evaluator at Blue Cross Blue Shield.

98 Grant Moise, j'98, lives in Dallas, where he was recently promoted to executive vice president of A.H. Belo Corporation and general manager of the Dallas Morning News.

Natalie Demster Nelson, c'98, is a product manager at Sprint in Overland Park. She makes her home in De Soto.

99 Andrew Cashman, l'99, is a comprehensive wealth adviser at Investment Planners. He lives in Quincy, Illinois, with **Michelle Brown Cashman**, c'96, l'99, and their three sons.

Joseph "Mick" Shaffer, j'99, is sports director at KSHB-TV in Kansas City.

Alexis Radil Woodall, g'99, works at Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site in Olathe, where she manages special events and develops and promotes interpretive programs.

00 Robert Bishop, b'00, is director of revenue cycle model experience at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City. He lives in Prairie Village.

01 Aaron Breitenbach, l'01, received the Champion of Victims Award from the Kansas DUI Impact Center. He's chief attorney at the Sedgwick County District Attorney's office in Wichita.

Audrey McKanna Coleman, c'01, g'05, is assistant director and senior archivist at the Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence.

Chad Motter, c'01, is a special-education teacher for the Gardner-Edgerton School District. He lives in Gardner with **Danielle Reaka Motter**, '01, and their two children.

Eric Rush, c'01, m'05, is a physician at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

02 Jamel Cruze Wright, g'02, PhD'04, is president of Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois.

Take a closer look at these Flying Jayhawks adventures!



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Ireland: Wild Atlantic Way *May 8 - 16, 2018*

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Discover Portugal's stunning beauty, rich tradition and warm people. Spend three nights in Lisbon and walk in the footsteps of the world's greatest explorers before launching a five-night cruise of the Douro River aboard the exclusively chartered *MS Gil Eanes*.



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BORN TO:

Matthew, c'02, m'07, and **Elizabeth Riscoe Hastings**, m'07, son, Luke, May 30 in Fairway, where he joins two brothers, Alexander, 7, and Benjamin, 5, and a sister, Abigail, 2.

03 Anthony Daly III, c'03, directs business development at Makar Properties in Beverly Hills, California. He and his wife, Carrie, live in Los Angeles with their son.

Bryan Franklin, c'03, resides in Olathe, where he's a customer solutions project

manager at MSC Industrial Supply.

Justin Unger, c'03, g'05, is deputy superintendent for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks in Homestead, Florida.

BORN TO:

Laura Rupe Bevier, j'03, and her husband, Jared, daughter, Elliot Ann, May 2 in Novi, Michigan. Laura is a senior talent manager.

04 Shannon Lacey Braun, l'04, is an attorney at Morris Laing Evans

Brock & Kennedy in Wichita. She was named to the 2017 40 under 40 list by the Wichita Business Journal.

Patrick McCarty, f'04, g'14, is assistant director of bands at Olathe North High School. He lives in Shawnee.

Michael Tarwater, e'04, is senior project manager at The Christman Company in Lansing, Michigan.

BORN TO:

Joshua Wunderlich, c'04, and his wife, Sarah, daughter, Louisa, March 19 in Kansas City, where she joins a sister,

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Alumna directs KC's second act as film hot spot

As Kansas City's film commissioner, Stephane Suetos Scupham travels to New York City and Los Angeles to attend film festivals and promote the city as a destination for filming and screening movies. Attracting a production or festival that brings high-profile directors, actors or cinematographers to town, she says, are "the two things that get people really excited."

"Those are the glossy, glamorous things, but as industry people know, it is not a glamorous business. It's a lot of blue collar work, a lot of problem-solving and puzzle-figuring and fundraising."

During the 2015 filming of "American Honey," for example, Scupham salvaged a Mission Hills shoot by taking on—in quick succession—a jackhammering construction crew and a rowdy fifth-grade graduation party. She persuaded each to quiet down, and the crew got their shot.

"It was one of my most memorable days as film commissioner," Scupham recalls. "But it also proved very revealing about how we come together as a community to support these projects."

Scupham, c'99, relaunched the Kansas City Film Office in 2014, after a 12-year hiatus in which the city's minimal film

promotion efforts were directed by volunteers. The hiatus followed a boom when major films such as "Kansas City," "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge" and "Ride with the Devil" filmed in the city.

Scupham responds to queries from filmmakers, lines up local crews for visiting productions and serves as host while shooting is under way. She also works to promote the industry in the city and throughout Kansas and Missouri. In just under three years, Scupham has assisted more than 600 film, television, commercial and corporate productions and successfully lobbied for a city-funded film incentive, the country's first municipal incentive in a state without one.

"The growth of the film scene here is largely due to her energy and oversight," says Laura Kirk, c'89, a lecturer in film & media studies and theatre at KU and an actor who appeared in "American Honey." "Since she reestablished the office and put the incentive program in place, some larger-scale films have shot here. She works really hard to go to places like LA



STEVE PUPPE

"The most satisfying thing is going to a screening or watching TV and seeing the work unfold as a piece of art before your eyes," says Scupham. "When I look at that, I see all of us."

and bring productions here; once they're here she does such an excellent job hosting and making sure everything goes right that the filmmakers want to come back."

Scupham would love to see a return of big films and made-for-TV movies, but the industry has changed. Commercial and corporate projects may lack Hollywood flash, but they provide steady employment that can better sustain a film community—an essential part of Scupham's mission.

"Universities in our area like KU are producing really talented film graduates," she says, "and we want to make sure they have options to stay here and work."

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Valid through September 6, 2017.

Beatrice, 4, and a brother, Simon, who's nearly 3.

05 Kathy McVey Meitl, d'05, g'09, teaches eighth-grade science at Woodside Middle School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Todd Panula, j'05, is lead columnist at Bleedin' Blue, a website dedicated to the St. Louis Blues professional hockey team.

Brandi Wills, c'05, is editor-in-chief of Culture Magazine in Boston.

06 Heidi Karn Barker, c'06, '16, is a financial aid systems analyst at KU. She and **Bradley**, c'06, live in Lawrence.

Kimberly Shears Rocco, g'06, makes her home in Weston, Massachusetts, with her husband, Thomas, and their son, Kevin, who just turned 1.

Jamie Zarda, j'06, lives in Houston, where she manages



programs for the Offshore Technology Conference.

07 Christine Walters VanBlarcum, c'07, f'12, is the St. Louis County attorney for the juvenile officer. She lives with **Charles**, c'05, who teaches at St. Louis Public Schools.

BORN TO:

Gary Woodland, c'07, and his wife, Gabby, son, Jaxon, June 23 in Kansas City. Gary is a professional golfer.

08 Christopher Brower, c'08, '11, published his first novel, *I Look Like You*, in June. He lives in Kansas City.

Christopher Clark, g'08, resides in Quincy, Illinois, where he's an architect at Architechnics.

Mallory Hammersmith Hannah, j'08, is a strategic marketing consultant in Leawood, where she lives with **Jack**, b'08, and their two daughters.

Melissa Horen Kaplan, c'08, manages major gifts at Piedmont Healthcare Foundation in Atlanta, where she makes her home with her husband, Jake, and their son.

Anne Kretsinger-Harries, c'08, lives in Ames, Iowa, where she's an assistant professor in the department of English at Iowa State University.

Mark Petersen, g'08, is an engineering manager at Black & Veatch. He resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Stephanie Whitcher, g'08, is chief financial officer at the National Association of Basketball Coaches in Kansas City. She lives in Lenexa with **Darren**, assoc., an analyst at DST Systems Inc.

MARRIED

Daniel Ryckert, c'08, to Bianca Mondo, June 25 at the Taco Bell Cantina in Las Vegas. Dan is a video-game expert and podcast host for Giant Bomb. They live in New York City.

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BORN TO:

Bryan, c'08, m'12, and **Krystal Richard Hay**, c'09, DPT'12, son, Marshall, April 13 in Gahanna, Ohio. Bryan is a chief fellow in pulmonology and critical care at Ohio State University, and Krystal is a pediatric physical therapist and research assistant at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

09 Natasha Parman, d'09, DPT'12, is a physical therapist at University of Washington Medicine Eastside Specialty Center in Bellevue, Washington.

T. Paul Rohrer, g'09, directs ambulatory patient access at the University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City.

Joseph Schremmer, c'09, j'09, g'13, l'13, is a partner at Depew Gillen Rathbun & McInteer in Wichita, where he resides.

10 Brent Blazek, d'10, g'12, directs alumni and parent relations at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. He lives in Leawood.

Joshua Istas, c'10, was promoted to

director at the Strawhecker Group in Omaha, Nebraska.

Parag Mehta, l'10, lives in Atlanta, where he's an attorney and supply-chain counsel for the Coca-Cola Company.

MARRIED

Chad Gerber, d'10, to Jessica McCloy, May 27 in Cincinnati. They make their home in Columbus, Ohio.

11 Adam Baratz, e'11, is an engineer at Dentsply Sirona. He lives in Jenks, Oklahoma.

Carolyn Battle Cohen, c'11, j'11, manages global social media content at Garmin in Olathe. She and her husband, **David**, b'11, g'12, reside in Prairie Village.

Allison Frenkel, b'11, makes her home in Arlington, Virginia, where she works in communications and public relations for the

Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation.

BORN TO:

Megan Zumbrunn Landrith, PharmD'11, and her husband, Aaron, daughter, Camryn, Jan. 9 in Junction City, where she joins a brother, Caleb, 3.

12 Natalie Sellers DeBoer, d'12, works at Kansas City Bone & Joint Clinic in Overland Park, where she's a clinical assistant. She commutes from Lawrence.

Nathaniel Jones, e'12, lives in Dallas, where he's a pipeline integrity engineer at Atmos Energy.

Michael Lavieri, j'12, coordinates public relations at Proventus Consulting in Overland Park.

Kameron Mack, j'12, is a senior producer at Complex Media Inc. in New York City. He recently produced and directed his first documentary, "Hip Hop DNA."

Stephanie Surgeon Nye, n'12, is an integrated nurse case manager at the University of Kansas Health



System. She makes her home in Kansas City with **Taylor**, j'10, and their two daughters.

Timothy Quevillon, c'12, lives in Houston, where he's a doctoral candidate in Jewish-American history at the University of Houston. He recently was named 2017 Adrienne Asch Memorial Fellow by the Society of Jewish Ethics.

MARRIED

Thomas Kennedy, b'12, g'13, to Kyle Ellen Waggoner, May 27 in Kansas City. Tommy is an associate broker at Colliers

International. They make their home in Prairie Village.

BORN TO:

Paige Nowlan Stegman, u'12, and her husband, Vance, son, Everett, April 23 in Great Bend.

13 Daniel Brinker, b'13, resides in Roeland Park, where he's a business analyst at Ryan Transportation.

Nicole Denney, c'13, AUD'17, is an audiologist at Livingston Audiology and Hearing Aids in Durango, Colorado.

Brent Whitten, j'13, is deputy director of operations at the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

Sandy Zook, g'13, lives in Denver, where she's an assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver.

14 Rebecca Berger, j'14, coordinates marketing for the Dallas Stars, a professional hockey team.

Ashley Sosebee Chasm, c'14, is an administrative assistant at Lindan Auto Mechanical & Body Shop in Merriam.

PROFILE by John Watson

Kansas City banker urges investors to share nest eggs

After 35 years in the finance industry, during which he supplemented his own observations by collecting pearls of wisdom from clients and colleagues, veteran Kansas City banking executive Jeff Goble offers succinct advice for investors.

Most important, Goble, c'79, g'81, writes in his second book, *Nest Egg: Start as early as possible*.

That's the first of the four most important elements of long-term portfolio building that Goble offers in *Nest Egg*, an easy-reading compilation of investment strategies that his pastor describes in the foreword as "a conversation with a friend about your life over a cup of coffee."

Before joining Country Club Bank, where he is chief market strategist for capital markets, Goble was executive vice president and managing director in the investment banking division of UMB Bank, Kansas City.

His decades of close association with prominent Kansas Citians such as R. Crosby Kemper Jr. and Christine E. Lynn—both of whom are among the philanthropist profiles he includes in *Nest Egg*—helped teach Goble that once a nest egg is built, the greatest joy can come from its generous distribution.

"When you give to deserving causes, it is twice as rewarding," Goble says. "You are truly making a difference in someone's life."

Along with business leaders and philanthropists, Goble also found sage wisdom among friends and family, most notably his wife, Sharon Rake Goble, b'80, g'81, whose 10 rules for financial and life success have proven to be among the book's most popular features.

Goble's first book, *More Yield, Less Risk ... Better Sleep!*, published seven years ago, was a seminar lecture from a professional investor. For his second effort, Goble aimed *Nest Egg* at a wider audience. "It's a gentle balance," he says. "I put things that are highly technical in this book and things that are highly simple, so you can bite off what you want."

Regardless of an investor's resources, Goble highlights the importance of how much and where to invest and how to react when markets turn volatile: "Stay with high-quality investments, do not try to time the markets, and think long term."

When the market turns volatile, Goble, a classically trained pianist, retreats to



STEVE PUPPE

Goble will donate book royalties to seven local charities serving children, animals and families in need. "I'd rather have what I do with the money be true to the book itself."

music to cope with stress; his family can judge the market performance by how loudly he plays. If the market takes a dive, he forsakes classical repertoire for songs by Carole King.

"That's an outlet for me. Everybody needs something that takes your brain off duty. While I'm doing that, I don't think about anything, I just relax."

Ultimately, Goble says, philanthropy provides a more lasting sense of peace: "Generosity frees the heart."

—Watson is a Lawrence freelance writer.



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She and her husband, Kevin, make their home in Overland Park.

Amy Gairns, a'14, '16, is a marketing cloud specialist at DEG Digital in Overland Park. She commutes from Lawrence.

Allen Schaidle, d'14, directs student services at the American University of Iraq in Sulaimani.

Micah Zeisset Waddle, g'14, is a nutrition coordinator at Pettis County Health Center in Sedalia, Missouri, where she lives with her husband, Joseph, and their two sons.

15 James Borner, a'15, in May won the Louis Schwitzer Award for excellence in innovation and engineering in racing technology. He's an engineer at PFC Brakes in Clover, South Carolina.

Eric Groves, e'15, is a software engineer at Mersoft in Overland Park.

Victoria Kirk, j'15, coordinates regional marketing at Moss Adams in Los Angeles.

Alexander Montgomery, b'15, lives in Chicago, where he's a solution consultant at Strata Decision Technology.

Natalie Scott, h'15, g'17, is an occupational therapist at Aegis Therapies in Kansas City. She resides in Mission.

Laurie Winkel, c'15, is an actress and voice-over professional in Atlanta.

MARRIED

Jamie Wilt, b'15, to Kyle Swanson, May 20 in Kansas City. They live in Lenexa, where Jamie is an accountant at Ryan Transportation.

16 Christopher Garate, b'16, is an assistant controller at APAC-Kansas. He lives in Olathe with his wife, Katie, and their two sons.

Nathaniel Lohmann, c'16, teaches science in the Colorado Springs School District.

Allison Mayer, c'16, is a solution designer at Cerner Corporation. She resides in Ozawkie.

Jerusha McFarland Pitney, c'16, lives in Lawrence, where she's a vitamin clerk at Sprouts Farmers Market.

Tyler Self, d'16, is a basketball opera-

tions quality assurance assistant with the San Antonio Spurs.

17 Kirsten Belt, g'17, manages national sales at OwnerIQ in Chicago, where she lives with **Franklin Lasley**, b'11.

Amalia Bruce, g'17, is an accountant at Moss Adams in Overland Park. She commutes from Lawrence.

Mitchell Budihas, c'17, lives in Middleburg, Florida, where he's an infantry officer in the U.S. Army.

Daniel Caine, g'17, who owns the Raven Bookstore in downtown Lawrence, wrote a book of poetry, *Uncle Harold's Maxwell House Haggadah*, which was published in May by Etchings Press.

Christina Churu, g'17, is a registered nurse at Dallas County Health and Human Services in Richardson, Texas. She resides in Garland with her husband, Johnsen.

Alex Durfee, b'17, coordinates operations at KGP Logistics. He lives in St. Charles, Missouri.

Husain Ebrahim, PhD'17, is an assistant professor of mass communications at Kuwait University.

Ashley Elliott, n'17, is a registered nurse at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Landon Fruhauf, b'17, lives in Wichita, where he's a marketing officer at Fruhauf Uniforms Inc.

Marie Eickhoff Geist, g'17, is assistant director of student integrity at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Bryce Grimm, b'17, manages operations at GSM Sales in Overland Park.

Austin Kurtti, e'17, is a software engineer at LockPath in Overland Park.

Gregory Leimkuehler, g'17, makes his home in Springfield, Missouri, where he's a product design engineer at Digital Monitoring Products.

Clay Malloy, c'17, directs regional sales for InTouch Health. He lives in Laurel, Maryland, with his wife, Susie, and their daughter.

Megan Manning, b'17, lives in Olathe, where she's a delivery analyst at Netsmart.

Frank Mason, c'17, in July signed a contract with the Sacramento Kings professional basketball team.

William Mentzer, b'17, is group lead at

General Motors Corporation in Kansas City.

Jessica Milano-Foster, g'17, works at the University of Missouri, where she's a research specialist. She and her husband, Dawson, live in Kirksville, Missouri.

James Moore, c'17, works at Veolia Water in Junction City, where he's an operations and maintenance technician.

Mohammad Amin Dehghani Najvani, g'17, is a civil engineer at Structural Components in Denver.

Shannon Parks, b'17, lives in Lenexa, where she's a loan support analyst at Midland Loan Services.

Alexandra Petitjean, c'17, is a human resources specialist at Hallmark in Kansas City.

Timothy Richards, c'17, is an operational meteorologist at Weather or Not Inc. in Shawnee.

Daniel Ronning, g'17, works at Garmin in Olathe, where he's a software engineer.

Rhiannon Rosas, a'17, is a graphic designer and blogger at Century Marketing in Lenexa. She commutes from Lawrence.

Kristina King Sparks, c'17, is a learning and development specialist at Deloitte in Kansas City. She lives in Tonganoxie with her husband, Chad, and their son.

Culin Thompson, g'17, is an architectural designer at BRR Architecture in Merriam.

Brandon Tomas, c'17, e'17, lives in Manhattan, where he's a process engineer at Ventria Bioscience.

Wayne Vornholt, g'17, is a U.S. Army command and general staff college instructor at Fort Leavenworth. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Lansing with their daughter.

Matthew Williamson, g'17, is an electronic warfare officer in the U.S. Army.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Diana Robertson, director of Student Housing, retired in June after serving the University for 17 years.



In Memory

30s James Janney, c'39, m'41, 99, May 22 in Town and Country, Missouri. He was a cardiologist and professor of medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. His wife, Nancy, three sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

Marion Seamans Thornton, c'39, d'40, 101, April 7 in Lawrence, where she was a teacher and homemaker. She is survived by a son, Howard Jr., c'67; and a daughter, Barbara, c'69.

40s Elias Burstein, g'41, 99, June 17 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where he was a researcher and professor emeritus of physics at the University of Pennsylvania. Surviving are his wife, Rena, three daughters and two grandchildren.

Harry Fitzgerald Jr., '45, 94, May 9 in El Dorado, where he had a 50-year career as a dentist. He is survived by a daughter, Pamela Fitzgerald Fouts, n'66; a son, Harry III, c'72; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth "Betty" Ireton Hayes, c'48, 90, May 12 in Prairie Village, where she volunteered in her community. She is survived by a daughter, Chandler Hayes Moenius, c'76; a son; and five grandchildren.

Ralph Lindsay Hein, a'49, 93, Dec. 25 in Roeland Park, where he was a retired architect. Survivors include his wife, Carol; a daughter, Louanne, '88; two sons; three granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

Herman Hiesterman, c'48, m'51, 94, July 20 in Quinter, where he was a retired physician. He helped instruct KU medical students as a preceptor for several years, and in 1984 he received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the School of Medicine. A son, a daughter, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Margaret Brown Hodson, c'43, 95, May 26 in Lawrence. She taught home economics for nearly 30 years. Surviving are three daughters, Sheryl Hodson Weber,

d'73, Peggy Hodson Griswold, d'75, and Janet Hodson Macek, b'83; a son, Chuck, '80; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Edwin Maier, c'40, m'43, 98, May 23 in Oklahoma City, where he was an orthopedic surgeon. He is survived by two daughters, Judy Maier Corry, n'66, and Janet, n'74; a brother, John, c'52; seven grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Harriet Gault Monsees, n'43, 97, May 8 in Greeley, Colorado, where she was a retired nurse. Survivors include two sons, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Eleanor Brown Nelson, c'46, 92, June 3 in Overland Park, where she was a teacher and volunteer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a daughter, Martha Nelson Sparks, f'77; a son, Mark, b'82; two grandsons; and a great-grandson.

Marilyn Sweet Newton, c'49, 88, June 12 in Washington, D.C., where she directed public relations for the Studio Theatre. Survivors include four sons, Robert Kiene, b'75, l'78, William Kiene, c'80, John Kiene, '82, and David Kiene, '88; and five grandchildren.

Roberta Taylor Oberholtzer, n'49, 89, April 17 in North Syracuse, New York. She was a registered nurse. Surviving are two daughters; a son; a brother, James Taylor, e'52; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Frances Abts Robinson, c'44, 94, May 26 in Prairie Village, where she was a graphic artist. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by four sons, three of whom are Marc, c'70, Craig, '73, and Jeff, '78; a daughter, Cynthia, l'75; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Bonnie Brown Smith, c'49, 89, March 22 in San Antonio. She owned Treasure Chest Books. Surviving are two daughters, Mary Smith Zielinski, d'74, and Denise Smith Smerchek, '92; a son, William, c'98, '12; a sister, Peggy, c'58, c'59, g'78, PhD'82;

five grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Jean Born Young, c'46, s'51, 92, April 30 in Raleigh, North Carolina. She was a social worker and hospice counselor. Surviving are a daughter, Julia Young Bell, c'74; a son, Brett, '97; and four grandchildren.

50s P.J. "Jim" Adam, e'56, 82, Aug. 14 in Overland Park. He had a 43-year career at Black & Veatch, including four years as CEO and chairman. He served on the KU School of Engineering advisory board for more than 30 years, and in 1995 he received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award. He led the Alumni Association as national president from 1998 to '99 and received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 2013. In 2005, he received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Association and KU for his service to humanity. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Mills Adam, '57; three sons, Jim, '87, Matthew, assoc., and Blair, assoc.; a sister, Mary Sue Adam Zercher, s'73; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Clarence Adamson, b'59, 85, Nov. 3, 2016, in McKinney, Texas. He was a regional manager at Bristol-Myers Squibb. He is survived by his wife, Doris; two daughters; a son; two sisters, Catherine Adamson Farney, '56, and Linda Adamson Heim, d'68; a brother, Frederick, '65; and six grandchildren.

Nancy Fujisaki Allen, d'58, 80, Dec. 31 in Prairie Village, where she was a teacher and coach at Wyandotte High School and Kansas City Kansas Community College. A son, David, '98, survives.

E.J. Allison, e'52, 88, June 8 in Olathe. He was a Lawrence city engineer and later worked in construction and real-estate development. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie, assoc.; three daughters, one of whom is Cheryl Allison Morton, c'77; a sister; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

David Baker, c'55, 83, May 17 in Lawrence, where he retired as vice president of the Bank of Eureka Springs in Arkansas. He is survived by his wife, Jane Underwood Baker, d'55; a son, Mark, '85;

a daughter; a sister, Marjorie Baker Steil, d'58; and three grandchildren.

Jeanne Shafer Blessing, c'51, 88, May 9 in Lenexa. She was a physical therapist. Surviving are her husband, Roger; two sons, Bill, b'77, and Craig, c'79, b'79; and four grandsons.

Monta Jean Langrell Bower, '59, 79, May 24 in Columbus, Ohio, where she was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. She is survived by her husband, Ray, b'55; a son; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

Robert Bunten Jr., b'50, 89, June 2 in Topeka, where he was president of R.M. Bunten & Associates. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Banta Bunten, '52; two daughters, one of whom is Catherine Bunten Mosimann, c'76; a son, Robert III, c'79; three brothers, William, b'52, John, b'54, and Stephen, b'60; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Paul "Bud" Burke, b'56, 83, Aug. 17 in Lawrence, where he owned Issues Management Group Inc. He served as Kansas Senate president from 1989 to 1997 and as Senate majority leader from 1985 to '88. He was a member of the Alumni Association's national board of directors from 2007 to '12. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Debbie Weihe Burke, assoc.; four daughters, three of whom are Anne, c'78, l'81, Kelly Burke Barnett, c'80, and Cathy Burke Rhodes, c'84, h'86; a sister, Elizabeth Burke Kane, c'59; 15 grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

Antonia Ernst Creamer, c'59, 79, May 11 in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She was a physical therapist. Survivors include her husband, Gary, '59; three daughters, one of whom is Jennifer Creamer Myers, b'88; a son; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Martha Nienstedt Cruse, b'55, 83, May 7 in The Woodlands, Texas, where she managed human resources. Surviving are her husband, Max, c'54, e'60; a son; and a daughter.

Bill Delap, e'53, 85, April 4 in Hudson, Colorado. He had a long career with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company before launching 4-D Triangle Company in retirement. A son, a daughter, six grandchildren

and six great-grandchildren survive.

Fred Faas, c'59, m'63, 78, April 27 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was an endocrinologist at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and a professor of medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. His wife, Earlann, two daughters and six grandchildren survive.

Charles Fisk, b'52, 86, May 16 in Glendale, Arizona, where he was a business broker. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Krehbiel Fisk, d'55, g'77; a son; two daughters; a stepson, Jed Schroeder III, g'90; a brother, James, '59; six grandchildren; two step-grandsons; and five great-grandchildren.

Robert Guthrie, e'58, 81, June 7 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he was president and CEO of an insurance brokerage firm. Survivors include his wife, Pickett, two daughters and two grandchildren.

Marshall Havenhill, c'57, m'61, 81, May 2 in Emporia, where he directed student health at Emporia State University and was an emergency room physician at Newman Regional Health. He also served as deputy coroner in Lyon County for several years. Surviving are his wife, Ann Johnson Havenhill, d'58; two daughters, Amy Havenhill Schulte, d'83, and Annette Havenhill Dix, b'90; a son, Asher, c'88, PhD'97; a brother, Jerry, e'60, g'66; and seven grandchildren.

Charles "Chuck" Lundquist, PhD'54, 89, June 3 in Huntsville, Alabama, where he directed the National Space Science Technology Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He later became associate vice president for research and director of the Interactive Projects Office at the university. Two sons, three daughters, a sister, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Paul Oppliger, e'52, 89, Jan. 27 in Traverse City, Michigan, where he retired after a long career with Dow Corning. He is survived by a daughter, a son, a sister, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Stanley Penny, e'50, 89, May 13 in Baldwin City. He owned Penny Construction Company and Penny Ready Mix in Lawrence. Survivors include a son, Dean,

'85; a daughter, Kirsten Penny Allen, '90; a stepson; two brothers, Charles, e'50, and Paul, f'52; two sisters, Margaret Penny Bruce, b'43, and Lois Penny Cowan, f'54; and four grandchildren.

Richard Raney, b'50, p'52, 88, May 16 in Lawrence, where he and his father owned several Raney Drug Stores and developed Hillcrest Shopping Center. He also was a city commissioner and served as mayor in 1967. Surviving are three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Perry Rashleigh, p'56, m'60, 82, May 9 in Tiverton, Rhode Island. He had a 40-year career as a dermatologist in Colorado. Survivors include two daughters; two sons; three sisters, one of whom is Phyllis Rashleigh Denison, '60; and seven grandchildren.

Joseph Reardon, b'56, 82, Feb. 21 in Kansas City, where he retired from the U.S. General Services Administration. His wife, Beverly, survives.

Robert Rowe, e'59, 85, May 29 in Topeka, where he worked at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. He is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

William Schuette, b'51, 95, June 29 in Topeka, where he retired from a long career with the federal government. Surviving are three children, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Clifton Smith, b'50, 88, May 14 in Joplin, Missouri, where he retired after a 37-year career at IBM. Survivors include his wife, Ann, and two sons.

Harry Solter Jr., d'57, 81, May 1 in New Bern, North Carolina. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. Two sons and six grandchildren survive.

Gerald Thomas, j'57, c'59, 83, April 12 in Independence, where he was a substance-abuse counselor. Surviving are a daughter, and a sister, Mary Thomas Babcock, g'72, l'76.

Eugene Tinberg, b'50, 88, May 5 in Overland Park. He had a long career in real estate and sales. Surviving are his wife, Darlene, '81; a daughter, Lori Tinberg Roberts, c'86; a brother; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a step-great-granddaughter.

In Memory

Donald Tinker Jr., c'50, l'56, 89, Jan. 29 in Wichita, where he was an attorney and partner at Robbins, Tinker, Smith & Tinker. He is survived by his wife, Judith Cozart Tinker; a son, Robert, '81; four daughters, one of whom is Sally Tinker Murphy, l'88; a sister, Virginia Tinker Frame, c'52, d'55, g'56; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Gunther Vogt, e'51, 95, May 2 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He had a long career in business management in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he also served as a city councilman and mayor. A son, Terry, '68; a daughter; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren survive.

Nancy Lamme Wellington, n'51, 86, April 2 in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She was a retired registered nurse and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Survivors include a son; two daughters; a sister, Janice Lamme Lewis, '78; and seven grandchildren.

60s George "Butch" Basler, '68, 70, May 22 in Kansas City, where he was a medical transcriber. Surviving are his wife, Margaret Spalsbury Basler, c'68; two sons; a daughter; a sister; and nine grandchildren.

Russell Boley, c'60, 78, March 28 in Evergreen, Colorado. He was a consulting actuary. Survivors include his wife, Polly Smith Boley, c'60; two daughters; two brothers, Robert, b'64, and Richard, b'67, g'68; and a grandson.

William Calderwood, c'63, m'68, 76, June 14 in Peoria, Arizona, where he was a retired family practitioner and professor of medicine at Midwestern University in Glendale. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, three sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Patrick Casey, d'67, 72, June 8 in Frederick, Maryland. He was a financial analyst at IBM for 30 years. His wife, Linda, two sons and two grandsons survive.

Edward Chezek, e'60, 83, April 21 in Prairie Village, where he retired as an electrical engineer at Allied Signal Aerospace Company. He is survived by his wife, Marsha; four daughters, three of whom are Brenda, c'91, Christine Chezek

Jordan, c'92, and Rhonda Chezek-Peters, f'93; and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Duckett II, m'67, 75, May 21 in Broomfield, Colorado, where he was a retired ophthalmologist. His wife, Ann; a son, Thomas, g'07; a sister; and two grandsons survive.

Albert Hicks, l'68, 81, Dec. 2 in Dusseldorf, Germany. He was senior vice president at Flying Tiger Line. Survivors include his wife, Karina; two daughters, one of whom is Traci Hicks Hartenstein, b'83, l'86; a son; two stepdaughters; a stepson; and 11 grandchildren.

Jimmy James, c'63, l'66, 76, May 2 in Lawrence, where he was a retired FBI agent. He is survived by his wife, Linda; a son, Mark, b'01; a daughter, Lauren, '14; a sister, Sherri James Ontjes, d'60; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Chauncey Jones Jr., p'60, 79, Dec. 30 in Costa Rica. He was a pharmacist and later worked in sales and marketing at General Electric. A daughter, a son and two grandchildren survive.

Betty Ann Rayner Kelly-Towner, g'65, 85, June 1 in Lawrence, where she retired after a 40-year career as a high school teacher and counselor. Survivors include her husband, John Towner, d'54, g'61; a daughter, Tandy Towner Reichmeier, b'78; two sons, one of whom is Michael Kelly, c'88, '96; a sister; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

Thomas Mason, c'61, 77, July 3 in Tallahassee, Florida. He was retired professor of computer science and mathematics at Florida A&M University. His wife, Yolande, and a son survive.

Jeannette Opperman Mellinger, c'68, 70, May 11 in Durham, North Carolina, where she directed communications for the North Carolina Symphony. She is survived by her husband, Alan Schueler, c'68; a son, Samuel Mellinger, j'01; a daughter; and a stepson.

Eric Morgenthaler, j'67, 72, May 12 in Kansas City, where he was a freelance reporter after working for The Wall Street Journal for several years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A sister, Susan, d'74, survives.

Michael Starkweather, c'67, 72, Jan. 29 in Hagerstown, Maryland. He worked in

business management. His partner, Dale, survives.

Michael Stevens, b'65, 73, May 31 in St. Augustine, Florida. He owned a construction company in Hutchinson. Survivors include his wife, Karolyn; a son, Michael, c'98; a daughter; a sister, Dorothy Stevens Connor, d'63, g'81; and five grandchildren.

Evan Tonsing, f'62, g'67, 77, June 6 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was professor of cello and music theory and composition at Oklahoma State University. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A brother survives.

Dallas Wicke, e'62, 76, April 16 in Long Beach, California, where he retired after nearly 40 years with McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two sisters and a brother survive.

Richard Wood, e'62, 77, May 6 in San Marino, California. He had a long career in optics and engineering. Survivors include his wife, Patra, two sons, two stepchildren, five grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

William Wright, d'66, 73, June 16 in Platte City, Missouri, where he was a teacher. Surviving are his wife, Kathleen Holt Wright, n'68; two daughters, one of whom is Jane, '01; two sons; a sister; and 12 grandchildren.

70s John Arbuckle, c'75, 63, April 15 in Hutchinson, where he retired as an Amtrak station agent. He is survived by two brothers, Thomas III, b'69, and Jeffrey, b'70, l'73.

Jean Attebury, g'76, PhD'01, 68, May 20 in Topeka, where she taught sixth grade at Landon Middle School. She also was an adjunct instructor of English at Washburn University. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

Rebecca Trowbridge Blocher, d'71, g'96, '03, 68, March 25 in Kansas City. She was a teacher and directed gifted education in public schools in Denver and Oregon. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are a daughter, Erin, c'03, g'07; a sister, Caroline, j'79; and a brother.

Tom Docking, c'76, l'80, g'80, 63, Aug. 24 in Wichita, where he was partner at

Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy. He also served as lieutenant governor of Kansas from 1983 to '87. He recently co-chaired KU Endowment's *Far Above* campaign, and in April he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Citation by KU School of Law. He is survived by his wife, Jill Sadowsky Docking, c'78, g'84; a son, Brian, c'02, l'05; a daughter, Margery, c'09; a brother, William, c'73, l'77, g'77; and two granddaughters.

Steven Elliott, c'71, 67, May 23 in Kansas City. He managed an insurance agency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His wife, Barbara, and a sister, Linda Elliott Fegley, c'75, survive.

Donna Strohwitz Fowler, c'70, 69, May 24 in Lawrence, where she was a physical therapist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. She is survived by two daughters, Melissa, '03, and Mary, n'05, '09; and a grandson.

Connie Moritz, '76, 82, June 24 in Overland Park, where she was a retired teacher and a principal at Sumner Academy of Arts & Science in Kansas City. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Her husband, Donald, EdD'77, and three sisters survive.

Janet Murphy, d'73, 67, March 12 in Overland Park. She was a music therapist for the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities in New York. A sister, Marilyn Murphy Slezak, c'69, l'77, survives.

Pamela Puntteney, g'71, 71, June 10 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she was an environmental policy consultant. Surviving are two brothers, Patrick, d'76, and Peter, c'81, c'82; and two sisters, one of whom is Andrea Puntteney Austin, c'89, g'93.

80s Linda Heidbrink Bigby, EdD'84, 67, June 30 in Columbia, Missouri. She was professor of education at the University of Central Missouri and retired as director of special services for Lee's Summit School District. A daughter and a son survive.

Joseph Bukaty Jr., e'80, 61, April 23 in Allen, Texas, where he was a chemical engineer. He is survived by his wife, Christina, and a sister, Roseanne Bukaty Becker, c'79.

Joseph Jarsulic, b'80, 60, May 17 in Kansas City, where he was a CPA and retired from the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities. Survivors include his wife, Becky; three daughters, one of whom is Julianne, '06; three brothers, one of whom is Jack, '72; a sister, Judy Jarsulic Orth, j'77; and seven grandchildren.

Reba Keys Larson, g'81, 82, May 8 in Overland Park. She taught at Olathe South High School. Surviving are her husband, Philip; a daughter, Kari Larson Lipscomb, c'86; a son, Erik, f'87, g'89; two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Zarda Jr., b'80, 60, March 18 in Kansas City. He was a territory manager at US Foods. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Shari; two daughters, one of whom is Anna, b'15; two sons; his parents; four sisters, one of whom is Linda Zarda Cook, e'80; and two grandchildren.

90s Robert Campbell, g'98, 72, June 2 in Prairie Village. He was an adjunct professor of business at Baker University. His wife, Linda Hinsch Campbell, c'70, c'71, m'84, survives.

Keith Loneker Sr., '94, 46, June 22 in Lawrence, where he had been an offensive lineman on KU's football team. He played professionally in the NFL in the mid-90s and later became an actor, screenwriter and producer. Survivors include a son, Keith Loneker Jr., a junior at KU; a daughter; three brothers; and a sister.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Robert Cobb, assoc., 91, June 7 in Kansas City. He was professor of English and dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. From 1980 to '87 he served as the University's executive vice chancellor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Janice Rogers Cobb, d'75; a son, Christopher, c'85; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

Margaret Foote Fisher, c'44, 95, Feb. 8 in Ottawa. She was a medical technologist at Watkins Memorial Health Center. Survivors include three sons, two of whom are Albert, d'74, and David, c'76, m'79; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Paul Mathews Jr., '83, 72, May 25 in Overland Park, where he was retired associate professor of respiratory care and adjunct associate professor in the Center on Aging at KU Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Loretta; three daughters, one of whom is Heather, '91; a son, Timothy, c'96; and two granddaughters.

Karl Rozman, 71, June 4 in Venice, Florida, where he was professor emeritus in the department of pharmacology, toxicology and therapeutics at KU Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Maria; four daughters, Marissa Rozman Mendoza, c'04, PharmD'10, Gabriella, c'04, Catarina Rozman Rziha, PharmD'06, and Alexandra Rozman O'Neill, PharmD'08; two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Carolee Dreier Atha, assoc., 93, April 20 in Mission Hills, where she volunteered with several organizations. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Russell III, c'71; two daughters, Karen Atha Dunn, '73, and Diane Atha Harriman, d'76; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Tom Eblen, assoc., 80, June 10 in Prairie Village. He had a long career as a reporter and editor before retiring as general manager and adviser at the University Daily Kansan. Surviving are his wife, Jean Kygar Eblen, '00; a daughter, Courtney Eblen McCain, j'91; and a son, Matthew, e'95, g'00.

Elizabeth "Bette" Quigley Heck, assoc., 90, July 27 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. She is survived by two sons, Michael, j'77, and Mark, b'79, d'81, EdD'00; two daughters, Susan Heck Holcomb, d'85, and Linda Heck Bennett, '88; a sister; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Emil Heck, assoc., 96, May 27 in Lawrence. He was a longtime farmer and stockman. Survivors include two sons, Michael, j'77, and Mark, b'79, d'81, EdD'00; two daughters, Susan Heck Holcomb, d'85, and Linda Heck Bennett, '88; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review



Hidden haven

Architecture students design, build meditative enclave

Pro tip for your next trek across Mount Oread: Wander behind Marvin Studios—the former home of KANU, south of Marvin Hall—and lose yourself for a few minutes in a lovely new space designed and built last spring by students in the School of Architecture & Design.

Unless you've used the little-known stairs that lead from Hoch Auditoria Drive to the back of Chalmers Hall (formerly the Art and Design Building), it's likely you've never encountered the spot—no loss, until recently, as it had been nothing more than a concrete pad on which a behemoth old satellite dish once perched.

Now the nook is a serene space featuring chairs made with “high-performance concrete,” custom-designed tiles and a towering art piece fashioned from colored nylon string and cedar posts charred in the traditional Japanese technique known as “shou sugi ban.”

There's also a handcrafted wooden table

in the shape of a piano—though the similarity was not intended, designers say—fronted by concrete chairs and low enough to be easily accessible in wheelchairs.

“The idea was to create two spaces,” says Associate Professor Paola Sanguinetti, a'92. “One is where a student can sit, relax, look at the horizon and sort of be in a

more introspective, quiet space. The other is a space with a table that is much more interactive and sharing.”

Known as Project RITA—Relaxing, Interactive and Therapeutic Atmosphere—the space was created by third-year students in Sanguinetti's design-build studio. Sanguinetti last fall identified the location she wanted her students to develop and secured permission for the project from KU's Office of Design and Construction Management. Her students then spent the first half of the spring semester discussing ideas and visualizing and testing their designs on computers.

Student designers worked closely with DCM to confirm that potential designs met building codes as well as KU guidelines for construction, safety and sustainability. Matt O'Reilly, g'08, PhD'10, assistant professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering in the School of Engineering, helped students design a mixture for thin concrete, reinforced with fiberglass instead of aggregates, which was used to make the chairs, and fiber-reinforced concrete for the tiles.

Students designed three molds of undulating tiles, employed robots to



STEVE PUPPE ©

fabricate them, and, as with all work at the site, laid the tiles themselves.

The project was funded with \$4,560—“We used every cent of it,” Sanguinetti says—raised via KU Endowment’s LaunchKU online crowdfunding initiative, and forced students to deal with real-world challenges of their future profession.

Months of design and planning were dashed, for instance, when, with two weeks left in the semester, engineers vetoed a parabolic canopy for safety concerns in the event of snow and ice accumulation. The canopy was replaced by the nylon-and-cedar art piece, designed by Sekou Hayes, which creates the feeling of an enclave while retaining the magnificent view across the Wakarusa Valley.

“For me, personally, that was the biggest takeaway, learning how to let things go,” Hayes says. “It’s tough, but that’s our obligation as designers. We’re problem-solvers, so it was just another problem that we had to solve.”

The site’s proximity to Marvin Studios and Chalmers Hall, where students spend endless hours laboring over their projects, has already made it a favored lunch and relaxation spot, which is particularly rewarding for Sanguinetti.

“Students are always inside, working on stuff, and sometimes they just need a break,” she says. “So we wanted to create a place where they could come during the



Charred cedar posts Sekou Hayes used in his colorful, airy sculpture were inspired by a Study Abroad trip to Japan. “That was an idea that was kind of daintily thrown out into the pool of ideas,” he says. “But then we thought it actually might have a really nice touch to it, so we went with it.”

day, and also later in the evening, because they usually stay late into the night.”

Hayes concedes that he’s still coming to grips with the loss of the canopy, but he’s ultimately pleased with the outcome.

“I’m very, very content with the result, and it feels good having a completed product,” he says. “And it feels even better knowing that people outside of our studio are really responding to this site. That’s what means the most to me. That means more than omitting a canopy.

“As long as people respond to it and enjoy it, that’s all I care about.”

—Chris Lazzarino

New kid in town

Debut novel offers fresh take on common junior-high traumas

Michael Merschel knows life as the new kid in school. He was in the middle of seventh grade when his family moved from Louisiana to Colorado, and it wasn’t long before woodshop bullies were smashing his projects.

“I thought I had the worst life that anybody could possibly have,” says Merschel, j’89, a veteran Dallas newspaper editor and first-time novelist. “I look back on it now and think, ‘OK, that was a relatively short window,’ and not long after that I made friends who have been friends of mine for life. At the time, I didn’t know that. At the time, when you’re that age, it’s so intense and you’re so determined to figure it out.

“I’m hoping that for kids in that situation, this can be a little bit of a guide.”

The guide is his novel, *Revenge of the Star Survivors*, which tells the story of intrepid junior-high explorer Clark Sherman, who finds himself dropped into a new school in the middle of eighth grade and is promptly set upon by toughies who delight in taunting his nerdiness.

The bullying is forecast in the first pages, when Clark arrives at his new school on a cold winter morning wearing moon boots and a Shackleton parka purchased from a PBS catalog. What’s not foreseen is Clark’s



Merschel

creative resourcefulness: He narrates his life as episodes of his favorite sci-fi show, “Star Survivors,” and steels himself, as did the author, to figure it out on his own without crying on his mother’s shoulder.

He innocently explains away the bruises, and his mother, frazzled by caring for an infant while also setting up their new house, is too distracted to probe further.

From the kitchen, the commander kept trying to question me. But it was becoming clear to me—she was busy. She didn’t have time to worry about things like cupcakes, or how klutzy I was, or my mission in general.

I needed to find a way to take care of myself.

I had a duty to take care of myself.

Clark’s heroic missions come to include a band of freshly drawn accomplices who use their wits, and a shared refusal to bow to peer pressures, to prevail over, and eventually empathize with, their enemies.

The novel, officially marketed as middle-grade fiction but entirely readable for adults, was in part sparked by an interview Merschel conducted in his day job as books editor of the Dallas Morning News, where he has worked for 23 years. When a new author who had hit the jackpot of an Oprah Winfrey recommendation explained that he’d written his book in part to figure out how a novel works, the words resonated.

Rock Chalk Review



Revenge of the Star Survivors

by Michael Merschel

\$17.95, Holiday House

“I thought, even if this ends up in a box under my bed, which is fully where I expected it to be, I can learn from this. I can learn what it takes to build a novel.”

Also revelatory for Merschel was his chore of unpacking and shelving the 400 books that lumber into his office each week. Struck by the insight that “some of them are not very good” yet were still published and promoted, Merschel told himself, “I can write a book that’s not very good. I am capable of that. And that’s what I did. That’s what I set out to do, actually.”

Merschel’s charming humor aside, he explains that the mindset liberated him from the trauma of creating a masterpiece.

“It freed me from thinking that the thing that came out of my head had to be any good,” he says. “It gave me the freedom to explore and see what I could do, and at the end of it I said, ‘OK, I accept that I’m going to have a lousy piece of writing.’ And if you look at that first draft, it’s a lousy piece of writing.”

“But I’m experienced as an editor. I know how to take bad writing and make it better, and so I applied it to myself.”

He first made *Revenge of the Star Survivors* good enough to show a friend, then, with her encouragement, polished it to a point where it was ready to send out to agents and, eventually, publishers. Eight “step-by-step” years from his first idea for the book, Merschel held the beautifully published hardback in his hands.

Another liberating piece of advice came from a former book review editor who had found notable success as an author. Merschel was determined to avoid any appearance of impropriety while simultaneously editing a nationally prominent book review section and also seeking a publisher for his own manuscript, yet his

colleague advised, “Mike, that’s all good and important, but here’s the thing: You’re not that important.”

“And he was right,” Merschel says. “As much as I love my job, and I like to think we make the world a little better, when a publisher is weighing whether or not to invest all the time, money and effort that goes into making even a simple book like mine, they don’t really care what my day job is. They just want to know that the book is going to be good.”

“So I kept that in mind a lot. And my wife and kids would agree, I’m not that important.”

Clark Sherman, and those who cheer him on, would very much disagree.

—Chris Lazzarino

Hotline help

Leukemia specialists on call 24/7 to assist doctors statewide

Physicians and other health care providers across Kansas and the region who either suspect a case of acute leukemia or need to arrange advanced treatment for patients with the fast-progressing disease can now consult leukemia specialists at the University of Kansas Cancer Center on a dedicated hotline staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Launched in March, the hotline—888-588-1167—is designed as an easy-access point for primary care and

Library lends inspiration



STEVE PUPPE (4)



Among the original art pieces commissioned for the Health Education Building (see pp. 28-35) are “Des Emplastres et Des Compresses,” by Marcie Miller Gross (above), f’82, and “for FN ... words without fear,” by Miki Baird (left), g’97, g’00. Gross found inspiration in “elegant forms” of compresses, plasters and bandages illustrated in an 18th-century French book held in KU Medical Center’s Clendening History of Medicine Library. Baird, too, discovered her topic in the Clendening collection: progressive thinking evidenced in handwritten letters by nursing pioneer and social reformer Florence Nightingale.





Acknowledging that “it’s a hardship for people to come from far away,” oncologist Tara Lin hopes the KU Cancer Center’s new leukemia hotline eases logistical burdens for Kansas patients and their worried families.

emergency physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and others to reach out for treatment advice and logistical aid in a patient’s urgent time of need.

“Those of us who take care of leukemia every day know that it’s serious and urgent, and we wanted to streamline the process so that doctors and other referring providers have an easier way to get right to us,” says medical oncologist Tara Lin, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center’s acute leukemia program. “What we didn’t want was for someone to be unsure of whether to call or who the right person was to reach out to, so we thought that a dedicated line would make access that much simpler.”

Even though the standard of care for some types of leukemia has changed little over the past 40 years, and tends to call for treatment with a pair of widely available drugs, recent studies have confirmed the experts’ observational evidence, Lin says, that leukemia patients treated in academic or other large-volume medical centers usually have better outcomes than those treated at smaller hospitals.

Along with expert physicians, patients are treated by teams that include experienced pharmacists, nurses who know which potential side effects should be closely monitored, infectious-disease consultants, and hematopathologists who

are always available to read and interpret bone-marrow biopsies, with results available within one to two hours. Patients in large medical centers also can access medicines available only in clinical trials, which is the standard of care in the most acute forms of the disease.

Other advantages for prompt access to large medical centers include treatment of acute promyelocytic leukemia, or APL, a highly curable subtype that can quickly

deteriorate without access to an oral medication that treats certain complications. That medicine, unfortunately, is rarely kept in smaller hospitals, where APL might be seen only once every two years.

“There should not be disparities in the quality of care just because of where you happen to live,” Lin says. “So if that person on the front line is suspicious for an acute leukemia, there is now an easy way to get in touch with an expert.”

The first patient whose physician used the hotline was immediately transferred from Great Bend by air ambulance on a Friday night, when it might otherwise have been difficult for the physician to reach distant specialists.

“It was the perfect scenario,” Lin says,



The Bravest Adventure

by Elizabeth Coons; with illustrations by Betony Coons

\$24.95, Archway Publishing

“and that’s why we’re trying to get the word out about the hotline, to make sure that people know they can save at least one step in the process and get to us a little bit more quickly.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Tome of the brave

With Seussian rhythms in the verse and bold, bright colors in the illustrations, Elizabeth and Betony Coons’ children’s book, *The Bravest Adventure*, tackles a serious issue with whimsy and charm: encouraging young kids (especially young girls) to look beyond their doubts and embrace opportunities all around them for adventures large and small.

Elizabeth Green Coons, c’94, majored in early childhood education at KU and has worked as a teacher, mentor and advocate for children. She collaborated with her sister-in-law, artist Betony Coons, to produce a book that fills a gap she sees in children’s literature.

“I think our whole society is gearing in the direction of stronger female influences,” Coons says. “Older kids, younger women, tweens, teens are all getting that message, but the little littles weren’t. I was inspired to write for 2- to 6-year-olds, because having that message early in life is so important.”

KU’s early childhood program taught Coons to see children as individuals.

“I really believe kids are people, that if you can just get on their level and be present with where they are, it’s amazing what you can do in their lives.”

Rhyming verses portray a young girl in braids adventuring near (flying a kite, stargazing, jumping rope) and far (“cross the Sahara to Timbuktu; ride horseback to Kalamazoo”), while the drawings repeat a subtle visual motif of keys, a recurring symbol that drives home the book’s message of empowerment.

“Throughout her adventures, the protagonist always holds the key to every door,” Coons says. “That’s the message: You had it all along.”

—Steven Hill

Glorious to View

photograph by Steve Puppe



He's ridden it to Yellowstone Park and followed the Santa Fe Trail all the way to the end in northern New Mexico, and on Aug. 7 Chancellor Doug Girod finally brought his 2004 Harley-Davidson V-Rod cruiser out for its first spin down Jayhawk Boulevard—with a special passenger (*Biker Baby Jay?*) along for the ride.

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

A NEW COLLECTIONS EXPERIENCE

Kenneth Spencer Research Library recently unveiled the newly renovated North Gallery, on the cusp of Spencer's 50th anniversary. Sweeping views of the Memorial Campanile and Marvin Grove are paired with impressive distinctive collections in this inspiring space. Thanks in part to a gift from former KU Librarian, Ann Hyde, and the generosity of friends of KU Libraries, these ambitious renovations now allow visitors to easily access, browse, and experience selected materials with multimedia insight that provides context on the exceptional collections behind the glass. Visit Spencer to explore and experience the awe of the North Gallery during regular building hours.

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