

KANSAS ALUMNI

No 1, 2019 ■ \$5

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doctors, nurses to rural Kansas*

■ LIFE MAPPER

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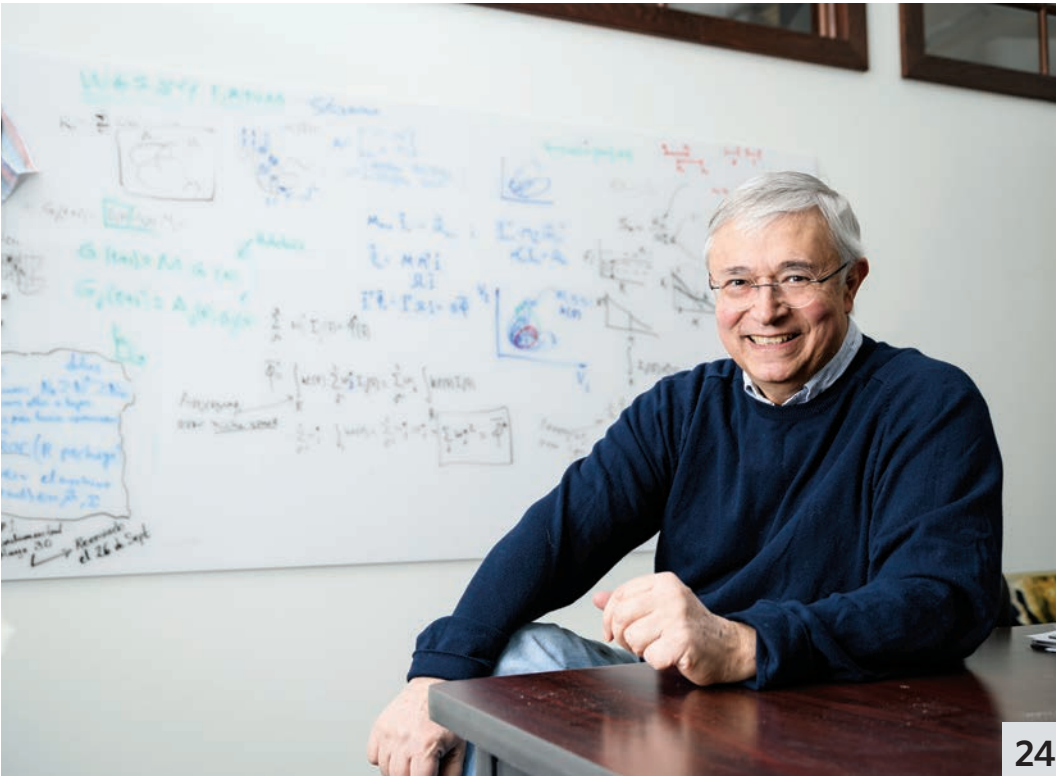
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COVER STORY

Homegrown Healing

With a smart new home downtown, the Salina campus brings state-of-the-art medical education and the promise of more doctors and nurses to underserved regions of Kansas.

By Heather Biele

Cover photograph by Steve Puppe. Elise Foley and Shelby Breit are first-year medical students in Salina.

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A Long View

A Biodiversity Institute professor trains a mind shaped by art and science on vistas of vast distance and time.

By Chris Lazzarino

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The Middle of Everywhere

Increasingly, the job of stemming brain drain in rural Kansas communities is falling to women. Meet a few who are rising to the challenge.

By Julie Mettenburg

Andrew Wymore

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January 2019

KANSAS ALUMNI

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Kansas Alumni Magazine*, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100 © 2019 by *Kansas Alumni Magazine*. Non-member issue price: \$7

Letters to the Editor:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free gift of KU Campus Playing Cards, a \$5 value.



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Lift the Chorus



Dissenting opinions

ROBERT DAY'S reflections and questions ["Protests Past," issue No. 6] remind us why we protest, whether in the '60s or now.

The inscription in our Campanile calls upon us as Jayhawks to be activists daily:

"Free government does not bestow repose upon its citizens, but sets them in the vanguard of battle to defend the liberty of every man [person]."

Whether for political issues, support of charities and causes or protection of our climate, all generations of us must shake ourselves out of any repose to keep making the difference our free government allows us to make.

Rusty Leffel, c'70, l'73,
Mission Hills

Editor's Note: Activist and student government leader Rusty Leffel is the namesake of the Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award. Established by a group of students, faculty and staff in 1973 to honor their friend and fellow student, the award is presented to a student who demonstrates

through his or her actions a real concern for furthering the ideals of the University and of higher education.

ROBERT DAY'S "Protests Past" got me thinking of my first Civil Rights protest. It took place at KU in fall 1960, my first semester. I was walking across campus when I passed a group of 25 to 30 people with signs standing at the west entrance to Strong Hall. A big guy named Moses Gunn seemed to be the head of the group. Moses and I were fellow theatre grad students and he was directing the first show I was in at KU. One of the best friends I had, he lived in the attic of a rat-trap house on Ohio across the street from where I lived. I remember being appalled with his living conditions: mattress on the floor and that was about it. He was poor in money, but rich in character.

Moses was one of the most talented theatre people I ever worked with, so I respected what he said. I stopped and asked what was going on. He said the group was protesting the fact that the University ran apartment and house rental ads in the housing office with the understanding that the renters might refuse anyone they didn't want (mainly those who were not white). They wanted the University to refuse free listings to those who did not agree to rent to anyone who came to their door. I stood with the group for an hour or so before I had to get to class.



Robert Day

Not long after, the University admitted it was wrong and ceased giving free listings to those who would not agree to the new policy. The next semester, the local newspaper was full of paid ads, mostly from renters who wanted to continue refusing anyone they wanted to refuse.

Moses went on to become one of the best actors in New York. He was in the original cast of a show called "In White America" and did numerous stage, screen and television roles. I will always be thankful to him and KU for enriching my life.

I can't fully feel the pain of those who experienced the brutal and deadly attacks against them during the "nonviolent" days of the movement. But I understand why they endured and why they kept on coming. There is no question that it was worth it. We must remember that they didn't just do it for themselves—they did it for all of us. Shame on us if we ever forget them. Thanks for remembering, Robert.

George Bradley, g'64, PhD'74
Alpine, Texas

I WAS A PH.D. STUDENT in the history department at KU from 1962 to 1965. I read with interest Robert Day's article on student protests from those days. His statement that "KU's off-campus housing policy

[1965] ... discriminates against African-Americans" needs to be corrected, however.

Certainly, there was discrimination, and not only for African-Americans, but from my experience it was *not* official. For one summer (I believe it was 1963), I had a job locating housing for students in the KU office that dealt with international students. The office had a rule that an apartment or house owner who refused to accept students of color would be removed from the office's list of acceptable housing.

Lester Langley, PhD'65
San Angelo, Texas



Sarah Smarsh

Geography lesson

I GRADUATED IN 1967 and have looked forward to our alumni magazine ever since. It keeps the memories flowing and brings me new perspectives.

I loved the article about Sarah Smarsh and *Heartland* ["Hard Stories," issue No. 5]. I would love to read her book.

Correction, though: Her hometown of Kingman is in no way southeast Kansas. SEK is a special place, home of coal miners, bootleggers, Chicken Mary's and is probably centered around Pittsburg.

Rickey Utermoehlen, b'67
Penn Valley, California



Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel and Daniel Shafton

Cheers for chabad

I WAS REALLY ENCOURAGED to see the Chabad Center at KU featured in *Kansas Alumni* ["Small boats, big hopes," Jayhawk Walk, issue No. 6] for its efforts to boost campus morale following the shootings in Lawrence and Las Vegas.

As a Jewish Jayhawk, it fills me with pride to know my alma mater embraces and celebrates diversity, making KU a comfortable destination for Jewish and other minority students around the globe.

It was a visit to KU Hillel and my initial introduction to the Jewish Jayhawk community that clinched my decision to go to grad school here, late last decade, and I can say with confidence that it was one of the best decisions I have made and will ever make in my life.

Rock Chalk, Jewhawk, go KU!

Matt Franzblau, g'12
Coral Springs, Florida

'Unique haven'

CONGRATULATIONS on yet another absorbing edition of *Kansas Alumni* magazine [issue No. 6], and a big thank you to Steven Hill for the clever report on the Endacott

Society's 49th anniversary celebration of the Woodstock music festival ["By the time they got to Woodstock," Jayhawk Walk].

Elsewhere in the magazine, in the "give back" section on how alumni "members can now direct support to favorite Association programs," I noticed that the Endacott Society was not listed as an Association program to which members can make contributions in remembrance of faculty members who might have influenced and shaped their lives at KU and beyond.

The Endacott Society is a unique haven for faculty and staff who continue to stay active and involved even in retirement. In recent years, celebrated teachers and longtime Endacott Society members who are no longer with us include Professors Jed Davis (theatre), James Drury (political science), Tom Eblen



Carolyn and Fred Madaus

COURTESY ENDACOTT SOCIETY

(journalism), Grant Goodman and James Seaver (history), Arno Knapper (business), Stuart Levine and George Worth (English), Thomas McCoy (architecture), Jerry Niebaum (information services), Del Shankel (microbiology), Marilyn Stokstad (art history), and Arnold Weiss (Spanish). Alumni who wish to honor their memory can make contributions directly to the Endacott Society through the Retired Faculty Expression of Appreciation Fund at KU Endowment.

Again, thank you for giving us such a fine publication. May your ink never run dry!

Paul Stephen Lim, c'70, g'74
Endacott Society President
Professor Emeritus, English

Rock Chalk bebop

I REALLY ENJOYED Steven Hill's article "Sweet Suite Music" in the latest edition [issue No. 6] of *Kansas Alumni*. The big question is where can we get a copy of the performance?

Greg Cott, b'73
Athens, Illinois

Editor's Note: No publicly available recording was made of "Rock Chalk Suite," the commissioned jazz piece honoring 15 KU basketball greats composed and performed by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to celebrate the Lied Center's 25th anniversary. If a (speculated) studio recording of the suite ever comes to pass, you can read about it in *Kansas Alumni* or through the Lied Center. Email lied@ku.edu and request to receive their email newsletter.



War memento

"OVER HERE" by Evie Rapport in the November *Kansas Alumni* was a splendid article describing the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) on campus in the fall of 1917.

My dad, Earl Goodrich, was a member of that unit. He was able to keep his dummy wooden rifle (constructed in the Fowler Engineering Shops, according to the article) and it hung over our fireplace for many years.

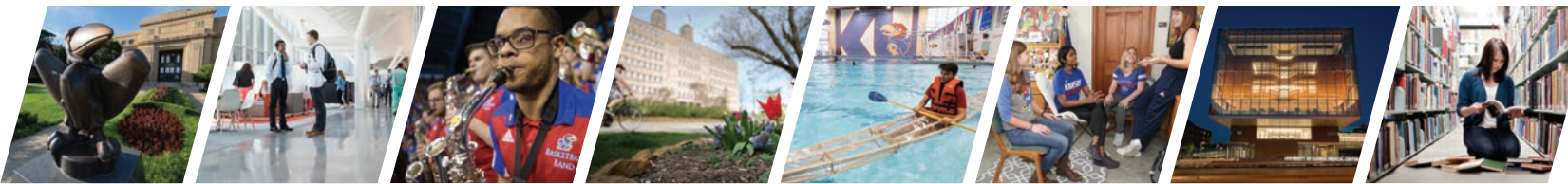
Judson Goodrich, c'47, g'48
Louisville, Colorado

Editor's Note: A secret diplomatic cable that proposed a military alliance between Germany and Mexico, and enraged Americans after its interception by British intelligence and public release by President Woodrow Wilson, became known as the "Zimmermann telegram"—not Zimmerman, as incorrectly spelled in the opening paragraph of our World War I feature in issue No. 6, "Over Here"—after its authenticity was verified by Arthur Zimmermann, Germany's state secretary for foreign affairs. We regret the error.



Your opinion counts

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



ONE DAY 2.20.2019 **ONEKU**

Last year on this day, we broke a record! More Jayhawks than ever before came together to support the University of Kansas during our first 24-hour giving campaign.

We were inspired by your KU spirit and are thrilled to spend another day with friends.

Be part of it.

Wednesday, February 20

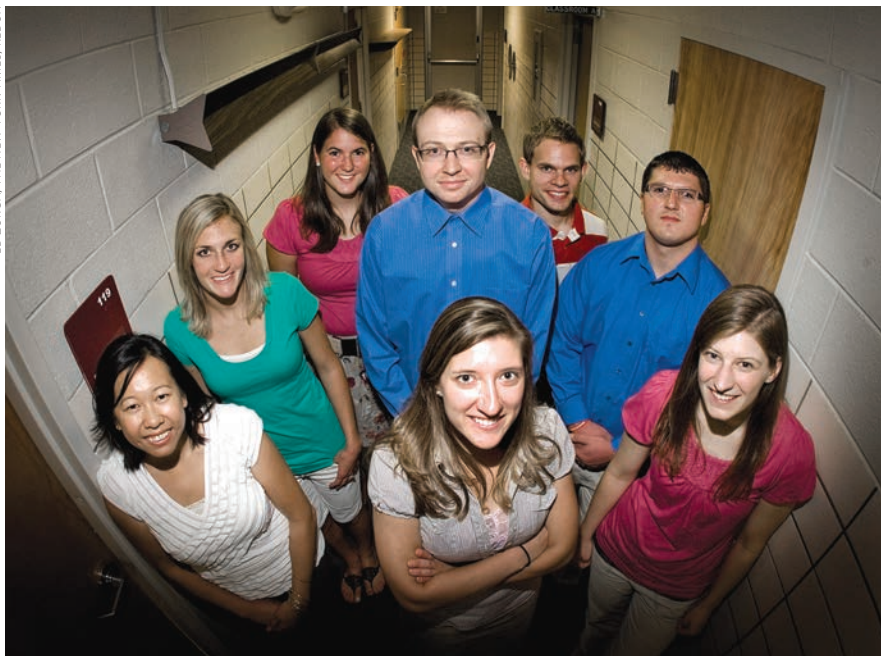
ku.edu/OneDayOneKU

[#OneDayOneKU](https://twitter.com/OneDayOneKU)



ROCK CHALK!

ED ZURGA/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX



Kansans tend to mind our manners and shy away from bragging, but we were pretty proud when The New York Times saw fit to print the 2011 story of the KU School of Medicine opening a new campus in Salina with only eight students.

On the front page of the Times' July 23 edition, beneath the headline, "New Path for Small-Town Doctors Starts in a Kansas Small Town," five women and three men personified the potential of KU's bold innovation to open the nation's smallest four-year medical program—gambling that future physicians who trained in the unique setting would be more likely to practice in rural towns that so desperately need doctors.

Kayla Johnson, a member of that first Salina class, recalls that the inaugural eight "were in the spotlight from the beginning. ... I remember The New York Times was there, and I was like, 'Wow, this is a big deal.'"

Salina-area residents agreed, eagerly welcoming the Class of 2015. "Right from the get-go, everyone in the community was just so supportive of the campus," Johnson, m'15, recalls. "We got kind of spoiled here. We got a lot of experiences that I don't think I would have got in a bigger city setting. On clinical rotations, we just loved it. I made a lot of good friends."

Seven years later, the Salina campus is fulfilling its promise, as

The first class of the School of Medicine-Salina, as photographed for The New York Times in 2011, included (front row, l to r) Rany Gilpatrick, Claire Hinrichsen and Sara Ritterling; (center) Kayla Johnson, Erik Dill and Tyson Wisinger; (back) Jill Corpstein and Daniel Linville.

Assistant Editor Heather Biele describes in our cover story. The number of medically underserved Kansas counties has begun to decrease, as Johnson, now a pediatrician, and other Jaydocs complete their residencies and begin their practices throughout the state. In 2017, KU's School of Nursing expanded to the Salina campus, and last summer, medical and nursing students moved into spacious downtown quarters in a renovated former bank building.

The larger presence in Salina coincided with growth on the medical campus in Wichita, where the longtime two-year clinical medical regimen extended to the complete four-year curriculum. Both changes were part of KU's ambitious Health Education Initiative, which also featured a campaign to construct a new, long-overdue Health Education Building on the Kansas City campus. As Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little declared in 2014, the entire initiative was "central to our mission and to the health and well-being of Kansans."

Kansans responded to the call, and the leadership and generosity of alumni and fellow citizens spurred progress. In Kansas City, private gifts, led by the Hall Family Foundation, and vital state funding combined to make the \$82 million Health Education Building a reality. The dazzling structure opened in July 2017, as KU introduced a new curriculum on all three campuses to train physicians, nurses and other health care professionals in the collaborative settings that will best prepare them to care for patients. KU and state leaders celebrated the new building shortly after Chancellor Doug Girod, longtime KU physician and Medical Center executive vice chancellor since 2013, succeeded Gray-Little.

Girod has vowed to continue KU's commitment as the essential provider of health care professionals and advanced treatment and research for the state and the region. As he prepared for the dedication of the new Salina quarters last June, Girod said, "We are so excited. The whole Salina medical school campus, now medical center campus, went from being a harebrained idea which everybody said wasn't doable to being one of the best success stories, I think, for outreach in the state.

"And it would not have happened without an incredible community."

On the Boulevard



A light dusting of snow fell on Mount Oread in late November, lulling campus into a quiet calm before the looming stress of Finals Week.



Exhibitions

“The Power of Place: KU Alumni Artists,” Spencer Museum of Art, Feb. 19 through June 30

“Camouflage and Other Hidden Treasures from the Eric Gustav Carlson WWI Collection,” Spencer Museum of Art, March 2 through June 9

“Politics, Race, Celebrity: Photographs from the Esquire Collection,” Spencer Museum of Art, March 16 through June 23

Lied Center events

JANUARY

- 20** Ovation! USD 497 Talent Show
- 26** The Kansas John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band

27 Russian National Ballet: “The Sleeping Beauty”

31 KU Percussion Group with special guest Andy Akiho

FEBRUARY

- 2** KU Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble I
- 3** Prairie Winds Concert
- 10** David Wilcox
- 12** Shen Yun
- 15** KU School of Music Scholarship Concert
- 19** KODO One Earth Tour 2019: Evolution
- 21** KU Wind Ensemble
- 28** Rock Chalk Revue

MARCH

- 1-2** Rock Chalk Revue
- 3** Cirque Éloize: SALOON

19 KU Symphonic Band and University Band

21 KU Symphony Orchestra

24 Zlatomir Fung, cello

Natural History Museum events

JANUARY

- 27** Discovery Day: Kansas Day, Dyche Hall
- 30** Auditory Repercussions: “Why Can’t I Hear at Noisy Restaurants Anymore?,” Free State Brewing Company, Lawrence

University Theatre

FEBRUARY

- 22-24** “One Man, Two Guvnors,” directed by Jason Bohon, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

MARCH

- 1-3** “One Man, Two Guvnors,” directed by Jason Bohon, Crafton-Preyer Theatre
- 29-31** “Sycorax,” directed by Jane Barnette, William Inge Memorial Theatre



Murphy Hall

FEBRUARY

- 2** Visiting Artist Series: Teng Zhe, piano with students from Shanghai Conservatory
- 5** Visiting Artist Series: Jed Distler, piano
- 7** Visiting Artist Series: Transient Canvas, percussion
- 14** Wunsch New Music Concert
- 19** Harpsichord Dedication Recital
- 21** Visiting Artist Series: Jason Hausback, bass trombone

MARCH

- 3** Faculty Recital Series: Paul Stevens, horn; David Colwell, violin; Ellen Sommer, piano
- 3** Kansas Virtuosi
- 4** Faculty Recital Series: Hannah Collins, cello
- 6-8** KU Opera: The Elixir of Love, Baustian Theatre
- 6** Visiting Artist Series: Dave Hall, percussion
- 25** New Music Guild
- 26** Undergraduate Honor Recital
- 30** Faculty Recital Series: Julia Broxhom, soprano, with Russell Miller, piano

Performances

MARCH

- 1-2** KU Jazz Festival Concert, Burge Union
- 24** KU Choirs: Joy of Singing, Kauffman Center for the Arts, Kansas City

Lectures

FEBRUARY

- 7** "Political Optimism in the Age of Trump," Walter Mosley, Humanities Lecture Series, Kansas Memorial Union Ballroom
- 8** Humanities Lecture Series Conversation: Walter Mosley, Hall Center conference hall

Academic Calendar

JANUARY

- 22** First day of classes

MARCH

- 11-17** Spring break

MAY

- 19** Commencement

Alumni Events

JANUARY

- 19** KU at West Virginia watch parties
- 19** Rock Chalk Champions, Portland, Oregon
- 20** KU night with the Minnesota Timberwolves, Target Center, Minneapolis
- 21** KU vs. Iowa State watch parties
- 21** Wichita Bus Ride to Lawrence
- 21** Rock Chalk Champions, Seattle

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

25 KU Night with the Denver Nuggets, Pepsi Center, Denver

26 KU at Kentucky watch parties



26 KU at Kentucky pregame party, Lexington, Kentucky

26 Rock Chalk Champions, Houston

26 KU Cares: Portland Food Bank, Portland, Oregon

29 KU at Texas watch parties

29 KU at Texas pregame party, Austin, Texas

30 Rock Chalk Champions, Albuquerque, New Mexico

FEBRUARY

2 KU vs. Texas Tech watch parties

5 KU at KSU watch parties

6 KU Night with the Dallas Mavericks, American Airlines Center, Dallas

9 KU vs. Oklahoma State watch parties

11 KU at TCU watch parties

16 KU vs. West Virginia watch parties

19 KU Night at the Wichita Theatre, Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center, Wichita

23 KU at Texas Tech watch parties

25 KU vs. KSU watch parties

25 Wichita Bus Ride to Lawrence

MARCH

2 KU at Oklahoma State watch parties

5 KU at Oklahoma watch parties

9 KU vs. Baylor watch parties

13-16 Big 12 Tournament, Sprint Center, Kansas City

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

Jayhawk Walk



The calls of the wild

The Macaulay Library boasts the world's largest archive of animal sounds, and Mark Robbins, collection manager of ornithology at KU's Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, is now its most prolific contributor.

In 40 years of chasing birds worldwide, Robbins has amassed more than 11,000 field recordings of avian vocalizations—birdsongs—every one now in the Macaulay, where they make up 3 percent of the Cornell University library's recordings.

Researchers use the sounds to study many scientific topics, including how climate change is affecting bird ranges. That's the subject of recent investigations that tapped some of Robbins' first recordings, of chickadees, made in 1978.

"There's a lot of satisfaction that you're adding to the science," says Robbins, who has discovered six new species and had one—the Ecuadorian Tapaculo (*Scytalopus robbinsi*)—named for him.

But there are personal rewards, too. "I got into this as a kid, long before I



Robbins

appreciated the science," says the longtime bird lover. "Migration still brings me to my knees: That on a spring day in May you get a south wind and overnight all these birds who've been migrating for two months from the Amazon basin show up in your backyard—I love that. It gives you a whole different perspective on the life of the planet."

Indeed, it's good to know there are still some tweets that can set the heart aflutter.



More online:

Hear a few of Mark Robbins' bird recordings at kualumni.org/extras.

Intestinal fortitude: Cops crack colon caper

NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS ABOUT IT: There's no humor in colon cancer. Unless, of course, a 150-pound inflatable colon, depicting various stages of disease from polyps to advanced cancer, is stolen from the bed of a pickup truck, launching cheeky media coverage by prestigious newspapers and TV networks ("What kind of a**hole steals a giant colon?" mused Stephen Colbert).

The blow-up colon—described by The New York Times as "something of a colonoscopy walking tour"—is owned by the Cancer Coalition and is regularly deployed as an instructional prop by physicians at KU Cancer Center, where it is stored; its Oct. 18 theft rocketed to social-media stardom, leading to a crowdfunding campaign to cover its \$4,000 replacement cost.

Acting on a tip, Kansas City, Missouri, police on Oct. 29 found the booty in an abandoned house. The replacement fund by that time had swollen to \$11,000, which will be used to buy two more bouncy bowel houses, but the true scope of the stolen colon sensation became apparent when KU publicists later determined that the story had reached print, broadcast and online audiences—*not* including social media—of 66.9 million Americans.

Police never nabbed the bums behind the bowel's movements, but getting to the bottom of the crime is no longer a priority. The true happy ending is that colorectal cancer screening awareness is at an all-time high.

As Stacie Moody, a coordinator of the Cancer Coalition's Get Your Rear in Gear event, told The New York Times, "Honestly, this has been kind of like the colon cancer lottery for us."



KANSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



COURTESY JOE BEYER

More than child's play

Students handle the stress of college life in many ways. For Joe Beyer, relief came in the form of the very buildings he called home for nearly 10 years on the Hill.

In 2015, the PhD candidate felt overwhelmed by the prospect of writing his dissertation. "It was just really stressful, so I started looking for creative

outlets," says Beyer, d'10, g'12, PhD'16. "At one point I had seen a Lego version of Allen Field House, but there's really no place to find the kit for that. So, I started wondering how it could be re-created."

Aided by the 3D capabilities of Google Earth, Beyer easily constructed the sacred sports arena with Lego bricks he ordered online. He has since created nearly 20 campus buildings with the classic interlocking bricks and plates.

The most time-consuming part, Beyer says, is finding the right Lego pieces; the actual construction takes only six or seven hours, depending on the building's complexity. One of his most challenging creations was Strong Hall, which required the purchase of nearly 4,000 pearl-gold, 1-by-1-inch plates he found from a seller in Germany.

Now a military cognitive performance specialist in Kaneohe, Hawaii, Beyer continues to replicate Mount Oread's most notable structures. "We're going to have to find a different place to put all of them, because they're getting kind of big," he jokes. "Thankfully, my wife is OK with all of this."



Dyche Hall



Budig Hall



Spooner Hall

Deep in the heart of ... Kansas?

DURING THE FINAL HOME FOOTBALL game Nov. 23, observant fans noticed something amiss above Fraser Hall's iconic roofline. Towering toward the blue flapped a thing most definitely *not* glorious to view: the state standard of the visiting Texas team.

KU police were alerted at 11:40, and by high noon the bandit banner had been replaced by the K flag, the special University flag flown on game days.

Fraser was locked tight for Thanksgiving break, no sign of forced entry was

detected, and the KU flag was found safe and sound, according to James Anguiano, deputy chief of KU public safety, which is investigating the flap as criminal trespassing.

"We are always out looking for potential pranks, especially with certain games," Anguiano says. Especially contests that involve a certain cross-state rival?

"I've been here 29 years, so I can remember chickens being let go in front of the KU bookstore, things being painted purple," Anguiano says. "Now I guess we have to add Texas to the list."

Police may be stumped on how the pirates of pennants reached Fraser's flags,

but they have a hunch as to the motive.

"I guess," Anguiano says, "Texas is still upset we beat them in football two years ago."

So be advised, Lone Star State. You're on our list. Don't mess with Kansas.



SARA SHEPHERD/LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD



Reap the wind

University taps one of state's most abundant resources to power Lawrence campus

A new 20-year agreement between KU and Westar Energy will allow the University to get nearly 100 percent of its electricity needs from wind energy.

The deal, announced in November, will start in 2020, when the Soldier Creek Wind Farm now under construction in Nemaha County is expected to come online.

Meeting more of the University's energy needs from renewable sources has long been a goal for administrators, and it's something that students have been requesting (and paying for) since a campus environmental improvement fee was established more than a decade ago. But until now shifting to renewables would not have made financial sense, according to Jeff Severin, director of campus planning and sustainability.

"In the past, we've looked at other ways to procure renewable energy, and most of

the time it's at a cost to the University," says Severin, c'01, g'11. "But in this case it actually makes financial sense, because we can lock in at the current rate, so that allows us to look at this as not just an environmental decision, but also a financial decision."

The new affordability results from the Direct Renewable Participation Service (DRPS) tariff, passed by the Kansas Corporation Commission in July. The new regulation allows large commercial and industrial energy users to contract with

Westar for electricity at a lower rate than the utility currently charges.

Under the new contract, KU will receive 31 megawatts of energy annually from the 300 megawatt wind farm, and the DRPS tariff lowers the University's fuel factor cost from 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour to 1.8 cents.

The University also benefits from knowing what its electricity bill will be for the next two decades—a boon for long-term planning and goal-setting.

"It's going to provide some stability throughout the length of the contract, knowing that this is the price we're paying for energy," Severin says. "Our utility budget is over \$12 million, so being able to count on that price being the same over time is a pretty big deal."

KU joins Kansas State University (which will purchase 14 megawatts, or roughly half of the energy needs of its Manhattan campus, from wind) and Washburn University (four megawatts, or roughly 80 percent of its energy needs) in supporting the new Soldier Creek Wind Farm. Other customers include Cargill, Cox Communications, Sedgwick County Zoo, Sisters of Charity and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in Leavenworth, Topeka and Wichita.

Severin notes that, unlike Renewable Energy Credits or other offsets, which allow power users to buy the green portion of energy that's already being generated, this plan actually supports the addition of renewable energy capacity to the regional electricity grid. "We know the money that we spend through this contract is actually going to new wind development, which

"We know the money that we spend through this contract is actually going to new wind development, which has economic benefits for the state."

—Jeff Severin, director of campus planning and sustainability

has economic benefits for the state. So it's not just an economic decision for the University, but it's also contributing more broadly to the economy and the development of renewables."

According to Brandon Sack, b'01, clean energy development manager at Westar Energy, "The Soldier Creek Wind Energy Center will bring lasting benefits to Nemaha County, including 250 construction jobs, 15 permanent jobs and more than \$50 million in land-rights payments through the first 30 years of the project." The farm is being built by Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources and will include as many as 120 wind turbines.

Closer to campus, the new deal helps the Center for Sustainability deliver on an issue students have been pushing for years.

"We do get a lot of questions about, 'Why aren't we doing more? Why aren't we putting solar panels on buildings?'" Severin says.


The answer, again, has until now come down to affordability.

"For several years students have wanted us to do more with renewable energy on campus, and it's something we wanted to do because it's the right thing to do. But it hasn't made financial sense to invest in a

lot of solar panels for campus. This allows us to do what we've been asked to do by students, and find a way to transition to a more renewable source of energy."

The University owes it to current and future students, Severin says. Citing the findings of the 2018 climate report compiled by 13 U.S. government agencies, "Fourth National Climate Assessment," he notes that we have "a pretty long ways to go as a nation" to start reducing the impacts of human activity on global climate change.

"From my perspective, as director of sustainability, we have a responsibility, as the state's flagship institution, to be a leader.

"We operate year-to-year on a budget cycle, but we're an institution that has been around for 150 years. Hopefully we'll be around for another 150, so we have to make the types of decisions that have that kind of long-lasting impact. This kind of lays a little bit of groundwork in that direction, in saying, OK, we're committed to the types of changes that need to happen so that we can start to curb fossil fuel use and develop an economy that can still support all the things that we know and love about Kansas, but by doing it in a different way." 



STEVE PUPPE

Hard choices

Shortfall leads to job losses, changes in fiscal priorities

About 30 KU staff members will lose their jobs and more than 150 positions will be eliminated over the next two years as the University acts on a plan, announced in May, to cut \$20 million and overhaul its budget process.

Carl Lejuez, interim provost and executive vice chancellor, outlined the job cuts during the latest budget information meeting, Dec. 5, at Budig Hall.



STEVE PUPPE

Zúñiga and Ammon

Two seniors achieved KU firsts this fall in winning prestigious national honors.

Kathryn Ammon, of Fort Worth, Texas, a triple major in history, political science and women, gender and sexuality studies, is the first KU student to win a George J. Mitchell Scholarship. The program sends future American leaders to Ireland for a year of graduate study; it honors former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell's contributions to the Northern Ireland peace process.

Ammon was one of 12 students nationally to win the award, and the only recipient from a public school. She will pursue equality studies at University College Dublin.

Constanza Castro Zúñiga, of Raytown, Missouri, is KU's first Charles B. Rangel Fellow. The political science major receives up to \$95,000 to prepare for a career in the foreign service.

The Rangel Fellowship Program aims to enhance

the excellence and diversity of the U.S. Foreign Service by supporting extraordinary students who want to pursue a career at the U.S. Department of State. Fellows are supported for two years of graduate study, internships, mentoring and professional development.

Ammon and Zúñiga were supported throughout the application process by KU's Office of Fellowships, led by Anne Wallen, c'03, program director.

CLASS CREDIT

Hilltopics



Best for Vets: The Military Times named KU one of the top five schools in the country for military veterans. The ranking considers five areas: university culture, student support, cost and financial aid, academic policies and academic quality/outcomes. KU scored well in all five, but scored best in academic policies for military students and student support.

About 55 faculty positions and 100 staff positions will be eliminated, according to estimates Lejuez presented at the meeting. Faculty positions will be cut by leaving open positions unfilled and through a program that offers buyouts to qualified faculty if they choose to retire. Staff reductions will come from cutting 70 vacant positions and 29 filled positions.

According to a chart that Lejuez shared, eight employees were laid off between July 1 and Dec. 5, 11 were scheduled to lose their jobs by the start of the spring semester, and 10 were to be notified this spring that their jobs will be eliminated by the end of the fiscal year that closes June 30.

More than half of the layoffs—19 employees—are in administrative services, which includes operations, finance and information technology. Four are in administration and four are in student services.

About 60 faculty members have elected to enter the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP), which offers cash payments to eligible faculty who agree to retire over the next two years. Faculty ranks would be 5.5 percent smaller after the cuts, but Lejuez emphasized that the reductions—which would be covered by adding more nonfaculty lecturers—are not intended to be permanent.

“There will certainly be a delay in faculty being on campus because of the VSIPs,” Lejuez said. “But for the most part, we will

be able to hire three or so faculty members for every two who took VSIPs. It will take some time, but this will actually support bringing back faculty on campus.”

At an open forum Dec. 6, faculty, staff and students vented frustrations with University administration. Ruben Flores, associate professor of American studies and the University Senate president, urged the campus community—especially students—to become more involved in the discussions about the budget.

“These are tax-supported institutions,” Flores said. “Students, you are paying tuition. It’s your education that is being harmed, and we don’t need to be embarrassed or hide from these concerns.”

Lejuez also outlined the progress that has been made so far in designing a new budget process.

“The question is not, ‘OK, we’re going to cut,’” Lejuez said, “but the question is, ‘What are we going to do different?’ How do we make meaningful changes in the way that we budget so that we are able to be more effective as a University, we are able to be more strategic, we’re able to incentivize growth and we’re able to support units that really don’t have the resources to do the things they’re doing.”

The new budget process, still under development, will focus on “foundational priorities” that will likely include restoring the University’s savings, allocating raises for faculty and staff, tackling deferred maintenance needs, limiting tuition

increases and planning for inflation.

It would also include a focus on strategic priorities—one-time investments that can build reputation or revenue—and change how and when budgets are allocated for the academic units.

“The problem we have with our existing budget model is that it has been a model that we’ve had in place a very long time, and it’s not sensitive to any of those things,” Lejuez said.

Plans call for a new budget process to be rolled out sometime this spring.

“We have to stop saying, ‘This is how we’ve always done it.’ We have to say, ‘Based on the metrics that matter to us, are we allocating the budget the right way?’”

Hospitality house

ECM offers historic new nest for ‘Hawks visiting the Hill

The challenges Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM) has faced in recent years might sound familiar to anyone who has followed the travails of higher education over the past few decades: declining funding, deteriorating facilities and shrinking staffs were forcing the interfaith organization, which since 1960 has occupied the corner of Oread Avenue and 12th Street, to do more with less.

Downstairs rooms that had served as student living quarters were in dire need of a rehab, and staff changes left ECM with less ability to recruit KU students inter-





ested in living in fellowship at the center.

“We were aware that the facilities really needed an upgrade,” says Anne Culpepper, part-time administrator at ECM. “Our church funding has plummeted, so we were trying to think of ways to be self-sustaining. We thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could get people to help us rehab these living quarters and use them to fulfill our mission of providing hospitality to people?’”

With the aid of hundreds of volunteer hours, the space—which includes four private rooms and a shared kitchen—was “completely rehabbed” with fresh paint and other improvements, a live-in manager was installed and in January 2018 ECM began listing its edge-of-campus digs on Airbnb.

Alumni, parents and fans of both modern architecture and revolutionary fervor have checked in. Judging by the Airbnb ratings—the average rating is 4.7, with 78 percent of visitors giving their stay a five-star review—and the growing number of repeat customers, they like what they find.

“Already we’ve been open long enough that people have come back for their second trip, and they’re like, ‘Oh, we’re always gonna come here now,’ because they like the atmosphere,” Culpepper says. “I’ve heard people say that this building has a certain spirit to it.”

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009, the center was nominated because its concrete, brick, steel and glass construction and design embody the distinctive characteristics of mid-century modern architecture.

But guests can also get a sense of “the ’60s and ’70s revolutionary memory of what took place here,” Culpepper says. Over the years the building has served as a near-campus meeting spot for student and community leaders involved in social justice causes such as the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War protests, gay rights, the American Indian Movement, and the February Sisters.

Guests have access to the Solidarity Library, a collection of more than 4,000 rare and radical books, periodicals, pamphlets and zines; the weekly free Veggie Lunch and weekend Vegan Breakfasts; and the many forums, church services and spiritual sessions held weekly at the center.

“You can have as much or as little interaction with the space as you want,” Culpepper says. “For those who are historically inclined, it’s a really neat opportunity to experience an organization that has had close ties to KU for a hundred years. Or if you just want a place to sleep, it’s super convenient. However much energy you want to put into it, it’s got something for everyone.”

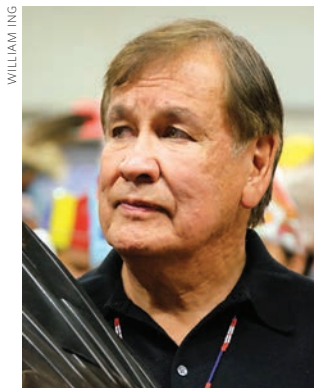
Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Steven Soper**, PhD’90, Foundation Distinguished Professor in the School of Engineering, has been elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biomedical Engineering (AIMBE) College of Fellows. The AIMBE College of Fellows represents the top 2 percent of the medical and biological engineering community, with about 2,000 members around the world. A leading researcher on novel biomedical devices, Soper focuses on in vitro cancer diagnostics based on lab-on-a-chip technologies.

■ **A \$6.9 million** gift from Joseph and Maude Ruth Cramer will benefit research by the Kansas Geological Survey and the archeology program in the department of anthropology. The Cramers established the Odyssey Geoarcheology Research Program with a \$1 million gift in 2002; the additional estate gift will enhance support for the program, which uses geoscientific methods to search for evidence of the earliest human presence in the Central Great Plains and western portions of the Midwest. Joe Cramer was a petroleum geologist with an interest in archaeology. He died in 2013, and Ruth died in 2018.

■ **A Greek life task force** convened this fall to evaluate and submit recommendations for enhancing greek life on Mount Oread. Announcing the move in a message to the University community in November, Chancellor Doug Girod wrote, “With sororities and fraternities under scrutiny nationwide and at KU, we must commit to raising our standards for health, wellness and self-governance and seek new ways to meet the expectations we have for our community.” The 27 members of the task force include students, parents, alumni, advisers, University administrators, staff and housing corporation representatives.

Hilltopics



Mills



Broun



Ueda

HONORS

Three to be awarded honorary degrees at commencement

BILLY MILLS, OLYMPIC gold medalist; Elizabeth Broun, Smithsonian American Art Museum director; and Teruhisa Ueda, president and CEO of Shimadzu Corporation, will receive honorary doctorates from KU during commencement ceremonies May 19.

Mills, d'62, a three-time All-America cross-country runner at KU, won the 10,000 meters at the 1964 Olympics in one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history.

He remains the only American to win the event. A member of the Oglala Sioux tribe who grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Mills founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth and Dreamstarter, programs that support American Indian youths. He will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his outstanding contributions to improve the lives of Native Americans and his commitment to lifting the voices of diverse and underrepresented people.

Broun, c'68, g'69, g'74, PhD'76, is director emerita of the Smithsonian

American Art Museum, where she worked for 27 years. From 1976 to 1983, she was curator and interim director at KU's Spencer Museum of Art before joining the Smithsonian as chief curator and assistant director. She became director in 1989 and retired in 2016. She oversaw extensive renovations and dramatically expanded research resources, leading the museum's transformation into the premier research center for American art. She will receive the degree of Doctor of Arts in honor of her extraordinary contributions to the field of American visual history.

Ueda leads one of the world's largest manufacturers of scientific instrumentation, with 10,000 employees and revenue of more than \$2.5 billion, and he is the driving force behind Shimadzu's corporate philosophy to contribute to society through science and technology. Educated at Kyoto University in his native Japan, he studied at KU in the early 1990s at the Center for Bioanalytical Research; he credits his time on the Hill for helping create his global approach to business management. Ueda will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Science for his outstanding contributions to science and technology.

VISITOR

GENRE BUSTER

Writer Neil Gaiman read from his work and answered questions from a sold-out Lied Center audience during "An Evening with Neil Gaiman," part of the 2018-'19 Humanities Lecture Series.

WHEN: Nov. 19

WHERE: The Lied Center

SPONSOR: The Hall Center for the Humanities

BACKGROUND: Gaiman is the prolific and celebrated author of books, graphic novels, short stories and nonfiction across many genres and for readers of all ages, including the Sandman comic book series, *Stardust*, *American Gods* and *Coraline*. He has won Newbery and Carnegie medals, four Hugo Awards, two Nebulas, a World Fantasy Award, four Bram Stoker Awards and many others. His six-show series "Good Omens" will be released on Amazon's Prime Video later this year.

ANECDOTE: A huge fan of David Bowie, Gaiman joked that he spent much of his adult life trying to avoid the rock star. "I've met so many of my heroes, and I've discovered when you meet your heroes sometimes they disappoint you, sometimes they're even cooler and more interesting," Gaiman said. "But either way they replace the thing that was in your head."

QUOTE: Asked which of his own books is his favorite, Gaiman said it's the one he's writing now.



ANN DEAN PHOTOGRAPHY

"I'm always convinced that this time I'll get it right, and this time the beautiful, wonderful, perfect thing that's in my head will actually make it onto the paper. And of course, that never happens."



ACADEMICS

Survey says Jayhawks more engaged than AAU peers

KU SCORED HIGH marks on a leading measure of undergraduate student participation, the 2018 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

First-year and senior students at nearly 500 institutions participate in the NSSE's College Student Report, which annually collects information about student participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. Survey results, according to NSSE, "provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college," and they "point to areas where colleges and universities are performing well and aspects of the undergraduate experience that could be improved."

"NSSE provides a benchmark for how our students are connecting with the University through various learning experiences," says DeAngela Burns-Wallace, vice provost for undergraduate

studies. "But more importantly it provides data that we can use for institutional improvement."

Several results from the survey show that KU students are more engaged in enhancing activities and learning opportunities than their peers at other Association of American University (AAU) institutions:

- 43 percent of KU first-year students reported talking about career plans with a faculty member often or very often, compared with 29 percent, on average, at AAU institutions;

- 32 percent of KU first-year students discussed their academic performance with a faculty member; the average for AAU institutions overall was 25 percent;

- 30 percent of KU seniors reported working with a faculty member on activities other than classwork (compared with 25 of their AAU peers);

- 77 percent of KU seniors plan to or already have completed a culminating senior project or experience (compared with 64 percent of their AAU peers).

Academic departments can use the findings to guide curriculum redesign and co-curricular program development, and KU's Center for Teaching Excellence will lead workshops on using NSSE results for curriculum enhancement.

"Our NSSE results tell us more about students' experiences in our courses and programs," Burns-Wallace says. "This knowledge enables us to expand practices that support the success of all students."

Milestones, money and other matters

- **A \$3.5 million** gift from Craig and Diane Martin will establish a construction safety center at the School of Engineering. Based in the civil engineering department, the Craig and Diane Martin National Center for Construction Safety will incorporate psychology, sociology and other academic research areas in its multidisciplinary approach to improving safety on construction sites. Craig Martin, e'72, retired CEO of Jacobs Engineering Group, was born in Dodge City and lives now in Pasadena, California.

- **Rex Buchanan, '92**, director emeritus of the Kansas Geological Survey, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the American Geosciences Institute for his achievements promoting the geosciences and natural resource issues affecting Kansans.

- **A \$700,000 grant** from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration will benefit the Center for Entrepreneurship in the School of Business. KU is one of only 40 schools in the nation to receive the grant, which will fund student-staffed programs such as RedTire, Jayhawk Consulting and The Catalyst that give business students hands-on experience.

- **Housing and dining rates** will remain unchanged for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to plans shared with the Kansas Board of Regents this fall, making KU the only Regents institution to keep rates flat. A standard double occupancy room with a standard dining package will cost \$10,350 for the school year. Occupancy rates for student housing were 93.4 percent this school year, down from 94.6 percent last year and 99.2 percent in fiscal 2017.

"If you do not value libraries, then you do not value information or culture or wisdom. You are silencing the voices of the past and you are damaging the future."

—Neil Gaiman

STEVE PUPPE (2)



Players will look to coach Bill Self for creative solutions to the loss of Udoka Azubuike (35). Without the 7-foot center, Self's Jayhawks will revert to extended stretches with four guards rotating around forward Dedric Lawson (1).

Worst case

'Hawks limp into Big 12 season without injured center Azubuike

Men's basketball opened defense of its 14 consecutive Big 12 titles with a 70-63 victory over Oklahoma, Jan. 2 in Allen Field House—this after the Jayhawks navigated a rugged nonconference schedule at 11-1, including victories over Michigan State, Marquette, Tennessee, Stanford and Villanova, which bounced the Jayhawks in last season's national semifinal game.

They arrived in Ames, Iowa, for their first Big 12 road game as the country's fifth-ranked team and heavy Big 12 favorite. But shortly before the Jan. 5 tipoff against Iowa State, coach Bill Self announced that junior center Udoka Azubuike injured his wrist in practice and would miss the game, after missing four earlier games with a sprained ankle.

Self said X-rays were negative, but he also noted that Azubuike was in consider-

able pain and, given that he'd missed all but 11 games as a freshman to a wrist injury, was understandably apprehensive about trying to play.

"We don't think they're remotely related and it's in a different hand," Self said of the two wrist injuries, "but we're going to sit him today."

Even without Azubuike, KU out-rebounded ISU 41-26, and freshman guard Quentin Grimes turned in his third-consecutive double-digit scoring performance with 19 points—notable after the McDonald's All-American looked befuddled for much of December—yet, thanks to KU's astonishing 24 turnovers, the Cyclones trounced the Jayhawks, 77-60.

"That was a beatdown," Self said afterward. "We really don't have great ballhandlers right now. We haven't shot it very well or passed it very well. That's not a great combination for our offense."

As bad as Self and his players felt leaving Hilton Coliseum, things got even worse the following day, when an MRI revealed that Azubuike had sustained the exact

same injury that shortened his freshman season, except to the opposite wrist, and would undergo season-ending surgery.

When he stepped before assembled media for his regularly scheduled news conference less than 24 hours after receiving the bad news, Self looked as if he'd already battled through weeks of grueling Big 12 competition. He noted that junior forward Dedric Lawson would now have to play center, with his back to the basket much of the time, and myriad other adjustments would be required to juggle a lineup without Azubuike or sophomore forward Silvio De Sousa, who still awaits NCAA clearance before he can take the court.

"We don't need to say that we are short-handed anymore. We are not short-handed. This is who we got," Self replied when asked by *Kansas Alumni* about monitoring the Jayhawks' mental toughness—a recurring topic last season—in the face of a new reality of playing



“We don’t need to say that we are short-handed anymore. We are not short-handed. This is who we got.”

—coach Bill Self, on playing without Udoka Azubuike

without their 7-foot center. “So we need to change our mindset about what we need to do in order to be successful. And I think what we need to do to play well isn’t any different than what we have been stressing all along. I just think it is magnified now a lot more.”

Perhaps peeved with himself for 20 minutes of mostly gloomy commentary, Self paused, offered his trademark confident grin and added, “And, yeah, we’ve got it in us. I mean, there is no doubt about that.

“This team has a lot of pride. We got this.”

Miles to go

Former LSU championship winner chosen to lead football rebuild

Two weeks after announcing that fourth-year coach David Beaty would be allowed to coach KU’s final three games but would not return for a fifth season, Athletics Director Jeff Long turned from a coach in his first collegiate head coaching job to a former national-championship winner, the charismatic Les Miles.

“The national profile of our football program has improved immediately and dramatically today,” Long said Nov. 18 in Hadl Auditorium. “The combination of a leader of young men, a detailed and driven football coach, a man with an infectious personality who cares deeply about the young men he coaches, will be a combination that will surely lead to breaking the cycle and bringing football success to the University of Kansas.”

Miles, who received a five-year contract, most recently coached at Louisiana State,



Miles

concluding an 11-year run in 2016. His Tigers averaged 10 wins, advanced to bowl games every season, won two Southeastern Conference title games and the 2007 Division I national championship. With Miles’ hiring, KU becomes the first school in the country with national-championship-winning coaches leading both football and men’s basketball.

“The further I got away from it,” Miles said of his return to coaching, “the more I desired it. And I was prepared for a lifetime to be a coach; 10,000 hours supposedly makes you an expert, and I think I’m closing in on that 10,000th hour.”

Before landing at LSU, Miles spent four years at Oklahoma State, taking over a program in 2001 that had registered one winning season since 1988. After going 4-7 in Miles’ first season, the Cowboys advanced to three consecutive bowl games with records of 8-5, 9-4 and 7-5.

Miles also spent three years as tight-ends coach for the Dallas Cowboys and three years as OSU’s offensive coordinator, and a total of 10 seasons as an assistant at Michigan, including several seasons under the legendary Bo Schembechler.

“I’ve known of Les from a distance ever since he coached at Oklahoma State,” says coach Bill Self, an OSU alumnus, “and have enjoyed watching him coach both there and at LSU. His hiring brings excitement, interest and credibility to our football program, which in turn will do so much for our university.”

With a heavy emphasis placed on recruiting by both Long and Miles, the new coach moved quickly to get his coaching staff in place—although an abrupt change of heart forced an unexpected change.

Five weeks after Miles hired former Auburn offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey for the same job at KU, Lindsey on Jan. 10 bounded back down to Alabama for the head coaching job at Troy University, a job that came open when Troy’s Neal Brown departed for West Virginia. Lindsey’s KU contract included a penalty-free escape clause for head-coaching jobs. As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, Miles had yet to comment on the departure or his plans for securing a short-notice replacement.

For his defensive coordinator, Miles chose D.J. Eliot, who most recently spent two seasons in the same job at Colorado. Eliot, who can be expected to install a 3-4 defense, has coached at Florida State, Miami and Kentucky, and under notable defensive gurus Jimbo Fisher and Mark Stoops.

Former defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Clint Bowen, d’96, who recently concluded his 23rd year in the Kansas program, including 20 as a coach, agreed to coach safeties for Eliot’s defense. Also retained was former associate head coach Tony Hull, who will again coach running backs.

“Their familiarity with the program is a great asset to us as we move forward in building something special together here at KU,” Miles said.

Miles was announced as KU’s next

Sports

coach on the Sunday evening before KU's final game the following Saturday. Miles and Beaty did not speak with each other during the Jayhawks' preparation for their Nov. 23 finale against Texas.

KU rallied from a 21-0 deficit by outscoring Texas 17-3 in the fourth quarter. The Jayhawks came up just short of a memorable upset, losing 24-17, yet players and their outgoing coach left the field with a bounce in their step.

"We didn't get the outcome that we wanted, but I'm really proud of the way we battled," said senior linebacker Joe Dineen Jr., whose postseason honors included being named to the Associated Press All-Big 12 First Team and All-America Second Team. "I'm really proud of the way we battled all year. I wouldn't trade the experiences that I had here at KU for anything. KU has been really good to me, and hopefully I reciprocated that with the way I played."

At the end of his final postgame news

CHRIS LAZZARINO



Senior linebacker Joe Dineen Jr. leaves the field for the final time after KU closed out its 3-9 season Nov. 23 against Texas. Dineen closed his career as KU's fourth-leading tackler and the country's two-time leader in solo tackles.

conference as KU's coach, Beaty was asked what message he would deliver to Miles about the program he was inheriting.

"I'm not going to answer a bunch of questions about coach Miles. This is his

job moving forward," Beaty said. "I'll just say that whether I'm talking to coach Miles or a man off the street, if you want a good man, go get a Kansas football player."

UPDATES

Senior guard **Jessica Washington**, a two-time Big 12 Player of the Week, averaged 15.9 points a game to lead women's basketball to a 10-1 nonconference record, the Jayhawks' best start in eight years. Senior guard **Christalah Lyons** was among the nation's leaders in assist-to-turnover ratio (3.1-to-2.6) and sophomore center **Bailey Helgren** led the 'Hawks with 6.4 rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game. "We've got some really tough women on our team," says senior guard **Brianna Osorio**. "We've got to bring that toughness and togetherness during the Big 12." ...

Led by the nation's fifth-ranked doubles team of seniors



Washington

Nina Khmelnitckaia and **Janet Koch**, tennis entered the spring season picked by Big 12 coaches No. 2 in the conference. The Jayhawks finished fourth in the Big 12 last year and advanced to their third-consecutive NCAA Tournament

berth. "It is always flattering when your peers see something in your team and program," says sixth-year coach **Todd Chapman**. ...

Junior forward **Katie McClure** booted home a header from senior forward **Grace Hagen** to give KU a 2-1 overtime victory over Saint Louis in the Jayhawks' Nov. 9 NCAA soccer tournament opener at Rock Chalk Park. KU fell to No. 1 seed North Carolina, 4-1, in the second round, Nov. 16 in Cary, North Carolina. Hagen on Dec. 11 became the first Jayhawk to be named Big 12 Soccer Scholar Athlete of the Year. ...

Senior **Sharon Lokedi** placed a disappointing 45th at the NCAA Championships Nov. 17

in Madison, Wisconsin. Lokedi closes her storied KU career with the current indoor track and field season. ...

KU's club hockey team ["The Mighty 'Hawks," issue No. 1, 2018] completed its fall schedule 16-0-1 and, for the first time in team history, ranked No. 1 in the Pacific Division of the American Club Hockey Association's Division III. Sophomore forward **Dane Johnson** was KU's leading scorer at the break with a lavish 32 goals and 27 assists in 17 games. The annual showdown against Missouri is set for Feb. 21 at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena in Independence, Missouri. For more information, visit jayhawkhockey.com.

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1. Retrieved on November 16, 2018, from newscenter.gmac.com/news-center/the-value-of-the-mba

2. Retrieved on November 16, 2018, from gmac.com/-/media/Files/gmac/Research/curriculum-insight/gmegs-2013-stats-brief.pdf

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Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes (below), a Texas Tech alumnus, cheered on the 'Hawks during their Dec. 15 victory over Villanova. Other early Allen Field House action included (clockwise from bottom right) lone senior Lagerald Vick catching air, freshman Devon Dotson playing sticky defense, Bill Self coaching up freshman Quentin Grimes, and junior Dedric Lawson getting scrappy against 'Nova.





A Long View

**From his perch high above the Hill,
Jorge Soberon peers toward earth's ecological future
with epic completeness**

The best office on campus belongs to Jorge Soberon. If not literally true, Dyche Hall's Room 713B must at least be among the contenders, thanks to a yearlong renovation of Dyche's research and specimen storage space atop the Natural History Museum.

Before the renovation, it was barely fit for human occupation; now, the entire seventh floor is, in a word, glorious: high ceilings, richly restored original woodwork, dark-stained bookcases, a riot of sunlight pouring in from gleaming windows east, south and west.

Soberon's private enclave within the magnificent space, seemingly created by a Hollywood set designer working on a movie about a beloved college professor, overlooks Jayhawk Boulevard, with a startling view of Spooner Hall and an unobstructed vista across the rolling landscape of eastern Douglas County.



"It is a great office," Soberon, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, concedes with a friendly smile, his eyes sparkling behind round glasses, and it was in this office—the earlier, unsightly version of that exact space—where a difficult to describe yet vastly important field of study was born.

Town Peterson, also a University Distinguished Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, recalls that it was late 1998 when he and Soberon shared something akin to a light-bulb moment that changed their careers. Soberon was then a visiting academic, on a yearlong sabbatical from his job tracking biodiversity for Mexico's federal government, and the office then belonged to Peterson.

What they came up with that day moved their hopes for mapping the diversity of earth's plants and animals in an exponen-

By Chris Lazzarino

Portraits by Steve Puppe

tially more useful direction: predicting potential shifts in biodiversity distribution.

“This is so powerful because it’s turned a descriptive science into a forecasting science,” says Leonard Krishtalka, director of KU’s Biodiversity Institute. “We can now forecast the potential spread of animals that are carrying terrible diseases, like Ebola or Zika or avian flu, so that authorities can interdict before the disease actually gets there. We can forecast the effects of climate change on the spread of disease-carrying organisms or on the spread of pest species that can potentially destroy coffee crops, wheat crops, corn crops and other agricultural products.

“We can forecast the potential invasion of alien species, such as different species of beetles into North America that can destroy Northeastern forests or boreal forests. We can forecast the fate of pollinators that are essential for agricultural production as the climate warms. As agricultural fields move further north, what will pollinate them?”

This next generation of species distribution mapping is now called ecological niche modeling, and the next time campus visitors stroll down Jayhawk Boulevard, they can cast a glance toward a high office window atop Dyche Hall’s eastern face and

see the birthplace of a science that might one day save their crops back home.

“With all due modesty,” Krishtalka says, “this field began here, at KU, at the Biodiversity Institute, with the incredible intellectual leadership of Soberon and Peterson, and has now spread worldwide. Everybody is now doing ecological niche modeling because of the forecasting power, and because finally we can use this 350 years of accumulated biological knowledge to advise policymakers and decision-makers on how and where and when to apply this knowledge for sustaining environments, sustaining economies, avoiding health disasters, avoiding agricultural disasters.”

When Jorge Soberon returns now to Mexico City to visit siblings, cousins and colleagues, the traffic and noise reinforce his appreciation for the idyllic life he found in Lawrence, where, rather than slogging through two-hour commutes, “I have time for my family.”

The Mexico City of his youth, however, was vastly different. He assembled his boyhood collection of 140 butterflies by grabbing a net and exploring the parks around his family’s home. He could walk

two blocks and, for 20 cents, hop a tram that would whisk him to rural villages. The Catholic church his family attended bordered lava fields on the southern edge of the city, where Jorge and the other altar boys wandered endlessly.

“Some people are oriented in some direction since very young, and that was my case,” he says. “Everybody else was playing soccer, and I was catching toads.”

Soberon was born to an educated, cultured family of lawyers and, in the case of his mother, a theologian. He kept aquariums and tadpoles, and any snake or spider he encountered invariably came home with him. Jorge received chemistry sets as Christmas gifts, and, in “a different era,” there were fun experiments with explosive powders and colorful fireworks that ignited Jorge’s craving to know more about the building blocks of the fascinating physical world.

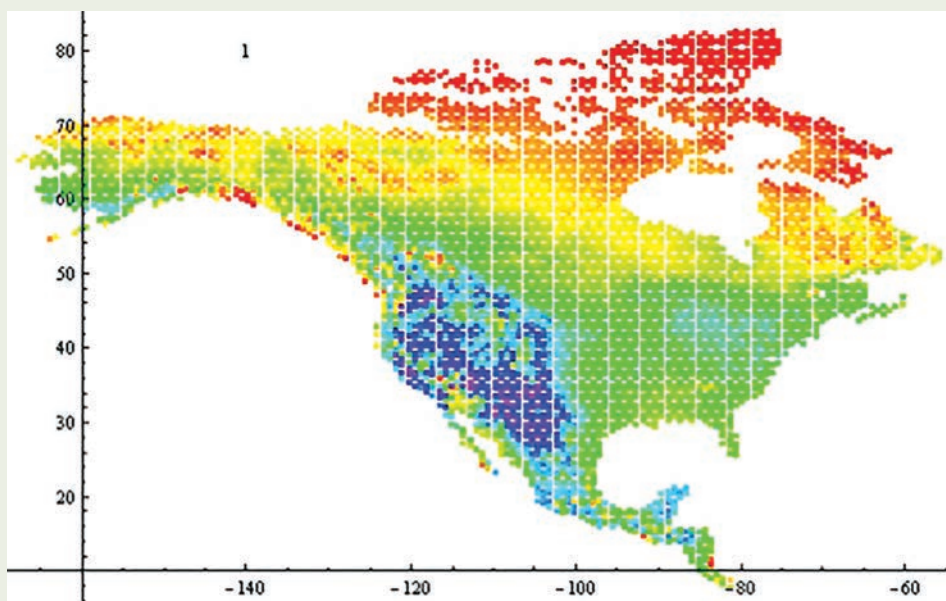
A younger brother, Xavier, is now director of human genetics at a Mexico City research institute, but, until Jorge and Xavier, the family had no idea what to make of career aspirations in the sciences. When Jorge left his Marist preparatory school and chose biology for his course of study at the National University of Mexico, his befuddled parents had no concept of what awaited him. Why not study for a good job in law? Engineering? Medicine?

To be fair, Soberon didn’t have much of a concept, either.

“I didn’t know how it was that you became a scientist,” he says. “I just wanted to study biology.”

At his prestigious university, the best in Mexico, Soberon flourished. He immersed himself in algebra, calculus and physics, which his biology classmates skirted by completing only minimum requirements, and doors unknown to Soberon—and even to most of the world at the time—began to open. It was the late 1960s when Soberon learned that his mathematics professor, a prominent researcher, had a computer terminal with direct access to the university’s mainframe.

“I was like, ‘Wow, what is this?’ And he said, ‘OK, the handbooks are there, the terminal is there, come whenever you want.’ He’s the one who gave me the tools



“Mammals of North America,” an example of what ecological niche modeling looks like, shows the number of species of terrestrial mammals from Panama to the North Pole. Red means very few species; violet means a lot of species.

“It’s not the distribution; it’s the suitable conditions, essentially. It’s what fits the ecological niche of the species. That was the light-bulb, in many senses, and it was a lot of fun. That was one of the moments where in 10 seconds you lay out the next 10 years of your life, and, in fact, a whole bunch of people’s research careers.” —Town Peterson



and opened to me the field of theoretical ecology and mathematical ecology that I do now. And that was as an undergrad.”

Still, the brilliant career that has helped alter the course of global ecological research awaited yet more serendipitous turns. During the 1980s and early 1990s, Soberon worked as “a regular biology professor, teaching ecology and doing research on the little butterfly.” In 1992, the government authorized an inventory of Mexico’s biodiversity, and the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, CONABIO, required the leadership of a biologist who was also skilled with computers.

“And they looked at me,” Soberon says. “I didn’t want to. In fact, I resisted. I was basically ordered by the chancellor of my university to do it. And so I said, ‘OK, fine.’”

As was—and remains—the case with most countries, Mexico lacked a complete inventory of its plants and animals. When Soberon began to assemble the daunting list, he had the first flash of insight that would change the direction of his life as a scientist: He realized the data he needed was locked away in museums and essentially inaccessible, and the data he could find was full of holes.

“So,” he says, “you needed to do predictions.”

Town Peterson has traveled to Mexico on research trips since the 1980s to study, among other topics, distributions of birds. Sometime in the early 1990s, he was introduced to a friendly agency adminis-

trator named Jorge Soberon, with whom Peterson “shared interests in biodiversity and what you could call bio-geography.” Visits to Soberon’s office became regular stops on Peterson’s research trips.

“He was a functionary and so didn’t have much time free to really have fun,” Peterson recalls, “but we’d chat for 20 or 30 minutes. And that was really all there was to it at that point.”

Until 1998, when Peterson and Krishtalka convinced their Mexican colleague to take a sabbatical year from his job at CONABIO and join them in Dyche Hall.

“It was something that assembled itself organically,” Peterson says. “It’s kind of the way academia should work, where people get together because they share interests, and that’s what we did.”

During that sabbatical year, Peterson and Soberon, huddled over a stack of frustrating data piling up in what was then Peterson’s office, struck upon their keystone insight. They were then in the early stages of predicting geographic distribution of species, which, in Peterson’s estimation, “would have been an admirable achievement,” but their models and maps “were invariably wrong. They were invariably too big.”

Peterson recalls that during that fateful meeting, the scientists were growing increasingly frustrated that their predictive maps “were just not working. They were ugly.” That’s when one of them—Peterson says they don’t remember who, a distinction that does not appear to concern either distinguished professor in the least—made a comment that led both to simultaneously

hit upon their inspiration:

“It’s not the distribution; it’s the suitable conditions, essentially,” Peterson explains. “It’s what fits the *ecological* niche of the species. That was the light-bulb, in many senses, and it was a lot of fun. That was one of the moments where in 10 seconds you lay out the next 10 years of your life, and, in fact, a whole bunch of people’s research careers.”

In other words, it wasn’t so much that their algorithms produced wrong answers, but that the scientists were asking the wrong questions. By adding environmental data such as temperature and rainfall to their equations, the world of biological forecasting blossomed.

In the 20 years since, Soberon, Peterson, their graduate students and colleagues worldwide have refined the algorithms and mathematics of ecological niche modeling, expanded its applications and, especially in the face of global climate change, deployed its predictive powers to better grasp our uncertain shared future.

“This area exploded,” Soberon says, “because it worked, because it was predictive, because it was useful.”

A fundamental aspect of all biological diversity mapping, whether descriptive or predictive, is that the scientists must first have access to specimen data, assembled across centuries of exploration and promptly locked away in secretive museums. As the bureaucrat authorized to lead Mexico’s inventory of plants and animals, Soberon could have pushed for the data’s release; thoughtful as ever, he first spent more than a year pondering the wisdom of urging museums to release

details about where, when and how their specimens were collected.

Such information could turn into “treasure maps” for flora and fauna poachers. He also understood that information sharing would be resisted by museum administrators who rightly feared repercussions should the data reveal that older specimens might have been gathered by outdated methods now considered unethical or even illegal.

So Soberon connected with like-minded colleagues, including Peterson and Krishtalka, and eventually consensus formed among museum and governmental authorities and ecologists of varied disciplines: Digitize all of it, a worldwide cause that counted among its most ardent champions the KU Biodiversity Institute.

The data collection effort, spurred in part by the needs of biological distribution mappers, recently passed the previously unimaginable milestone of data sets on more than a *billion* specimens, and its information is readily available to scientists, students and such critical public missions as governmental health and agriculture agencies.

Says Soberon, “I have not regretted it a bit.”

For Jorge Soberon, 2018 was a very good year.

He was elected in March to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences, with October induction alongside Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the U.S. Supreme Court, actor Tom Hanks and author Ta-Nehisi Coates; he and fellow KU inductee Robert Warrior, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature & Culture, joined Distinguished Professor Emeritus of history Donald Worster, c’63, g’64, and professor emeritus of linguistics W. Keith Percival, assoc., as

the academy’s only KU-affiliated members.

In September, the Consulate of Mexico presented Soberon its Distinguished Mexicans Award at a Kansas City ceremony, and, last summer, Soberon and his colleagues returned to their renovated aerie atop Dyche Hall.

Jorge Roberto Soberon-Hernandez, c’11, g’15, fondly recalls his student days on the Hill, when he could study at a table outside his father’s office rather than going to Watson Library. He says most people who meet his father first describe him as kind—and accurately so—yet Soberon-Hernandez, who now works in international finance in Overland Park, also appreciates his father’s “smart sense of humor” and their shared love of jokes and pranks.

“He and Town Peterson do not stop joking with each other,” Soberon-Hernandez says. “Ever.”

Even mentioning Peterson during an interview with Soberon elicits a smile. “Town,” Soberon says, chuckling, as if remembering a favored but distant friend, even though Peterson is, at that

moment, working at his desk a few dozen feet away, in an office with a glorious western view of Marvin Grove.

“We keep things very, very serious and very, very academic,” Peterson later explains with a faux flat tone, before adding, “but, yeah, we have lots of fun.”

How so?

“Well, just to give you an idea: Jorge owes me 153 cases of beer.”

Soberon’s debt to Peterson recently grew by 10 cases when, in the course of their daily ramblings, he inadvisably wagered that “completitude” had been used in the English language, with the unabridged *Oxford English Dictionary* accepted by both parties as arbiter. “It was a rough one,” Peterson admits, “because we both knew that it had been used in Spanish.”

Away from work, Soberon enjoys daily

nature hikes with his wife, Aida (“Like the opera,” he says) Hernandez, who left her years of work in reforestation education to support her husband’s move to Kansas. “Probably she was the one who suffered the most,” their son says of his mother’s support for the family leaving Mexico City.

Soberon’s curious mind has always held a fascination with medieval history; when Aida asked 10 years ago whether he might be interested in taking a course in illuminating manuscripts in the medieval style, Soberon replied, “You’re kidding me, of course I would! But nobody is going to ... *where?*” She told him just such a class was being offered at Lawrence Arts Center, and Soberon shouted, “Yeah!” He now uses carefully selected parchment paper and authentic paints that are exact replicas of those used hundreds of years ago to create his own illuminated pages. He is not yet happy with his work; a Latin poem he is creating as a gift awaits many more attempts before he’ll consider it worthy.

Despite Soberon’s apparently sincere frustration with his limitations, the artistic merits are not the point. It’s all about the attempt and, even more fundamentally, the interest.

“Jorge is more than a scientist,” Krishtalka says. “He is as deeply grounded in the humanities and in the arts and in philosophy as he is in science, which is what makes him such a brilliant scientist.”

Peterson points out that the terminal degree in their field is doctor of philosophy, “which implies that we do more than just collect and analyze data and write papers.” Holding a PhD demands that intellectuals actively seek “a much broader context of the body of knowledge that exists, not just in ecology or evolutionary biology or the natural sciences, but in history and knowledge and philosophy and thinking.

“I think that’s where we all appreciate Jorge quite a bit.”

Jorge Soberon holds dear his passions for science and intellectual curiosity, but at a deeper level, somewhere closer to his personal core as a family man, he cherishes the pride he feels for home. When the Soberons came to Lawrence for his sabbatical year, he made time to drive his





sons, Jorge and Pablo, to their first day of middle school in a new country. Before they stepped out of the car to venture toward a strange new beginning, he shared thoughts about how the boys might best grow into men.

In the U.S., you are first Soberon, and then you are Mexican. You are an ambassador of your country. Show what we are.

“And that idea,” Jorge Soberon-Hernandez says, “I have carried with me everywhere I go.”

The family returned to Lawrence for good in 2005, when, as Soberon’s tenure at CONABIO was drawing to a close, Krishtalka and Peterson convinced him to pursue the life of the mind high atop Dyche Hall rather than accept yet another functionary post at yet another acronym agency. Soberon was, in his son’s estimation, “an amazing servant to his country,” yet the opportunity was too great to resist.

“It was by moving to KU that I could start thinking about the theoretical part,” Soberon says of shifting away from his previous work applying the basic science

gleaned by others. “What is the theory, the concepts, the ideas, the whys, the understanding?”

At his desk, with an overflowing bookcase at his back, Jorge Soberon faces a bank of computer screens, with which he explores a world that is, in large part, of his own making. On the wall to his right hangs a whiteboard covered with equations as multicolored and explosive as the fireworks he concocted as a boy. “That’s his mind,” Soberon’s son says. “What he sees is just equations and numbers. Every now and then, you will hear an ‘ahhh,’ and he is super happy. The graph that he’s making speaks to him.”

But his son fails to take into account Soberon’s option of swiveling the other direction, away from computer monitors, away from the equations. “I know those are just concepts,” Soberon says, “and that real life is out there.”

He gazes for a moment across his long view of nature’s wondrous completeness. When he turns back toward his visitor, Jorge Soberon is smiling.

Soberon says theoretical ecology is the application of physics to ecological problems. “You present a parcel of the ecological world using equations and then you study the equations. ... I was very fortunate that I had been in touch with computers since the very beginning of my career, so I could move into the more computational ways of doing science today very naturally.”

“I have, as you see, this beautiful office with a beautiful view, and I enjoy my view often.”

With a nod toward the equations on his whiteboard, Soberon continues, “Very often I turn away from those things and,” turning again toward his view to the east, “just watch. When it’s green, it’s beautiful. When it’s a quiet snow, it’s beautiful. During the fall, when it’s turning, it’s beautiful. Blue and sunny ... so beautiful.”

He faces his visitor again, and, for another moment, the shy smiles lingers. “Yes, it’s a great office.”

KU

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF NURSING
SALINA
The University of Kansas

Homegrown Healing

Medical programs in Salina on target to create more health care providers for rural Kansas communities

When Kayla Johnson was a young girl, she was fascinated by science. Her interest quickly evolved into a curiosity about medicine, and by the time she started undergraduate studies at Fort Hays State University, she knew she wanted to be a doctor. Shadowing a general surgeon in Hoisington, a 15-minute drive from her hometown, stoked her confidence.

As her decision about medical school loomed, Johnson was delighted to discover in 2011 that the University of Kansas School of Medicine was opening a new campus in Salina. Growing up just an hour southwest of the area in Odin, a Barton County community with a population that hovers around 100, Johnson had often visited Salina with friends and family. She liked the idea of staying close to her roots.

"I remember texting my family that if this happens, I could be close to home and still be in a small town," she recalls. "I didn't apply to any places outside the region. Salina was always my No. 1 pick."

Johnson was accepted into the KU School of Medicine-Salina, one of eight students in the inaugural class—six of

whom were Kansans. The University launched the four-year program to help address the state's ongoing dire need for more doctors, particularly in rural communities. In 2011, 12 counties in Kansas were without a full-time physician, and 97 of the state's 105 counties were considered medically underserved.

Fortunately, those numbers are shifting, thanks in part to KU's outreach efforts. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Education, there are now 79 medically underserved counties in the state (a marked decline from earlier reports). University leaders hope to see that trend continue.

"Access to health care is critical for us all, no matter where we live," Chancellor Doug Girod says. "This will become even more important as our state's population continues to age in the coming years, further increasing demand. With many of the counties in our state remaining medically underserved, KU has a distinctive responsibility to help fill that need."

In addition to opening the medical school campus in Salina, the University in 2011 also expanded the School of Medicine-Wichita program from two years to four, allowing KU to accept 211 students each year, up from 175. The goal of both initiatives was clear: generate more physicians for Kansas.

"One of the thoughts is if we can't recruit them here, let's grow our own," says William Cathcart-Rake, m'74, dean of the School of Medicine-Salina. "I think we're doing that. Because students train in Salina and train in rural communities surrounding Salina, they certainly see the challenges facing the rural physician. But they also see the rewards. We're showing folks that, hey, this is a great place to live, a great place to work, you can practice great medicine and you can get great training, so stay with us."

Kayla Johnson, m'15, now a pediatrician in Salina, has done just that.



Johnson

by Heather Biele | photographs by Steve Puppe

“Because students train in Salina and train in rural communities surrounding Salina, they certainly see the challenges facing the rural physician. But they also see the rewards. We’re showing folks that, hey, this is a great place to live, a great place to work, you can practice great medicine and you can get great training, so stay with us.” —Cathcart-Rake

Cathcart-Rake vividly recalls the day he learned Salina was the anticipated site for the School of Medicine’s new campus. The medical oncologist, who established his practice in Salina in 1979, had attended a Saline County Medical Society event, hoping to hear about changes to the University’s medical school curriculum. The topic greatly interested Cathcart-Rake, whose daughter, Elizabeth, m’13, had recently enrolled at the medical school’s main campus in Kansas City.

But the group’s discussion about KU launching a four-year medical program in his hometown really caught Cathcart-Rake’s attention.

“I was very skeptical, and probably downright negative, about a medical school in Salina, Kansas,” he recalls. “It was my belief that medical schools really should be in large metropolitan areas.”

Cathcart-Rake’s uncertainty was short-lived. In 2009, at the urging of University officials who wanted a Salina-

based, “boots on the ground” physician to lead the effort, he agreed to guide the new program as director of medical education and oversee plans to identify a suitable building for the school, raise funds for critical renovations and medical resources, and hire local faculty and staff. With no state funds allotted for the initiative, the Salina campus had to rely heavily on community support.

John Mize, c’72, a Salina native and attorney who for 40 years served as general counsel for the Salina Regional Health Center, has traveled to several hospitals in northwest and north-central Kansas and has witnessed firsthand the need for more physicians in rural communities. “It made a lot of sense,” he says of KU’s expansion into the region. “This was an easy concept to embrace, just from that experience.”

Mize helped coordinate and guide conversations between the University and local leaders, including Mike Terry,





First-year medical students (opposite) participate in interactive, problem-based learning sessions with William Cathcart-Rake, dean of the School of Medicine-Salina, who has led the program since its inception in 2011.



John Mize, a Salina native who served on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1999 to 2004, championed KU's efforts to bring a medical school campus to his hometown.

president and CEO of Salina Regional Health Center, and Tom Martin, '73, executive director of the Salina Regional Health Foundation. The health center provided a \$1 million gift to fund faculty and operational expenses and also donated the Florence Braddick Building, a former nursing school on the hospital grounds, which became the Salina campus headquarters in 2011. The health foundation granted \$225,000, and Earl, m'57, and Kathleen Merkel of Russell gave \$75,000 to support the effort, in addition to substantial funds from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation for student scholarships and numerous gifts from Salina area residents.

"Without community support, especially the hospital and the foundation, we

would not have been financially solvent to do this," says Cathcart-Rake, who in 2014 was named dean of the school.

But even with significant improvements to the Braddick Building, it became apparent within a few years that the School of Medicine-Salina was outgrowing its space. In 2016, the Salina Regional Health Foundation purchased a vacant bank building in the heart of downtown and, with KU Endowment, launched the Blueprint for Rural Health capital campaign, which ultimately raised more than \$9 million to fund the demolition and remodeling of the two-story structure and provide contemporary furnishings, technology and advanced medical equipment.

The School of Medicine-Salina moved

into the new building at 138 N. Santa Fe in June 2018, along with the School of Nursing, which joined the campus in 2017 under the leadership of Lisa Larson, PhD'18, assistant dean of academic affairs.

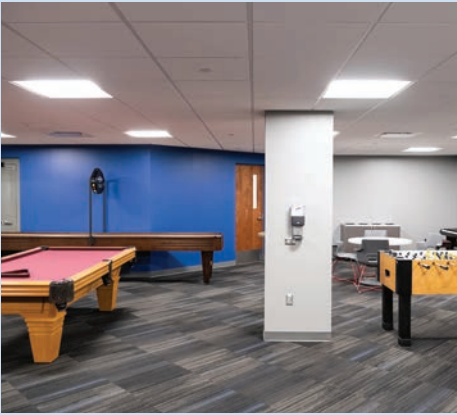
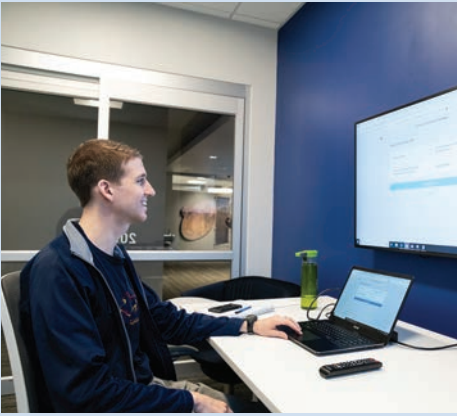
With more than 40,000 square feet of space, the new Salina Health Education Center is nearly triple the size of the Braddick Building and provides ample room for both schools. The campus features:

- a state-of-the-art simulation lab with six high- and medium-fidelity mannequins
- a generously appointed procedural skills lab
- four standardized patient exam rooms
- virtual and gross anatomy labs
- six classrooms equipped with interactive video links to the main campus in Kansas City
- small-group study rooms and other flexible learning spaces
- recreational facilities and an exercise room
- faculty and administrative offices
- original artwork from six Kansas artists, inspired by rural medicine and the mission of the schools.

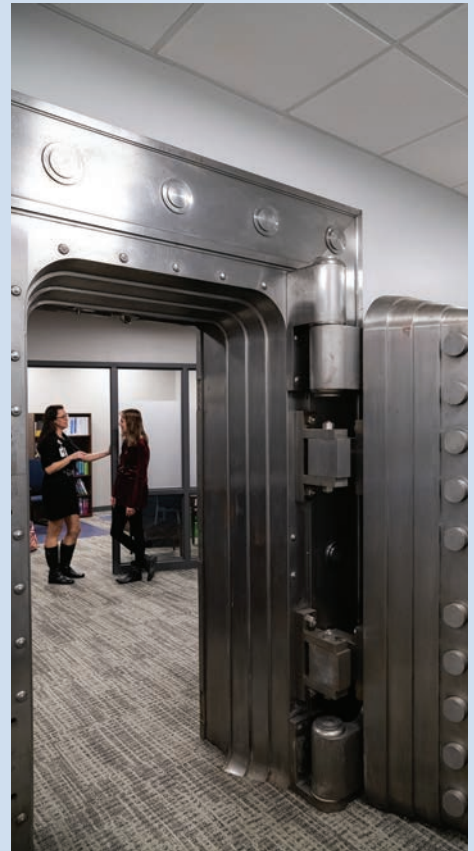
"With a newly renovated downtown location that serves both medicine and nursing students, we are continuing to provide a high-quality education in a rural setting with the goal of getting as many of these students to return home to their communities as possible," Girod says.

The new home also makes room for an increase in student enrollment. Though the Salina campus currently caps medical class size at eight, the nursing program aims to increase enrollment from 12 to 24 by 2020.

"The former facilities in Salina were seen as being not as new or shiny or up to date as the campuses in Wichita and Kansas City," says Robert Simari, m'86, executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine. "I think that we have effectively not only removed a potential negative of the older facilities but added a potential positive of the newest facilities in Salina. We expect that interest in going to the Salina campus will continue to increase."



First-year medical students David Zealley (above left) and Elise Foley and Shelby Breit (above l-r) prepare for finals in the new Salina Health Education Center, which features private study rooms as well as open, flexible learning spaces for students. One of the building's original bank vaults (below right) was preserved and renovated for office space. Original artwork and exercise and recreational facilities foster a relaxing environment for students, faculty and staff.





Simari

Robert Simari and Sally Maliski credit the Salina community for supporting the University's vision to bring medical and nursing programs to rural Kansas. First-year nursing students Olivia Streit and Kiandra Hudgins (opposite l-r) practice clinical skills on one of the six training mannequins in Salina's state-of-art simulation lab.

Medical and nursing students in Salina bridge the nearly 200 miles to Kansas City with modern technology, specifically interactive TV, which enables them to participate in lectures and podcasts with their Kansas City peers. In addition, students at all three campuses learn through the same teaching model, the ACE—Active, Competency-based and Excellence-driven—curriculum, implemented in 2017. The new study structure, adopted by several medical and nursing schools throughout the country, means students spend less time in lectures and more time in small, collaborative discussion groups and simulation exercises. The labs and clinical exam rooms at the Salina Health Education Center mirror those at the Health Education Building in Kansas City, which opened in 2017, and feature technology that records student activities for review by instructors.

“There is capability to stream back and forth, so all of the faculty, Kansas City and Salina, can see what’s happening on each campus,” says Sally Maliski, professor and dean of the School of Nursing.

Simulation activities include the use of standardized “patients”—community members who are hired to participate in scripted exams—and training manne-



Maliski

quins, which can be manipulated by faculty to mimic a variety of medical conditions and realistic responses. Nursing and medical students often work together during these exercises, emulating real-world health care scenarios.

“We know that we work in teams, but up until recently we trained independently,” Simari says. “By putting nursing students

there, it allows for the interprofessional nature of our education.”

The small class sizes—eight for the medical program and currently 12 for nursing—encourage a team approach for students and greater interaction with instructors.

“The one-on-one with faculty is where I’ve benefited the most,” says Elise Foley, c’17, a first-year medical student from Salina. “I can really establish those personal relationships with them.”

Damon Phouvanay, c’17, a first-year nursing student from Garden City, researched both the Salina and Kansas City campuses before making his decision to attend nursing school. “I find I thrive well in a smaller setting,” he says. “It’s cool to be one-on-one with all of your professors. But you’re also remembered in the bigger lectures because they see you on the screen every day.”

Although the Salina campus is notably smaller than its Kansas City and Wichita counterparts, there’s no contrast when it comes to core curriculum and quality of education. “We’re one medical school,” Cathcart-Rake says. “We have one curriculum, we have one set of standards, we have one set of expectations in terms of professional behavior and so on. Despite being one school, we also have something special about our campus. We’re small; we’re rural. On our campus, our students work one-on-one with their attendings. They get a different experience. Now, is it better? I don’t know. We think so.”

When the School of Medicine-Salina opened in 2011, it was the smallest four-year medical



campus in North America, and the town itself was the smallest community to host a four-year medical school. Nearly eight years later, the school remains a great source of pride to the community, which undeniably helped bring the project to fruition through its overwhelming generosity and support.

“I think it’s really important to Salina,” John Mize says, “and now with the new building, it’s a centerpiece downtown. I’ve also started seeing some of the physicians that graduated from the School of Medicine-Salina come back to the area. I just hope over time that continues to happen.”

Since 2011, 64 students have been admitted to the School of Medicine-Salina, and more than 80 percent of them are from Kansas; 66 percent are from rural communities. Of the first eight graduates, six have finished their primary-care residencies and have chosen to remain in Kansas. Five of those new physicians—almost two-thirds of the class—have returned to underserved rural communi-

ties, a promising statistic that Cathcart-Rake, who recently announced that he will retire at the end of the 2018-’19 academic year, is happy to share.

“It’s one physician at a time,” he says. “When you’re talking about a small town like Quinter or Phillipsburg, if you can add one physician or replace a physician who’s retiring, it makes all the difference in the world to them.”

Kayla Johnson, who made a commitment to return to Salina during the first year of her pediatrics residency in Wichita, hopes her decision to stay in rural Kansas will improve the community. As one of the newest pediatricians on staff at Salina Regional Health Center, she now has the opportunity to mentor future generations of physicians at the School of Medicine-Salina, including her brother, Kevin Klug, a third-year medical student.

“I’d definitely encourage others to consider practicing in a rural community,” Johnson says. “Not just because there’s a need, but I think this is a really good lifestyle. *And* you can make a big impact on a community.”

More online

View Dan Storey’s video of the Salina Health Education Center at kualumni.org/extras.

By the numbers

With the expansion of clinical programs in Wichita and Salina, as well as the new, \$82 million Health Education Building in Kansas City—funded by state and private support—KU has taken significant steps in recent years to improve medical education in Kansas and address the ongoing and statewide shortage of health care providers.

Here’s a look at current and projected enrollment for KU medical and nursing programs:

Total number of first-year medical students:

Before 2011: **175**
 Currently: **211**
 Kansas City: **175**
 Wichita: **28**
 Salina: **8**

Total medical school enrollment:

Before 2011: **700**
 (four classes of **175** students)
 Currently: **844**
 (four classes of **211** students)

Total number of first-year nursing students:

Before 2017: **104**
 Currently: **126**
 Kansas City: **114**
 Salina: **12**

By 2020: **138**
 Kansas City: **114**
 Salina: **24**

Total nursing school enrollment:

Before 2017: **208**
 Currently: **252**
 Kansas City: **228**
 Salina: **24**

By 2021: **276**
 Kansas City: **228**
 Salina: **48**
 (two classes of **24** students)



THE MIDDLE EVERYWHERE



OF HERE



KANSAS WOMEN ARE IN THE THICK OF A MISSION TO SAVE RURAL TOWNS

IN NOVEMBER, THE KANSAS RURAL CENTER HELD ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN WICHITA. THE THEME, “FRAMING OUR FUTURE: WHAT IS RIGHT ABOUT FOOD, FARMING AND COMMUNITIES IN KANSAS,” SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT PART OF THE STORY WAS MISSING. IS SOMETHING PARTICULARLY WRONG WITH FOOD, FARMING AND COMMUNITIES IN KANSAS?

In fact, the decline of rural Kansas is a plight long documented. Young people leave in search of jobs, post-Farm Crisis consolidation in agriculture continues to shrink the number of farmers, and rural communities struggle to sustain even minimal support systems like grocery stores, schools and hospitals. Last April, The New Food Economy published an article—“Rural Kansas is dying. I drove 1,800 miles to find out why”—that painted the picture in especially stark terms: Because of farm consolidation and the continued downturn in commodity prices, Kansas towns are more hollowed out than ever, a trend that shows no signs of reversing.



BY JULIE METTENBURG



STEVE PUPPE

United by a desire to see rural Kansas thrive, Sarah Hill Green, Elizabeth Ablah and Marci Penner are among a vanguard of women leading the rejuvenation of small towns across the state.

On the face of it, this familiar story is not wrong. Recent statistics on gross domestic product by county from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show that in 2014 and 2015, the GDP of most Kansas counties grew at less than the U.S. rate of 2.8 percent or actually decreased. I grew up in one of those small towns. I served as executive director of the Kansas Rural Center from 2011 through 2014, before returning to work on our family farm near Princeton. In fact, I was interviewed on background for the article by its author, Corie Brown, j'79, another Kansan who wrote *The New Food Economy* piece out of concern for her home state.

Like many I have encountered across the state over the past year, however, I struggle

to fully accept such a bleak picture.

"Statistics tell a story to statisticians," says Marci Penner, c'79, who was quoted in Brown's piece and spoke to me later in 2018. "When you drive through a town and look at the exterior of a main street, you might keep driving. But when you look at the story behind those walls, that's where you find the inspiring stories of great people. You really can't tell from the statistics or the exterior whether it's bleak or thriving."

In fact, life in many rural Kansas communities is a hive of activity by people seeking to grow a viable future. As Elizabeth Ablah of KU School of Medicine-Wichita says, "They are wearing many hats."

And while articles like *The New Food Economy* story frequently focus on agriculture—a vocation dominated by men—another reality exists alongside that version of the Kansas story: The work of regenerating life in our struggling rural communities is being led significantly by women.

KANSANS BY CHOICE

Penner returned to Kansas by necessity after an accident brought her home to seek care, at her parents' farm outside Inman, in central Kansas. "The only job I could hold down was with my dad," Penner says. Sharing a natural curiosity about towns and people, they set out to write a guidebook to "educate Kansans about Kansas." That book led to formation of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, a nonprofit that

seeks to preserve and sustain rural culture, which has since published three more guidebooks. The most recent, *Kansas Guidebook for Explorers 2*, was published in 2017.

Traveling with her father to every Kansas town, Penner learned that 75 percent of rural communities are volunteer-led and opportunities for those leaders to share their experiences is limited. Over the years, the foundation has initiated festivals and events such as the “Big Rural Brainstorm,” intended to fill gaps where connection is needed and to highlight the treasures that each Kansas town offers. In this work, Penner found her calling.

“What impressed me most was that the towns with the most energy were those with the young people in leadership,” Penner says. She labeled those 21- to 39-year-olds “Power-Ups,” coalescing them into a network and organizing events so they could support one another’s work in infrastructure-building, economic development, health care and more. She also calls them Rural by Choice.

“To me that’s the best we’ve ever done, is bring those people out of the woodwork and into the open,” Penner says, “to help raise their voices.”

Sarah Hill Green is one of those voices. While her friends were moving out of state, she took a reporting internship in rural Kansas, “the kind where the boss would send an email to the whole staff that said, ‘It’s harvest time, so when you’re out driving, make sure you’re looking for combines on the road.’ My friends in Chicago,” says Green, ’03, “were not getting those emails!” With assignments that took her around central Kansas, she fell in love with community journalism.

Now she works as a freelancer based in Wichita, putting her communications skills to work as an advocate for rural Kansas—or as she calls it, as a “rural aspirationalist.” Her projects for foundations, nonprofits and community groups focus on food, agriculture, water and community development. She notes that we tend to focus most on what we want others to hear from us, talking at them rather than listening to learn. “Talking

with people,” Green says, “is completely underrated.”

For Green’s 2015 report for the Kansas Health Institute, “Telling the Story of Water in Kansas,” she interviewed Kansans across the state about their relationships with water as they face challenges such as the projected depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer. Their stories revealed that Kansans are concerned that other Kansans, especially those in Topeka, “don’t get it”—a distrust that signals deep divides to be bridged. That’s the work she sees as essential to Kansas moving forward.

THE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Liz Meriwether Simpson returned to Columbus, in southeast Kansas, to work for Crossland Construction Company Inc., a hometown firm with offices and projects across the central U.S. and more than \$1 billion in annual revenue. She serves as community development liaison for Crossland, a role more typically found in government than on a company payroll. Crossland’s leaders have recognized that to encourage their own children to come home, and to attract the employees they need, an attractive community is a must. Simpson, ’83, is tasked with leading projects that will stem the tide of outward migration, “the same issue every small town in the Midwest is facing.”

She focuses on developing seven areas of “capital” that sustainable and entrepreneurial communities need, according to K-State Research and Extension: natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial and “built.” Cultural capital, for example, includes festivals that celebrate a town or region’s heritage or traditions. Built capital includes infrastructure such as community buildings and communications systems like broadband. The forms of capital must connect and work together to endure, such as a youth center that is built with attention to developing the volunteer networks that will sustain it, rather than simply assuming “if we build it, they will come.”

Simpson ticks off the list of needs for

southeast Kansas to be viable for young families: affordable housing, quality child care, community recreation and skilled labor. “I started out with very lofty aspirations, which I still have,” Simpson says, “but affordable housing and quality child care will take several years.”

To have immediate impact, in 2018 she worked with partners to launch a three-part food and healthy eating program. She helped secure donated land from the Columbus elevator to start a community garden. They began a program for volunteers to repurpose empty buckets into container gardens that they delivered to homebound residents. And, in July, she led the opening of a farmers market in Columbus. By engaging area businesses and volunteers around local food and helping those in need, these projects will grow vital social capital for the harder work to come.

Caryl Tischhauser Hale and her husband, Aaron, relocated their family from Lawrence to Norton in 2013, hoping their kids would benefit from smaller schools and being close to their grandparents. She immediately looked for ways to assimilate, taking on the role of farmers market manager when the woman who had reorganized it moved. As a market customer and eventual vendor of her family’s baked goods and extra garden vegetables, Hale, ’04, “didn’t want it to go by the wayside, so that was my first ‘in’ with the community.”

More opportunities for community involvement soon arose, such as joining the arts council, which Hale also did out of concern for ensuring it would continue. Then the Farm Bureau board recruited her.

In 2016, Hale became active in the industrial hemp movement, when she saw how it could thrive in her dry region. “I knew of its benefits for the soil and that it didn’t have a whole lot of pests. It’s very resilient.” She learned about hemp’s considerable economic benefits, with products such as fiber and Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, and connected with a leader in northwest Kansas economic development, also a woman, who shared her enthusiasm. Other farmers began to express interest.



The county Farm Bureau board supported her efforts despite tepid responses from the state organization. Bills were introduced in the Legislature three years in a row, and she testified in Topeka at a committee meeting.

Meanwhile, the Hales work in their own community businesses. Caryl started Hale Storm Press in 2015, providing websites and photography for area businesses. Aaron works as an insurance agent, serves on the economic development board, and helps his dad on the farm during harvest. “I feel like it’s accurate that in a smaller community, we all have to pitch in to do a lot of roles,” Caryl says. “Maybe it’s our family, but I’d like to think that, in general, small communities are like that.”

WHAT’S THE MATTER WITH KANSAS?

Even though these women agree there’s big opportunity in rural Kansas, significant barriers exist, too, like the need for housing cited by Simpson and Hale. “To get those millennials to come back and work from home,” Hale says, “they’ve got to have a home.”

Penner says a lack of good broadband infrastructure is the No. 1 issue the state must address. “It all comes down to whether they are making a living, which often comes down to broadband.” She also cites education and the loss of rural hospitals with OB-GYN centers as major issues. “It’s hard to move somewhere if you

Columbus native Liz Meriwether Simpson heads community development for Crossland Construction Company Inc., working to make her hometown an attractive destination for employees and their families.

can’t have a baby within 40 to 60 miles.”

Elizabeth Ablah, g’05, associate professor of preventive medicine and public health at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita, works on the front lines of Kansas rural community well-being, as leader of WorkWell KS, a worksite health program focused on tobacco, diet and exercise, the behaviors that contribute to the country’s four leading chronic diseases. The program targets workplaces with interventions that improve the whole site by changing environmental factors such as office scheduling routines, rather than promoting individual initiatives like company walks or health fairs.

Many of the worksites are rural, including hospitals, government entities and schools, all of which are feeling the strain of state tax and budget cuts. Ablah finds that hospital personnel, especially, are under stress. “The hospitals have served so many purposes. They are really struggling to keep their doors open in many of our communities.” When it comes to schools, teachers can find it difficult to shift their focus from the kids to themselves. “Their default is that they want to help the kids. Teachers have to understand they are very influential in all that the kids do.”

Workplace stress is so high at many of these sites that the program has added a fourth focus, on well-being, with interventions such as shifting workloads among employees for better fit. “We are starting to think about how we design our worksites and retrofit them,” Ablah says, “to allow for people to have a better sense of well-being and, often, improved mental health as well.”

The challenges of Kansas don’t come down to a political, red-blue divide, these women agree. “The question has a lot to do with who’s in positions of authority,” says Green, who has heard the divide better described as rural-rural, with

community viability varying sharply between those that have inclusive leadership and “some that are really intent on keeping a certain quality of life based on values that are not as inclusive.”

They conclude that rural community survival comes down to citizens weathering generational change, establishing new leadership, gaining comfort with conflict, and claiming voice or agency. Adds Penner, “Saving our communities overlays politics in a small town, which is the beauty of community, maybe—your community should mean more than red, blue or whatever, and I think it often does.”

WOMEN’S WORK

These women credit plenty of positive community change to forward-thinking men in employed and elected positions in economic development, hospital administration and city leadership. Certainly women are serving in more of these roles—including, for the third time in Kansas history, as governor. But they also share a sense that women are playing a major role in grassroots positions, the kind of on-the-ground work that fills gaps and creates new organizations that often rely on volunteer or part-time staff. When I made a list of community initiatives that tell the positive story of Kansas, I realized they were nearly all led by women.

Penner sees women across Kansas as the innovators, movers and shakers. The foundation’s annual retreat invitation lists tend to come out a lot like mine did for this story. “I would say eight out of 10 of the real doers,” she says, “are women.”

Hale agrees. “I feel like when I’m working on a board, I’m working with a bunch of women. Women show up.” She sees the difference as generational, as well: “I definitely think within my age range, men aren’t serving in those roles but women are going for it. Each generation of women

COURTESY RUTH STAMPER



Stamper

“SAVING OUR COMMUNITIES OVERLAYS POLITICS IN A SMALL TOWN, WHICH IS THE BEAUTY OF COMMUNITY, MAYBE—YOUR COMMUNITY SHOULD MEAN MORE THAN RED, BLUE OR WHATEVER, AND I THINK IT OFTEN DOES.” —*Marci Penner*

has broken barriers consistently, so we feel like we can do something to better whatever cause, and we go for it. We are not waiting for some guy to take over.”

Ablah cited women as a common denominator among worksites making the most improvements in the WorkWell KS program. “There is usually a woman who is moving it forward, whether it’s in front of or in back of the curtain. And there are a lot of women in the state who are exceptionally influential outside the worksite. They are creating new infrastructure in our state, one community at a time, to pave the way to make changes easier.”

This notion of women leading the transformation of rural Kansas is consistent with sociology theory, says Ruth Stamper, g’16, a KU doctoral student whose master’s thesis examined the influx of women into sustainable farming while traditional farming—long dominated by men—declines.

Stamper attributes the increase of women in both farming and rural community leadership to an “ethic of care,” a socialized gender role that leads women

toward concern for family and community, and also to work that doesn’t necessarily produce monetary benefit. Women farmers she interviewed, for example, taught skills classes to reconnect people with the environment and their food, such as using seasonal

and locally grown produce, even though the efforts often did not add up to financial benefit. These women are shaping “resilient communities for survival in the environment in which they exist,” Stamper says, “through community work, cooperation and sharing of knowledge.”

When it comes to innovation, Stamper contends that women are socialized to negotiate power differently. If you have not traditionally wielded power over the biggest decisions that affect family life, she says, “You innovate. That just means doing something differently. And women have been doing that forever.” As women move into community leadership roles, they take that creativity with them, “rather than buy into dominant expectations of what a rural farming community should look like.”

Green sees nothing but opportunity for rural Kansas, and innovation as not just a socialization of gender, but a quality of being Kansan. “We have always just figured things out,” she says, predicting that matching Kansas values with future needs is the path forward for rural communities. “If I could do one thing, I would reframe Kansas from the ‘middle of nowhere’ to the ‘middle of everywhere.’ I hear so many people say, ‘I’m from a town of 300 in the middle of nowhere.’ We are selling ourselves short.”

For Penner, reframing the story of Kansas away from the gloom and doom of agricultural decline means telling the story of young people who are leading. “People with innovative ideas want to be here, and they are not going to be stopped,” she says. “My biggest wish is that your story shows there’s determination as well as hope.”

—*Mettenburg, j’91, is a Lawrence freelance writer. Her most recent feature for Kansas Alumni was “A Farm in the Family,” in issue No. 4, 2016.*

Association

KU Cares

Jayhawk generosity abounds during month of service

For the second consecutive year, alumni donated their time and treasure for the Alumni Association's KU Cares Month of Service campaign, which encourages Jayhawks nationwide to give back to their communities during the month of November. Nearly 350 volunteers—more than double last year's participation—from 24 alumni networks generously gave more than 100 hours of service to:

- Organize blood drives
- Collect food, clothing and personal hygiene supplies
- Prepare and serve meals for families in need

- Restore and enhance neighborhood parks
- Make sleeping bags for homeless individuals
- Clean beaches in seaside communities
- Gather pet supplies for local animal shelters
- Raise money for national and local nonprofit organizations

KU Cares also earned praise among new alumni relations programs from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), which awarded KU Cares a gold medal in the eight-state District VI competition (see story, next page).

Meagan Reichstein, c'05, a Chicago Network volunteer, helped organize a monthlong donation drive for the city's largest no-kill animal shelter. "As a very proud alumna, I love having the opportunity to give back to people and animals in

need through the KU alumni platform," she says. "It's very inspiring being part of this network of incredible people doing great things across the country."

Alumni Association staff also pitched in and participated in the annual United Way campaign, raising \$3,938, which surpassed last year's total by an impressive 7 percent.

"Year two of KU Cares Month of Service has been incredible," says Danny Woods, j'13, assistant director of legacy & alumni programs. "There were so many unique and diverse events across the nation that allowed networks to give back to and benefit their specific communities. I cannot wait to see how this initiative continues to grow in the years to come."



Hawkstock 2019

Wichita's Jayhawk Roundup promises to be outta sight

Break out your bell bottoms and tie-dyed T-shirts, because the Jayhawk Roundup will travel back to the Woodstock era, honoring the 50th anniversary of the legendary music festival. The Wichita Network's largest fundraising event will be Friday, April 12, at Murfin Stables, which is generously provided by longtime hosts David, e'75, b'75, and Janet Lusk Murfin, d'75. Janet serves on the Association's national Board of Directors.

This year's far-out festivities will feature live tunes, silent and live auctions, and a host of guests from the Hill. The Roundup has been a treasured Wichita tradition since 2002.

"I'm thrilled to see this event grow each year," says Danielle Lafferty Hoover, c'07, director of donor relations and Wichita programs. "We expect to see some great University guests and plenty of Wichita Jayhawks celebrating Hawkstock this spring at Murfin Stables."

NETWORK PHOTOS (4)



Phoenix



Twin Cities



Denver



Milwaukee

A NOTE FROM HEATH

Member APPreciation Month!

Thank you, members—the KU Alumni Association is successful and effective because of you! Your loyalty, pride and membership dues help us strengthen the University and unite Jayhawks around the world.

This February, we are excited to celebrate our third annual Member APPreciation Month.

You will have an exclusive opportunity to purchase another specially designed Charlie Hustle T-shirt through the Alumni Association App.

More than 20,000 Jayhawks have downloaded the app on their mobile devices. The app is a great way to stay connected to KU and your Alumni Association through convenient access to

DAN STOREY



Peterson

breaking news, details of watch parties and other events, KU Mentoring, live-streamed special events such as the Homecoming parade or Vespers, and of course, exclusive offers just for members! For more details, please visit kualumni.org/appreciation and see

page 47.

Because we believe Jayhawks are stronger together, we encourage you to show your KU pride by asking your Jayhawk friends to get involved and make a difference for KU by joining the Association in February. Membership APPreciation Month is a great time to join!

Cheers to a great year and Go Jayhawks!

—Heath Peterson,
d'04, g'09

President, KU Alumni
Association

Honors from peers

Association, KU garner awards in regional competition

The Association and several other KU entities won regional honors in the annual competition of Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI, which includes eight states.

The Association's honors include:

- KU Cares Month of Service won a gold medal among new alumni relations programs.
- The Student Alumni Network's Mocktails and Mingle series of professional networking events for students won silver among student alumni initiatives.

• “Home on the Hill,” the visual design for Homecoming 2018, took silver honors among branding programs for departments or units.

• *Kansas Alumni* won two bronze medals for cover design, “Miracle on Ice,” issue No. 1, 2018; and “Speak Up, Speak Out,” issue No. 2, 2018, and a bronze medal among illustrations for “Degree in 3,” issue No. 5, 2018.

Overall, the University community received 30 awards for programs and communications from the Office of Marketing Communications, KU Endowment, the KU Cancer Center, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the William Allen White School of Journalism. The awards were presented Jan. 15 at the annual CASE District VI conference in Denver.



Always a Jayhawk

Kansas City event to celebrate KU's mascot through the years

Alumni in the nation's largest KU community will celebrate the storied history of the Jayhawk at the 24th-annual Rock Chalk Ball Saturday, April 27, at the Kansas City Convention Center. The event is hosted by the Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network.

Proceeds from the ball, which features silent and live auctions, will support alumni and student programs, including the Jayhawk Career Network (JCN), the Association's new initiative that links students and alumni and provides resources at every career stage. The JCN currently features KU Mentoring, an online campuswide platform that matches students and alumni in mentorships based on specific industries, interests, geographic locations and other factors. Nearly 3,000 alumni and more than 1,000 students have created KU Mentoring profiles.

“We're excited to welcome Kansas City Jayhawks to this year's ball as we highlight the proud heritage of our beloved mascot and celebrate the tradition of Jayhawks helping Jayhawks,” says Kelsey Hill, c'12, assistant director of Kansas City programs.

John Holt, c'81, l'84, co-anchor of Fox 4 News, and Crystle Lampitt, c'10, digital reporter for 41 Action News, will emcee the event. Leading the network's board efforts are ball committee co-chairs Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, and Billy Marshall, c'00. Boulware is a Presidents Club member and a member of the national Board of Directors. She and her husband, Al, c'98, l'02, g'02, co-chaired the 2005 ball. Marshall is a Life Member and a Presidents Club donor. He also is a longtime ball participant.

Life Members

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

Scott M. & Beth Hoerman
Abraham

Nicholas M. Ambrosio

Wendy Lenz Andrew

Travis T. Baughn

Darrel R. Boll

Henry N. & Paige Vicker
Butler

Devon K. Cantwell

Darrel L. Cohoon

Mildred E. Copeland

Lynn Haupt Crosby

Jessica D. Cundiff

Stephan F. & Svetlana P.
Deplazes

Glenn R. & Natasha Kothari
Dunne

Ron A. & Barbara Brown
Faunce

Jason A. Fieser & Marci A.
Brecheisen

Janine Dyck Flory

Kent & Beth Regier Foerster

Barbara A. Gibson

J. Mark Hannah

Bobbi Chambers Hawk

Todd J. Isaac

Sarah C. Johnson

Jason P. & Shannon L. Kimball

Shirly A. Kleiner

Brad L. Knauss & Richard E.
Kaler

Jeffrey A. Lanaghan

Julie Nicolay Larrivee

C. David & Stephanie Sachen
Lawhorn

Jeffrey L. & Allison Stroup
Long

Kent A. Mahon

Paul G. & Kathleen Roults Marx

Thomas O. McCune

Angella Melland-Schrock

Michelle D. Metcalf

Stuart E. Michelson

Clayton S. Milner

Justin E. & Dewi Chang

Mouzoukos

Ronaldo T. Nicholson

Christopher P. Palmer

Mark C. Pearlman

Brendan M. Soucie

Ryan C. Spangler

George C. Stanton

Lucy Woodard Tidwell

Henry C. Troyer & Kimberly R.
Ilhardt

Derek Updegraff

Bryan J. Van Deun II

Christopher J. Waldschmidt

Timothy P. White

Lee A. Whitman

Kathy T. Williams

Philip A. Winegardner

John E. Young

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- Jayhawk Career Network
- Scholarships for Kansas students

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KU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The KU Black Alumni Network

Mike and Joyce Shinn

Leaders *and* Innovators Award

The KU Black Alumni Network is proud to honor African-American alumni who have distinguished themselves and made a difference through demonstrated leadership and/or innovation to the University, their profession or society at large. The project acknowledges the contributions of individuals who have made their mark in varied ways and highlights in photographs and text the accomplishments of our honorees.

Recipients are selected from nominations submitted to the KU Black Alumni Network Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award Committee.

The committee will accept nominations for the 2019 awards through January 31, 2019.

To nominate an individual, complete the nomination form online at kualumni.org/kublackalumni.



We ❤️ *Jayhawks!* | February is Member Appreciation Month

**For members only—
in February only!**

Members can buy this exclusive KU Alumni Association Charlie Hustle T-shirt through the KU Alumni Association app for the discounted price of \$20.

Get it in the app

- Find alumni events in your area
- Access the latest KU and alumni news
- Renew or upgrade your membership

The **KU Alumni Association app** is for all alumni, friends and fans of KU.

Visit the **App Store** or **Google Play** to download, or go to kualumni.org/app.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

For more information, visit kualumni.org/app or call **800-584-2957**

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A. Jayhawks KU Freshy Kickball Womens T-Shirt	20733	\$18.00
B. Jayhawk Belfair Pima Sweater - Charcoal	20266	\$86.00
C. Wall Art - KU Alma Mater Framed Cheer	22408	\$25.00
D. Kansas 9" Paper Plates (8 pack)	13557	\$4.00
E. Kansas Jayhawks 7" Paper Plates (8 pack)	13556	\$3.00
F. Kansas Fan Plates 9" Diameter (Set of 6)	22208	\$14.99
G. Kansas Cutting Board with Knife	22209	\$48.00
H. University of Kansas Campanile Etched 30oz Mug	21957	\$27.00



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

50 Arthur Perry, b'50, is retired and makes his home in Tescott. He will celebrate his 93rd birthday this summer.

51 Gene Balloun, b'51, l'54, a retired partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from FosterAdopt Connect. He is a longtime advocate for foster and adoptive children and has completed more than 1,300 pro bono adoptions. Gene also received the President's Award from the Johnson County Bar Association.

Kenneth Philo, e'51, of San Rafael, California, completed his memoir, *Making of America*. His career included building a dozen major U.S. bridges as a civil engineer.

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

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

Marilynn Smith, '51, in December was inducted in the Women's Golf Coaches Association Players Hall of Fame. She was a golfer at KU and won the NCAA championship title in 1949 before turning pro. She won 22 times on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour.

58 Paul Buchanan, l'58, a retired district and chief judge in Wichita, received the Sterling College Distinguished Service Award in October for his dedication to the college and service to his community.

Charles Luckey Heath, e'58, in September was inducted in the Emporia High School Hall of Fame. He retired as director of safety and environmental affairs at Thiokol Corporation in Odgen, Utah, where he makes his home.

59 Lynn Kindred, c'59, m'63, a cardiologist at the University of Kansas Health System, was honored in September as an inductee in the Emporia High School Hall of Fame.

Marjorie Morgenstern, c'59, lives in Montrose, Colorado, where she's a retired secondary English teacher.

62 Jerry Palmer, c'62, l'66, a Topeka attorney, was named first runner-up in the inaugural Kansas Bar Association Photography Contest for his submission, "Avocets and Egrets." He's been practicing law in Kansas for 52 years.

63 Charles Long, PhD'63, professor emeritus of biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, in October received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. He founded the university's Museum of Natural History in 1968, and served as director and curator for 30 years.

69 Jane Waggoner Deschner, c'69, is an artist in Billings, Montana. She

created a portrait for the New York City exhibition "In Her Hands," which was on display through late 2018.

70 Lewis "Bud" Johnson, e'70, retired as a drilling manager at BTA Oil Producers. He and **Charlotte Moss Johnson**, d'70, a retired teacher, live in Burden.

Virgil, d'70, and **Connie Leveritt Ranker**, d'70, are retired and recently moved to Ellsworth from Colorado. They are renovating a house and enjoy traveling.

71 Freeman Lance Miller, c'71, m'74, retired in August after 40 years in private pediatric practice. He makes his home in Mission Hills.

72 Richard Elliott, c'72, wrote *Duck and Cover: Eleven Short Stories*, which was published in October. It's his third book.

74 Michael Clay, a'74, a project manager consultant for the Golden State Warriors basketball team, is assisting with the construction of the organization's new arena. It is the 14th arena he has been involved with in his career. He and **Irma Hayden Clay**, p'74, a retired pharmacist, live in Prairie Village.

Lawrence Deyton, c'74, will receive the James D. Bruce Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians at a convocation ceremony in April. He is the Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy and senior associate dean for clinical public health at the George Washington University School of Medicine.

Herbert Haines, c'74, g'78, g'82, PhD'83, is a sociologist and professor at State University of New York.

75 Mary Alice Costello, j'75, d'76, g'81, is an attorney in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Richard Fladung, e'75, is an attorney at

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Clark Hill Strasburger in Houston. He's a member of the firm's intellectual property team.

Jeff Hutstell, c'75, wrote "I Really Meant To Tell You" ... *Finding the Courage for Kindness*, which was published in July. He lives in Overland Park.

Judson Maillie, b'75, l'80, retired as managing partner at Business Owners Advisory Group. He resides in Maryville, Tennessee.

Steve Martens, c'75, a hotelier and commercial real estate developer, received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas CCIM chapter and Wichita State University Center for Real Estate. He's CEO of The Martens Companies, which brought the new Best Western Plus to Lawrence last fall.

76 Ross Hollander, l'76, is chair of civil litigation and employment law at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Wichita. He recently was named to the 2018 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers list.

Craig Weinaug, g'76, retired in Decem-

ber after 26 years as Douglas County administrator. He and his wife, Sally Don, live in Lawrence.

77 Dorothy Pinedo Alverio, b'77, lives in West Lafayette, Indiana, where she's a data analyst at Purdue University.

Jeff Nelson, b'77, l'80, retired in December as partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City. He lives in Overland Park.

78 Doug Barrington, j'78, co-owns Team Barrington/Realty Professionals in Topeka, where he resides with his wife, Cheri.

79 Gerard DeZern, a'79, e'79, is a program manager at Citadel CPM in Pasadena, California.

Stan McManness, b'79, e'79, makes his home in Clayton, Missouri, where he's president and CEO of the McManness Group.

80 Laura Ice, d'80, is an attorney at Textron Financial Corporation in

Wichita. Her photo, "The Gathering Storm," was selected in November as editor's choice in the Kansas Bar Association Photography Contest.

Barbara Kinney, j'80, in November released a new book, *#StillWithHer: Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Moments That Sparked a Movement*, which was published by Press Syndication Group. Barb was the official White House photographer during Bill Clinton's presidency and also covered Secretary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. She is a photographer and photo editor at the Emerson Collective in Palo Alto, California.

81 Ramon Murguia, b'81, is on the board of trustees for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. He's an attorney in Kansas City.

82 David Hill, f'82, was honored in October with the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award by the KU School of Architecture & Design. He's chief design

Class Notes

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officer emeritus for Lenovo and co-creator of the ThinkPad.

Pamela Shaw, c'82, m'86, is assistant vice chancellor of academic and student affairs at KU School of Medicine.

83 Steven Kisker, c'83, m'88, is a psychiatrist at Hopewell Mental Health Services. He and **Linda Davidson Kisker**, n'68, g'87, live in Lenexa.

Joseph Moore, c'83, is a senior management analyst at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Christopher Peters, c'83, m'89, is a thoracic and cardiac surgeon in Coralville, Iowa.

84 The Rev. **Cathleen Chittenden Bascom**, c'84, was named the 10th bishop to lead the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. She's the first woman to be elected bishop since the diocese was formed in 1859.

James Pottorff, l'84, is vice president and general counsel at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

85 Kathryn Myers, j'85, l'91, g'05, and **John Hampton**, c'92, live in Lawrence, where they own The Black Stag, a new brewery and restaurant on Mass Street. Kathryn's father, **William**, c'62, is a partner in the venture.

86 Julianne Greene, b'86, g'99, is a Freedom of Information Act analyst at WITS Solutions in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Jeff Wheat, c'86, is director of solutions engineering at @Risk Technologies. He and his wife, Gabrielle, reside in Shawnee and have two children, Madison and Brandon, both of whom are students at KU.

Evan Wooten, b'86, is president and owner of Happy N' Healthy Pet Products in Richmond, Virginia.

Jordan Yochim, c'86, g'92, '01, is chief of staff of the School of Business at KU.

87 Tony Arnold, c'87, in October received the Outstanding Faculty Member Award for Teaching Excellence

from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. He's the Boehl Chair in Property and Land Use, a professor of law and an affiliated professor of urban and public affairs. This is his fifth teaching award.

Terry Hagen, e'87, was promoted to chief operating officer at Jacobs Engineering Group in Nashville, Tennessee. He continues to lead the firm's aerospace, technology, environmental and nuclear business.

E. Claire Jerry, PhD'87, lives in Washington, D.C., where she's lead curator of political history at the National Museum of American History.

89 John Brehm, c'89, is vice president of strategic partnerships at Gant. He and his wife, Valarie, make their home in Littleton, Colorado.

Kenneth Koziol, e'89, lives in Houston, where he's hydroprocessing senior key account manager at Haldor Topsoe Inc.

Dionne Scherff, c'89, l'91, an attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Overland

Park, was named to the 2018 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers list.

90 Michael Davis, a'90, is a project architect at LPA Inc. in San Diego, where he resides with his husband, Craig.

Jill Jess, j'90, manages public relations for Western Governors University Ohio. She lives in Columbus.

Gregory Rockers, p'90, '94, is managing director of the Williamson Rockers Group in Maize.

Derek Schmidt, j'90, l'16, in November was elected to a third term as Kansas

attorney general, making him the second-longest serving attorney general in state history.

91 Todd Hill, e'91, g'04, is vice president of Needham DBS, a structural engineering firm. He manages the Fort Wayne, Indiana, office remotely from Gardner.

Lori Mitchell, d'91, '93, lives in Manhattan, where she's a K-12 gifted facilitator for the Wamego Special Services Cooperative.

Bill Moseley, c'91, l'94, g'95, is founder and CEO of GL Solutions in Bend,

Oregon. He also serves as a city councilor.

92 Sal Intagliata, c'92, l'95, was honored for the fifth consecutive year by Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers. He's a shareholder at Monnat & Spurrier in Wichita.

Malissa Courson Nesmith, j'92, lives in Wichita, where she's vice president of marketing and business development at Lee Aerospace.

Thad Noll, g'92, retired in November as assistant county manager of Summit County, Colorado. He and his wife, **Lisa**

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Musical journey takes alumna down country road

Ali Tonn was on “the classical path” when a more down-home trail called.

Tonn, f'00, received classical training in flute and piano growing up in Haven and later at KU, where she majored in music history before earning a master's degree in arts administration at the University of Wisconsin. She then landed a gig at the Manhattan School of Music, the New York City conservatory that trains students in classical, jazz and musical theatre.

But Tonn's interest in other genres—an eclectic embrace of forms and styles that got rolling in Lawrence and gained speed in New York's polyrhythmic music scene—steered her in another direction.

“My ears were really wide based on the experiences I was having at Murphy Hall and all the different sounds I was hearing,” says Tonn, who also credits her student job at the Lied Center, indie rock shows she saw on Mass Street, and Professor Dick Wright's survey course on jazz. “My curiosity for sounds outside classical was grown in Lawrence.”

By the time she moved to New York, she was primed to discover something new—and something new turned out to be country music.

“I was still on the classical path,” Tonn

says, “and what really caught my ear was the country and jazz shows I was going to in the city. I started to really see the intersections between country music pickin' and jazz improvisation.”

The overlap between the two traditions kindled an idea she fosters every day as senior director of education and public programs at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tennessee: Country is more than a sound, it's a culture.

“The through line of our education programming is human creativity. I love this medium because it offers an opportunity for lots of people to participate and identify, so we invite our audiences to contribute their own story and creativity. We're passing down country culture, but we're trying to evolve it as well.”

Tonn's work has earned awards from the American Alliance of Museums and other groups, but one of her proudest moments was helping create the Community Counts program in 2017. The 350,000-square-foot museum in the heart of Nashville's downtown entertainment district draws 1.2 million visitors annually from around the world, but Tonn and her colleagues saw a need to include more locals. The program offers free admission to youths in seven Tennessee counties, lets adults check out a free Museum Passport from the Nashville Public Library and sells annual



COURTESY ALI TONN

“It's a big tent, country music,” says Ali Tonn, who leads education at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. “So big there's something in it for everyone.”

Community Counts memberships for \$5 to qualifying families.

“We have a responsibility to share country music history with audiences around the world and close to home,” Tonn says. “Accessibility is how we create more understanding about the sound and the culture.”

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Bennison Noll, l'91, recently moved to Yucatan, Mexico.

Jane Wood, g'92, PhD'99, is president of Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio. She's the university's 10th president.

93 Nii Attoh-Okine, PhD'93, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Delaware, was named a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Katherine Manweiler, j'93, lives in Wichita, where she's self-employed as a copywriter and marketer.

Jason Selby, b'93, supervises accounts at Watz Tetric Advertising in Mission. He makes his home in Olathe.

94 Marissa Kelly, PhD'94, is president of Suffolk University in Boston.

Eric Mersmann, a'94, lives in Chicago, where he's senior project director at Gensler.

Juliette Box Pierce, e'94, is vice president and director of Kansas City operations at Henderson Engineers. She

returned to KU in October to deliver the eighth annual J.A. Tiberti Family Lecture at the School of Engineering.

Josh Whetzel, j'94, in November received Labette Community College's William and Allene Guthrie Van Meter Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. He's in his 19th year as radio and TV Voice of the Rochester Red Wings, the Triple-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

95 Elaine Adams, a'95, g'95, is sustainability director at LS3P Associates and professor of architecture, preservation and urban design at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

Kiersten Degenhardt Camp, c'95, DNP'19, is an advance practice registered nurse at Textron Aviation in Wichita. She and her husband, Joseph, live in Andale and have six children, one of whom, **Bryce**, '17, attended KU.

Andy Hurt, c'95, is chief marketing officer at Cobalt Iron in Lawrence.

Dirk Smith, c'95, m'99, is a physician at West Wichita Family Physicians. He and

his wife, **Nichole**, assoc., live in Goddard with their four children, Kaidyn, Corbin, Carter and Lainey.

96 Sarah Plinsky, c'96, g'98, is interim Douglas County administrator. She has been serving as assistant administrator since 2010.

Suzanne Casper Steele, c'96, owns Steele Benefits in Clay City, Illinois, where she makes her home.

97 Abigail Hankin-Wei, c'97, lives in Mozambique, where she recently won a Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad.

Brandon Jones, c'97, l'00, is an attorney in the Franklin County Attorney's Office in Ottawa.

Nikki White, d'97, manages accounts at SERC Physical & Hand Therapy in Lawrence.

98 Brian Dirck, PhD'98, is a professor of history at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana.

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NATIONAL AVERAGE

4.5%
GIVE BACK TO ATHLETICS

350K ALUMNI

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GIVE TO KANSAS ATHLETICS

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3. OKLAHOMA STATE
4. KANSAS STATE
5. KANSAS

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99 Keith Campbell, b'99, g'09, lives in Stayton, Oregon, where he's city manager.

Joelle Smith Ford, f'99, is a visual artist who specializes in found-art sculptures. Her exhibition, "Kansas Collections II," was recently on display at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Darrin Tangeman, c'99, g'18, is city manager of Woodland Park, Colorado.

Connie Chang Williams, c'99, is a veterinary assistant at VCA Cherokee Animal Hospital in Overland Park.

00 Nicholas Bartkoski, j'00, c'01, g'04, is an assistant professor of business at Southwestern College in Winfield. He and his wife, Jennifer, make their home in Wichita with their sons, Thomas and Leo.

James Bridwell, c'00, works at North-Care in Oklahoma City, where he's team leader of court services.

Megan Brouillette Dunn, j'00, is an enterprise sales manager at Comcast Business. She and her husband, Jeremy, live in Denver.

Jane Njeri Irungu, g'00, PhD'10, was named interim associate vice president for university community at the University of Oklahoma. She also serves as executive director of the Southwest Center of Human Relations Studies at OU.

Christopher Joseph, f'00, a managing member at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Topeka and Lawrence, was named to the 2018 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers list.

Jed MacArthur, '00, lives in Boulder, Colorado, where he's an associate at RE/MAX.

Adam Moore, c'00, is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He works with AC-130 aviator/special operations.

02 Kristin Vanderhagen Bishop, c'02, is a strategic account manager at Docusign. She and **Bob**, b'00, director of revenue cycle at Cerner, make their home in Prairie Village.

Dusty Johnson, g'02, was elected in November to the U.S. House of Representatives. He previously served as vice

president of consulting at Vantage Point Solutions in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Travis Roth, b'02, directs expense management and reporting at Security Benefit in Topeka. He makes his home in Parkville, Missouri, with his wife, **Anne**, assoc.

Amy Schroeder Wacker, g'02, '03, is a community-based services director at Elizabeth Layton Center in Ottawa. She and **Gabriel**, '98, live in Shawnee with their two children, Nadia and Ryan.

03 Kristi Henderson, j'03, '14, is chief of staff and communications for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at KU. She and her husband, **Christian**, assoc., live in Lawrence.

Adam Mills, d'03, g'05, directs performance for the Elevate KHS pro cycling team. He lives in San Diego.

Debra Kruger Smith, c'03, manages marketing at Mylo in Kansas City. She lives in Lenexa.

Anne Wallen, c'03, '04, is program director in the KU Office of Fellowships.

She lives in Lawrence with Carsten Holm and their son, Nicolai.

MARRIED

Brielle Strohmeier, c'03, to Shawn McDonald, Sept. 22 in Beverly Hills, California. She's in public relations and marketing for the entertainment industry.

04 Lynn Buehler, c'04, coordinates advancement support at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Danielle Clock, b'04, lives in Chicago, where she's a demand planner at Wilton

Brands, a baking and cake decorating company.

Charlotte Ransom, m'04, is the emergency department medical director at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield, Oregon.

05 Marci Deuth, e'05, works at ExxonMobil in Spring, Texas, where she manages North American market development.

Casey Meek, c'05, l'09, an attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft in Lawrence, was honored as a 2018 rising star by

Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers. He focuses his practice on DUI and drug crimes.

Chelsea Demars Young, a'05, is a senior associate at Traffic Engineers in Houston, where she resides with **Bryan**, b'06.

06 Kara Tan Bhala, g'06, PhD'09, is founder and president of Seven Pillars Institute, a nonprofit Kansas City-based think tank that recently won an international award for best worldwide contributions toward enhancing ethics in finance.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Hankin-Wei launches E.R. training in Mozambique

Abigail Hankin-Wei studied biology as an undergraduate, hoping to one day become a physician. Also a member of KU's rigorous University Honors Program, she was drawn to political science courses, in which she discovered an affinity for international development issues and, specifically, refugee health.

On a first date while completing her residency in emergency medicine, in Philadelphia, she learned that the fellow resident with whom she was strolling emptying late-night streets also dreamed of one day working overseas. She and Stanley Wei married and in 2009 moved to Atlanta, where she joined Emory University as assistant professor of emergency medicine and he went to work for the Centers for Disease Control.

Six years later, their dreams were seemingly realized when Stanley was asked to take a post at CDC-Mozambique, on the Indian Ocean in southeast Africa. By then, however, they had a toddler and a new baby (and have since had a third child). Dual-career parenting was tough enough in Atlanta; but, Mozambique?

"We initially thought it was a really bad idea for us," Hankin-Wei, c'97, recalls from her home in Maputo, "but we ended up

deciding we wanted to take the opportunity to do something really adventurous."

After arriving in Mozambique's capital city, Hankin-Wei was introduced to Otilia Neves, a Ministry of Health physician who yearned to train doctors in emergency medicine. To her shock, Hankin-Wei learned that other than a missionary at a rural hospital in the far north, there were *no* emergency-medicine specialists in the entire country.

She and Neves set to work, and in 2016 they received a U.S. Embassy grant to send Mozambican doctors to the biennial conference of the African Federation of Emergency Medicine—a first for Mozambique. There Hankin-Wei forged an alliance with the African health organization PLeDGE, which now provides organizational structure for the Mozambican Emergency Medicine Group.

Hankin-Wei in September was named one of four international winners of the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad, yet she emphasizes that while she is realizing her dream of overseas medical outreach, the nascent emergency-medicine residency program is by and for Mozambicans.

"They come to me having not known what to do when they watched a child die, again and again and again. I've taught a lot of medical students and a lot of physicians, and I've never worked with any learners as



COURTESY ABIGAIL HANKIN-WEI

Abigail Hankin-Wei says Mozambican doctors yearn for training, not fancy equipment: "Investment in basic skills and basic knowledge isn't that expensive and is super doable."

.....
motivated as they are. Once there is a Mozambican emergency physician, that physician needs to lead emergency medicine in Mozambique.

"I'm not disappearing, I'm not going away forever, but it only makes sense for an American to do it as long as I'm the only option." 🐸

Class Notes

Mary Hayden Durham, c'06, PharmD'15, works at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, where she's pharmacy automation and supply chain manager.

Derek Klaus, j'06, directs communications at Visit KC.

Adam Reese, c'06, lives in Denver, where he's a commercial loan originator at Terrix Financial.

Lindsay Price Roe, c'06, is an administrative assistant in the chemistry department at KU. She and **Jason**, c'06, g'09, PhD'12, live in Lawrence.

Kyle Wilson, a'06, directs project development at Kadean Construction in Fenton, Missouri. He lives in St. Louis.

Luke Wohlford, c'06, f'09, was named chair of the Texas Bar's antitrust and business litigation section. He's an attorney at Crowe & Dunley in Dallas.

07 Justin Brown, g'07, directs scholarships and financial aid at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Alexis Chavez, c'07, is a psychiatrist in

Aurora, Colorado. She helped found the Imagine Clinic, which specializes in mental health services for the LGBTQ community.

Morgan Wallace Crane, j'07, f'12, is senior counsel for Lyft Inc. in San Francisco.

Alonzo Jamison, c'07, is a sales representative at 360 Document Solutions in Shawnee. He and **Colleen Rodgers Jamison**, f'87, live in Tecumseh.

Mark Wolfe, e'07, m'11, is a general surgeon and splits his time between Memorial Hospital in Abilene and Surgical Associates in Manhattan.

08 Nick Adams, g'08, owns Mademan Design, a design/build firm in St. Louis.

Heather Mady Brittingham, f'08, an associate registered veterinary technician at the Kansas City Zoo, participated last summer in Miami University's earth expeditions global field course in Belize. She's a graduate student in the university's global field program.

Abigail Grantstein Howard, f'08, is associate counsel for USA Swimming in Colorado Springs.

Adam Jenkins, c'08, a U.S. Air Force pilot, recently was promoted to major.

Dennis Kuhnel, f'08, is a district ranger in the U.S. Forest Service. He lives in Challis, Idaho, with his wife, Katy, and their two daughters, Rosalie and Lucinda.

09 Aly Rodee Beley, c'09, directs communications for U.S. Sen. James Lankford. She has worked for the senator since 2015 and previously served as press secretary.

Christopher Nelson, j'09, f'12, is an associate at Lathrop Gage in Overland Park. He's part of the firm's business litigation team.

Scott Perlmutter, b'09, is an IT financial controller at Great Lakes Coca-Cola in Niles, Illinois. He and his wife, Allison, live in Chicago.

Matthew Tornow, c'09, works at Shadow Glen Golf Club in Olathe, where he's food and beverage director.

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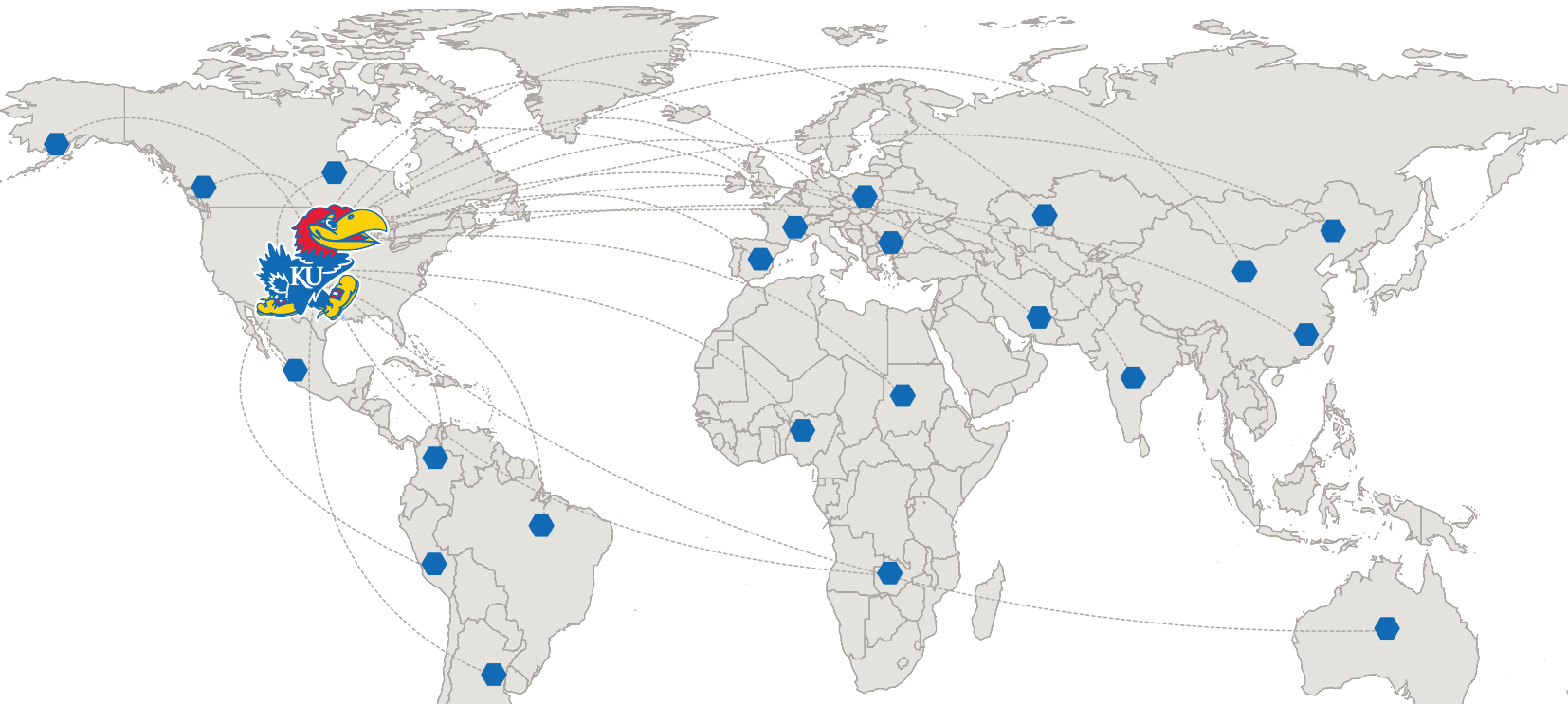
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10 Laura Foster Eder, g'10, an associate at GFF in Dallas, was honored in October by the KU School of Architecture & Design as a 2018 Distinguished Alumna. She received the award for young architect/designer.

James Husbenet, d'10, lives in Lawrence, where he's a youth sports supervisor for the city.

Sunny Sanwar, e'10, founder of

Verd2GO, was named to Forbes' 30 under 30 list for his innovative and sustainable energy-storage packs.

MARRIED

Matthew Schwind, e'10, to Anna-Sophia Fritzsche, Oct. 6 in Isny im Allgäu, Germany. They reside in Kifllegg, where Matt is an innovation mechatronics engineer at Diehl Controls.

11 Jessica Dean, c'11, develops software at the Flow Companies in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Scott Johnston, b'11, g'12, is an associate at Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale in St. Louis. He's part of the business services practice group.

Liam Kirby, c'11, lives in Arvada, Colorado, where he manages programs at Visible, a mobile service provider.

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Artist sculpts success by staying true to self

Twelve years ago, toward the end of his undergraduate studies at Missouri State University and with a few fortuitous commissions under his belt, Jacob Burmood felt confident that he could actually make a living doing what he loved. With his bachelor's degree in fine arts in hand, he promptly applied to graduate programs at eight universities. The burgeoning artist was turned down by every single one.

"Rejection is something you get used to as an artist," he says. "It's just part of the process. But I wasn't going to stop making art."

Burmood continued to develop his portfolio, while working side jobs at local restaurants, and applied again to several schools, including KU. He was delivering pizzas when he got a call from David Vertačnik, professor emeritus of ceramics, with the news that he had been accepted into the University's master of fine arts program.

Years later, Burmood, g'13, has carved his niche in the art world as a sought-after sculptor, specializing in large-scale, dramatic pieces crafted from cold-cast aluminum, bronze and resin. His work is displayed at several prominent locations throughout the Kansas City metro area, including KU Medical Center, and he

participates regularly in outdoor sculpture competitions, which take him on yearly expeditions to install his imaginative creations throughout the United States.

Much of Burmood's work, which is characterized by sleek, fluid shapes, is inspired by nature, particularly the landscape surrounding the central Missouri home where he grew up. "That was a big part of my childhood," he recalls. "Spending time in the woods, seeing how the creek carved its way along eroded areas and created small canyons."

Burmood's sculptures are increasingly gaining national and international attention, thanks to his partnership with Paul Dorrell, '82, an art consultant and owner of the Leopold Gallery in Kansas City. Dorrell recently helped Burmood secure one of his largest and most challenging projects to date: a nearly 800-lb., 11-foot sculpture at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Frisco, Texas. The piece was commissioned by Clark and Dan Hunt, who own the Kansas City Chiefs and FC Dallas, a professional soccer team.

"The Kick," which was installed in October and took nearly 10 months to complete, is Burmood's interpretation of a player executing one of the sport's most dynamic moves, the bicycle kick. "I wanted all of my abstractions to be related to the proportion and actual musculature," Burmood explains. "I didn't want to leave anything out, but I wanted everything to



STEVE PUPPE

"I've worked with dozens of exceptionally talented Kansas artists over the past 27 years," says Paul Dorrell, owner of the Leopold Gallery in Kansas City. "Jacob Burmood is one of the finest artists I've ever worked with."

flow together in a way that was similar to what I've done in the past."

With a second commission for the Hunts announced in December—an installation at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City—Burmood is enjoying the swell of success, an outcome that seemed far from certain 12 years ago.

"It's just really satisfying," he says. "Just the fact that these calls are happening and people want art, that's enough for me to keep making it"

Class Notes



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Brenna Long Malmberg, c'11, j'11, manages content marketing at Punkpost, a greeting card company. She resides in San Diego.

Ryan McAteer, f'11, an attorney at Polsinelli in Los Angeles, serves on the executive committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association health care law section.

Jean Menager, c'11, f'14, is an attorney at Colantuono Bjerg Guinn in Overland Park. He was named second runner-up in the 2018 Kansas Bar Association Photography Contest for his entry, "Blocked Out." He also took top honors in the Look and Life categories.

Michael Quick, c'11, is vice president of client relations and business development at Quick Leonard Kieffer in Chicago, where he makes his home with **Jolie Himes Quick**, c'11.

Liz Raynolds, c'11, '15, sells medical devices in Phoenix.

Emily Richardson, c'11, is a staff accountant at Bukaty Companies Financial Services in Overland Park.

Mathew Shepard, c'11, lives in New York City, where he's assistant director of student conduct at New York University.

MARRIED

Clare Prohaska, c'11, m'15, to Alex Bridges, June 9 in Denver. They live in Aurora, Colorado, where she's an internal medicine hospitalist at Critical Care and Pulmonary Consultants.

12 Taylor Cammack, d'12, is an associate at Koley Jessen in Omaha, Nebraska. He's on the firm's mergers and acquisitions team.

Kyle Craig, c'12, f'16, works at Lathrop Gage in Overland Park, where he practices real estate law.

Natalie Sellers DeBoer, d'12, is an athletic trainer at OrthoKansas in Lawrence, where she lives with **Josh**, c'14, a recruitment coordinator at KU.

Brian Gengler, m'12, is an orthopedic surgeon at Precision Orthopedics & Sports Medicine in Irving, Texas. He specializes in spinal disorders.

Patrick Johnson, c'12, g'18, is vice president of commercial bankcard at UMB Bank. He and **Elizabeth Kinney Johnson**, f'05, live in Overland Park.

Emily Keesling, b'12, resides in Wichita, where she's a supervisor at Allen Gibbs & Houlik.

Jacqueline Mocnik-Boyd, c'12, is an associate project manager at UnitedLex in Overland Park. She commutes from Lawrence.

Andrew Vaupel, b'12, j'12, is associate editor of the Kansas City Business Journal. He and **Barbara Doxon Vaupel**, PharmD'08, a pharmacist at OptumRx, make their home in Overland Park.

Brian "Fraze" Frazier Wright, j'12, is a musician and performer in Chicago. He's also vice president of the Green Pet Shop, an eco-friendly pet supply company.

BORN TO:

Will, f'12, and **Courtney Cyzman Manly**, s'12, son, Thomas, Nov. 3 in Lawrence, where they make their home. He's the couple's first child.

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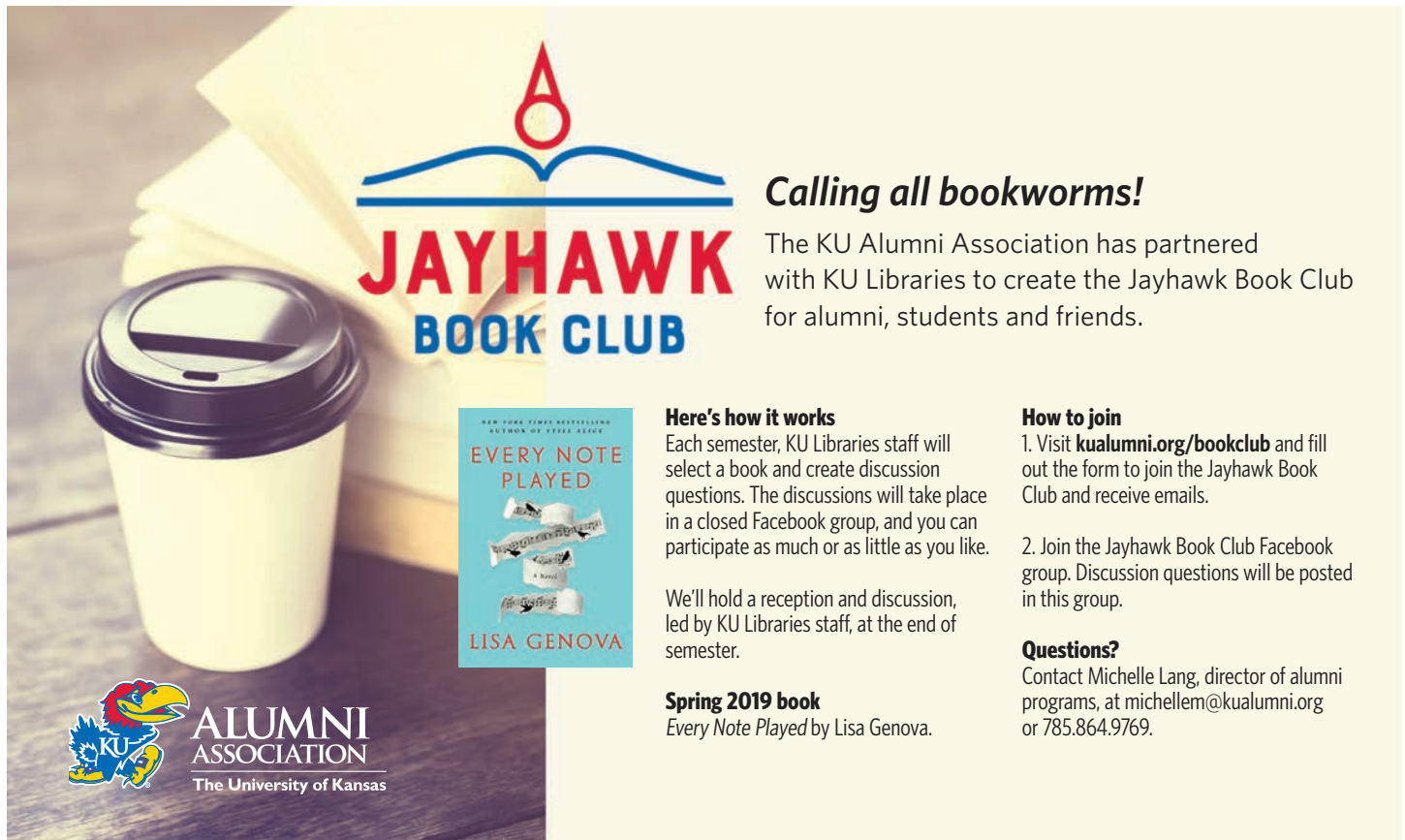
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JAYHAWK BOOK CLUB

Calling all bookworms!

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


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

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

Spring 2019 book
Every Note Played by Lisa Genova.

How to join
1. Visit kualumni.org/bookclub and fill out the form to join the Jayhawk Book Club and receive emails.
2. Join the Jayhawk Book Club Facebook group. Discussion questions will be posted in this group.

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

 **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
The University of Kansas

13 Aaron Doudna, c'13, resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he's a meteorologist at KDLT.

Erin Ellis, g'13, is associate dean for research and learning services and an associate librarian at Indiana University at Bloomington.

Matthew Gorney, g'13, l'13, an associate at Monnat & Spurrier in Wichita, was named to the Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers 2018 Rising Stars list. It's the first time he has received this honor.

Karen Thenhaus Hand, g'13, is president of Needham DBS, a structural engineering firm. She makes her home in Kansas City.

Braeden Johnson, m'13, is an emergency room physician at Salina Regional Health Center. He lives in Salina with his wife, Dana, and their daughter, Meryl.

Nell Neary, c'13, l'18, is an associate at Lathrop Gage in Kansas City. She's part of the firm's real estate team.

Diana Ticlavilca, c'13, is a dentist at Winston Smiles in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Greg Youncofski, c'13, is assistant coach

of the University of Cincinnati men's basketball team. He has been with the program for six seasons and previously served as program assistant and video coordinator.

MARRIED

Heather Ramey, s'13, to Randy Reed, Oct. 6 in Estes Park, Colorado. They live in Olathe, where she's a parole officer for the Kansas Department of Corrections.

14 Thomas Chambers, g'14, resides in Wichita, where he's a project designer at SJCF Architecture.

Adam Dechtman, c'14, is a financial adviser at Dechtman Wealth Management in Centennial, Colorado.

Craig Jackson, g'14, directs advancement at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ashleigh Lee, j'14, '15, is an internal communications associate at Garmin in Olathe.

Scott McGreevy, l'14, g'15, co-founded Access to Justice, an affordable law

services firm in Joplin, Missouri.

Jennifer Schon, g'14, PhD'18, is associate director of institutional research at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Conor Taft, d'14, lives in Lawrence, where he's a development officer at KU Endowment.

Ryan Terry, d'14, works for the Dallas Mavericks professional basketball team. He's an account executive for corporate partnerships.

Eric Wreath, e'14, is an IOR/EOR production engineer at SNF Holding Company. He lives in Dallas.

Boniface Yemba, g'14, PhD'15, is an assistant professor of international business at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

15 Nathan Bowman, g'15, is co-founder and producing artistic director at Kansas City Public Theatre. He directed the KU University Theatre production "Electra," which premiered in October.

Laura Fagen, c'15, j'15, g'18, g'18, lives

in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she's a digital communications specialist at Hennepin Theatre Trust.

Lauren Sati Rich, j'15, a'15, is a merchandising artist at Gear for Sports in Lenexa. She and **Jared**, c'15, live in Overland Park.

Logan Swafford, c'15, g'19, teaches mathematics in the Shawnee Mission School District. He makes his home in Shawnee.

16 Stephen Hetro, c'16, is a community affairs/youth basketball associate for

the New Orleans Pelicans and New Orleans Saints professional sports teams.

Molly Norburg, c'16, j'16, is an advance associate for the Office of the Mayor in Chicago.

Lucy Pyle, b'16, lives in Houston, where she's a credit analyst at ConocoPhillips.

Vicky Reyes, c'16, g'19, coordinates online distance learning at Garden City Community College.

MARRIED

McKayla Murphy, c'16, to Paul Paez, Nov. 10 in Olathe. She's a lead teacher

at Positive Bright Start in Lawrence.

17 Mick Cottin, c'17, makes his home in Kansas City, where he's an operations supervisor and planner for the Kansas City Public Library.

Amanda Woodward Davis, g'17, g'18, g'19, is a communications project manager at ITFO Communications. She lives in Lawrence.

Joel Embiid, '17, a former KU basketball player who plays for the Philadelphia 76ers, landed a five-year deal as an ambassador for Under Armour Inc.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Okmin's 'second act' is all about sports sisterhood

As soon as Fox Sports NFL reporter Laura Okmin hit the air Nov. 4 in Chicago, where the Bears played the Buffalo Bills, her employer tweeted a congratulatory note: Okmin's 164th network telecast made her the third-most broadcasted sideline reporter in history.

"This achievement means the world to me," Okmin, j'91, later replied, noting her pride in overcoming her fear of the "shelf life for aging women on-camera."

Thriving for more than 25 years in a job where sexism and ageism are hardly unknown, Okmin had reason to celebrate. Her high spirits, though, had less to do with success as a journalist and were more about how far she had come as a person.

"My toughest time was when I was about 40. I went through a really tough stretch," Okmin says. "I realized I'd spent half my life working on what I do and I hadn't spent any time focusing on who I was, and I really struggled."

"And, here comes the funny part."

She saw a psychic. Or, more accurately, she signed up for a weeklong retreat, during which she worked on herself "physically, mentally, emotionally and

spiritually." It just so happened that the retreat included a visit with a psychic, during which she summoned the strength to ask, with trepidation, "Have I peaked?"

"I just thought, 'Is that it?'" Okmin says of her mindset at the time. "The favorite thing anybody has ever told me—and I still don't know if this was as a psychic or this was just a wonderful woman—she reached over the table, took my hand and said, 'Oh, honey, you're not going to believe how good it's about to get.'"

"That moment changed the trajectory of my life. Everything I had done up to that moment was to get me to my second act."

A big part of Okmin's second act was founding GALvanize, a media training firm that offers two-day sessions for early-career female broadcasters. Each of Okmin's "boot camps" brings participants to an off-season NFL training camp, where reporters first spend a day getting to know one another, then spend a day paired with a player at the outset of his own career.

The secret, she says, is cultivating a "sisterhood in sports." Okmin says bonds formed in her camps are so strong that young women still in their first act ache that they'll never again feel that love. Not so, she says, if they seek out women at work and say, "Let's do this together. I got you.' ... It's all the things that I never



COURTESY LAURA OKMIN

Laura Okmin is glad she can no longer count women covering big events, yet gains have yet to reach the top. "Yes, there's more of us, but not in meaningful places we need to be."

learned until I was closer to 40, when all of a sudden I realized how important women were for me and what a great support group there was that I never took advantage of and never tried to create.

"I got it when I was supposed to get it, but if I can help all these young women get it at 20 instead of 40, they will go so far. They will believe in themselves in a business in which they will constantly be told, 'No one else believes in you.'"

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Will Johnson, g'17, works at Hernly Associates in Lawrence, where he's an associate project designer.

Donald Lee-Brown II, g'17, PhD'19, lives in Arlington, Virginia, where he's a data scientist and program director at Insight Data Science.

Rebeka Luttinger, j'17, lives in Dallas, where she's a communications associate at Temple Emanu-El.

Rocio Malpartida, g'17, g'18, g'19, is a marketing project coordinator at Green Via Foods in Austin, Texas.

Shaylee Vandever, g'17, is an academic adviser at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, New Mexico. She lives in Albuquerque with her daughter, Ellianna, who recently turned 1.

18 Tim Hadachek, l'18, is an associate at Lathrop Gage in Kansas City. He's part of the firm's intellectual property group.

Kara Kahn, j'18, is an account associate at Kemper & Company in Kansas City.

Brian Lynn, l'18, practices wealth

strategies law at Lathrop Gage in Kansas City.

Daniel Nick, e'18, is an engineering officer in the U.S. Navy.

Esther Daniels Platt, g'18, is an officer in the U.S. Army. She and her husband, Brandon, make their home in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Spencer Reed, g'18, lives in St. Louis, where he's an architectural designer at PGAV Architects.

Joseph Sodergren, b'18, is an e-commerce and digital marketing associate at Tohi Ventures, a beverage maker in Kansas City.

Nick Steiner, b'18, makes his home in New York City, where he's an investment banking analyst at Guggenheim Securities.

Naadir Tharpe, '18, plays for the Worcester 78s, an American Basketball Association team in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was a point guard at KU from 2011 to '14.

Erin Woods, c'18, lives in Lawrence, where she's an admissions representative at KU.

Julie Zysk, b'18, is an SEO content writer at Logical Position in Deer Park, Illinois.

19 Victoria Alejos, d'19, is an early childhood special education teacher in Topeka.

Jason Bradley, g'19, g'19, is fire captain for the city of Omaha, Nebraska, where he makes his home with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Olivia and Hayden.

Robert Gardner, g'19, is a specialized programs teacher in the Dallas Independent School District. He and his wife, Regina, live in Dallas with their three sons, Brooks, Jameson and Davis.

Tierra Howard, g'19, teaches fourth grade at University Academy in Kansas City. She lives in Independence, Missouri, with her husband, Christian. They're expecting their first child.

John Naegle, PhD'19, is an assistant professor of accounting at Missouri State University in Springfield, where he and his wife, Brynn, live with their four children, Angela, Delia, Erik and Flynn.

Devan Schaly, c'19, makes his home in Marietta, Ohio, where he's an assistant manager at Peak Campus.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Kenneth Audus, PhD'84, in June will step down as dean of the School of Pharmacy, a position he's held since 2004. During his tenure, Ken expanded the PharmD program and led the effort to construct a new pharmacy building in Lawrence and create a satellite campus in Wichita.

Roy Jensen, assoc., director of the KU Cancer Center and professor in the School of Medicine, is the new president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes. In 2012, the KU Cancer Center earned designation as a National Cancer Institute under Dr. Jensen's leadership.

ASSOCIATES

Rex Buchanan, assoc., in November received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Geosciences Institute. He served as director of the Kansas Geological Survey at KU from 2010 to '16.

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

In Memory

30s Helen Duckett Campbell, n'39, 101, Oct. 15 in Lawrence, where she taught Sunday school and was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is survived by three sons, Stephen, c'66, l'69, Sam, c'71, g'73, and Scott, c'80, g'82; a daughter, Susan Campbell Thompson, '90; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mary Kathleen Lattner Connell, d'39, 100, Sept. 18 in El Dorado. She and her husband farmed and raised livestock, and she also served on several community boards. Surviving are a daughter, Jane Connell Mulally, d'69; three sons, one of whom is Tim, l'78; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

40s Norman Carroll, b'47, e'51, 92, Oct. 9 in Butler, Pennsylvania. He was a mechanical engineer for Westinghouse and also owned Applied Test Systems. Survivors include a son; a brother, Keith, e'57; and two grandchildren.

Sidney Mayfield Hahn Culver, d'46, g'68, PhD'72, 93, Oct. 8 in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she retired after 18 years as professor of secondary education at the University of Nebraska. Surviving are a son, Chris Hahn, d'74; a sister, Lelia Mayfield Coyne, '61; two grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph Davison, e'43, 96, Sept. 6 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He spent his entire career with Phillips Petroleum Company, retiring as senior vice president of corporate planning and development. In 1984, he received KU's Distinguished Engineering Service Award. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Leatha Sanford Davison, c'47; two daughters, Teresa Davison Daniels, b'79, and Diane, c'80; a sister, Doris Davison Ley, f'43; three grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Marguerite Jones Fraizer, b'40, 99, Aug. 29 in Roseville, California, where she owned a Hallmark store. Three daughters survive.

Claudine Chamberlain Gering, b'44, 96, Sept. 22 in Burke, Virginia. She lived in Anthony, Kansas, for several years, where she was a high school teacher and worked at the public library. Surviving are a daughter, Sherry Gering Greenwood, j'86; and two grandchildren.

Margaret Hanna Molzen, d'49, 91, July 29 in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, where she was a teacher and librarian. She is survived by her husband, Dayton; a son, George, b'75; a daughter; a brother, George Hanna, c'60; a sister; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Jack Schroll, c'45, m'49, 94, Oct. 1 in Hutchinson, where he was an obstetrician and gynecologist. He served on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1974 to 1979. Survivors include three daughters, Nancy Schroll Buda, d'68, g'69, Kathryn Schroll Graves, c'71, m'74, and Barbara Schroll Saathoff, b'76; a son, John, c'73, m'76; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

50s James Barbour, e'58, 81, Sept. 9 in Independence, Missouri. He was owner and president of Barbour Concrete Company. Surviving are his wife, Bettye, a son, a daughter, three stepdaughters, six grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Ray Beers Jr., b'52, 88, Oct. 16 in Topeka, where he was president of Ray Beers Clothing Company. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Hazard Beers, d'52; three sons; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Willson Bernard, d'51, 97, Oct. 14 in Mission, where she retired after a 30-year career as an elementary school teacher. Survivors include her husband, John, b'51; two sons, Tyler, b'77, g'80, and Greg, b'79; and five grandchildren.

Norma Falletta Berry, c'54, 86, Oct. 20 in Dallas. She was an associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center before becoming regional director

of Morrison Health Care. Surviving are two daughters; a son; and a brother, John Falletta, c'62, m'66.

Jack Chalender, d'52, g'56, EdD'60, 93, Sept. 1 in Estes Park, Colorado. He was a teacher, principal and associate superintendent in the Shawnee Mission School District, and later worked in public relations and marketing. A daughter and two grandchildren survive.

J. Fred Doornbos, d'50, m'57, 89, Oct. 17 in Coralville, Iowa, where he was a retired radiation oncologist. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; two sons, one of whom is Daniel, m'84; a daughter; two stepsons; four stepdaughters; a sister; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Jocelyn "Joss" Dougherty, d'56, m'67, 83, Sept. 5 in Corona del Mar, California, where she was a retired neurologist. A brother, John Dougherty, c'55, m'58, survives.

Jennie Fulton Finney, d'56, g'64, 83, Aug. 12 in Sabetha, where she taught English and Spanish at the local high school. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Jane, b'94; a son; and four grandchildren.

Cynthia Krehbiel Fisk, d'55, g'77, 84, Sept. 23 in Dallas. She was a teacher. Surviving are a son, Jed Schroeder III, g'90; three stepchildren; a sister, Carol Krehbiel Kreisher, c'52, h'54; and two grandsons.

Elgin Flott, c'51, 89, Sept. 22 in Sabetha, where he was an insurance agent. Survivors include two daughters, one of whom is Rebecca Flott Fitzgerald, '74; a son, Drex, s'93; a stepdaughter; a stepson; a sister; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Howard Fox, c'51, 93, Nov. 2 in Atlanta. He held executive roles at several utility companies and retired after working for the government of Ontario, Canada. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Steve, '72; a daughter; a sister, Julia Fox Been, d'48; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Loy Goodheart, e'57, 88, Oct. 27 in Kerrville, Texas, where he retired as president after a 45-year career with Rice Engineering and Operating. He is survived

by his wife, Jan; three sons, one of whom is Jeff, c'78; a daughter; four stepsons; three stepdaughters; two brothers; 22 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Darlene Heberling Gooding, d'53, 87, Sept. 14 in Dallas. She was a tailor and a teacher. Two sons, a daughter, a brother, a sister and three grandchildren survive.

Arthur Halliday, e'52, m'58, 87, Aug. 24 in Los Altos, California, where he retired after a long career as an internist in private practice and at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He is survived by his wife, Judy; two sons; a daughter; a brother, Roger, c'51, m'54; and five grandchildren.

Robert Hamilton, b'50, 95, Sept. 15 in Lenexa. He managed accounting for 30 years at the Bendix Corporation in Kansas City. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne; three daughters, Karen, '71, Jackie, c'73, and Janet, f'76; a son, Scott, e'83; a stepdaughter, Carolyn Hays, b'86; a stepson; two sisters; six grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandson.

Jeri Trovillion Hammig, '57, 82, Oct. 5 in Overland Park, where for nearly 20 years she was a secretary at West Antioch Elementary School. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Jack, d'55, g'62; two sons, Bryant, d'84, g'86, and Bart, d'91, g'94, PhD'98, g'99; a sister; and two grandchildren.

James Hunt, e'50, 95, Oct. 16 in Topeka, where he was a civil engineer and partner at Van Doren Hazard Stallings. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include four daughters, two of whom are Jackie, '72, and Sharlene Hunt Ellentuck, b'80; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

George Devries Klein, g'57, 85, April 30 in Guam. He was a geology researcher and educator and owned SED-STRAT Geoscience Consultants in Houston. Surviving are his wife, Suyon, two sons and a sister.

Richard Klemnauer, c'52, m'55, 87, Oct. 7 in Midland, Texas. He was a family practitioner and deacon who participated in several medical mission trips. A daughter, two sons, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren survive.

Earl Kopke, b'51, 89, Aug. 11 in Raymore, Missouri, where he retired as a purchasing agent at King Radio. He is survived by his wife, Betty, two stepchildren, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Wil Larkin, e'56, 84, Oct. 16 in Williamsburg, Virginia. He was a retired product manager for AT&T and Lucent Technologies. Surviving are his wife, Madelyn Brite Larkin, j'56; a son; two daughters; five grandchildren; and a step-grandchild.

James Logan, c'52, 89, Sept. 8 in Olathe. He was a judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and later returned to private practice in Kansas City. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Jennings Logan, c'52, s'83; two sons, Daniel, c'83, '96, and Samuel, l'90; two daughters, Sarah Logan Sherard, c'83, m'87, and Amy Logan Sliva, l'83; three brothers, Dick, b'54, John, c'56, and Max, c'64; a sister; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Joan Miller McNichols, d'57, 82, Sept. 25 in Irvine, California, where she founded the McNichols Learning Center and helped start the Dyslexia Foundation. A son survives.

Mona Hughey Milam, f'58, 82, Oct. 18 in Bethesda, Maryland. She lived in San Francisco for several years, where she was an occupational therapist. A daughter and two grandchildren survive.

Virginia Alburty Penny, d'51, '93, 88, Aug. 24 in Lawrence. She was a piano teacher and performed in community theatre. Surviving are four sons, Alan, a'77, Gary, '78, Michael, f'83, and Christopher, c'83; a daughter, Melissa Penny Swanson, f'83; a sister, Maxine Alburty Madden Spencer, f'49, d'51; a brother, William Alburty, '55; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

James Ratzlaff, c'58, 82, Aug. 27 in Roseburg, Oregon, where he retired after a 35-year career with the Capital Group. He is survived by his wife, Jane, a son, daughter, a grandson and two step-grandsons.

Richard Reitz, c'59, g'61, 80, June 27 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a

professor of English and Spanish and chaired the foreign language department at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Survivors include a son and two grandchildren.

Sue Fair Ryan, f'56, 84, Sept. 8 in Oklahoma City, where she was an occupational therapist and a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is survived by her husband, Gordon, c'58, l'61; two daughters; a brother, Daniel Fair, f'66; and three grandchildren.

Raymond Sauder, c'50, 91, Sept. 27 in Houston. He worked in the oil and gas industry and founded Sauder International in 1972. Two daughters survive.

Patricia Sterett Schanze, d'58, 82, July 1 in Lansing. She was a teacher and bookkeeper and co-owned the Reconnaissance Magazine. Survivors include a son, Sterett "Stet," c'88; and three grandsons.

Donald Sneegas, b'55, 85, Oct. 9 in Lawrence, where he was a longtime sales representative at the Lawrence Paper Company. Surviving are his partner, Betty Hoffman Wright, d'57; two sons, Randy, b'78, and Steve, f'83; a brother, Larry, f'62; two grandsons; and a great-granddaughter.

Shelley Markle Stallings, n'58, 83, Sept. 29 in Scottsdale, Arizona. She was a retired nurse. Three sons, two daughters and five grandchildren survive.

Jack Stephens, d'57, c'59, m'63, 86, Oct. 15 in Independence, Missouri, where he was a retired anesthesiologist. He is survived by his wife, Alta; a son, Scott, c'91; a daughter, Leah, c'94; and a granddaughter.

Mac Stevenson, c'57, 83, Aug. 28 in Salina, where he was a sports columnist. Survivors include a son; a daughter; a sister, Eve Stevenson Phoenix, d'59; and a grandson.

Norman Toothaker, p'56, 85, Aug. 14 in Dallas. He was a retired pharmacist. Surviving are his partner, Jarvis Cummings, and a sister.

Joan Hovey Waller, d'55, 85, Sept. 30 in Prairie Village, where she retired as a consultant at American Century Investments. She is survived by her husband, John; two daughters; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Sally Waller Wetzig, '79; a

In Memory

stepson; a sister, Ann Hovey, '66; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

James Weber, '54, 87, Sept. 14 in Salina, where he was vice president of Wright Lorenz Grain Company. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Short Weber, c'55; a daughter, Jennifer, d'78, '98; two sons, James, c'80, and John, c'87; a brother; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

60s William Bailey, c'62, m'66, 78, Sept. 7 in Lawrence, where he retired after a 42-year career as an orthopedic surgeon. Surviving are his wife, Kristine; four daughters, three of whom are Melissa, l'94; Blair Bailey Gordon, c'09, and Ann Bailey Robinson, m'95; two sons, Brock, '12, and Maxwell, '16; and four grandchildren.

Roger Boeger, b'60, 80, Oct. 26 in Stilwell, where he retired after a long career in life insurance sales. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; three sons, Bret, c'88, Brian, c'93, and Chad, b'96; a stepson, Todd Arney, b'89; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Angela Arney Hatcher, j'92; a sister; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ron Cox, e'63, PhD'70, 78, Oct. 7 in Winchester, Virginia. He was president of a consulting firm in Summit, New Jersey. His wife, Dottie, a daughter, a sister and three grandchildren survive.

Russell D'Anna, f'61, g'65, 83, Jan. 17, 2018, in Mount Kisco, New York. He was corporate creative director at Scholastic Inc. and also taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Trickett D'Anna, f'61; and two brothers.

Sharon Fink Denton, p'66, 75, Sept. 26 in Salina, where she had a 50-year career as a pharmacist. She and her husband received KU School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Service Award in 2014. Survivors include her husband, Jeff, p'65; two daughters, one of whom is Callie, c'92; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Benjamin Giles, b'68, 72, Sept. 23 in Towanda, where he was a CPA and also served as mayor. He is survived by his

wife, Charlene, assoc.; two sons, one of whom is Greg, c'96; a daughter, Angela Giles Crews, b'00; a brother; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Craig Grant, d'67, g'70, 72, Sept. 6 in Lawrence, where he directed political action for the Kansas National Education Association before working for two state politicians. Survivors include his wife, Judith Taylor Grant, d'68, g'72; and a son.

Donna Martin Hayden, g'68, 90, July 14 in Overland Park, where she was a retired teacher. Surviving are three daughters, Irma Hayden Clay, p'74, Joyce Hayden Campbell, d'79, and Anita Hayden McCoy, '82; a son, Keith, p'75; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

John "Jack" Heimovics, e'60, 80, July 22 in Medina, Ohio. He was an engineer at B.F. Goodrich before starting a car restoration business. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; a sister, Joan Heimovics Ferris, f'68; and a brother, Richard, PhD'76.

Patricia Patchin Hoffman, d'68, g'70, 71, Sept. 19 in Egypt. She was a public school teacher in Topeka. She is survived by her husband, Carl, e'69; a son, Darren, e'02; a daughter; a brother, Wayne Patchin, b'65; and three grandsons.

Jerry Johnson, g'62, 82, Oct. 27 in Topeka, where he was principal at Topeka Meditation & Stress Consultants. Survivors include a daughter, Jenny, '86; two sons, Justin, c'90, g'92, and Jeffrey, c'92; a sister, Regina Johnson Madaus, '55; and three grandchildren.

Thomas Lance, a'61, 84, Oct. 29 in Lenexa. He was an architect and worked on several projects in the Kansas City area, including KCI Airport and Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums. Two sons, a daughter and a grandson survive.

Mary Amoneno McCall, d'66, 74, Nov. 3 in Wichita, where she was a teacher and also worked in school cafeterias. She is survived by her husband, David, '66; four daughters; two sons; two sisters, one of whom is Pam Amoneno Gessler, n'71; and 17 grandchildren.

Phillip McGee, b'62, g'66, 77, Feb. 8, 2018, in Ruskin, Florida. He was vice president of General Growth Companies.

He is survived by his wife, Karol Mosshart McGee, b'60, d'64; a son; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Donald McMillen, e'62, 82, Sept. 30 in De Soto. He was a pilot for Trans World Airlines and retired as captain. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Herold McMillen, '60; two sons; and four grandchildren.

Martha Ryan, d'64, g'84, 76, Sept. 22 in Topeka, where she was a teacher and also worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She is survived by a son, John, l'91; a daughter; and two grandsons.

Bob Smith, p'68, 72, Oct. 26 in Overland Park, where he practiced dentistry for nearly 40 years and was named Dentist of the Year by the Kansas Dental Association in 1996. Surviving are his wife, Tam; a son, Grant, c'98; a daughter, Aly Smith Romero, s'00, s'04, '18; and four grandchildren.

Gary Starrett, e'67, 73, March 21 in Winter Park, Florida, where he had a 50-year career as an engineer. He also was a painter and sculptor. Survivors include his wife, Mary, three sons, two daughters and six grandchildren.

Walter Steffan, c'60, 82, July 15 in Wichita, where he was an IT specialist at Cessna and Boeing. He is survived by two sisters, Clara Steffan, b'58, and Ruth Steffan Dicke, '62.

Bob Terrell, d'66, g'75, 74, Sept. 22 in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was the city's first African-American city manager. He retired as an engineer. A daughter survives.

Irene Marinos Vratsinas, d'65, 75, Oct. 17 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was a teacher and directed church choir for more than 30 years. Her husband, Gus, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister and five grandchildren survive.

Otto Weilert, g'63, 84, Sept. 9 in Bastrop, Texas, where he was a teacher. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, three sons and three grandsons.

Pete Wiklund, '64, 76, Sept. 7 in Santa Rosa, California. He owned a dental practice in Lawrence for 45 years. Surviving are his wife, Ann Fothergill Wiklund, g'77; a son, Bob, '88; a brother; and two grandchildren.

70s **Lyle Davis, b'73**, 71, Feb. 20, 2017, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he was a district manager at Trane and later worked as a financial adviser at Wells Fargo. He is survived by his wife, Robin, a daughter, a stepson, a sister, three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Marie Logiurato Colasuonno Dillon, g'78, 82, July 9 in Olathe, where she was a retired teacher. Survivors include a daughter, Patti Colasuonno Haskell, n'79; two sons, one of whom is Bob Colasuonno, e'95; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mary Geis, g'79, g'81, PhD'85, 81, in Chicago. She was a professor of nursing at Governors State University.

James Hays, c'77, m'81, 63, Oct. 6 in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. He was an endocrinologist. Surviving are his wife, Kristin, assoc.; a son; two daughters, one of whom is Kyle, b'16; and three grandchildren.

Charlton Dabney Lawhorn, EdD'78, 93, July 7 in Lawrence. He was a teacher and administrator at several schools in Kansas. Survivors include two sons, David, h'77, c'78, m'85, and Charles, c'87; two daughters, Kathryn Lawhorn Pinto, '91, g'97, '02, and Linda Lawhorn Collins, '18; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Janey Curd Leeka, g'77, '03, 71, Oct. 27 in Olathe, where she worked with Heartland N-Trak of Greater Kansas City. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Bob, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Lee Mills, j'75, g'85, 66, Sept. 23 in Ottawa. He taught English and journalism at several Kansas high schools. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Catherine Ecroyd, d'75, g'84; two daughters; his mother; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Walter Robinson, c'75, 65, Oct. 19 in Seattle, where he had a long career with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a son and a sister, Barry Robinson Cook, d'73, g'87, EdD'98.

Richard Royer, d'73, 67, Sept. 26 in

Overland Park, where he had a 40-year career teaching math at Shawnee Mission East High School. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Stephanie Melander Royer, d'73, g'79; two brothers, Robert, '70, and Michael, c'93; and a sister, Shannon, b'87.

80s **Pracheta Mukherjee, g'88, PhD'92**, 67, Nov. 5 in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, where he was principal at Mukherjee Associates and an assistant professor at Slippery Rock University. Surviving are his wife, Krishna Chakravarty Mukherjee, g'89; and two sisters.

Bridget O'Keefe, '88, 53, Sept. 6 in Overland Park. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her mother, Maura Larkin O'Keefe-Galloup, '64; a sister, Tracey O'Keefe Hopper, b'86; and two brothers, Larkin O'Keefe, c'89, and Dan O'Keefe, b'91.

Waneta Turner, c'81, 71, Nov. 2 in Baldwin City. She was an administrative assistant at the Lawrence Workforce Center.

90s **Eric Swedlund, c'91, g'93**, 49, Sept. 5 in Alexandria, Virginia, where he was a senior policy adviser for Carpi & Clay. He is survived by two daughters; his mother, Barbara Lyle, assoc.; his father; his stepmother; and a sister, Pamela Swedlund, c'86.

00s **James Johnson, e'08, '12**, 33, Sept. 11 in Topeka, where he was a computer programmer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. His mother, Patsy Johnson, g'83, survives.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Bill Beedles, 70, Sept. 24 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of finance and directed undergraduate programs in the School of Business. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Ann; two daughters, Maggie Beedles Feaster, '04, and Patricia Beedles Rhorer, c'13; a son, Cyrus, g'10; and four grandchildren.

Jeanne McGrew Ellermeier, c'47, c'76, 93, Sept. 16 in Lawrence, where she was a medical technologist and research assistant in the biology department. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A brother, Nathan McGrew IV, e'56, survives.

Marty Pattin, 75, Oct. 3 in Charleston, Illinois. He was a pitcher for several MLB teams before becoming KU's head baseball coach in 1982, a position he held for five years. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Jon, '95; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Jill Jerrick Bubenik, '03; a sister; six grandchildren; and six step-grandchildren.

David Wickershiem, '93, 74, Sept. 21 in Eudora. He was an instructor at the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute and Eudora Fire Department. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Mohorc Wickershiem, assoc.; four sons, two of whom are Jason, '99, and Michael, e'14; and seven grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Shirley Bradley, assoc., 89, Aug. 18 in Overland Park. She was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. Survivors include two sons, Doug, c'73, m'76, and Scott, b'81; two daughters, Shari Bradley Kinney, c'75, and Karen Bradley Cook, b'77; a sister; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Roger Hanson, assoc., 86, June 17 in Plano, Texas, where he was president and senior scientist at AJH Corporation. A daughter, Karen Hanson Denker, c'89, survives.

Suzanne Harding, assoc., 86, March 6, 2018, in Clearwater, Florida. She was a retired speech-language pathologist and audiologist. Surviving are three daughters, one of whom is Janet Stamp Shumway, d'96, '97; and six grandchildren.

Jan McMahon, assoc., 75, Sept. 23 in Reno, Nevada. She is survived by her husband, Glenn, c'58; two daughters; a son; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Steve Parke, assoc., 64, May 25 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was a substance abuse counselor and prison chaplain. His mother, three brothers and a sister survive.

Rock Chalk Review



KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY (4)



Mysterious threats

Algal bloom outbreaks focus of vital Biological Survey research

Algae are fundamental building blocks of life on earth, and yet many of their secrets remain hidden. Faculty and students at Kansas Biological Survey are hard at work studying algae in large tanks at KU Field Station’s aquatic research facility, one of North America’s largest, 8 miles north of Lawrence, because the race is on to uncover mysteries behind a rash of algal bloom outbreaks across Kansas.

“We don’t understand what makes some blooms toxic,” says Ted Harris, PhD’17, a research assistant professor and former Self Fellow whose work focuses on “harmful algal blooms,” or HABs.

From 2010 to 2017, more than 50 Kansas reservoirs had HABs, including a record 24 in 2017 alone. The blooms produce potent toxins that can attack livers in humans and have been known to kill dogs that lap up affected water. The problem, Harris explains, is that the only difference between harmful HABs and those that are merely annoying for their

unsightly odors is found in a gene that can’t even be seen under a microscope.

Harris and his colleagues last summer brought HAB samples from Marion and Milford reservoirs to the KU field tanks, where they were allowed to stew under natural conditions of sunlight, rainfall and temperature variations, all far more realistic than bottled experiments.

Harris, who finds himself in demand for worldwide conferences dedicated to HAB outbreaks, says initial results indicate nitrogen in certain fertilizers appears to prompt the metabolites that in turn spur the growth of algae with the toxin gene; yet even blooms with those genes will not necessarily produce toxins.

The results are particularly useful, he says, because the potentially toxic algae were created in complex, natural conditions, rather than pristine bottled environments.

“So if you still see this big effect, even when all these other things are happening,

Researcher Ted Harris (clockwise from left) monitors algal blooms in simulation tanks and at Milford Reservoir, and offloads Milford algae into a KU Field Station pond for further research.

the same weather, the same rainfall, then you know you really have something.”

Researchers hope that current nutrient experiments will lead to new techniques to reduce HABs in a state utterly dependent on reservoirs.

“This research is crucial,” says Kansas Biological Survey director Ed Martinko, PhD’76. “We have to fund regular monitoring so we can get a real understanding of the issues we face with our water supply.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Kansas strong

New research project aims to improve child welfare system

Researchers at the KU School of Social Welfare are developing a project to help strengthen families and improve child welfare outcomes in Kansas, thanks to an \$8 million, five-year grant awarded last fall by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The University was one of only five sites nationwide to receive funding for its project, Kansas Strong for Children and Families, which aims to help prevent children from entering foster care and improve reunification and adoption rates for children already in the system.

KU will partner with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF); KVC Kansas and Saint Francis Ministries, two private contractors that provide child welfare case management and other services; and the Kansas Court Improvement Program, part of a national effort to provide better judicial outcomes for children and families at risk.

“The research that we are doing at the University in the area of child welfare aligns with the work that they’re doing in the community,” says Becci Akin, s’91, s’92, PhD’10, associate professor of social welfare and principal investigator. “It’s a really good partnership, because we bring research and evaluation expertise to the table, and they bring the programmatic and practice expertise.”

The project expands on previous KU research that included evidence-based parenting interventions as well as screening and assessment tools that take into account the impact of trauma on children and families. In addition, the project helps address concerns identified during a 2015 review of the state’s child welfare system, which in recent months has come under intense public scrutiny amid reports of cases in which the system failed to protect children from abuse.

Researchers are currently in a nine-month planning period, working with partners to analyze data and build consensus regarding target populations,

program strategies and desired outcomes.

The KU team’s work is especially timely because Gov. Laura Kelly has vowed to correct the child welfare system’s flaws, and she recently named a new interim DCF secretary, Laura Howard, who also directs KU’s Public Management Center and is a former state and federal social-services administrator.

Akin and fellow researchers have identified three initial project strategies:

1. Develop an interagency team that will use an enhanced information system, combining data from both child welfare and court systems, to promote children’s safety, permanency and well-being.

2. Implement a skills-based coaching program for public and private supervisors that focuses on parent and youth engagement, risk and safety assessment, relative/kin connections, and concurrent planning.

3. Strengthen collaboration among public and private child welfare agencies, the national and state Court Improvement Program, and family courts in Kansas counties. Jody Brook, associate professor of social welfare and director of KU’s Center for Children and Families, will implement programs to educate court-services professionals about the impact of

trauma and implement judge-to-judge coaching. These efforts aim to reduce barriers to adoption and other resolutions that provide permanency for children.

During the five-year grant, researchers will focus on children receiving in-home services and those in foster care with the goals of reunification or adoption. Risk factors for these groups include parental substance abuse, age, race, neglect and disabilities. In the first year, the program will include five court districts in Kansas.

“It’s very timely that we have the project now, because there has been so much focus on the system and trying to understand its strengths and its shortcomings,” Akin says, “I think what’s also really unique and promising about this project is that we looked at what’s currently happening and said, ‘OK, how can we support that; how can we enhance that?’”

“We’re not just adding something new. We’re working very closely with DCF and the private agencies in Kansas and now also the courts to make sure that whatever we’re developing is consistent and aligns with the efforts they have started.”

—Heather Biele

Crisis points

Historian argues big events turn on global forces often missing in American narratives

Few fascinating subjects have been done greater injustices than American history, with discrete events and powerful people plunked down at hashmarks on easily digestible textbook timelines.

Fresh thinkers such as Howard Zinn, Studs Terkel and Ken Burns hailed the formerly obscure women and men whose lives and fortunes were constantly at stake, yet still American history has tended to remain confined by traditional narratives, none more powerful than the inevitability of American exceptionalism.

With *A Nation Forged by Crisis*, historian Jay Sexton, c’00, offers another option for examination and explanation in 200 fast-paced pages: a crisis-centered study



Akin

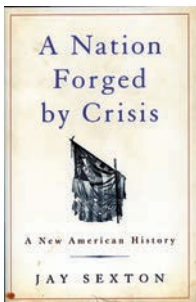
Rock Chalk Review

that weaves underappreciated aspects of the American experience in a narrative that feels far more real-world than strings of names, dates and places.

“The quest for national security and global power, America’s shifting position in the international economy, and fluctuations in immigration have made the United States the nation that it is today,” writes Sexton, Kinder Institute Chair in Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri, emeritus fellow at Oxford University’s Corpus Christi College and former Marshall Scholar. “In periods of crisis, America’s position in the world has lurched in unexpected directions. For as inexorable as the rise of the United States appears in retrospect, there have been contingent moments in which the very existence of the nation was up for grabs.”

Sexton studies the American Revolution, which he notes was widely considered at its outset more of a civil war than revolution; the Civil War, fueled by the international economic powerhouse of American slavery, which led the South and its global trading partners to push hard for westward expansion of the poisonous institution; and the consecutive crises of World War I, the Great Depression, World War II and “steroidal nationalism” of the Cold War, with their tectonic shifts in global finance, domestic economies, immigration patterns and foreign policy.

“Of all the zigzags in this era of global crisis, none was sharper than the Great Depression of the 1930s being followed by America’s greatest economic boom,” Sexton writes. “The previously intractable problem of high unemployment melted away as the engines of this economic juggernaut heated up.”



A Nation Forged by Crisis: A New American History

by Jay Sexton

Basic Books,
\$24.98

Sexton concludes his highly readable, entertaining and thought-provoking sweep through centuries of crises with a succinct analysis of where they have brought us.

“For all the vitriolic divisions in twenty-first-century American politics, there is at least agreement on one point: we are in the midst of a grave crisis,” he writes. “As we try to maintain our balance amid this instability, we would do well to revisit America’s previous moments of crisis.”

Against his backdrop of the complex crossroads that previously threatened America’s existence, Sexton’s context for developments in the modern world carry gravitas. Crisis moments, he illustrates, have tended to be preceded by the good times of expanded international economic and cultural influence, which caught Americans and our institutions flat-footed and flabbergasted when crises struck.

Then, emerging victorious, Americans forged new political and economic landscapes at home and abroad, and, as we returned to stability and economic growth, the narrative again turned nostalgic, smug in our “inward-looking” certainty of global ascendance.

“The irony,” Sexton writes, “is that a moment of flux such as the present is precisely the time in which we should embrace the more complex historical record of volatility, unanticipated change, and moments of crisis.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Glass half full

Report says modest conservation could help slow aquifer’s decline

The title might seem a bit dry—“Status of the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas”—but a July 2018 report by the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) offers hope for Kansas farmers who depend on irrigation to raise their crops.

Relying on extensive data from a long-term program to monitor about 1,400 wells in the state, the report documents declines in the state’s most econom-



STEVE PUPPE

“I enjoy doing this and feel it’s important for the state,” says Don Whittemore, who led a High Plains aquifer study published in July, a year after he retired as senior scientist emeritus at the Kansas Geological Survey. “When you feel like we’re finding something that might be useful, it’s good.”

ically important water source, the High Plains aquifer. But it also advances an innovative approach for estimating how far pumping would have to be cut back to extend the life of endangered sections of the aquifer.

The conclusion: less than previously estimated.

Using a new water-balance method developed at the KGS, geologists found that groundwater levels could be sustained 10 to 20 years in the most imperiled areas of western Kansas with cutbacks in irrigation pumping of 27 percent to 33 percent. That’s a much lower reduction than in past projections, but still above economic analyses that have shown reductions of 15 to 20 percent can be sustained without substantially affecting farmers’ net incomes.

“It is good news,” says Don Whittemore, KGS senior scientist emeritus and lead author of the study. “Prior to the work we’ve been doing, the numerical models said you’d have to reduce your pumping 75 to 80 percent, and that was kind of discouraging for the irrigators out there.”

The High Plains aquifer includes the

Ogallala aquifer, where water levels have declined “appreciably” since the onset of crop irrigation in the 1940s and ’50s. Water levels dropped so much in some areas, Whittemore and his co-authors found, only 40 percent of original water levels remain.

“We already have some places where they’ve had to go to dryland farming,” Whittemore says. Some areas in southwest Kansas have more than 100 years of water left, he notes, “but there will continue to be areas that have to go to dryland farming because they are simply running out of water.”

The water-balance method is simpler and more accurate over the short term than previous methods because it considers factors such as irrigation return flow, which measures the amount of irrigation water that’s not used by crops but returns instead to the water table, and reduced outflows, which accounts for the fact that many groundwater streams once fed by the aquifer are no longer flowing. It all adds up to a longer life for the imperiled water source—at least in the next 20 years.

“All of these factors mean that we’ve captured water and we have delayed drainage of water,” Whittemore says, “and that’s part of the reason we think that we’ve got this going on.”

Geologists are encouraged by the results of a Local Enhanced Management Area

(LEMA) in Sheridan County. Under a 2012 state law, areas within a water management district can formulate and then vote on a plan to meet local water conservation goals. The Sheridan County 6 LEMA voted to reduce pumping by about 20 percent over five years on average to extend the life of the aquifer.

“That’s a fairly intensively pumped area,” Whittemore says. Earlier estimates suggested a 42 percent reduction in pumping would be needed to achieve a zero water level change over the long term; members of the LEMA have been able to reduce their pumping by 27 percent, which will significantly reduce water level declines in that area, according to Whittemore. “That means the usable lifetime of the aquifer is certainly going to be extended by double, one would think.”

Whittemore says he’s confident that farmers can make the changes needed to save one of their most valuable resources.

“You know, the farmers are really smart; if they have to they can really pay attention to how they’re applying water and do this,” Whittemore adds. “There are a lot of good things happening now, and we have to hope it continues in the future.”

—Steven Hill

“*Status of the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas*” is available online at http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Publications/Bulletins/TS22/HPA_tech_series22.pdf.



Personal Space:
Trip Haenisch

by Trip Haenisch

Rizzoli New York,
\$50

Interior monologue

Designer’s photo book offers tours of his sublime spaces

It’s no surprise that glittery threads of celebrity, wealth and prestige run through *Personal Space: Trip Haenisch*. For three decades a favored interior designer to the stars, Haenisch, b’78, has fashioned chic interior spaces for paparazzi-worthy celebrities, and his designs have been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Vogue* and *Elle Décor*.

Celebrity name-dropping (Elizabeth Taylor, Gianni Versace, Calvin Klein) and intimate tours of otherwise-inaccessible homes featured in Haenisch’s interior-design photography book provide the predictable guilty pleasures. The wealth might not be ours, but at least these lucky 1-percenters are living it up in style.

We can all dream, right?

Far more delightful, though, is the realization that creative solutions at the heart of Haenisch’s designs are, in fact, accessible. Many rooms in *Personal Space* dazzle with synchronized basics of light, proportion, color palettes and carefully curated furniture of the sort that can stand up to kids and pets. These aren’t show-room sets; people live and breathe in these functional rooms.

Few of us are likely to have much need to renovate historic mansions or exotic vacation retreats, but *Personal Space: Trip Haenisch* offers plenty of inspiration to make everyday spaces feel special.

—Chris Lazzarino



Interiors in a home in Pacific Palisades, California, designed by Trip Haenisch.

Glorious to View

Photograph by Dan Storey



Mount Oread straddled two seasons after a November snowfall frosted autumn leaves in a hazy shade of winter.

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Join KU Libraries as we celebrate the second annual day of giving at the University of Kansas on February 20, 2019. *One Day. One KU.* is a 24-hour giving campaign that connects alumni and friends across the world in direct support of KU departments about which they are personally passionate.

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