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No 3, 2019 ■ \$5

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### COVER STORY

#### All for Fun, Fun for All

Two Jayhawk business partners are building an entertainment empire on a simple idea: People just want (and need) to have fun.

*By Steven Hill*

*Cover photograph  
by Steve Puppe*

## 20

### The Illustrated Lives of Insects

Broad interests and a deep appreciation for rare texts led entomologist Michael Engel to his latest project, a beautiful book about beautiful books.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

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### Campus Caretakers

Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night will stay these devoted keepers of KU's hallowed grounds from their appointed rounds.

*By Heather Biele*

# Lift the Chorus



## Spencer appreciation

I WAS DELIGHTED TO READ this month's excellent cover story on the Spencer Museum's current exhibition, "The Power of Place" [issue No. 2]. The article really digs into explaining the many facets that go into making any large museum show possible.

As an alumnus and a longtime supporter of the Spencer, I encourage everyone to visit the museum with a better understanding of what it takes to create a remarkable exhibition. And kudos to the hard working people who make up the Spencer Museum. We all benefit from your vision and efforts.

David Henry, c'82, g'84  
San Francisco

## Wobker wit

WHEN I WAS PERUSING "First Word," my heart skipped when I read Post Falls, Idaho. I know where that town is, because I have lived in the Coeur d'Alene area for the past 11 years.

Tod Marshall's story on Tom Wobker ["Anonymous No More," issue No. 2] was

heartfelt, because Coeur d'Alene is such an idyllic place and may be a step closer to heaven. I wish my path had crossed with The Bard, a beloved Jayhawk for sure. I'll have to make another stop at the Well-Read Moose to pick up a copy of Wobker's book.

Lee Hoffman, e'72  
Hayden, Idaho

**DELIGHTFUL STORY** in the most recent issue of *Kansas Alumni* about "The Bard of Sherman Avenue." I ordered a few copies of the book with Tom Wobker's poems from a bookstore in Spokane—hilarious, day- and night-brighteners, subtle wit I wish my late husband, Tom, could have seen.

Jeannie Eblen, '00  
Lawrence

## Cordially ours

I AM WRITING TO TELL YOU how much I enjoy *Kansas Alumni* magazine. It is always so good, with interesting features and news about what's happening on the Hill.

I worked in the alumni office as a secretary to Fred Ellsworth from late 1955 to 1957 (if I am remembering correctly). Mildred Clodfelter was the office manager and Dick Wintermote handled alumni affairs. I did enjoy my job.

When he came in in the morning, usually around 9:30, Mr. Ellsworth would settle at his desk. Mildred gave him the mail and I would sit while he went through it, commenting here and there. He would put letters in different piles. When

he was done, he would say, "Now, where is the letter from \_\_\_\_." My job, in addition to recording and typing his letters, was to know which pile which letter was in.

I have always remembered his letters. One I especially remember fondly, since he used it often. "Dear \_\_\_\_\_, Rock Chalk, Jayhawk! We need a new science building. Why don't you underwrite it (sometimes just pay for it)? Cordially, Fred Ellsworth."

He always used "Cordially." Thanks for an interesting magazine, and continue producing such interesting issues.

Nancy Lansdon Hubert, '60  
Lexington, Massachusetts

## Catching up

*KANSAS ALUMNI* continues to be the best publication that drops into our mailbox. Sadly, I often put it aside for "when I have more time," so I get behind, but I never throw them away. I was perusing issue No. 1 and didn't get further than Lift the Chorus when I had to find the previous issue and read it first.

I was a student during the protest years ["Protests Past," issue No. 6] and have vivid memories of TV cameras on the second floor of Strong Hall as I went to Panhellenic meetings in Dean Emily's office. None of the sororities or fraternities had discriminatory policies in their charters, but there was the issue of de facto discrimination, since I don't believe any of them were actually integrated. Progress was being made, but it was



## Your opinion counts

Please email us a note at [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org) to tell us what you think of your alumni magazine.

incredibly slow. It's hard to believe now.

Robert Day looks familiar, so I'm sure I ran into him in the basement of Strong, where I also hung out between classes—smoking, drinking coffee and petting Sarge.

I went on to read the entire issue, cover to cover. We had just seen the documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old," so I had to read "Over Here" and was amazed by the contributions of KU students and faculty and the commitment of resources.

Steven Hill's piece about the Lied Center, "Sweet Suite Music," made me proud and sad at the same time, since I don't have the opportunity to enjoy the Lied Center offerings. I would even attend with the middle-schoolers if I were in Lawrence! I may have to look into senior living opportunities in the area.

Now, I'm going to get busy on issue No. 1, 2019! I am very interested in the article about Salina's medical school campus, "Homegrown Healing." I have been impressed with the University's commitment to rural areas of the state, especially since my relatives lived in north-central Kansas and I know how limited access used to be.

Donna Multer Ward, d'65  
Pueblo, Colorado

May 2019

# KANSAS ALUMNI

**Publisher** Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09  
**Editor** Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81  
**Creative Director** Susan Younger, f'91  
**Graphic Designer** Valerie Spicher, j'94  
**Associate Editors** Chris Lazzarino, j'86  
Steven Hill  
**Assistant Editor** Heather Biele  
**Photographers** Steve Puppe, j'98  
Dan Storey

## Advertising Sales Representative

Teri Harris

## Editorial and Advertising Office

KU Alumni Association  
1266 Oread Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66045-3100  
785-864-4760  
800-584-2957  
www.kualumni.org  
kualumni@kualumni.org

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 66045-3100. 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](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org). Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free KU gift, a \$5 value.



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Scene on campus



# *IGNITE POTENTIAL*

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STEVE PUPPE



Thomas Angel and H.C. Palmer

Ask me about “Avengers: Endgame,” and I can cite only one tidbit about the sequel to top all sequels: The film’s supersized cast of superheroes includes Jayhawk-turned-Antman Paul Rudd, ’92. This I know only because my weird, wonderful job compels me to track Jayhawks—the famous and not-so-famous.

Most days, we at *Kansas Alumni* happily dwell in the realm of the not-so-famous, whose lives and careers provide an endless supply of stories that often leave us craving more. We yearn to know and share the nitty-gritty details that limited space and time often oblige us to omit.

Such is the tale of Thomas Angel, ’20, a behavioral neuroscience and Italian major from rural North Carolina who hopes to attend the KU School of Medicine, and his mentor, H.C. Palmer, c’59, m’63, of Lenexa. The two connected after a series of happy coincidences.

Last November, the Association hosted a field trip to Kansas City for undergraduates who want to study medicine or nursing. They met at KU Medical Center with alumni doctors and nurses, most dressed in white coats or scrubs, who introduced themselves by describing their careers. Palmer showed up in jeans, a plaid shirt and a cap and said he was a poet; he later told puzzled staff members he was a retired physician but offered no specifics.

**Their friendship,  
born of shared sacrifice  
and calling, proves the  
best mentoring is a  
two-way street.**

Soon he struck up a conversation with Keon Stowers, c’15, a former KU football team captain, now the Association’s assistant director of student programs. Palmer, a starter for the Jayhawks in ’57 and ’58, wanted to talk football—and he just happened to mention that he had served in Vietnam and would like to mentor a KU student and fellow veteran.

Meanwhile, *Kansas Alumni* introduced Palmer the poet to readers in November (“War everlasting,” issue No. 6, 2018), in a review of *Feet of the Messenger*, his stunning collection of poems that juxtapose the serenity of the Flint Hills and the ravages of war. Palmer had given a copy to Associate Editor Steven Hill last July, when the two met over dinner with a mutual friend, novelist and *Kansas Alumni* contributor Robert Day, c’64.

When Palmer later offered to mentor a student veteran, Stowers instantly thought of the perfect match for the physician-turned-poet: Angel, a veteran of four deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and now a member of the Student Alumni Leadership Board (SALB).


Sure enough, Angel and Palmer hit it off, talking for two hours in their first meeting. Their bond so vividly demonstrates the impact of the Jayhawk Career Network’s KU Mentoring program that the two were natural choices for a Rock Chalk Ball video (see Association, p. 42, and [kualumni.org/angelpalmer](http://kualumni.org/angelpalmer)). On April 27, when the KJO Media-created video concluded in

the hushed Kansas City ballroom, more than 550 Jayhawks erupted in a standing ovation for Angel and Palmer.

Their friendship, born of shared sacrifice and calling, proves the best mentoring is a two-way street. “I learn from Thomas,” Palmer says in the video. “There are things about Thomas that I’ve already started emulating.”

Angel describes Palmer as “one of the most generous people I’ve ever met. ... You can’t put into words what H.C. means to me. Our relationship is not a medicine mentorship; it’s a life mentorship. It’s one of those bonds we’ll forever have.”

The connections multiply: Angel recently introduced Palmer to fellow student, veteran and SALB member Jeff Thompson, ’19. Palmer in turn connected Thompson with Vietnam veteran John Musgrave, ’74 (“America’s Story,” Issue No. 2, 2018). The four Jayhawks and veterans met for coffee in Baldwin City.

This story continues. Stay tuned for the sequels. 

# On the Boulevard

SUSAN YOUNGER



The 2019 KU Powwow and Indigenous Cultures Festival, a yearly celebration of North American indigenous cultures, was April 6 at the Lied Center. The daylong event, which was free to the public, featured the Powwow Grand Entry, competitive dancing, educational workshops, children's programs, and indigenous art, films and food.

## Spencer Museum of Art Exhibitions

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

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

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

“Shattering the Void: Realms of Meaning in East Asian Art,” July 16 through Aug. 11

“Foundling,” Sept. 14 through Dec. 22

“knowledges,” Aug. 24 through Jan. 5

## Lied Center 2019-'20 Season

### AUGUST

**13** Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers

### SEPTEMBER

**10** Boz Scaggs: Out of the Blues Tour 2019

**17** Buddy Guy

**23, 24** Gerald Clayton, piano

**26** KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Juan-Miguel Hernandez, viola

### OCTOBER

**6** “Rent”: 20th Anniversary Tour

**9** Kit Yan, slam poet

**19** Black Violin

**20** Richard Shindell

**24** David Sedaris

**27** Brentano String Quartet with special guest Dawn Upshaw, soprano

**29** The King's Singers

### NOVEMBER

**2** “Jersey Boys”

**3** Melissa Etheridge: The Medicine Show

**10** The Munin Trio

**20** “She, a Choreoplay”

**22** “The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show”

**23** Hiplet Ballerinas

### DECEMBER

**2, 3** Romero Lubambo, guitar

**11** “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical”

## JANUARY

**23** “The Color Purple”

**26** Martha Redbone, “Bone Hill: The Concert”



DAN STOREY





## FEBRUARY

- 6** KU Percussion Group with special guest Eriko Daimo, marimba
- 12** “Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story”
- 16** Russian National Ballet: “Don Quixote”
- 18** The Peking Acrobats
- 19** Chris Thile
- 23** Kathy Mattea

## MARCH

- 3** Siberian State Symphony Orchestra
- 18** KU Wind Ensemble with special guest Joseph Alessi, trombone
- 23, 24** Houston Person and Emmet Cohen

## APRIL

- 2** KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Camila Meza, vocals and guitar
- 3** Samuel Ramey: An Intimate Evening of Music and Storytelling
- 5** ZOFO
- 10** Ryan McMahan
- 17** “Candid Camera’s” LOL Tour with Peter Funt

- 19** Peter Mulvey
- 26** Sybarite5

## MAY

- 14** Beatrice Rana, piano

## Natural History Museum Events

## JUNE

- 1** National Prairie Day and Prairie Block Party
- 19** Science on Tap: Birds, Bones, Beetles & Bunker; Free State Brewing Company, Lawrence

## Academic Calendar

## JUNE

- 4** Summer classes begin

## JULY

- 26** Summer classes end

## AUGUST

- 26** Fall classes begin

## Alumni Events

## MAY

- 18** Hawks, Helmets & Handlebars, New Bethel Church, Kansas City
- 18** 5th-annual Denver Bikes & Breweries, Call to Arms Brewing Company

## JUNE

- 1** LA Food Bank volunteering, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank Volunteer Center
- 3-5** Mini College, Spooner Hall
- 13** Online networking: KU women
- 13** Van Gogh exhibition, Houston



DAWN STOREY (C)



- 14** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- 15** D.C. Jayhawks Sail the Potomac, Washington, D.C.
- 20** Biospecimen Blood Drive, Fairway

## JULY

- 6** KU Night with the Washington Nationals, Nationals Park, Washington, D.C.



- 11** Online networking: KU memories
- 18** Denver: Jayhawks & Java

## AUGUST

- 2** KU Night with the Minnesota Twins, Target Field, Minneapolis
- 11** Online Networking, KU Memories
- 18** Denver: Jayhawks & Java

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](http://kualumni.org) or call 800-584-2957.

# Jayhawk Walk

## Classroom champions

**T**extbooks are tried-and-true teaching tools, but even the finest tools are worthless if few can use them.

“We cannot keep assigning \$400 textbooks,” says Josh Bolick, scholarly communication librarian. “We know from data that sometimes students don’t buy their textbooks because of the cost.”

As part of its open education initiative, KU Libraries in March recognized three faculty members as Textbook Heroes for their efforts to offer low-cost materials to students. Peter Bobkowski, journalism; Amy Rossomondo, Spanish & Portuguese; and Drew Vartia, PhD’13, chemistry, each have “gone above and beyond” in using \$5,000 grants to create or adopt open educational resources (OER) that students can use for free.

“It’s easy to stay on the path you’re on, but to redesign a course around new

material is work,” Bolick says. “They made a choice to take on that extra work because they care about students. Students don’t learn from materials they can’t access.

“We don’t set rent, we have limited control over tuition, but we do select teaching materials and we can be critical of what we’re assigning from a cost perspective.”

Truly a text message worth sending.



LARRY LEROY PEARSON

## Sig Eps to the rescue

**SEEMS SWIMMING LAPS** twice a week at KU’s Robinson Center pool paid off for three Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers hailed for their heroism after rescuing a young boy from drowning during spring break in Destin, Florida.

Juniors Connor Churchill of Olathe, Jared Cox of Overland Park and Cole Firmature of Omaha, Nebraska, were lounging on a beach when they heard a woman yell for help and point to a young boy on a boogie board who had drifted about 40 yards from shore. With no lifeguard in sight, the three men rushed into the choppy water and battled powerful rip currents to push the boy to safety.

Their courageous deed might have gone unnoticed had it not been for Kaci Gilchrist, an Independence woman who witnessed the rescue and posted a note of praise on Facebook, which was shared nearly 2,500 times. “Today changed my mind about millennials,” she wrote. “These guys deserve the upmost credit for putting their lives on the line.”



Despite the flurry of media attention upon their return to Kansas, the brave brothers insist their efforts were anything but extraordinary. “We had the opportunity and we did what was right in that time,” Churchill said. “But anybody could’ve done it.”

## Club is the bee’s knees

**ABOUT 10,000 OF NATURE’S** most prolific pollinators reside at the KU Field Station north of Lawrence—and have a swarm of more than 75 faithful followers—thanks to the KU Beekeeping Club, a new student group that’s generating a buzz.



Murray, Skevington and Sundahl

MEG KUMIN/KU MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Founded by juniors Alex Murray, Joe Skevington and Elizabeth Sundahl, the club received Student Senate funding last fall to buy beekeeping essentials, host workshops and construct several hives—now home to 10,000 bees shipped from California—with guidance from Anthony’s Beehive and Bee Store in Lawrence.

“We began posting about it on our Instagram, and our friends really got interested,” says Murray, a finance and environmental studies major from Lawrence. “A steady rotation of people would come out and do these hive inspections with us, so we realized there’s definitely an interest among people our age.”

Murray and Skevington, who learned about beekeeping from Murray’s neighbor, also plan to conduct workshops at local elementary schools.

“If you told me three years ago that I’d be a finance and accounting major and starting a bee club, I would’ve laughed,” says Skevington, a Kansas City native. “But KU just has all these resources available and as long as you have a drive for it, then you can do it. It’s awesome.”

## Thesis throwdown

**DAMON TALBOTT’S ADVICE** to students competing in KU’s first Three Minute Thesis competition this spring: Zoom out.

“You’ve been trained to speak to four people,” Talbott, g’08, PhD’14, program coordinator for graduate studies, jokingly tells students. “Literally. There are four people in the whole world who understand your incredibly tiny research niche. That’s great, but now you have to completely do the opposite. Hit that button on the map that makes you pull way back to the big picture, you know?”

Three Minute Thesis, originated by the University of Queensland in Australia, challenges grad students to clearly explain the real-world applications of their research to a lay audience—in this case a judging panel of community leaders, politicians and University staff—in a presentation longer than an elevator speech but shorter than a TED Talk.

Kait Howard, master’s student in bioengineering, bested 26 KU competitors to advance to the regional competition in St. Louis. “You Can’t Be Replaced, But



STEVE PUPPE

Talbott and Howard

Your Knee Can!” explained her work on revision total knee replacement, the increasingly common practice of second, third and fourth joint-replacement surgeries.

“I’ve been slogging through writing my thesis, and the competition made it fun again,” Howard says. “It was a reminder, ‘Why did I care about this to begin with?’ So that’s been great.”

## Tea for 200

**S**tudent Union Activities’ Tea at 3, the weekly Thursday ritual in the Kansas Union, became all the rage this spring, as attendance surged nearly 40 percent over last fall, to more than 200 students, faculty and staff, who queued up dozens deep in the fourth-floor lobby for tea supplied by Au Marché, a Mass Street purveyor of all things European, and tasty treats.

“It’s become a big social hour where groups of friends come to get tea and sit down and talk,” says SUA vice president Abby George. “Profound intellectual stimulation,” is how psychology major Maxx Lamb describes, with a wink, the repartee. “All the things that are complex,” interjects Theo Wiklund, “to the nth degree.”

Textbooks, notebooks and laptops tend to be closed, phones are silenced, no big-screen TVs dominate the room, and face-to-face conversation carries the day. Even if it’s only for two hours a week, the sights and sounds of an unplugged social hour represent a welcome return of civilized conversation.

More tea? Yes, please.



STEVE PUPPE



## Built with pride

**Tapping student energy and ideas, an innovative design-build class tackles projects that enhance campus environs**

There was a moment, early in their bid to bring new life to an overlooked campus garden, when students in Keith Van de Riet's ARCH509 studio got a tough lesson in the realities of design-build construction.

Hand-digging a trench intended to hold 2-foot deep footings for a new sidewalk, the third-year architecture majors ran smack into Mount Oread bedrock.

Irrepressible force, meet immovable object.

The students' plan for the Weaver Courtyard, a sheltered garden on the south side of Spooner Hall, called for breaching an enclosing rock wall to improve visibility and accessibility: The new entrance would also serve as an ADA-compliant ramp.

Construction reality dictated that students adjust—renting equipment, refiguring timetables and eventually, after the bedrock proved unyielding, devising a workaround to preserve a design feature

that meant everything to the project.

"Our goal was to open up the garden so it gets more use and hopefully more care," says Van de Riet, a'04, assistant professor of architecture, of the courtyard built in the 1960s with funding from the family that owns Weaver's Department Store. "It fell off the map for so long, and hopefully we've done something to bring it back. I think the new entry is key to that; it's a visual access that makes all the difference."

Dealing with real-world setbacks is a main focus of ARCH509, which under the direction of various architecture faculty has tackled campus improvement projects such as an outdoor classroom at Prairie Acre, a student gathering space behind Marvin Studios, and a Sensory Pavilion at Audio Reader.

"Unlike other semesters, where the design process just keeps going, we suddenly have to make something," Van de Riet says. "And as soon as we start, there's

*"It fell off the map for so long, and hopefully we've done something to bring it back. I think the new entry is key to that; it's a visual access that makes all the difference."*

—Keith Van de Riet, assistant professor, describing the Weaver Courtyard

this aha moment where students are like, 'Oh my gosh, the translation from design to drawing to building is real, and we've got to do it now.'"

On the courtyard project, students worked with The Commons, the interdisciplinary partnership of the Biodiversity Institute, the Hall Center for the Humanities and the Spencer Museum of Art that is housed in Spooner; with KU Facilities, Planning and Development; and with faculty members such as Kelly Kindscher, c'79, PhD'92, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey, and Ted Johnson, professor emeritus of French and Italian, to complete a design that reflects The Commons' mission as a catalyst for unconventional thinking, interdisciplinary inquiry and unexpected discoveries across the sciences, arts and humanities.

"It has never been lost on us that there is a garden outside of the building which seems like a perfect place to foment all that," said Commons Director Emily Ryan, g'07, addressing campus partners, donors and Oread neighbors who celebrated the project's completion April 24. "All along we really saw the extension of The Commons mission in this project, with the arts, sciences and humanities really coming together out in this space."

Using a concept organized around elements of earth, fire, water and air, students developed several new features

for the garden: A rammed earth structure repurposed from Associate Professor Chad Krause's Dirt Works Studio provides seating; a rock carving uses the sun's shadow to trace the passage of seasons; a trench filled with landscape glass captures rainwater runoff from Spooner's roof and channels it to a bioswale filled with wetland plants; and singular views of iconic campus sights such as Fraser's flags and Dyche Hall's tower (along with a panoramic viewscape opened up by selective tree trimming) provide airy atmosphere. At center is a limestone sculpture, carved with help from Karl Ramberg, '81, the sculptor creating Dyche's new grotesques. Called "Biodiversity in the Balance," the piece highlights man's impact on the natural world and the fact that, as a sign planned for the new entrance reads, "We all share in the global commons."

Besides these big-picture themes, students also gain a better idea of the down-in-the-dirt work it takes to see a building project through and a sense of having contributed to their campus.

"It gets us out of the computer lab," says Grant Bechtel, of Wichita, who helped create the solar stone. "Everybody gets trapped in their computers, and that's basically how you live for whole semesters. It's good to be able to see your project carried out, and to build something that's going to be here a long time."

## Facts still matter

### Bedrock values, bold innovation will keep journalism thriving

Times are tough for the journalism profession, Sally Streff Buzbee of the Associated Press said during her April 11 return to Mount Oread to accept the 2019 William Allen White Award.

Misinformation and partisanship are widespread, once-promising technologies have proven vulnerable to manipulation, and the people who attack journalists—verbally and physically—have been emboldened. The profession's business

model is under duress, too, leaving a stressed news industry that is "sort of knocked back on its heels and short of money and confidence," said Buzbee, j'88, AP executive editor.

And yet, she added, "I'd really rather work in journalism at a time when it's under stress, when what we do every day actually matters so very much about the future of this industry that we love."

At an awards ceremony in Woodruff Auditorium, where she received the National Citation from the William Allen White Foundation, Buzbee pointed to three "signs of hope" for journalists across the United States and around the globe: the embrace of new innovations such as user-generated content to help tell stories in places like Syria, where using outside reporters is difficult and dangerous; large-scale collaborations among competing news organizations to report sprawling topics, such as the California wildfires, that are beyond the scope of any one outlet; and, the enduring power of "good old-fashioned facts."

"What makes news organizations valuable to our communities and to our customers is we report, we find out what's happening and we bring that information to people. This seems so obvious to all of us. Yet in all the worry about the future that is hitting our industry right now, I think we are sometimes in danger of



Buzbee

## Milestones, money and other matters



■ **A \$2.8 million estate gift** from Alton and Helen Knechtel, '37, of Chula Vista, California, will establish scholarships for KU medical students. Entering students will be eligible if they are in the top 10 percent of their pre-med class, and current students will qualify based on merit. Alton graduated from Kansas State University and Helen studied music at KU before earning a degree from Stephens College in Missouri. Alton's battle with Alzheimer's, which ended in 1984, was a primary reason for the gift, according to a family friend. Helen died in 2018 at the age of 104.

■ **KU Debate's record of success** over the past 20 years earned the program the Founder's Award from the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) in April. This year's squad also earned CEDA's top team ranking for the 2018-'19 season. KU, winner of six national championships, was the only university this year to have teams in the Final Four in the CEDA national tournament and the National Debate Tournament.



■ **Former Sen. Robert J. Dole, '45,** received an honorary promotion to colonel, thanks to a bill introduced by Kansas senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, c'76, l'82. Dole, who was seriously wounded while deployed in Italy as an infantry lieutenant during World War II, resigned his Army commission at the grade of captain.

STEVE PUPPE

## Hilltopics

losing sight of the central primacy of this.”

She advised journalists to focus on those “bedrocks of the past that have made journalism strong”—facts, accuracy, credibility and objectivity; “in other words, the things that I learned here from great professors”—while also embracing new technologies and reporting methods. “On everything else, be bold,” she said. “Embrace the new. Look to the future; don’t be scared of it.”

Buzbee found the students she met on her visit “very focused and incredibly committed,” she said in an interview with *Kansas Alumni*. “I asked them if their parents are worried, because they’re doing journalism,” Buzbee said, laughing.

She recalled her own reaction a few years ago when her daughters expressed interest in the profession.

“My heart kind of sank. Like, ‘Oh, god, it’s a field that has so many challenges right now.’ But I have really changed my mind 100%. I think we should be encouraging the brightest people we have to go into focusing on making our society as good as possible, and I do really honestly think that the accurate flow of information is critically important to the future of the world.”



MEG KUJWIN, KU MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Girod and Steuart

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### Junior wins Truman

**BECOMING THE 20TH** Jayhawk to be named a Harry S. Truman Scholar came with some nice benefits for Sam Steuart: \$30,000 for graduate school, professional development programs to help prepare for a leadership role in public service, and a

surprise party in the chancellor’s office—complete with festive balloons.

The Topeka junior majoring in American studies and biochemistry (with a minor in Spanish) was one of 62 students nationwide to receive the prestigious award.

“I am incredibly thankful to be a Truman Scholar because I look forward to the opportunity it provides me to give

## UPDATE

Vietnam War veterans and leaders of humanities agencies in Kansas and Washington, D.C., gathered at the Robert Dole Institute of Politics April 11 for the culmination of “Kansas Stories of the Vietnam War,” a Humanities Kansas project that enlisted 12 community organizations—including Kansas Public Radio—to collect histories from Vietnam veterans across the state [“America’s Story,” issue No. 2, 2018].

Karen Lloyd, director of the Veterans History Project at the

Library of Congress, accepted the oral and written histories of veterans and others during the handover ceremony. Now part of the Library’s veterans history archive, they form “an authentic document of history for the future, an endless ripple event,” Lloyd said.

“Our shared history is made more visible by the act of recording what you accomplished, and is amplified by those who use it,” she said. “Who knows what these collections will inspire: a poem, a movie, or perhaps a book

about a previously unknown or underappreciated aspect of service. A memoir which will then be in the Library of Congress inspiring others. It’s an endless spiral of impact.”

“Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens,” said Jon Parrish Peede, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities,

quoting from the agency’s Congressional charter, “and I can’t imagine having wisdom in the absence of such stories, much less, ultimately, democracy.”



STEVE PUPPE

Vietnam veteran George Liebegott Jr. of Belle Plaine presents oral history interviews to Karen

back to the members of the community who raised me,” said Steuart, who will pursue advanced degrees in medicine and public health and intends to become a physician who advocates for equitable access to health care and education, especially for low-income and at-risk children. “This process has taught me so much about how to make a meaningful impact on a broad scale, so I am excited to continue learning how to be the leader I aspire to be.”

## RESEARCH

### New award spotlights research 'beyond faculty ranks'

**DAVID BURNHAM AND MATT JACKSON** are the first recipients of an award that recognizes the contributions of unclassified professional staff to the University's research mission.

Established in 2018, the Research Achievement Awards give honorees \$5,000 for use in approved research or professional development activities.

Burnham, PhD'07, preparator of vertebrate paleontology at the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, received the Staff Achievement Award. He cleans and prepares

fossils for research and exhibits, and his research focuses on the origin of flight in birds. Recently he has led a KU team that's excavating and studying a juvenile *Tyrannosaurus rex* in Montana.

Jackson, a postdoctoral scholar in the department of chemistry, won the Postdoctoral Achievement Award. His research focuses



Burnham

STEVE PUPPE



Jackson

COURTESY OFFICE OF RESEARCH

on creating new “liquid biopsy” technologies for personalized cancer treatment. He developed tools to study a new class of virus-sized vesicles that human cells use to communicate and worked on nanoscale technologies that can sequence single molecules of DNA, among other projects.

“Winners must be conducting research that expands intellectual or societal insights and has significant influence in their fields,” John Colombo, interim vice chancellor for research, said of the awards. “The work of Dr. Burnham and Dr. Jackson certainly rises to the standard and speaks to the breadth, depth and vibrancy of research occurring beyond the faculty ranks at KU.”

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### KU programs perform well in annual magazine rankings

**ELEVEN GRADUATE PROGRAMS** earned top-10 rankings in the recent U.S. News and World Report 2020 assessment of public university graduate schools.

Programs in special education and local government management were again rated the best in the country. Occupational therapy ranked fourth, while programs in speech-language-pathology and public management ranked fifth.

Public affairs (eighth); education, petroleum engineering, physical therapy, and urban planning and policy (ninth); and family medicine (tenth) rounded out the University's top-10 rankings. Last year nine KU programs were included in the top 10.

In all, 48 KU graduate programs ranked in the top 50 among public schools, up two from last year.

“We look to rankings as one way to track our progress, and these U.S. News rankings highlight the many different ways we contribute to the state and region,” said Chancellor Doug Girod. “As a leading research university, our graduate programs are an important part of who we are. We remain focused on our broader mission and goals to help elevate these efforts across our university.”

## Milestones, money and other matters



■ **Richard Godbeer** will be the next director of the Hall Center for the Humanities. Founding director of the Humanities Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, Godbeer is author of five books. He will serve as the Charles W. Battey Distinguished Professor in the history department.

■ **Shelley London, j'74, g'81**, received the Dole Humanitarian Award from the Robert Dole Institute of Politics on April 26. London worked in executive leadership positions at AT&T and American Standard Companies before becoming the founding president of the Poses Family Foundation, which supports parents and families of people with learning and attention issues.

■ **Denise Farmer, g'08**, student success coach in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences online degree completion program, won the C.L.A.S.S. Award from the Board of Class Officers. The C.L.A.S.S. (Citation for Leadership and Achievement in Student Services) recognizes staff members' dedication to supporting students.

■ **A \$500,000 gift** from David Pittaway, c'72, of Naples, Florida, will create a professorship in military history. The first recipient is Adrian Lewis, professor of history and a retired U.S. Army soldier. Pittaway, vice chairman, senior managing director and chief compliance officer of the private equity investment firm Castle Harlan in New York City, served 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring as a major.

STEVE PUPPE



## Stars are born

### Runners, jumpers and throwers shine at relays, aim for titles

As overreliance on technologies such as big data and video analysis threaten to squeeze the fun out of sports, running, perhaps alone among big-time athletic competitions, can still be revered for its elegant simplicity. At least that's the way junior Bryce Hoppel, the reigning NCAA Indoor 800-meter champion, lives his life on the track.

He doesn't gear his performances toward specific time goals or percentage-of-max energy output. He runs to race and races to win.

No need to complicate things.

"Winning a national championship, I was just thinking that if I get out there and obviously do whatever it takes to win, then the time is going to come along with it," Hoppel said in an interview with *Kansas Alumni* shortly before the mid-April Kansas Relays. "That's the perspective I like to keep on time."

Hoppel's Kansas Relays victories in the 800- and 1,500-meter runs extended his individual-race winning streak to 12; the

last time he lost a non-relay event was the 2018 NCAA Outdoor Championship, at which he placed fourth with a personal-best time of 1 minute, 45.67 seconds, the second-best 800 time in KU history.

"Bryce continues to be amazing," coach Stanley Redwine said after the relays, at which Hoppel also competed on KU's second-place 4x400 relay team. "Two events he just dominated, then he came back and ran an awesome leg in the 4x4, so it is just a fun thing to watch when you have an athlete competing at that level."

Hoppel, a junior from Midland, Texas, this year defended his Big 12 Indoor title in the 800, and was also a member of KU's championship distance medley relay team. He then won his first NCAA title with a school-record indoor 800 meter mark of 1:46.46.

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, Hoppel and his teammates were preparing for the May 10-12 Big 12 Outdoor Championships, although the June 5-8 NCAA Outdoor Championships

NCAA champion Bryce Hoppel (left), confident without a hint of arrogance, says, "One of the things I notice coming across the line in the 800 is that I always have a feeling that I can give more. Not that I'm not giving it my all, but I haven't found my limit yet." Zach Bradford (right) attributed his record-breaking pole vault, in part, to the warm afternoon's steady tailwind: "I felt it was going to be a good day. I felt it coming."

remain his primary target.

"After winning the indoor championship, I want to keep up the level I'm at and hopefully get a repeat in outdoor. Now I'm maybe holding myself to a little higher standard, even in little things I do throughout the day, to hold up expectations of where I'm at and hopefully reach greater things in the future."

Away from the track, Hoppel is friendly and pleasant, and has earned multiple honors as Academic All-Big 12. On the track, he is focused in the extreme, thanks in part to a freshman-year failure.

He'd already made a name for himself by dashing up the rail to pass senior teammate Strymar Livingston, an All-American and Big 12 champion, in the final strides of the Kansas Relays' 800-meter run. Livingston had been locked in a duel with another competitor; as both seemingly lost track of Hoppel, the freshman surged past on the inside.

"It wasn't really how I wanted to win the race," he said afterward, "but I saw the opportunity and I took it."

The season was sunk, though, when Hoppel lost out on a trip to nationals as his high school rival Devin Dixon, a Texas A&M freshman at the time, edged Hoppel by a few tenths of a second at the NCAA qualifying meet in Austin, Texas.

"Training over that whole summer, I couldn't get it out of my mind. I kept replaying that final stretch in my mind, over and over," Hoppel says. "That defeat just made me so much hungrier for my



sophomore year, and my sophomore year is when I started getting things done.”

Now that he’s an NCAA Indoor champion and a favorite to do the same outdoors, Hoppel says he’s dreaming even bigger dreams.

“The NCAA Outdoor Championship is up next, and that’s what I’m going for first,” he says. “But this past indoor season really opened my eyes to a lot of the opportunities I could possibly have after college: hopefully going pro, and the Olympics, I think, is the dream of every track and field athlete.

“It’s becoming a little bit more of a reality than a dream now, so it’s something I’m chasing after.”

While Hoppel excelled in his three-event performance at Kansas Relays, freshman Zach Bradford, of Bloomington, Illinois, was lighting up the pole-vault pit with his own star-making performance.

Bradford—whose boyish zeal and brash ability evoke images of how iconic middle-distance runner Steve Prefontaine once carried himself on the track—left his competition far behind with a winning jump of 18 feet, 11 inches. His mark was second-best of the NCAA season and fourth-best in the world. It qualified Bradford for the October IAAF World Championships in Qatar, and broke the KU record of 18-10.75—which at the time was also the American record—set in 1983 by the great Jeff Buckingham, ’84.

“I was like, ‘I’ve got four years to break that record; I’ll get there eventually,’” Bradford said of his intention to one day become the best in KU’s long history of outstanding pole vaulters. “I didn’t think it was going to come in the first year.”

Moments after narrowly missing his only attempt at 19-1, for which his competitors had to assist event officials in raising and setting the bar, Bradford said, “Everything is just starting to click. Everything is just starting to get there. I’m ready for even higher heights.”

As Bradford climbed his way up the ascending jumps, his coach, Tom Hays, d’90, was unnervingly calm. While Bradford caught everybody else off-guard, Hays saw it coming.

“He’s one of the best we’ve got,” Hays

*“The Olympics, I think, is the dream of every track and field athlete. It’s becoming a little bit more of a reality than a dream now, so it’s something I’m chasing after.”*

—NCAA Indoor 800-meter champion Bryce Hoppel



Bradford

said. “He’s the real deal. There’s no doubt about it. He’s one of the U.S.’s best talents.”

Two years ago, hammer thrower Gleb Dudarev burst onto the scene with a similarly scintillating Kansas Relays performance, crushing his competitors as an unknown freshman from Belarus.

Dudarev—who owns every throw on KU’s all-time top-10 list and is a four-time Big 12 champion in the indoor weight throw and outdoor hammer—again brushed aside his relays competitors, easily winning at 72.29 meters.

After faltering badly at last year’s NCAA Outdoor Championship, at which he finished 12th, Dudarev and throws coach Andy Kokhanovsky used early season meets at Florida and Louisiana State to restore Dudarev’s national stature.

“We went to Florida Relays and beat the national champion, then we went LSU to face the guy who got third, and we beat him,” Kokhanovsky said. “This year, his season is different. He’s supposed to

compete in the World Championships, but first he needs to go NCAA and do well there.”

Dudarev said shortly after his Kansas Relays victory that he is aiming for 80 meters, but that’s still a long way off.

“I can’t throw far right now, but it’s going to be a long season. I think I can do it.”

## KU’s tennis aces

### Senior trio conclude careers with big wins, high honors

The three seniors who helped rebuild Kansas tennis—Anastasia Rychagova, the nation’s top-ranked singles player entering the 2018 spring season, until a broken rib derailed her junior year, and Nina Khmelnitckaia and Janet Koch, briefly the NCAA’s top-ranked doubles team this season—all earned automatic bids to the NCAA Women’s Tennis Championships, May 20-25 in Orlando, guaranteeing All-America honors.

That news came shortly after the Jayhawks powered past Texas to win the Big 12 Championship on their home courts at Rock Chalk Park, where the Jayhawks were undefeated this season.

“All three will leave here first-team All-Americans. All three will leave here Big 12 champions. Amazing,” said Todd Chapman, who was named Coach of the Year in the conference. “I don’t know if I can put into words what they’ve meant to this program and how they’ve helped elevate us to where we’re at.”

The best news, though, was still to come: Chosen to host opening-weekend matches for the NCAA’s team tournament, the

## Sports

Jayhawks first beat Denver to avenge their 2018 tournament loss, then dropped perennial powerhouse Florida to advance, as *Kansas Alumni* went to press, to a Sweet 16 Super-Regional showdown at Stanford.

Florida coach Roland Thornqvist, who has led the Gators to four NCAA championships, began his coaching career at KU, in 1997 and '98, back when the Jayhawks played at Alvarado Racquet Club and on the courts behind Robinson Gymnasium. After watching his team fall to this year's surging 'Hawks, Thornqvist praised the facility, the coaching and the seniors.

"They played the big points a little bit better than we did," the UF coach said, "and that's how you get punished in a big match like this. There's no substitute for experience."

The delight for KU, though, was that the younger players were most responsible for the 4-2 victory. After the 'Hawks won the doubles point for the 24th time in 25 matches, junior Maria Toran Ribes (the Big 12 tournament's Most Outstanding

Player), sophomore Plobrung Plipuech and freshman Sonia Smagina all won their singles matches.

Smagina capped her victory just moments after Koch lost on the neighboring court.

"It's crazy. They basically did it without us," Koch said. "It's good to see our younger ones picking it up for us, knowing that we can just play free because they'll have our back and they can step up in the big moment. It's fun to see."

At some point midway through the season, Koch explained, younger players seemed to finally grasp their lessons from the seniors: practice hard, push each other to excel, stay positive.

"Even the locker-room talk changed," Koch said. "Once everyone pulled in to what we're doing and started to see some success, they figured out that everything bleeds into everything."

"We feel like we did what we needed to do here. It's a feeling of a lot of satisfaction."



STEVE PUPPE

"I believed it," Janet Koch says of her conviction that she and her two fellow seniors would help launch a new era for KU tennis, "but I never saw it until this year. It's an unbelievable feeling. Very emotional. Overwhelming."

## UPDATES

The spring competition between junior transfer **Thomas MacVittie** and incumbent senior **Carter Stanley** to be named coach **Les Miles'** starting quarterback will carry into fall camp. After the April 13 spring scrimmage, Miles praised his squad for "great speed," along with "effort and energy" that create "some real chemistry." The Miles era officially begins with an Aug. 31 home game against Indiana State. ...

Senior **Vicky Xu** on March 1 became KU's first Big 12 diving champion when she won the 3-meter title at the conference meet in Austin, Texas. She set multiple school and Big 12 records in her only KU season and was named All-American in

both 1- and 3-meter events. ... Among six former Jayhawks to sign NFL rookie free agent contracts, linebacker **Joe Dineen Jr.**, b'18, '19, twice the Big 12's leading tackler, joined the Denver Broncos, and defensive tackle **Daniel Wise**, c'19, signed with Dallas. ...

A 10-6 victory over Texas May 5 at Hoglund Ballpark capped KU baseball's first series sweep of Texas since 2014. Junior **Ryan Cyr** was named Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for his 86-pitch complete-game shutout of the

Longhorns May 4. "That was one of the greatest pitching performances I've seen in my career," said coach **Ritch Price**. ... Center **Udoka Azubuike**, who lost most of his junior season to a wrist injury, surprised coach **Bill Self** when he announced April 22 that he will return for his



STEVE PUPPE

Azubuike

senior season. "We really anticipated that this would be the year he would enter the draft," Self said, "but that was also based on him having an injury-free year." ...

Kansas Athletics on April 18 announced it was appealing the

NCAA's suspension of forward **Silvio De Sousa** "for alleged violations that he was unaware of and from which he did not benefit." ... Former running back **Jon Cornish**, c'07, a native of British Columbia who spent his professional career with the Calgary Stampeders, on April 24 was voted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. It was earlier announced that the trophy honoring the outstanding Canadian in NCAA football would be named in Cornish's honor. ... Junior defenseman **Johan Steen** and senior goalie **Ben Smith** were named to club hockey's All-America team, and coach **Andy McConnell**, j'16, was named Div. III Coach of the Year.

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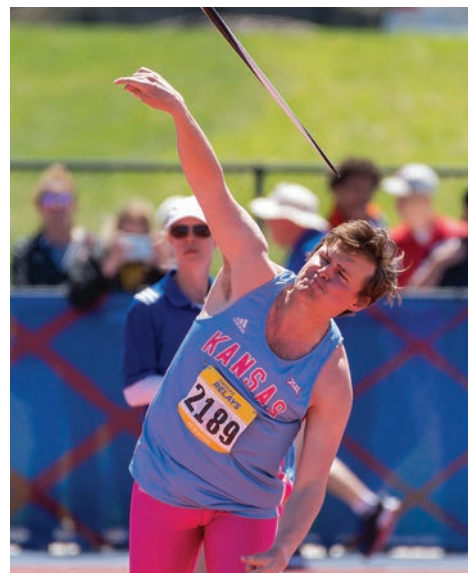
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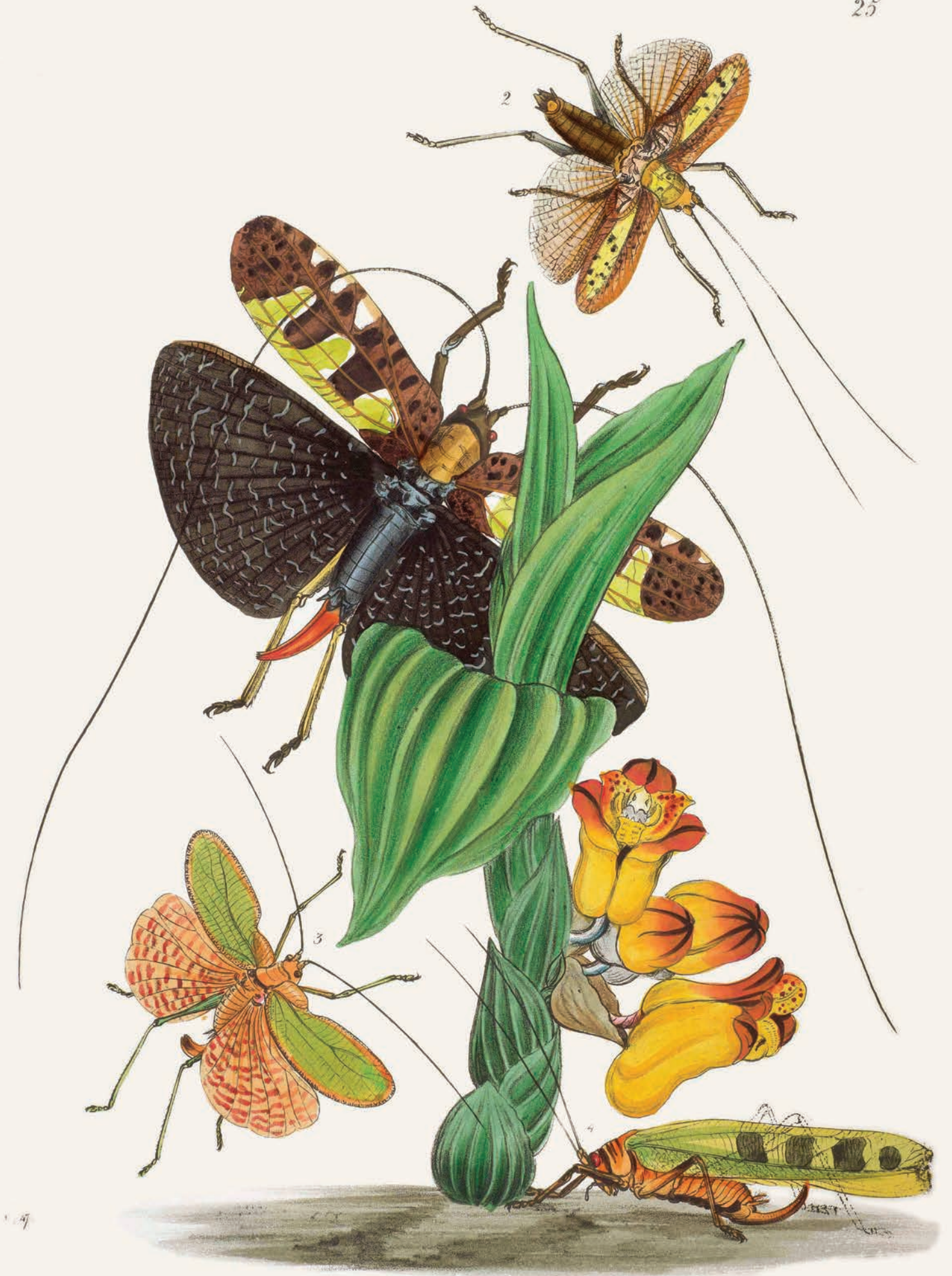
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Sports Kansas Relays photographs by Steve Puppe





# The Illustrated Lives of Insects

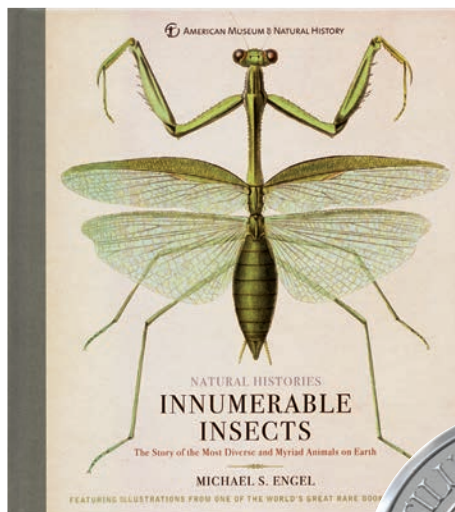
*KU scholar unearths treasures in American Museum of Natural History's rare books collection for sumptuous volume on earth's most diverse animals*

Michael Engel is one of the world's foremost entomologists, yet a love for bugs hardly runs through the story of his life.

The only buggy boyhood anecdote that Engel, c'93, c'93, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and senior curator at KU's Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum, readily recalls is one he doesn't even remember, passed down from his mother, about how he used to draw roly polies, to scale, the images too tiny to be of much use except to illustrate his need for exactness.

"I was really big into drawing things," Engel says with his easy laugh. "Only, I like things to be accurate."

Themes that do run through the story of his remarkably productive life are passions for history, art, books and museums, so when his colleagues at New York's American Museum of Natural History offered Engel the opportunity to sift through their closely guarded rare books collection to produce a book illustrating the beauty of their insect-related holdings, he accepted faster than roly polies curl into protective little balls.



"I've gone through rare book collections before, but usually it's like, 'I'm doing study Y and I need to see volume Y,' and you're given access to volume Y. So you're telling me I don't have to have any other excuse other than I need to look at these books and I can just go look at as many as I want? Whoa! All right! Give me the keys to the rare book room and let me loose!"

"And you know what? It was great."

The result of his year and a half of loving

labor is the exceptional *Innumerable Insects: The Story of the Most Diverse and Myriad Animals on Earth*, the fourth in a rare-books series launched by the AMNH in 2012 with the much-heralded *Natural Histories*, edited by Tom Baione, the museum's Harold Boeschstein Director of the department of library services.

As with *Natural Histories*, subsequent volumes on birds and oceans tended to focus on the stories of the rare books in which illustrations were found, with narratives about scientists, artists and expeditions. The text for each volume was published in a softcover book, along with 40 reproductions of the illustrations examined in the book, all packaged by Sterling Publishing Co. in clamshell boxes.

"For this fourth volume," Baione says from his office within the AMNH complex on Central Park West, "the publishers wanted to try something different. So we went with a hardback volume. I guess they felt the other format was exhausted."



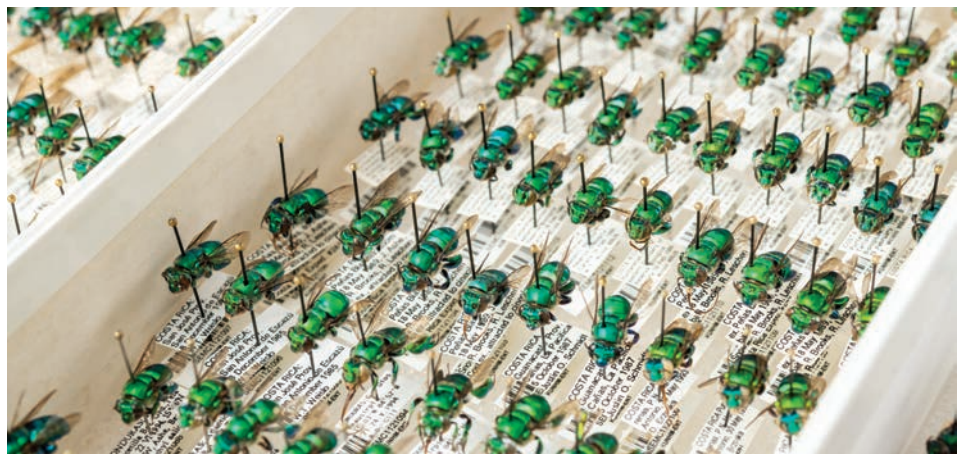
*by Chris Lazzarino*



Michael Engel, here in his West Campus office and laboratory, describes the opportunity to research and write *Innumerable Insects* as “a dream come true.” Tom Baione, AMNH library director, concluded an hourlong interview with *Kansas Alumni* by saying, “The University of Kansas is very, very fortunate to have somebody like Dr. Engel involved in their program. I can’t state that enough.”

The project editors turned to Engel, who has nurtured a long affiliation with the museum. His first job after completing his Cornell University PhD in 1998 was as a research scientist in the museum’s division of invertebrate zoology, a job he held until returning to KU two years later as an assistant professor and assistant curator. Engel has since maintained his ties to the New York City landmark as research associate.

When he received the Paleontological Society’s 2008 Charles Schuchert Award,



recognizing promising scientists under 40, Engel was introduced by his AMNH colleague and collaborator David Grimaldi as “arguably the world’s foremost authority on the evolutionary history of insects.” Engel was 37 at the time. He already had published more than 200 papers on living and extinct insects and co-authored, with Grimaldi, the landmark textbook *Evolution of the Insects*, which is being readied

for a second edition by Cambridge University Press.

Engel’s academic and scientific credentials were impeccable, but the trait that sold AMNH librarians on entrusting him with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to dive into their unimaginably deep holdings of insect-related rare books—considered by experts as perhaps the finest such collection in the world—and share



highlights with the wider world is that Engel is much more than an expert entomologist.

He is also, his colleagues knew, a book lover, historian and world-class scientist who cultivates an appreciation for the arts.

“Michael has an amazing knowledge of the retrospective literature in entomology,” says Mai Reitmeyer, the museum’s senior research services librarian. “He appreciates and loves the old books—of course the old ones that are relevant to his work, but I think he even knows the history of some of the older books that may be out of date now, yet he appreciates them as artifacts.”

Published last October by Sterling, which is owned by Barnes & Noble, at a notably reasonable \$27.95, *Innumerable Insects* grabbed the attention of lay and expert audiences alike.

Described by Barbara Berger, Sterling Editorial’s executive editor, as one of Barnes & Noble’s holiday success stories—“I totally think it’s a classic,” she says from her New York office—*Innumerable Insects* occasionally sells out even in the museum’s gift shop. It was hailed as a top-five read by Nature magazine, which promised that insect aficionados “will be entranced by this homage to the class Insecta,” with “spectacular images” that “glow like jewels.” In April the book was named a Nautilus Book Awards silver medalist.

Writing in the Nov. 2 Minneapolis Star Tribune, Robin Thomson, curator of the University of Minnesota Insect Collection, opened by describing Engel’s first book, *Evolution of the Insects*, as “the go-to text for learning more than you ever thought you needed to about insects, their diversity, and entire evolutionary history.” Explaining that she feared *Innumerable Insects* would be more of the same, Thomson shared her thrill at discovering scientists and illustrators previously unknown to her, and summarized *Innumerable Insects* as “a visually mesmerizing entry point for anyone interested in exploring insects and the history of their study.”

Berger says Sterling was eager to publish the book not as a vanity project that would extend its affiliation with a prestigious institution like the AMNH, but

because it made good business sense. Everyone involved gave the project extraordinary levels of care and devotion, she says, but, ultimately, the beautiful book about beautiful books had to sell.

“I think a lot of people are fascinated by the subject, not just scientists, and it seemed like there was a dearth of something like it in the market,” Berger says. “It fills a niche.”

Given complete autonomy to create and follow his vision for the book’s text, Engel chose to deviate from previous standards set by the series—collections of essays on the histories of the illustrations, the books from which they were selected, and scientists, artists and expeditions—and instead write about the animals. In this case, earth’s mighty swarms of insects past and present.

“Insects were among the earliest animals to transition to land, the first to fly, the first to sing, the first to disguise themselves with camouflage, the first to evolve societies, the first to develop agriculture, and the first to use an abstract language, and they did all of this tens if not hundreds of millions of years before humans ever appeared to mimic these achievements,” Engel writes. “Today’s insects are the various descendants of life’s greatest diversification.”

While diligently telling the story of insects with 10 chapters on various aspects of their evolution and existence, each sumptuously illustrated with plates from the museum’s rare book collection, Engel also pauses along the way to replicate the strategy of earlier volumes in the series: historical vignettes on the people who created these lavishly illustrated and meticulously researched old books. Of the fascinating figures Engel profiles, none captured his imagination more surely than Charles Butler.

Butler, a “radical English vicar and beekeeper,” in 1609 published *The Feminine Monarchie*, which Engel describes as the first English-language book on beekeeping—already an ancient craft by the time Aristotle wrote *Historia anima-*

*lium*, in which the great thinker described a hive’s leader as the “king.”

Butler offers practical instructions on capturing swarms and building hives, and his observations were so profoundly keen that, inspired by the sounds of active hives that spoke to his heart, Butler, also a musician, wrote a four-part madrigal—reproduced in *Innumerable Insects*—that was a “transliteration of the tones he perceived the bees to be making.”

Butler’s crowning achievement, however, was placing the crown properly upon the hive’s dominant female.

God save the queen.

“It was always this misogynistic view that surely the ruler of the hive has to be a king; it can’t be a woman,” Engel says. “And Butler was, like, well, the ruler of the hive happens to have ovaries and seems to be laying eggs, so I tend to think this is a

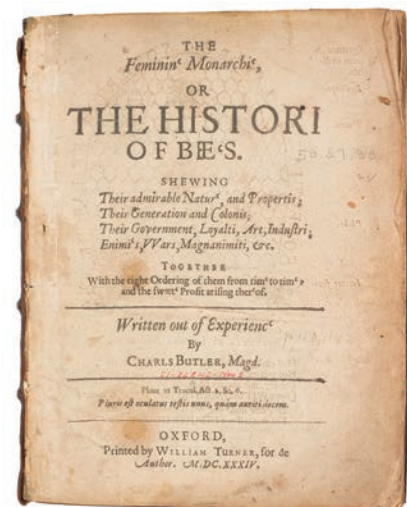


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IMAGE NO. 10003114, AMNH LIBRARY

female. So the title of the book is *The Feminine Monarchie*, which is also particularly fascinating because he's publishing it in the later years of Queen Elizabeth I's reign."

As a leading authority on the evolution of bees, Engel naturally delights in the story of a rebellious polymath—Butler was also an authoritative grammarian, for instance—who identifies the queen as supreme ruler. But Engel has other reasons to respond to the story of the queen: Powerful and wonderful women shaped the boy and young man into the man in full he became.

Engel's father, A. Gayle, was a parish minister in the United Church of Christ. When he was promoted to administrative posts, the family moved from Arizona to Walnut Creek, California, then a rustic retreat that, as the last stop on the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, allowed Rev. Engel access to his work in San Francisco while the family enjoyed a tranquil home.

"I wasn't out collecting insects or anything like that; they weren't really on my radar screen," Engel says. "Instead, I was out climbing the fruit trees in our backyard, burning off energy like any little boy does."

Early on most Sunday mornings, the Engels piled into the family car and headed for area churches, where Rev. Engel would often serve as guest minister before meeting with local church officials. While his father was so occupied, Engel's mother, Donna, would often play organ music for the children—Michael has a younger brother and sister—or lead them to nearby natural history and art galleries. Even their time in the car was used for betterment, with the children encouraged to create "imaginative games about things we're seeing outside the window as we're going along."

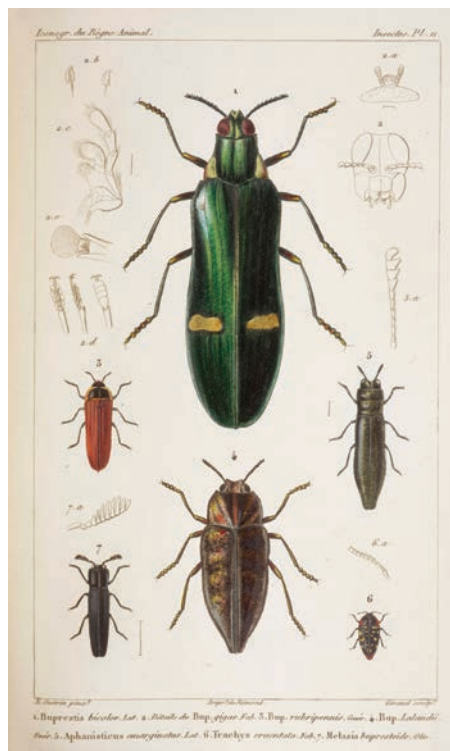
Engel suspects that his deep interest in history was influenced by large age gaps within his family. One of his grandfathers, born in 1893, was the baby of his family; siblings were born in the 1880s.

"They were very elderly, but when the

family would get together you would have all of these people who are literally of the Victorian era sitting around and talking," Engel says. "I was talking to history for the early parts of my life."

The family moved to Wichita when Engel was a high school senior. Though his parents moved again shortly after their eldest son graduated from Southeast High School, leaving Kansas behind, Michael remained for the in-state tuition at KU.

"By the time I got here, I was broadly interested in everything," Engel says. "I took classes in archaeology and Eastern



religions and whatnot. One of my favorite professors here—and in hindsight, had I not interacted with some other people, I might have gone and followed her—was Elizabeth Banks. I adored her. During the semester I took with her, and even to this day, in some ways, the sun rose and set around Betty Banks."

Banks, assoc., director of the Wilcox Classical Museum from 1970 to 2001 and an associate professor of classics until retirement, once urged her eager student to visit Kansas City's Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. When Engel explained

that he didn't have a car, she set an appointment to pick him up, and sure enough, "here she came along with her little car and threw me in and zipped off and took me on a private tour through the Nelson-Atkins." While in Greece one summer, Banks sent Engel a postcard, assuring him that "one day you're going to come here and see all this yourself."

"She was absolutely the greatest," Engel says. "I really loved her. Four or five years ago I got some award from KU, so I had to give a little talk, and then afterward—and by this time she's rather frail—here comes Betty Banks. She said, 'I saw you were giving a talk, so I did everything I could to come and be here. I'm so proud of you.'"

"I almost broke into tears."

Despite her encouragement, Engel did not major in classics, instead choosing dual degrees in chemistry and physiology and cell biology. His advisers were Barbara Schowen, assoc., now retired as director of the KU Honors Program, and Sally Frost-Mason, who went on to become dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, provost at Purdue University, and, until her 2015 retirement, president of the University of Iowa. Banks, Schowen and Frost-Mason are all members of the KU Women's Hall of Fame.

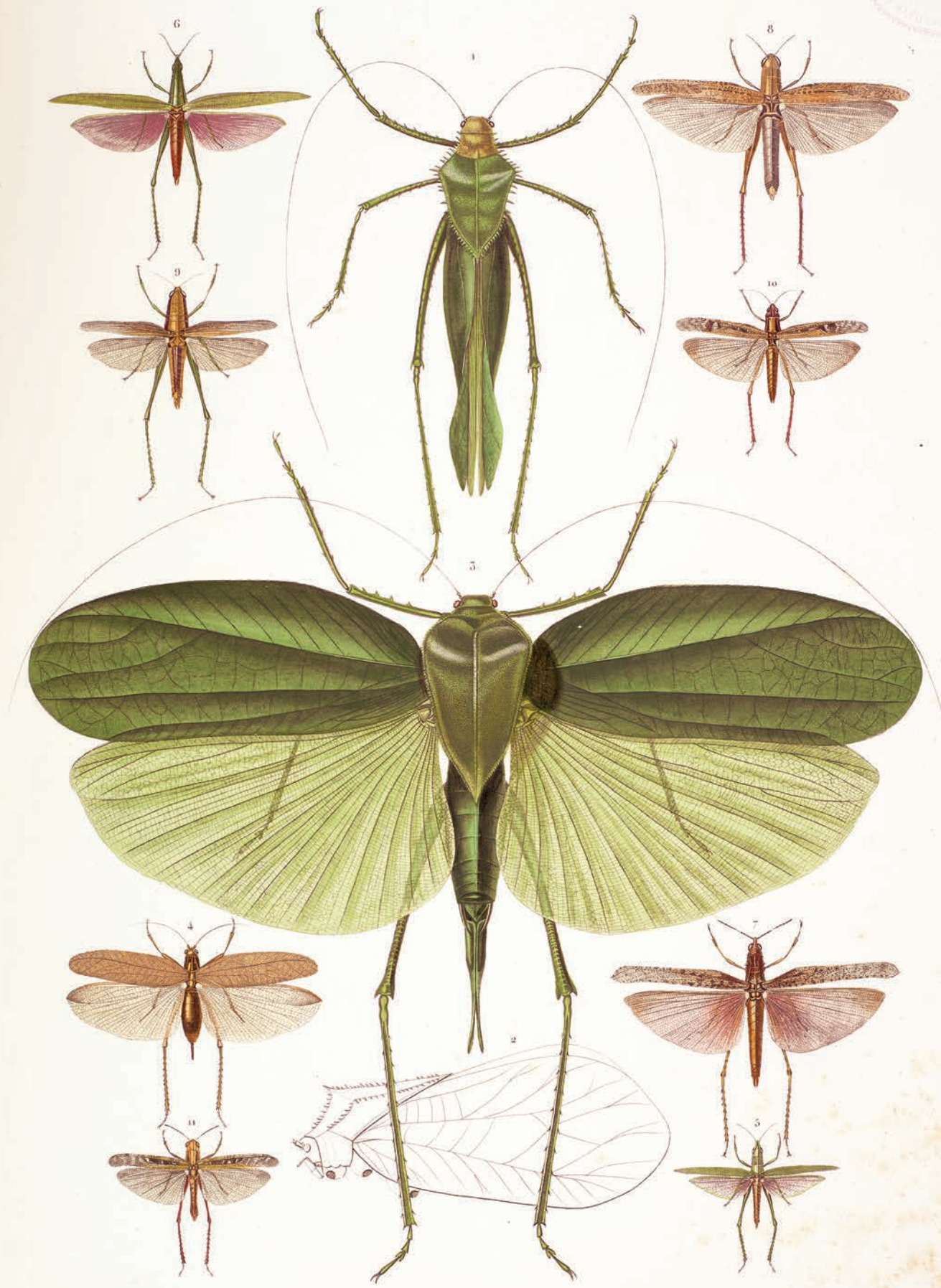
"I had these incredibly amazing women around me who were giving me the most incredible insight and education and life input," Engel says. "I thank every star in heaven."

Engel recalls that he was a first-semester sophomore when Frost-Mason encouraged him to take an upper-level developmental biology course, where an annoyed professor assured Engel he would fail and urged him to drop immediately. Frost-Mason told Engel he would be fine, and he was, at which point she encouraged him to begin developing a research program that could grow into an honors thesis (although he was not, technically, enrolled in the KU Honors Program).

To help him identify a thesis, Frost-Mason suggested Engel enroll in a seminar class, in which students heard each week from different professors in different fields. Engel was not particularly impressed.

"I know we had a couple of people in

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Peint par E. Blanchard

Dirigé par Burmeé

- 1. *PHYLLOPHORA SPECIOSA*. (Thunb.) Baie Triston.
- 2. *P. SPECIOSA*. (Thunb.) id.
- 3. *P. GRANDIS*. (Fab.)
- 4. *PHANEROPTERA OCEANICA*. (Fab.) Baie Triston.
- 5. *TRUXALIS CRENATICEPS*. (Fab.) Île de Baie Triston.
- 6. *T. CRENATICEPS*. (Fab.) Tonelle. (id.)
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- 9. *A. VITTIGERUM*. (Fab.) Baie Triston.
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IMAGE NO. 100027586\_5 AMNH LIBRARY

there—Oh, my God, you are really not good at public speaking. Great science, but you're killing us here," Engel recalls. "And then there was a faculty member who had not yet even started at the University. He was just about to start, he had been hired, but he was still finishing up his postdoc at the Smithsonian. Byron Alexander."

Alexander, who died in 1996, told the class that he studied systematics of insects, then presented his research on the genealogical history of honey bees and the evolution of their language.

"I thought, 'Oh, that's different, that's kind of cool,'" Engel recalls. "He had a great manner of relating with people. There's not a soul on earth who didn't just love Byron."

Although he was already working toward dual degrees outside the field, Engel approached Alexander about research opportunities; the scholar told the student that he was still in the process of setting up his lab, but suggested he reach out to a trio of towering KU entomologists: the late Distinguished Professor Emeritus Charles Michener, Professor Emeritus Orley "Chip" Taylor and Professor Deborah Smith.

Taylor hired Engel as a research assistant, Smith worked with him on his undergraduate honors thesis, and both Michener and Alexander welcomed discussions with the eager undergrad.

"It was really great," Engel says, "but I didn't stop my degrees. I was far enough along that it would be foolish to start over."

Engel applied to doctoral programs in chemistry and medicine, but pinned his hopes on entomology: "Sure enough, several of them shot me down, said I didn't have enough of the background." Then Cornell University said yes—specifically, Professor George Eickwort, PhD '67, a Charles Michener protégé. Eickwort was tragically killed in an automobile accident in Jamaica a year after Engel arrived at Cornell, yet Engel still describes him as "my mentor."

"When George Eickwort said, 'We'd love to have you,' I remember thinking, 'Oh, no, now I really do have to make a choice.


It's not being made for me. So do I take the path less traveled or not?"

"Obviously I did choose that path, and went off to Cornell."

Two years after earning his PhD, Engel was back at KU. Eight years later, he was a full professor. (For context, new assistant professors, if they earn tenure, are typically promoted to associate in seven years, and a promotion to professor can take longer still, even for academic stars.) In 2018 Engel reached the lofty heights of University Distinguished Professor.

"A lot of my life, career, everything, has just been serendipity. Who knows what could have happened, for any of our lives? It could have fallen out in any one of a billion different ways. For me, I was broadly interested in things, and had I been at a different school and interacted with similarly engaging faculty, who knows what I could have been.

"It just so happened that my life intersected with the right people at the right time."



**Y**ou don't need to be a student of entomology to be entranced by the beauty of Michael Engel's book. *Innumerable Insects* passes the eye test. Anyone who likes books or history or art will crave a comfy chair to crawl into when handed *Innumerable Insects*, in part for the rare access it represents.

Tom Baione, the AMNH's director of library services, says the museum's rare book rooms are second in security only to the Earth and Planetary Science gem and mineral collection, and only a small group of library staff even have access.

Whenever work took Engel to New York, he would spend a few days with Mai Reitmeyer, the senior research services librarian, who appreciated the opportunity to mingle in the collection as much as Engel did.

"I don't get to work with the rare book collection every day," she says. "So any time we do one of these books it's amazing to sort of go on a scavenger hunt into the

collection to see what we can find that's kind of fresh, that hasn't been seen to death."

Engel says that even on his workaday trips to Watson Library, he tries to set aside three hours, because he knows that once he finds the intended book or journal he'll also read through chapters in whatever else he spies nearby and return to his office with a stack of 11.

"That was sort of this experience, on steroids," Engel says of his AMNH access, "and I took every imagineable detour. I would pull volumes full-well knowing there's a 99 percent chance that this sucker is not going in, but, dear lord, I have got to see this."


Engel says he was told *Innumerable Insects* would need 150 to 180 images; his pared list reached 400. For each section of the book, he consulted Baione and Reitmeyer, then turned to his wife, Kellie Magill, c'07, research project coordinator at KU's Achievement & Assessment Institute.

"I'd say, 'OK, for this section I've got 10 images, and they said I could only use two. Looking at all of this, which strike you most powerfully?' She'd inevitably end up picking the two that were right from a lay person's perspective ... but not the one that shows the wing I like."

Engel laughs, and says his wife offered similarly expert advice when Sterling Publishing's designers began marrying text and images. As Engel worked back and forth with editor Barbara Berger, Magill would counsel, "Calm down, trust Barbara, she's going to make it look great." Sure enough, "Every single time Barbara would come back with something, it would be stunning."

It's a book full of right choices made by a lot of smart people who cared very much about creating an important book that would be equally accessible to expert scientists and kindergartners looking at pretty pictures.

"We'd love to think," Baione says, "that young minds, or minds of all ages, are inspired to change direction, perhaps in their educational career, by seeing these books that we've produced."

Sounds ... serendipitous. 



# Campus



From snow and ice removal to spring landscaping, KU crews ensure campus is safe and beautiful year-round



STEVE PUPPE

Jones and Harding



# Caretakers



by Heather Biele

Each May, thousands of KU families and friends descend on Mount Oread to celebrate the success of graduating Jayhawks at Commencement. And each year, without doubt, returning alumni and guests marvel at the sheer beauty of the Lawrence campus, with its immaculate lawns, brilliant spring blossoms and groves of lush green trees.

In the weeks leading up to the annual event, the KU landscaping crew works tirelessly, logging 10-hour days to mow, trim, mulch and plant—all to ensure that the University's sprawling backdrop is at its finest for the weekend festivities.

KU groundskeepers delivered yet again this year, albeit under particularly challenging circumstances.

"A year ago, I had 34 people," says Mike Jones, who supervises landscape services along with Kale Laverentz, '14, and Larry Rawlings. "Now I have 13. We're spread really thin, but the 13 people that I have ... I can trust them. We get the job done."

If the idea of that many workers maintaining nearly 1,000 acres of land in the spring sounds daunting, consider this: Just a few months ago, this same crew worked even longer days, in even tougher conditions, to keep campus safe—and

open, as much as possible—during one of the most relentless winters this region has experienced in years.

According to the National Weather Service, more than 17 inches of snow fell on the Lawrence campus from Oct. 1 through April 9, with significant amounts reported on nearly a dozen days. By comparison, about 13 inches of snow was measured collectively over the past two years.

"It was definitely the worst since I've been here," says Shawn Harding, director of KU Facilities Services, who oversees landscaping for all of the Lawrence

campus, as well as maintenance for the University's academic, recreational and athletics buildings. He's worked in the department since 2011. "We've had some bad snows. Five years ago, we had a 10- to 12-inch snow that shut campus down, I think, for two days. But that was one event within a season that was otherwise normal. This season was every week, if not every three or four days at times."

Despite the fact that campus has grown steadily over the past five to 10 years, as evidenced by the recent completion of the 40-plus acre Central District; the Earth, Energy & Environment Center; the DeBruce Center; and new homes for the schools of business, engineering and pharmacy, statewide budget cuts have hampered the number of employees Facilities Services can hire.

"If anything, we've gotten smaller as campus has gotten bigger," Harding says.

**B**y the time members of the KU and Lawrence communities arrived at the Lied Center to see the Feb. 19 performance of the Japanese drumming troupe Kodo, a winter weather advisory was well underway. Conditions worsened as the evening progressed; temperatures plummeted and heavy snow buried the region.

Jones and three other groundskeepers,

who had reported for their normal shifts at 6:30 a.m., had loaded their Ford F-350 trucks with sand early in the day, pretreating campus parking lots and roads in preparation for the storm. It was déjà vu for the crew, who just four days earlier had cleared campus after blizzard-like conditions swept through Lawrence.

As the Tuesday-evening storm intensified, the four men returned to the Lied Center to plow and sand the parking lot and clear paths for guests to return safely to their cars. Getting them home was another matter.

"Every time we would plow something it would drift back up," Jones recalls, citing winds that gusted to nearly 30 mph. "We had cars stuck, and we were running out of sand. We had to run back to the shop and reload."

He and his crew battled treacherous conditions for two hours, clearing routes and assisting more than a half-dozen vehicles that had careened off Crestline Drive after leaving the hilltop performance hall. Jones and another groundskeeper had to travel back to the center loading dock to help the Kodo troupe members navigate their trucks off the lot.

"We're just thinking, this is crazy," says Jones, who worked through the night before going home to sleep for an hour. He and his crew were back on campus at 5:15

a.m. Wednesday, plowing campus roads and sidewalks for the anticipated arrival of students, faculty and staff.

Classes were postponed until 10 a.m. that morning, one of seven campus closures or delays KU experienced this year—more than any other academic year in at least four decades. When severe weather could potentially affect campus operations, the University implements an emergency operation command, or EOC. The Federal Emergency Management Agency-based procedure involves several campus units, including the Office of Public Safety and Facilities Services, which report on the possibility of hazardous conditions and the readiness of campus crews to respond. A core group of administrators makes the decision to cancel classes or close campus based largely on those departments' recommendations.

"We're trying to determine if campus is going to be safe to travel, and travel being in vehicle or on foot," says Harding, who explains that several EOC calls occurred late at night or early in the morning, depending on the timing of the severe weather threat. "If the answer is no, because of what's coming, then we decide to close campus. That's really the long and short of it."

Whether campus remains open or closes, Harding and Jones consider several factors in their approach to keeping KU safe, including the type of precipitation expected and the needs of campus during a severe weather event. A Saturday-night storm might necessitate only the immediate clearing of campus accessibility routes and roads for emergency vehicles, whereas a weekday weather event most likely involves pretreatment of stairs and sidewalks to keep those walkways passable for pedestrians. Another consideration, which was a factor during the Feb. 19 snowstorm, is whether the Lied Center or

.....  
 Andy Peterson (l-r), Mike Jones and Phil Vaughn planted a Frontier elm east of the Price Computing Center on April 22. KU Information Technology staff collected \$150 to purchase the tree for Earth Day.

SUSAN YOUNGER







Dalton Wanna (l-r), Rick Virtue, Thane Haug, Phil Vaughn, Larry Rawlings, Jamie Jarrett, Tom North, Kale Laverentz, Reggie Walsh and James Traul were among the KU groundskeepers who kept campus roads, sidewalks and stairs clear of snow and ice this winter.

another campus venue is hosting an event, which affects how quickly crews respond to those areas.

“Prioritization was a constant conversation throughout the winter,” Harding says.

Because of the incessant nature of this season’s storms—there was at least one severe weather event most weeks in January and February—Harding enlisted other Facilities Services crews to assist with snow and ice removal. The trade shops, which include plumbers, carpenters and electricians, tackled all of the campus stairs, while the custodial group was responsible for clearing paths from the buildings to the sidewalks. The landscaping crew took over from there, sweeping through with John Deere tractors equipped with plows or heavy-duty brooms, depending on the type of precipitation. A small team of four groundskeepers, led by Jones, also cleared nearly 210

miles of campus roads, no matter the time of day.

“Those four people I relied on at 1 in the morning to answer their phones,” Jones says. “They could’ve told me no and none of them did. We came in and we worked 14, 15, 16 hours to get the streets cleared. I thought we did a heck of a job, for what we had.”

With each storm, the facilities crews found ways to streamline their response time and become more efficient, including hiring an outside contractor to clear several campus parking lots so KU staff could focus on other areas. “We did it so many times that every time we learned something or we found some way to do something better,” says Harding, who also drove one of the plow trucks this year. “We just kept building on the experience and tried to make it better.”

Still, by the end of the season, and after

crewmembers logged countless hours of overtime, fatigue had set in. “I had to keep a positive attitude,” Jones says. “You know, everybody looks up to me. As soon as they see a supervisor or a manager with a bad attitude, it just rolls downhill and everything goes to hell. All my guys, I just talked to them: ‘This is our job; we’ve just got to do it.’”

Months later, with winter mercifully in hindsight, Harding reflects on the season with nothing but pride for his crews—and no regrets for the decisions made regarding campus closures. “I just really think that with shrinking staff numbers and trying to get smarter every time, we were right on par,” he says. “Even though I think of it as a failure when we can’t open campus, there’s just a time when you shouldn’t have people out walking



Reggie Walsh and Anthony Arnold helped unload nearly \$12,000 of assorted flowers that were delivered May 6. KU landscapers planted the colorful new shipment in campus flowerbeds the week before Commencement.

around or driving. For the most part, we were right on top of it the whole season, so I couldn't be prouder of our folks and how they responded."

In the weeks following the last few storms, KU groundskeepers addressed the season's harsh aftermath, filling hundreds of potholes on roads and in parking lots; assessing damage to stairs, sidewalks and campus signs; flushing sand and salt through the storm drains to prevent clogging; and determining whether shrubs, grass and other plants affected by plows and salt application could be saved. The University's service vehicles, which sustained extensive wear and tear over the past five months, needed immediate attention.

Fortunately, spring's long-awaited arrival brings a shift in focus for the landscaping crew: mowing lawns, planting and

trimming trees, and preparing flower beds for spring annuals. "Making campus look good," Jones says.

Though Harding has had to adjust to staff cuts by outsourcing certain tasks, like mowing, and allowing more campus land to grow naturally—which saves both fuel and manpower—our campus caretakers know they'll shoulder the majority of the landscaping efforts for this year's Commencement. In fact, the team of about a dozen workers recently hand-planted nearly \$12,000 worth of assorted flowers that arrived in early May.

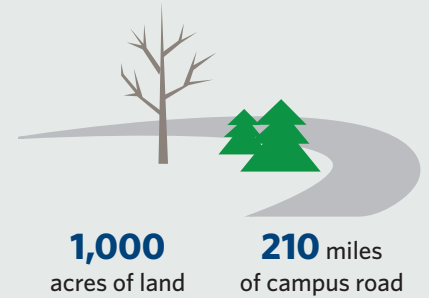
"It's definitely something each one of our folks takes pride in," Harding says. "They like working here because it's rewarding to go out, make an area of campus look better, and come in the next day and do the same thing somewhere else. That's what we strive to do."

## Winter Essentials



According to KU Facilities Services, the Lawrence campus went through four times more snow and ice removal products in 2018-'19 than in the past three years.

Here's an approximate look at the scope of the work:



**150,000** pounds of ice melt



**150** tons of sand

**160** tons of salt



**3,500** gallons of anti-icing agent



**5,000** winter labor hours



**6** tractors

**5** plow/sander trucks

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# ALL FOR FUN, FUN FOR ALL



**SHARED  
EXPERIENCES ARE  
THE HEART OF  
MATT AND RYAN'S  
EPIC ADVENTURES**

**BY STEVEN HILL**



**Matt Baysinger and Ryan Henrich met at Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park. Both ran track for the Jaguars and both, in Baysinger's words, "were a couple of real ding-dongs."**

**"Our idea of fun was not what the typical high school kid is into," says Baysinger, now 33 and CEO of Swell Spark, the Kansas City-based company that launched two of the most unique and popular entertainment options to hit Mass Street in years: Breakout Lawrence and Blade & Timber.**

"We would do things like get our lawn chairs and go sit in a median and wave at cars," he recalls. "Like, what?"

Back then Antioch Road was a two-lane that jammed up like the Lincoln Tunnel on weekday mornings as kids jockeyed to make the first bell at 7:30. "If I left my house at 6:55, I'd get to school at 7:00," Baysinger says. "If I left at 7, I'd get there at 7:30."

So he and Henrich and a few friends decided that, rather than fight traffic and scarf down their morning meal in the car, they'd arrive early and make breakfast at school.

"I mean, we *made* breakfast. We would bring our *toaster ovens*," Baysinger says. "And we'd eat and say hi to hundreds of people as they came in. We started junior year, and by the time we graduated there were often 100 to 200 people coming to school early."

They initially came for the same reason—to beat traffic—but then, Baysinger says, "it became, 'Let's share a meal. Let's talk together.'"

Turns out even high school kids, who could be forgiven for not wanting to spend an extra minute in school, especially if it means getting up early, were hungry for something more than Pop Tarts and scrambled eggs.

A decade later, Baysinger, c'09, g'11, and Henrich, '09, his 33-year-old cofounder and chief operating officer, believe they are feeding a similar craving with the apparently random mix of businesses that operate under the Swell Spark name. Breakout, the company's first venture, challenges groups of two to eight people to unravel clues and solve a series of puzzles that allow them to "break out" of an escape room. Choir Bar, a once-a-month group singalong and social event, brings together a few hundred strangers for one night to learn a song and share cocktails; the evening ends with a performance in three-part harmony that's videotaped and made available for participants to post on social media. Blade & Timber is a stunningly simple concept: Players throw axes at targets—like darts, but way more badass.

"A lot of people are like, 'How can you go from escape rooms—these epic 60-minute adventures—to ax throwing to Choir Bar?'" Baysinger says. "And we're like, 'Honestly, it's the same thing!'"

"It's all an epic adventure," Henrich says. "Just in a different way."

In fact, the unifying thread between these inventive business concepts that at first glance seem to have no connection is, well, the idea of connection itself.



**B**aysinger was working as a high school guidance counselor and Henrich was a firefighter with a custom design-build operation on the side when they began tossing around business ideas in 2014.

Baysinger had discovered the concept of escape rooms; he was intrigued but realized his mechanical aptitude wasn't ideal.

"I call it dad-rigging: If I need to fix my sink, I'm at least handy enough to try. I knew I was not gonna be the guy to build an escape room. But I was like, 'Dude, I can dream up nerdy puzzles all day. Do you wanna try this together?'"

Henrich did. They traveled the country, visiting escape rooms to see how the businesses worked, and they were convinced they could do better than most they saw. They worked 14-hour days—Matt refining the concepts and Ryan building them—to get their first room, Breakout Kansas City, up and running. For customers, even finding the place was a bit of an adventure: The entrance was the back door of an old grocery

store in Kansas City's River Market neighborhood.

"Ryan and I were like, 'Man, Breakout is a fun activity,'" Baysinger says of the venture's early days, "but we didn't put a lot of thought into why. We were just working really long hours and drinking a lot of coffee."

One day a group of teenage girls came in. They successfully cracked all the clues, screaming and laughing as they broke out before time elapsed. They posed for a triumphant victory photo, then left for coffee—at the same coffee shop Baysinger and Henrich were heading to for their caffeine fix.

"We were behind them for three blocks, and the whole way they were deconstructing what they'd just done," Baysinger says.

Most amazing: Not once did they check their cellphones.

"We're behind them in line, and they still haven't pulled their phones out," Baysinger recalls, noting that players are asked to stay off their devices during the game. "So at this point they've gone an hour-and-a-half without checking their

phones, which for teenage kids just doesn't happen very often.

"Ryan and I had this moment where we were like, 'This is it. This is something that's better than.'"

Entertainment these days is often passive. We watch a movie, a play, a ball game. We sit and cheer as others *do*. Solving puzzles against a ticking clock with a half-dozen friends or family members—or hurling an ax at a plywood target—requires action.

"Whether it's an escape room, ax throwing or a group singalong, the experience doesn't move forward without the active participation of the crowd," Henrich says. "If you went to an escape room and just watched, you'd have a pretty bland experience."

What connects Swell Spark's seemingly disparate concepts is the idea that the customer drives the action—and the belief that action distinguishes adventure from mere entertainment.

Consider KU basketball.

"Most people who come to the field house will say it is the best basketball



KU students (above, l to r) Lauren Lanz, Genna Foster, Jordan Adee, Sidney Zavala, McKenzi Tochtrop and Viviana Patino busted out of Breakout KC's Y2K room before getting coached up at Blade & Timber Town Center (pp. 38-9). Below: A surprise visit from President Barack Obama on Christmas Eve 2016 brought welcome publicity—and smiles to employees' faces—at Breakout Waikiki.



COURTESY SWELL SPARK

experience in the country,” Baysinger says. That’s largely because the Jayhawks always field a good team, he allows, “but it also has to do with the fact that a lot is asked of you as students and fans during the game.”

There is newsprint to shred and toss, airballs to deride, wheat to wave and the chant—always the chant. “It’s an interactive experience, and I think that’s why people love it so much.”

It’s also a communal experience, and what the entrepreneurs realized that day in the coffee shop, as they surreptitiously watched the teenagers enthuse about their great escape, is there must be additional ways to foster that kind of thing.

“Once we realized that, oh my gosh, this is a shared experience that is helping people build relationships with each other, that was the moment,” Baysinger says.

“We were like, ‘What else?’” Henrich adds.

“What else,” Baysinger finishes, “is out there that can do this?”

**B**reakout Kansas City led to Breakout Waikiki, in Honolulu, which grew to five escape games nationwide with more planned (Breakout Lawrence was sold in 2018); Blade & Timber ax-throwing lanes in Lawrence, Kansas City, Leawood, Wichita, Seattle and Honolulu; Epic Aloha, an interactive photo experience, also in Hawaii; Choir Bar Kansas City; and a custom fabrication outfit, Catalyst Build, that designs and



STEVE PUPPE ©





constructs the fittings for each escape room at the company's 32,000-square-foot Kansas City headquarters, called the Sandbox, and ships them out for installation on site.

That extremely hands-on approach allows Swell Spark to maintain a high level of quality control, which Baysinger and Henrich believe is key to staying ahead of the competition in a business where imitation is pretty much baked into the business plan. (They didn't invent the idea of escape rooms, after all, and the concepts for Blade & Timber and Choir Bar were inspired by similar ventures in England and Australia.) Outpacing their rivals means constantly reaching for bigger and better production values. A new Blade & Timber set to open in Kansas City's Power and Light District this summer will be a \$1 million ax-throwing destination. "It's going to be over the top," Henrich says. "The only way to make sure we don't have a lot of riffraff muddling the perception of quality of our concepts is to spend a lot more money than all the competition." Their goal is to make their new escape rooms "Disney quality."

Their approach seems to work. Breakout and Blade & Timber rank No. 1 and No. 2 in Trip Advisor's Fun & Games category in Kansas City, Lawrence and Leawood, and one or the other holds the top spot in that category in Wichita and activity-rich Honolulu. For any of Swell Spark's 26 employees at headquarters who might be having a bad day and need a bit of encouragement, the standard recommendation is "go read the reviews."

"To think that a dad gets to be the hero of his kids that day for taking them to Breakout"—Baysinger, himself a father of three, gets emotional talking about it—"it's meaningful for us. It's hard to talk about without seeming overly dramatic, because a lot of people look at business as, 'Oh they're in it for the money.' Without the money we don't exist; we recognize that. But if you were to talk to all the people who work here, you would see that everyone is here because they recognize the greater implications. Read the reviews and you'll read, 'This is the best birthday I've ever had; this is the best thing I've ever

done with my dad.' There's not many better ways to make a living than providing that experience for people."

In March, Baysinger was one of seven speakers featured at a TEDx event at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, "UninhibiTED," focusing on mavericks and trailblazers with the courage to challenge norms. Near the end of his talk, he told the audience that, when it comes to business, he has "two main and grossly oversimplified goals": Make it easy for people to hand over their money, and make it easy for people to have fun together.

"I think what we've unlocked is this idea that your life is only as good as the

experiences that you share with people," Baysinger says. "If you talk to someone like my 87-year-old grandpa, they tell stories about the things they've done. We are made up of the stories we've lived. Are people remarkable because they do remarkable things, or by doing remarkable things do you become a remarkable person? I really believe that if you want to tell great stories you have to do great things. People aren't climbing mountains at our facilities—that's a whole other level of adventure—but if we can unlock the door and let them realize that by doing cool stuff their life is maybe a little more fulfilling, then mission accomplished."

The company's growth strategy focuses



COURTESY SWELL SPARK



Kansas City-area firefighters and police officers turned out for Blades of Glory, an April charity tournament that benefits families of first responders.

**“ONCE WE REALIZED THAT, OH MY GOSH, THIS IS A SHARED EXPERIENCE THAT IS HELPING PEOPLE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER, THAT WAS THE MOMENT. WE WERE LIKE, ‘WHAT ELSE? WHAT ELSE IS OUT THERE THAT CAN DO THIS?’”**

—Matt Baysinger and Ryan Henrich

on finding even more reasons for people to get together, and giving them more reasons to stay together once they do. From a corporate team-building program now in development to a plan for adding kitchens to every Blade & Timber so ax flingers can linger over burgers and chicken fingers, Swell Spark is eager to see how many different ways they can answer the question, What else?

“I would argue that probably the three or four things in life that bring people together the most are sports, music, religion and food,” Baysinger says. “We’re not gonna start a new religion, but the other three are absolutely on the table.”

**T**he quality of every shared experience Swell Spark pushes is essentially twofold: One, unless you’re already an Olympic ax-throwing puzzle whiz who absolutely lives for karaoke, you’re probably going to be stepping out of your comfort zone when you step into one of their venues. And two, they’re going to make you feel OK with that.

“We’re tapping into the idea that without a little bit of risk, there’s not often a lot of reward,” says Baysinger, who ran track at KU and recently set a Guinness World Record for the fastest relay marathon. “When you go in to do something brand new that you’ve never done in your life, there’s a vulnerability there. What if I, a 6-3, 200-pound man, can’t throw an ax very well? Oh my gosh that could be embarrassing; that could not be fun. So we are tapping into this idea that in order to have a truly memorable experience you do have to take some risk.”

Thinking your way out of a locked

room, for example, comes with the risk of failure and embarrassment.

“We get a lot of people who say, ‘I’m not smart enough to play your escape rooms,’” Henrich says. “But you can’t know that until you play. And we try to emphasize that it’s supposed to be challenging, not impossible—and it’s challenging for everyone, including smart people.”

Which is good to know: A spring break attempt to crack Breakout’s “Civil War” room with my wife and three kids turns out to be an exercise in humility. Captured and imprisoned in an enemy bunker, we try to use tools left behind by a defector to make our escape; a strong start lifts our confidence, but, alas, the timer runs out before we figure out some of the more challenging clues, even after using our full allotment of hints provided by game guides during play. None of that dulls anyone’s enthusiasm for the fun, though, especially after we see that the room rates eight on the 10-point difficulty scale, with only about 26% of teams successfully breaking out.

The doubts about ax throwing are even more deeply rooted, and predictable.

“We are fully aware,” Baysinger says wryly, “that if you were to look at every article that’s been written about ax throwing as we’ve opened in new cities, the top comment on every one is going to be some variation of, ‘Alcohol and axes, what could go wrong?’”

Extensive coaching, a wristband system that tracks alcohol consumption and a stringent safety program are designed to ensure that injury is one thing they are not willing to risk. “From the moment people walk in the door,” Baysinger says, “we have a zero tolerance policy for shenanigans.”

Events such as Throw Like a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader), which celebrates the Seattle location’s partnership with Girl Scouts of Western Washington; Blades of Glory, a tournament for Kansas City-area first responders that benefits the local Guns ‘N Hoses charity motorcycle ride; and an early morning twist on the networking meet-and-greet, coffee and ax throwing, highlight another signature tenet of the Swell Spark approach to fun: the belief that people bond more readily when doing something they’ve never done before.

“This idea of shared experiences, and what that does culturally, what that does for families or businesses, has been huge for us,” Baysinger says. “But also what we love is this idea of new experience. There’s no pressure to be good; the hope is just that you have fun. There’s a vibrancy when you have this shared thing you’re doing, when you’re not going face-to-face every time, but instead you go shoulder-to-shoulder.”

**O**nce upon a time, the most iconic example of that shoulder-to-shoulder camaraderie was the bowling league. Back when Baysinger and Henrich were born, in 1986, the archetypal Everyman outing (even Fred and Barney were in a bowling league) was already losing popularity. In his noted 1995 essay “Bowling Alone,” social scientist Robert Putnam traced the decline in American civic engagement with attendance drops at social clubs, PTA meetings and bowling leagues. While the number of people who bowled had risen 10 percent since 1980, Putnam observed, those who bowled together in league play decreased by 40 percent.

At Blade & Timber Leawood on a blossom-sotted spring night, league play is back.

Alex Pope, who formed team Sheesh and Slice with his fellow engineer, Regan Wilson, says his introduction to ax throwing came during a work retreat.

“No one in our group had ever tried it before,” Pope says. From interns to C-suite execs, everyone was a novice.



Henrich and Baysinger oversee design and construction at Swell Spark's 32,000-square-foot headquarters, which includes wood and metal shops and a supply of decommissioned arcade games they scavenge for parts. "The Sandbox is this big area where we test new ideas," Baysinger says. "It allows me to understand the sandbox of the world I can play in."

"It evens the playing field," Wilson adds. "You don't feel embarrassed if you're bad."

"It's the bowling of 2019, but it's actually easier than bowling," Pope says. "I'm much more likely to get a bull's-eye than a strike."

Though ax throwing may be a hot trend, it's not merely for the trendy: The appeal extends beyond 20-something hipsters to grandmas, tweens and teens, bachelorette parties and a sorority that rented the entire Lawrence location for Mom's Night.

"I never imagined so many women would be coming in the door," says Clint Metcalf, Leewood Blade & Timber's league coordinator. "People thought it would be lots of bearded, roughneck guys, like a lot of us who work here," jokes Metcalf, himself a big, bearded fellow whose imposing stature is moderated by a generous laugh. The self-described "avid outdoorsman raised by avid outdoorsmen" with a quarter century of competitive ax-throwing experience (yep, there's a pro circuit, the World Axe Throwing League, televised on ESPN) says women not only outnumber men, but also often out-throw them.

"And I can tell you exactly why that is," Metcalf says. "Gals listen to coaching

instructions and follow them better. The fellas get up there and it's, 'I've been selling photocopiers for 20 years, get out of my way, I know what I'm doing!'"

Metcalf and his fellow coaches tend to see the stretching of comfort zones as a draw, not a hurdle.

"I think it's great," he says, "because people like that. That's why we like scary movies. We like to be a little disrupted in our normal day to day, and something like this has a little element of danger, has the possibility that you may embarrass yourself. Or you may look gloooooorious."

Against a soundtrack of thudding axes and heavy metal music, Sheesh and Slice throwers close out game five of their match against Jam 'n' Beans, which includes musician Jim Halbasch, a guitar player who savors "the primal feel of sticking it" when a throw goes just right. He and his partner appreciate the together-time and the chance to do something completely different than what they're used to doing.


On the last throw of each game, players have the option of targeting a blue dot on the outer edge of the target, worth 10 points. In high-level games like the final match of the Leewood league's winter

tournament, where both teams made bull's-eye after bull's-eye, the final frame can become a marathon test of wills where players go back and forth, turn after turn, pummeling that blue dot until someone blinks. Leading by four, Pope and Wilson discuss whether he should risk the low-percentage, high-reward shot or play it safe.

"Big players make big plays!" Pope finally says, and goes for blue. He misses, settling for two points. But it turns out to be enough: Sheesh and Slice get their win, and the players all shake hands. "There's competition, but it's pretty chill," Wilson says, "which is perhaps a good thing, since there are axes involved."

Back when Matt Baysinger was a guidance counselor, one of his jobs was to help students write their college essays. "Often, the first draft was just garbage," he recalls. "Just terrible. They would try to play it really safe. 'Well, I don't know who's gonna read it, so I need to make sure I say something that everyone will like.' I was like, that's not how you tell a great story."

How you tell a great story, Baysinger would have us believe, is live a little. Risk looking silly. Sing off key. Take the big shot. Have some fun.

The clock is ticking, babies. Axes up. 

# Association



STEVE PUPPE (5)



## Always Jayhawks

### Rock Chalk Ball showcases the benefits of mentorship

The enduring power of Jayhawk connections took center stage at the Rock Chalk Ball April 27 at the Kansas City Convention Center, as more than 550 alumni and friends celebrated the annual event hosted by the Association's Greater Kansas City Network.

This year's theme, "Always a Jayhawk," highlighted the University's distinctive, beloved mascot and the timeless values it represents—told mainly through the compelling video story of a KU student, Thomas Angel, '20, and his alumni mentor, H.C. Palmer, c'59, m'63, who connected through the Jayhawk Career Network (JCN) and its KU Mentoring program (see First Word, p. 5).

In addition to Angel and Palmer, special guests included the ball's honorary chairs, KU football coach Les Miles and his wife, Kathy Miles; Chancellor Doug Girod and his wife, Susan Girod; and numerous other KU leaders from the Lawrence and Kansas City campuses.

For the second year, Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, a member of the

Association's national Board of Directors, and Billy Marshall, c'00, co-chaired the 14-member Rock Chalk Ball committee. Boulware also led the ball in 2017, when she co-chaired the event with Jason Booker, d'00. Booker is now Kansas City network president and a JCN volunteer.

Alumni worked with Association staff led by Kelsey Hill, c'12, assistant director of Kansas City programs; Kristi Durkin Laclé, c'99, assistant vice president of the JCN; and Nick Kallail, d'04, l'07, assistant vice president of alumni and network programs.

INTRUST Bank, a longtime Association corporate partner, was the title sponsor of the ball. Presenting sponsors included Charlie Hustle Clothing Co., which provided exclusive T-shirts for all guests; KJO Media, which produced the video of Angel and Palmer and several other videos for the evening; and Gohagen & Co., a longtime provider of Flying Jayhawks trips, which donated a November 2019 trip, Island Life in Greece: An Aegean Odyssey, to the live auction.

Emcees John Holt, j'81, l'84, Fox 4 News co-anchor, and Crystle Lampitt, c'10, host of "Kansas City Live" on KSHB-TV, guided the program. Lampitt gave a shout-out to the KU Edwards Campus, where she is pursuing her master's in



Confetti showered winning bidders during the live auction; Maddie Kentch and Gabby Foster were among the Student Alumni Leadership Board volunteers who greeted guests during the silent auction; Les and Kathy Miles served as honorary chairs; Dan Besco worked wonders with his chainsaw; partiers captured the moment as they danced to the tunes of KC Flo.

social welfare through a program that blends online coursework and lectures, enabling her to work full time; 50% of Edwards Campus students juggle full-time jobs with their KU classes.

Auctioneer Trisha Brauer and her team orchestrated the live auction. In addition to the Flying Jayhawks trip, the auction featured:

- a custom 5-foot Jayhawk created by Kansaw Carvings artist Dan Besco, a wizard with a chainsaw;
- Zipchair furniture festooned with the Jayhawk logo;
- a tour of Napa Valley's Futo Wines Vineyard donated by alumnus Tom Futo, '71;
- an exclusive painting by Kansas City artist Mike Savage, f'80;
- a football autographed by Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the NFL's 2018 Most Valuable Player; and
- the Jayhawk Car Experience, a two-week test drive of the exclusive Jayhawk Car, a KU-themed 2019 Toyota RAV4 donated by Crown Toyota and Volkswagen.

Proceeds from the ball benefit the Association's student and alumni programs, including the JCN and the Student Alumni Network. "Rock Chalk Ball was a tremendous platform to share all of the great things that are going on with the Jayhawk Career Network," Booker says. "It really helped show exactly what alumni donations were going toward and brought the stories of the individuals to life in new and meaningful ways."

## Back on the Hill

### Reunions celebrate newest members of the Gold Medal Club

Plentiful sunshine and warm spring temperatures welcomed nearly 140 Jayhawks to Mount Oread May 3-4 for the Class of 1969 and Gold Medal Club reunions. The celebrations began Friday with guided tours of campus, the Kenneth Spencer Research Library and Quantrill's Raid through Lawrence, as well as a lunch and presentation with students from the

## A NOTE FROM HEATH

### Lifelong Jayhawk connections begin with students

As I reflect on the academic year, first and foremost I am incredibly grateful for your support as members of the KU Alumni Association! I am thankful for our talented staff members, who work tirelessly to provide great experiences for our students and alumni. We continue to position your alumni association strategically to help solve big challenges facing higher education—and create new opportunities for the KU community.

In addition, we will continue to focus on how our organization can and should be relevant to Jayhawks throughout their lives, adding new value and building stronger relationships with all stakeholders.

Our Student Alumni Network (SAN) in only two years has ballooned from 1,400 to 5,700 members. SAN now stands as the largest student alumni organization in the Big 12.

Most important, we are delivering tremendous value to these students through the power of our Jayhawk Career Network (JCN). Students now have



Peterson

opportunities to connect with alumni based on their career interests—not only to learn from fellow Jayhawks but also to build their networks before they complete their

KU degrees. More than 3,500 alumni have signed up to be mentors with 1,500 student mentees. Thus far, we have facilitated more than 1,600 connections. If you would like to be a mentor, please sign up at [mentoring.ku.edu](http://mentoring.ku.edu). The JCN and SAN are just two examples of how your alumni association is creating new ways to connect students with alumni and alumni with one another.

Of course, May is always an exciting time as we welcome new graduates. The Class of 2019 includes many potential volunteer leaders, mentors, members, donors and lifelong Jayhawks who will help us strengthen the KU legacy we've all worked together to build over many generations!

Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!

—Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09  
President, KU Alumni Association

KU Honors Program. In the afternoon, alumni were treated to a special screening of "Where is Yesterday," a film written by John Hill, j'69, who died in 2017, and directed and edited by Nicholas Eliopoulos, c'69, during their senior year.

"When we were young and making this film, we were like, 'Oh, it's for the 50th reunion. That's never going to happen,'" Eliopoulos recalled with a laugh.

The film, which highlights the 1960s on the Hill and around the globe, prompted cheers and applause from Jayhawks in attendance, including Bruce Linton, assoc., professor emeritus of journalism and faculty adviser for the Class of 1969.

On Saturday, alumni and their guests gathered at the Adams Alumni Center for a luncheon and program. Among those participating included members of Sigma



SUSAN YOUNGER

Chi's pledge class of 1965: Chris Robe, b'69, l'72, and Scott Post, j'69, of Wichita; Mike Patton, c'69, of Kirkwood, Missouri, who was joined by his wife, Joyce Bond Patton, d'69, g'91; Hank Braley, j'69, of Geneva, Illinois; Jim Gilliland, j'69, l'72, of Hutchinson; Charlie Pepper, b'69, of Fairway; and Steve Adams, j'69, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the oldest son of Kenneth Stanley "Boots" Adams, '21, former CEO

# Association

SUSAN YOUNGER (3)



Class of 1969 members heard updates from KU leaders and received their 50-year pins as members of the Gold Medal Club during a May 4 lunch, the finale of their weekend reunion.

of Phillips Petroleum Company who donated \$2 million to build the Adams Alumni Center.

“We’ve gotten together over the years a number of times,” Peffer said of his pledge brothers. “The last time we got together was four years ago, because it was the 50th anniversary of when we pledged the fraternity.”

Special guest Les Miles, KU’s head football coach, opened the program with a spirited reminder, which drew boisterous cheers from the group: “Fifty years ago, your team right here in Kansas won the Big 8 conference championship,” he said. “It’s been done here. Let’s do it again.”

Carl Lejuez, interim provost and executive vice chancellor, discussed KU’s redesigned budget model, which was announced May 1, and detailed how it aligns with several strategic priorities, including student success, faculty and staff development and global research efforts. “The University is on a great path,” he told alumni, “and it’s on a great path because of what we’re doing here, but also because of people like you in this room.”

## Party like it’s 1969

### Wichita Jayhawks celebrate Woodstock at Roundup

Groovy tunes and good vibes filled KU Murfin Stables April 12 as nearly 400 KU alumni and friends gathered for the Alumni Association’s annual Jayhawk Roundup, the Wichita Network’s largest fundraising event. The theme for this year’s celebration was Hawkstock, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the legendary music festival, and dazzling peace signs, colorful daisies and miniature Volkswagen bus centerpieces captured the spirit of the 1960s.

Proceeds from the Roundup benefit the Association’s student and alumni programs, including the Jayhawk Career Network and the Student Alumni Network. Live auction highlights included a guest spot at the Bill Self Basketball Fantasy Experience and a 5-foot wooden Jayhawk carved on-site by Kansaw Carvings artist Dan Besco. Besco also provided several smaller birds for the



Guests (and far-out birds) showed off tie-dyed T-shirts, fringed vests and cool shades at the Jayhawk Roundup.

silent auction, which were given names like Joe Chalker and Tweet Water in a nod to Woodstock performers.

Steve, c’75, and Gena Gunn Dillard, ’77, chaired this year’s festivities, and longtime hosts David, e’75, b’75, and Janet Lusk Murfin, d’75, generously donated the venue. Steve Dillard and Janet Murfin serve on the Association’s national Board of Directors.

Chancellor Doug Girod and Alumni Association President Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, welcomed Roundup participants and thanked them for their dedication and support of student and alumni programs.

After indulging in a delicious barbecue buffet provided by Security 1st Title, alumni and guests, many of whom embraced the Woodstock theme by wearing bell-bottoms, flowers in their hair, fringed vests and tie-dyed T-shirts, danced the night away to music by The Source, a local Wichita band.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better evening to bring Wichita Jayhawks together,” says Danielle Lafferty Hoover, c’07, director of donor relations and Wichita programs. “It was great to see so many alumni and friends support KU and celebrate the spirit of the ’60s.”





# Stay connected to the Hill!

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- Invitations to alumni network events
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- KU wall calendar
- Merchandise discount at the KU Bookstore (in store and online)
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## Adams Alumni Center



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At the Adams Alumni Center, we believe world-class hospitality enriches the Jayhawk experience. Our location offers many options in an elegant atmosphere on the beautiful KU campus.

**“The staff was exceptional and really helped make everything run so smoothly”**  
- *Katie T.*



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## Life Members

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

Reid N. Abbott  
Lindsey B. Aberle  
Jeffrey J. & Christina D. Bandle  
Sharon K. Breit  
Kevin M. Brouillette  
Craig J. & Lisa M. Campbell  
Ryan Chaffee  
Elliott M. Chaney  
Alexander M. & Caitlin Farrington Chiles  
Taylor N. Christie  
Emma C. Creighton  
McKenzie E. Cory  
Collin D. Cox  
Janet S. Cox  
Allison L. Elliott  
Ashley Elliott

Ashton L. Fee  
Julia C. Filardi  
Leslie Letts Gaudreau  
Amanda Swanson Goff  
Eric A. Gormly  
Christopher W. Gough  
Kathleen MacNaughton Hance  
Sarah G. Heitmeyer  
William W. Humphrey  
Lynela H. Jarjur  
Jane Robinson Johnston  
Kim Guthrie Jones  
Zoya S. Khan  
Henry J. Killen  
Patricia A. Konopka  
Jane C. Lang  
Coupar C. Lester

Cassandra J. Leyden  
Mallory A. McKee  
Brian McTaggart  
Joseph W. Medved  
Bryan E. & Stephanie Wing Meyer  
Michele Kraak Nelson  
Luke A. Nitchals  
Jessica Palacios  
Randall C. Phillips  
Michael N. & Esther L. Ray  
Jacob W. Rogers  
Ronald K. Sadler  
Todd A. & Leslie C. Schmidt  
Betsy J. Snell  
Erin Sommer  
Lindsey A. Spencer  
Richard E. Terry  
Kaelyn N. Tierolf  
Bethany M. Thomas  
Corbin F. Trimble  
John M. Trombold  
Ellen M. Waters  
JoAnn M. Williams  
Michael E. Wilson



DAN STOREY

## New staff

**M**erideth Warinner, d'16, joined the Association in March as coordinator of operations and membership. After leaving the Hill, she completed her master's in sport management at The Ohio State University before joining Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, as coordinator of athletic operations and events. This is her fourth time living in Lawrence, and she's happy to return home.



# TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH THE FLYING JAYHAWKS



# 2020 DESTINATIONS

## Sunny Islands and Andes

January 3-22

## Antarctica

January 15-28

## Panama Canal and Costa Rica

January 16-24

## Exploring Australia and New Zealand

January 25-February 15

## Journey to South Africa

February 9-24

## Captivating Colombia

February 21-29

## Israel

March 22-31

## Treasures of Portugal and Southern Spain

March 26-April 9

## Sorrento

April 1-9

## Southern Grandeur

April 20-28

## European Coastal Civilizations

April 27-May 6

## Dutch Waterways

April 28-May 6

## Kentucky Derby

April 30-May 3

## Aegean Medley

May 14-25

## Paris

May 16-24

## Inland Sea of Japan

May 19-30

## Cultural Poland

May 23-31

## Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords

May 23-31

## Africa's Wildlife

June 6-19

## Celtic Lands

June 7-16

## Oberammergau

June 9-19

## Great Journey through Europe

July 8-18

## Gaelic Inspiration

July 12-22

## Nordic Magnificence

July 12-22

## Scotland

August 3-11

## Discover Southeast Alaska

August 7-14

## Emperors & the Opulent

August 28-September 8

## Northern Serenade

August 29-September 11

## Ireland Wild Atlantic Way

September 5-13

## Flavors of Northern Italy

September 5-13

## Singapore, Thailand and Angkor Wat

September 10-23

## Grand Danube Passage

September 24-October 9

## Machu Picchu to the Galapagos

October 6-21

## Tanzania

October 6-17

## Cosmopolitan Havens

November 3-11

## Legends of the Nile

November 3-14

## Holiday Markets

December 11-19



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For the latest dates and detailed trip descriptions, visit [kualumni.org/travel](http://kualumni.org/travel) or call **800-584-2957**.

# Andrew Wymore

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**58 Hugh Grant**, b'58, is on the board of directors of Tetra Tech. He lives in San Marino, California, where he retired after 38 years with Ernst & Young.

**59 Joan Stafford**, b'59, lives in Pasadena, California, where she retired from a career in human resources management at Pelco, a security company.

**60 Trudy Gier James**, c'60, is an interfaith chaplain in Seattle. She's former director of the AIDS CareTeam in Arkansas.

**Roger Stanton**, c'60, l'63, an attorney in Overland Park, in February received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. He's been practicing law for 55 years.

**61 T. Michael Garrison**, e'61, is retired director of business development at George Butler Associates. He and **Roberta Johnson Garrison**, c'62, make their home in Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

The Rev. **John Kimberlin**, c'61, has served at several churches across the country and is currently volunteering as assistant pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Branson, Missouri. He and **Alicia Harris Kimberlin**, '64, live in Hollister and have been married for 57 years.

**62 Charles Kulier**, PhD'62, retired as a research chemist at Pfizer. He lives in Holland, Michigan.

**John Zimbrick**, g'62, PhD'67, is professor emeritus at Colorado State University and an adjunct professor of health sciences at Purdue University. In March he received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who.

**66 Timothy Miller**, c'66, g'69, g'71, PhD'73, wrote *Communes in America 1975-2000*, which was published in March by Syracuse University Press. He's professor of religious studies at KU.

**69 Tony Gogel**, g'69, retired as senior vice president at Arcadis US, a design and consulting company. He splits

his time between Leawood and Scottsdale, Arizona.

**71 Ola Stover Faucher**, c'71, g'88, will retire in May as director of human resource management at KU, a role she has held since 1998. She was honored in 2018 as the University's Employee of the Year.

**Katherine Kruger Noble**, j'71, is editorial manager at United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee.

**72 David Cogswell**, '72, contributed to *Are You Still Listening?: 1969 Stories & Essays*, which was published in January by Brent Green & Associates.

**Brent Green**, c'72, lives in Denver, where he recently wrote and published *Are You Still Listening?: 1969 Stories & Essays*. It's his sixth book.

**Christine Fuller Scheuneman**, c'72, serves on the board of directors of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach in California. She is an attorney and recently retired as partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman.

**73 Wade Martin III**, c'73, m'77, in March received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. During his 42-year career, he has served as a physician at the VA St. Louis Health Care System and as professor of medicine at Washington University in St. Louis.

**74 Robert Bruegging**, d'74, is vice president of product management at Race Winning Brands. He lives in Avon Lake, Ohio.

**William Cathcart-Rake**, m'74, will retire in June as dean of the KU School of Medicine-Salina. He has led the Salina campus since its inception in 2011.

**William Ferguson**, c'74, teaches English as a second language for the Parent Academy in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Allen Worob**, g'74, is the global site chaplain for thenewstalkers.com. He founded and co-manages the Chaplain's Corner.

**75 Grant Milleret**, b'75, g'77, lives in Las Vegas, where he's a CPA at CliftonLarsonAllen.

**76 Paul Carttar**, c'76, serves on the board of directors for panOpen, a learning platform that uses open educational resources. He is co-founder and partner at International Venture Philanthropy Center and former executive vice chancellor for external affairs at KU.

**Manuel "Tony" Domenech**, h'76, is program director and associate professor of physical therapy at the University of St. Augustine in Austin, Texas.

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

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

## Class Notes

**Gregory Mathis**, c'76, retired after more than 40 years with the Navy-Marine Corps Team. He lives in Fort Washington, Maryland.

**Robin Walker-Lee**, c'76, was elected to the board of directors of Emcor Group Inc. She recently served as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of TRW Automotive Holdings. Robin makes her home in Naples, Florida.

**77 Michael Heck**, j'77, is real estate counsel for Payless ShoeSource. He makes his home in Lawrence.

**78 James Baker**, c'78, lives in Carlsbad, California, where he's a senior principal engineer for the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Charles Fairchild**, c'78, l'80, is an attorney at Fairchild & Fairchild in Kansas City, where he makes his home.

**79 Kenneth Cook**, c'79, m'83, in February received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award

from Marquis Who's Who. He is a diagnostic radiologist in Corpus Christi, Texas, and has been practicing since 1987.

**Lisa McElwee-White**, c'79, is Crow Professor of Chemistry and chair of the department at the University of Florida in Gainesville. In April she received the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal from the American Chemical Society.

**Clyde "Butch" Tate**, c'79, l'82, a retired major general in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, in April received the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. He and **Lynn Klotz Tate**, d'79, make their home in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

**80 Kathleen Sebelius**, g'80, is president and CEO of Sebelius Resources, a strategic consulting firm in Lawrence. The former Kansas governor and secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also recently joined the board of directors of Exact Sciences Corp.

**Patrick Thompson**, l'80, a judge on the 28th District Court in Saline and Ottawa counties, sat with the Kansas Supreme Court in January. He makes his home in Salina.

### MARRIED

**David Miller**, c'80, and **Kathleen Ammel**, c'91, Feb. 22 in Lawrence, where they make their home.

**81 Steven Dillman**, c'81, lives in Kansas City, where he's managing partner at Jayhawk Midtown Development.

**Mary Kennedy**, c'81, directs the Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. She previously served as CEO and executive director of Mid-America Arts Alliance in Kansas City.

**Evelyn Greer Magley**, d'81, is CEO of The Basketball League, a professional men's sports league. She and **David**, c'82, a former NBA player, co-founded the organization in 2018.

**Robert Moser**, p'81, m'85, is the new dean of the School of Medicine-Salina.

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For the past five years he has served as executive director and chief medical officer of the Kansas Clinical Improvement Collaborative at the University of Kansas Health System.

**Gregory Voth**, c'81, in April was honored with the Joel Henry Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Chemistry of Liquids by the American Chemical Society. He's Haig P. Papazian Distinguished Service Professor in the department of chemistry at the University of Chicago.

**82 Toni Eilerts**, c'82, is a geoscientist at the Railroad Commission of Texas in Austin. She lives in Missouri City, Texas.

**83 Steve Flood**, j'83, is regional general manager at Hyundai Motor America's southern regional office. He and **Sharon Bodin Flood**, j'86, c'87, g'87, who retired in 2018 from a career in finance and accounting, live in Woodstock, Georgia.

**Myron Frans**, l'83, in April received

the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he's the state's management and budget commissioner.

**84 Jeanny Jackson Sharp**, j'84, directs public affairs for the Kansas Department of Corrections. She makes her home in Emporia.

**85 Andrea Mitchell Walsh**, b'85, c'85, is president and CEO of Health Partners in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Grad lives boyhood dream in national parks

**J**ustin Unger, deputy superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, concedes that 1.5 million acres of subtropical prairie can't compete with instant gratifications of purple mountains majesty—a lesson he first learned as a seasonal employee at Yellowstone National Park during his KU undergraduate years.

"We call it the 'aha moment,' which is, you come around the corner and there's Old Faithful erupting. It's in your face," Unger, c'03, g'05, says from his Homestead, Florida, office. "You drive through the entrance to Everglades and it's pretty damn humble. Look, there's a wood stork. Or, one lone alligator hanging out."

Unger equates the Everglades experience to that certain something that Kansans treasure in the Flint Hills: "It requires you to get out of the car and just be patient and let the landscape reveal itself to you. It doesn't happen on your timescale. It's a subtle landscape. You have to slow down and pay attention to it."

Unger keeps in his office a poster he made when he was 6 years old, announcing his intention to one day work for the U.S. National Park Service. Harboring the common stereotype of park rangers'

expertise and passions, he came to KU as a biology major; after Unger spent his first summer as a seasonal employee, he saw that the parks are, in essence, cities, with identical issues, challenges and job opportunities.

He morphed into a history major, focused on American Indian history; the park-as-municipality mindset also drove him to earn a master's in public administration: "Best career decision I've ever made, to go through the KU MPA program, for sure."

Before moving to South Florida five years ago, Unger had been chief of administration for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, overseeing more than 350 employees and an annual base budget of \$33 million. He explains that, dressed in civilian clothes, he escorted new employees to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where they would wait until a visitor arrived to stencil a name, and he'd whisper, "Always remember what you're seeing."

Unger carries those memories as he tends to a UNESCO World Heritage site and International Biosphere Reserve still reeling from recent hurricanes and undergoing billions of dollars of restoration and repair to undo damage caused by decades of short-sighted development while also preserving drinking-water



COURTESY JUSTIN UNGER

Justin Unger says his biology and Native American history studies were both about "the interface between people and an environment and how both of them shape the landscape."

resources for the coastal metropolis.

"The moment that any of us forget why we're here—to heal those wounds, whether that's here in the Everglades or at a D.C. war memorial—then it's time to move on and do something different. To me, that's still a powerful lesson. You are truly a steward to America's treasures.

"That's why I do what I do, and I love it."

## Class Notes



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**86 Donelle Meyer Broskow**, c'86, g'95, is in workforce development for the U.S. Air Force. She makes her home in Columbia, Maryland.

**Patty Skalla Gentrup**, j'86, g'90, is interim director of the Public Management Center at KU School of Public Affairs & Administration.

**Rob Thomson**, '86, a Canada native and bench coach for the Philadelphia Phillies, was inducted in the 2019 Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. He played for the Jayhawks from 1984 to '85 and was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 1988. He has spent the past 30 years in various coaching and administrative roles for several professional baseball teams.

**87 Carey Craig**, c'87, directs human resources at Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System.

**Mark Fields**, c'87, is chief human resources officer for the city of Tuscaloosa in Alabama.

**89 Allen Humphrey**, c'89, g'98, is an employee relations specialist at Olathe Health.

**Jeff Robertson**, c'89, lives in Russellville, Arkansas, where he's dean of Arkansas Tech University's College of Natural and Health Sciences and professor of astrophysics. He also directs the campus astronomical observatory.

**90 Deborah Murphy**, j'90, lives in Kansas City, where she's a consultant, strategist and coach at Rain BDM, a business development and marketing firm.

**Jon Trevisani**, m'90, is medical director and founder of the Aesthetic Surgery Centre in Maitland, Florida.

**91 David Engel**, e'91, is president of CCI Mechanical in West Valley City, Utah.

**Jyll Standiford Kafer**, c'91, directs alumni relations at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

**Steve Schaefer**, j'91, is president of Selig Leasing Company in Milwaukee.

**92 Darren James**, a'92, was promoted to president of KAI Enterprises, an architectural, engineering and construction services firm. He has worked for the company since 1993 and most recently served as president and COO of KAI Texas.

**Mark Spencer**, j'92, is vice president of marketing at MobileUp Software in Overland Park. He and **Christa**, assoc., vice president of marketing at Mariner Wealth Advisors, live in Overland Park.

**93 Dan DeFreece**, m'93, is a family physician and president of CHI Health St. Mary's in Nebraska City, Nebraska, where he makes his home with his wife, Kay.

**Catharine Hamm**, '93, lives in Glendale, California, where she's travel editor at the Los Angeles Times.



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**Jeffrey Paulsen**, p'93, is a pharmacist at PharMerica in Overland Park.

**Matt Tucker**, b'93, senior vice president of wealth management at UBS Financial Services in Kansas City, was named to the 2019 Forbes/Shook Best-in-State Wealth Advisers list. He and **Angie Bryan Tucker**, c'93, live in Leawood with their four children.

**94 John Bradford**, c'94, e'94, is provost of global initiatives and dean of earth resources and environmental programs at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.

**Craig Brown**, c'94, j'94, is lead video editor at Garmin in Olathe. He and **Megan Shoup Brown**, b'93, g'94, live in Leawood and have three daughters, one of whom, Bridget, is a sophomore at KU.

**Holly Reynolds**, d'94, in April was inducted in the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame. She was on the KU women's golf team from 1990 to '94 and went on to play professionally, after winning the Vermont Women's Golf Association's amateur

championships a record nine times.

**95 Chad Lawhorn**, j'95, in February was named publisher of the Lawrence Journal-World. He has been with the newspaper since 2001 and has served as a reporter, managing editor and editor. Chad and his wife, Kristine, live in Eudora with their two children.

**Larry Thiel**, b'95, is managing director of Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, a mortgage-banking firm in Denver.

**96 Tad Gomez**, p'96, is president of Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. He and **Kerry Hogan Gomez**, b'95, have a daughter, Ansley.

**Tara Humston**, b'96, was promoted to senior vice president of the supervision and risk management division at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She's also a member of the management committee. Tara has been with the bank since 1998 and most recently served as vice president of community bank supervision activities.

**Eric Madden**, c'96, l'99, was named to the 2019 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America list. He's a partner at Reid Collins and Tsai in Dallas.

**Jenny Cascone Mosh**, l'96, is an attorney and shareholder at Polsinelli in Kansas City.

**97 Matt Allen**, g'97, in November received the Buford Watson Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Management from the Kansas Association of City/County Management. He has served as the city manager of Garden City since 2008.

**Paul Mills**, c'97, works at iModules in Kansas City, where he's senior director of software engineering. He and **Tiffany Keithley Mills**, d'99, who directs children's ministry at Christ Church Anglican in Overland Park, have four children.

**98 Katrina Davis-Salazar**, f'98, is an artist and adjunct instructor at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.

**Alexis McKinley Jones**, c'98, g'01, '17, is

regional director at CEA Study Abroad. She makes her home in Shawnee.

**Ann Volin**, g'98, g'00, PhD'06, lives in Brookings, South Dakota, where she's executive director of the South Dakota Humanities Council.

**99 Andrea Snowden**, l'99, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she's second vice president and assistant general counsel at Ameritas.

**00 Christopher Chelko**, d'00, manages events for the city of Anaheim in

California. He lives in Long Beach.

**Kelly Howard Gaynes**, c'00, h'05, is a clinical lab scientist at Olathe Medical Center.

**Wendy Klein Hill**, b'00, is chief people officer at Netsmart Technologies in Overland Park.

**Tiffany Seeman Hurwitz**, j'00, was promoted to partner at Siegfried, Rivera, Hyman, Lerner, De La Torre, Mars & Sobel in Coral Gables, Florida. She specializes in construction law and leads the firm's contract drafting department.

**Christopher Randle**, c'00, l'03, is an

attorney at Arcadia Settlements Group in Chicago. He works remotely from Clearwater, where he lives with **Holly**, assoc.

**Devon Reese**, l'00, an attorney and partner at Reese Kintz in Reno, Nevada, was recently elected to the city council.

**Kyndra Stockdale**, c'00, l'03, in February was appointed associate circuit judge for the 16th Circuit Court in Kansas City. She's a senior attorney at Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford.

**Jason Thoren**, d'00, in February was named head football coach at Baker University in Baldwin City. He was the

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Fisher leads law firm into new cannabis era

Crowe & Dunlevy is the oldest law firm in Oklahoma. It has produced more federal judges than any other firm in the state and more presidents of the American Bar Association than any other law firm in the country.

"So it's about as stuffy as it gets," says one of its own attorneys, Eric Fisher, j'88, who delights in the irony of seeing his new, tattooed clients roaming the halls. They and other eager entrepreneurs are welcomed at Crowe & Dunlevy since Oklahomans last August unexpectedly approved medical marijuana.

Joining forces with a free-spirited young lawyer in the firm—whom Fisher describes as "one of the smartest lawyers I know and an absolutely incredible litigator"—Fisher last fall convinced Crowe & Dunlevy management to establish a cannabis industry practice group, which Fisher chairs.

"I literally get three phone calls a week from new clients," Fisher says, "and I have since October of last year."

Fisher studied advertising at KU, then earned a master's in marketing at Northwestern University and took his first job

out of school at Bayer Bess Vanderwarker, a Chicago advertising firm—all while fending off his father's pleas that he consider law school. Not that he would have joined the family firm: His father was a cardiac transplant surgeon who was in his 50s when he enrolled in law school night courses, eventually graduating, passing the bar and becoming a malpractice litigator before returning to medicine.

Early in his tenure at the ad agency, Fisher worked on a dog food account that was sued for deceptive advertising. He dug into the unfair trade practices act to understand why the customer sued, and helped the parties settle. That's when law took root, and Fisher returned home for law school and a career at Crowe & Dunlevy, where he has for years honed his skills for helping an "entrepreneurial set of clients" establish new businesses.

Now that's happening in an entirely new industry. Many marijuana clients have no business experience and none have experience in a legalized marijuana industry. Most are surprised to learn that IRS regulations will prevent them from deducting business expenses, and, for now, federal banking regulations will prevent them from securing loans or even using credit cards. It's an all-cash industry. (Fisher recently met with a client who had



COURTESY ERIC FISHER

Eric Fisher's former brother-in-law did four years in federal prison for flying marijuana into Colorado ski resorts: "Today he'd be a celebrity. A kingpin. We're at a cultural crossroads."

.....  
\$400,000 perched atop his desk after selling his legal marijuana crop.)

But most will push through, with the help of a good lawyer, because there's money to be made. A lot of money.

"In California, it's a \$10 billion business. In Colorado, it's about \$8.5 billion. A year," Fisher says. "We recognize that this is going to be a big, legitimate industry, and in all likelihood will be federally approved in a couple of years, and we needed to be out front of it." —

# Class Notes

program's assistant coach for the past 15 seasons and earned Heart of America Assistant Coach of the Year honors three times. Jason was a starting linebacker at KU from 1994 to '97.

**01 Jay Cherwin Jr.**, f'01, in March was named partner at Meltzer Purtil & Stelle in Chicago. He focuses his practice on commercial real estate.

**Steven Elliott**, f'01, lives in Wayne, Nebraska, where he's vice president of academic affairs at Wayne State College.

**Amanda Kaschube**, j'01, directs sports content for the Chicago Tribune. She's been with the newspaper since 2002.

## BORN TO

**Seth**, b'01, and **Betsy Winetroub Lindsey**, c'05, daughter, Nell Elizabeth, Jan. 29 in Mission Hills.

**02 Megan Schemmel**, f'02, is a website developer and co-founder of All Aboard Apps. She makes her home in Lake Quivira.

**Igor Taber**, e'02, works for DataRobot, a software company in Boston. He's senior vice president of corporate development and strategy.

**Jeremy Williams**, a'02, is executive creative director at Dimensional Innovations in Overland Park.

**03 Tyson Blatchford**, m'03, is a physician at South Central Kansas Medical Center in Arkansas City. In January he was honored as the hospital's Integrity Health Professionals Lifesaver of the Month.

**Mark Rothert**, g'03, is city manager of Pekin, Illinois.

**04 Thomas Elafros**, g'04, is president and CEO of Green Globe International, a CBD and cannabis supply chain company in Murrieta, California.

**Meka White Morris**, j'04, is chief revenue officer at ISM Connect, a technology and media firm in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

**Melanie Wilson Rughani**, c'04, an

associate at Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City, is secretary of the Oklahoma Bar Association's appellate practice section.

## MARRIED


**Menneka Scott**, n'04, to Brian Roper, Jan. 12 in Kansas City. They make their home in Overland Park, where Menneka is a nurse at Providence Medical Center.

**05 Kelly Brogan**, c'05, lives in Silt, Colorado, where she's an industrial hemp farmer at Hemp Valley Farm.

**Devin Sikes**, c'05, f'08, in January was promoted to counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C. He also was named to the city's 2019 Rising Stars list.

**06 Molly Tucker Butkus**, c'06, lives in Houston, where she's an attorney and partner at Bracewell.

**Amanda McEwen**, c'06, '07, founded Mod Girl Marketing in Sacramento, California.




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**HISTORY**  
The Williams Education Fund was originally founded as the Outland Club by Dick, Skipper and Odd Williams in 1949. In 1973, the Outland Club became known as the Williams Education Fund to honor the Williams Family for its commitment to Kansas Athletics.

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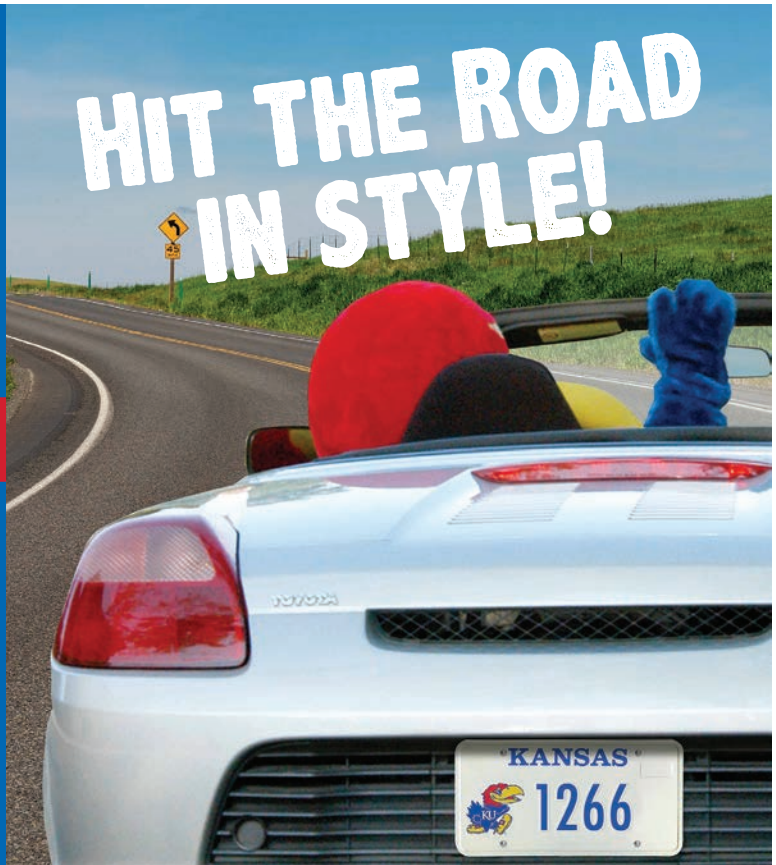
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**Nicole Lynch Porter**, d'06, teaches in the De Soto School District. She and her husband, Courtney, live in Olathe.

**Jacob Strecker**, d'06, is owner and vice president of sales and marketing at INA Alert in Ellinwood. In March the security company received the Outstanding Newcomer Achievement Award from Avigilon.

**Ryan Weiss**, g'06, is president of SEAM Strategies in Elgin, Illinois, where he lives with his wife, Rebecca, and their four children.

**07 Jennifer Bergman**, j'07, manages marketing at Snell & Wilmer. She makes her home in Irvine, California.

**Patricia Crawley**, m'07, is a cardiologist at DeBakey Heart Institute at Hays Medical Center, which is part of the University of Kansas Health System.

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

**Jonathan Kealing**, c'07, j'07, lives in

Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he's chief network officer at the Institute for Non-profit News.

**Lori Mueller**, l'07, works for PPL Electric Utilities in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she's vice president of customer services.

**Mark Nuss**, b'07, directs Summit Equity Group. He lives in Overland Park with **Cara**, g'14, and their son, Evan.

**Peter Simonsen**, c'07, l'10, is a risk management and insurance consultant at Charlesworth Consulting in Kansas City.

**Jacey Thomson**, d'07, lives in Claremore, Oklahoma, where she's a physical therapist at Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma.

### MARRIED

**Joel Leader**, d'07, to Brad Grant, March 9 in Anna, Texas. They live in Frisco, where Joel is an assistant principal at Lewisville High School. He's also pursuing his doctoral degree in educational leadership at the University of North Texas.

### BORN TO:

**Andrea Wolf McLin**, c'07, '08, and her husband, Ryan, daughter, Ava Grace, Feb. 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. Andrea is a physician assistant at Epiphany Dermatology.

**08 Dustin Bradley**, l'08, is an attorney and owns Bradley Law Firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Denise Kunze Farmer**, g'08, in March was presented KU's C.L.A.S.S. Award for her commitment to student support. She is a student success coach and adviser for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' online degree program.

**Trisha Jackson**, g'08, PhD'12, teaches physical science at Pratt Community College.

**Alyson Beach James**, c'08, is a senior compliance analyst at Waddell & Reed in Mission. She and **Elmer**, c'04, make their home in Leawood.

**Maxx Krueger**, c'08, lives in Liberty, Missouri, where he's vice president of business banking at Bank of America.

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**Patrick McCormick**, e'08, e'13, PhD'18, in April received the Robert T. Hill Best Dissertation Award from the Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society. He works at the Sensors Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

**09 Andrew Clark**, j'09, g'14, is lead marketing automation developer at Genpact. He lives in Loveland, Ohio.

**Joseph Krsnich**, b'09, is an adviser at ICT Health Insurance Agency in Wichita.

**Courtney Longino**, c'09, lives in Houston, where she's senior catering sales manager at Z Resorts and Hotel ZaZa.

**Lindsay Sax**, c'09, is a news producer at KOAA-TV in Colorado Springs.

**Karson Thompson**, d'09, is an attorney at Butler Snow in Austin, Texas. He specializes in commercial litigation.

**Robbyn Franklin Traylor**, m'09, was named one of 2019's Top Women in Healthcare by Texas Healthcare Diversity Council. She's chief medical officer at Next Level Urgent Care in Richmond.

**Nikki Keene Woods**, g'09, g'11, PhD'12, is an associate professor of public health sciences at Wichita State University. She and **Ryan**, assoc., live in Wichita and have three daughters, Sloan, Quinn and Nell.

**10 Jake Cornett**, g'10, is executive director of Disability Rights Oregon in Portland. He previously served as senior adviser to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Jake and **Ramsey Cox**, j'10, who directs media relations and public

## PROFILE by Heather Biele

### Love for Latin America fuels Netflix PR manager

When Lawrence native Sarah Stern was a senior at Free State High School, she participated in a two-week exchange program to Encarnación, Paraguay's third-largest city and the site of the boisterous Carnaval Encarnaceno festivities.

"It just really shook me," says Stern, c'13, j'13. "I had traveled, but I had never been to Latin America before. When I was there, I just realized how much I didn't know about the world around me."

Determined to remedy that upon arriving at KU, Stern spoke with Anita Herzfeld, g'65, g'74, PhD'78, longtime professor and undergraduate director of Latin American studies, who helped guide Stern's decision to pursue a degree in the program. A double major with strategic communications helped Stern prepare for a career in the corporate world.

During her four years at KU, Stern took advantage of several opportunities to stay connected to the lively Latin American communities and culture she had grown to love. In May 2011, she traveled to Rocinha, Brazil, for three weeks with Gary Mark Smith, j'84, a global street photographer, and videographer Carlos Beltran, c'09, j'09, to capture images of everyday life in

Rio de Janeiro's largest gang-filled favela, or shantytown. Stern, a photography enthusiast who is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, acted as a translator during the trip and also took photos, which were published with Smith's in the book *Favela da Rocinha, Brazil*.

Later that year, Stern earned a fellowship from Kansas Paraguay Partners to return to South America, where she worked with Fundación Paraguaya, a nonprofit organization that empowers women to explore their entrepreneurial potential through microfinance services. She also danced in the Carnaval Encarnaceno after studying samba for more than a year. These accomplishments and more landed Stern on Glamour magazine's Top Ten College Women of 2012 list and in KU's 2012-'13 Women of Distinction calendar.

Now manager of the Latin America communications team at Netflix, Stern frequently travels from her home base in Los Angeles to Mexico and several countries throughout Central and South America, promoting the streaming-media provider's brand in the press. Last year she lived in São Paulo for seven months, working at one of Netflix's international offices.

"People kind of chuckle when I say I studied Latin American history and strategic communications, and I'm doing




COURTESY SARAH STERN

"I've been really lucky to have a few of those pinch-me moments throughout my career and throughout my time at KU," says Sarah Stern, who manages communications at Netflix in Latin America.

.....  
exactly that," Stern says.

Though her current position at Netflix, which she's held for more than three years, keeps Stern challenged and fulfills her passion for travel and learning new skills, she's eager to flip the page on the next chapter of her life.

"I have a lot of runway," she says. "I can see that there's a lot more room to grow. Having that runway is exciting because I'm still figuring out what my life and my career are going to look like in one year, two years, five years. I think that excitement about the future is what really keeps me motivated." 

## Class Notes

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affairs at the Beer Institute, live in Washington, D.C.

**Leslee Marks Rivarola**, g'10, is city administrator of Basehor. She lives in Lenexa.

**11 Eugene Cody**, '11, is a data associate at the Hopi Foundation in Kykotsmovi Village, Arizona.

**Emily Ellison**, c'11, is an administrative assistant to the assistant football coaches at Kansas Athletics. She lives in Lawrence.

**12 Danford Bryant**, g'12, is deputy director of the interagency partnership program at the United States Special Operations Command. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Patrick Eland**, j'12, lives in Dallas, where he's associate manager of sponsorships at Keurig Dr. Pepper.

**James Gentile**, b'12, g'19, is team lead and engineering manager at Cerner in Kansas City. He lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

**Patrick Martin**, c'12, is an account

manager at RTS Financial in Overland Park.

**Amanda Roberts**, j'12, lives in Chicago, where she's brand manager at Stolen Spirits.

**13 Eric Buller**, Edd'13, is president of the National Collegiate Boxing Association and director of the Harry T. Wilks Leadership Institute at Miami University in Miami, Ohio. In March he joined USA Boxing board of directors as the affiliated member director.

**Trent Davis**, m'13, in January was elected mayor of Salina. He's a neurologist at Salina Regional Health Center.

**Connor Hays**, c'13, lives in Lawrence, where he's a senior researcher at Bloom, a credit solutions company.

**Moneeshindra Mittal**, m'13, is a psychiatrist and medical director at Ascension Via Christi Behavioral Health Center in Wichita.

**14 Katherine "Kayla" Benson**, n'14, is a captain in the U.S. Air Force. She

currently is serving as an aeromedical evacuation flight nurse in Okinawa, Japan.

**Jillian Dryden**, c'14, lives in Kansas City, where she's a strategic marketing consultant at McClatchy.

**Blaine Kaehr**, b'14, is a financial analyst on the investment research team at Coltala Holdings in Fort Worth.

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

**Andrew Kerstein**, m'14, is senior behavioral health medical director at St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City.

**Christin Pham**, b'14, is a junior buyer for Rally House. She makes her home in Overland Park.

**Hannah Wise**, j'14, audience development editor at the Dallas Morning News, recently was named to Editor & Publisher's 25 under 35 list.

**Lisa Wojcehowicz**, j'14, lives in Kansas City, where she's a senior account executive at GlynnDevins, a senior-living marketing and advertising agency.

**15 Nathaniel Abeita**, e'15, is a civil engineer at TranSystems Corp. in Kansas City. He and **Sara Hettenbach Abeita**, c'15, who teaches at Free State High School, live in Lawrence.

**Caitlin Farrington Chiles**, m'15, is a family medicine physician at Hunter Health Clinic. She lives in Wichita with **Alexander**, c'10, a physical therapist.

**Danielle Doerr Johnson**, b'15, is a public relations and interactive marketing specialist at Midland Memorial Hospital in Austin, Texas.

**Josh Kurelac**, j'15, is a weekend sports anchor and reporter at WJAC 6 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

**Benjamin Leinwetter**, c'15, works at Computek Dental Systems, where he's a sales engineer. He lives in Denver.

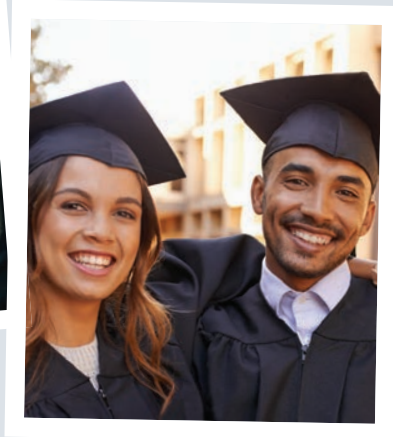
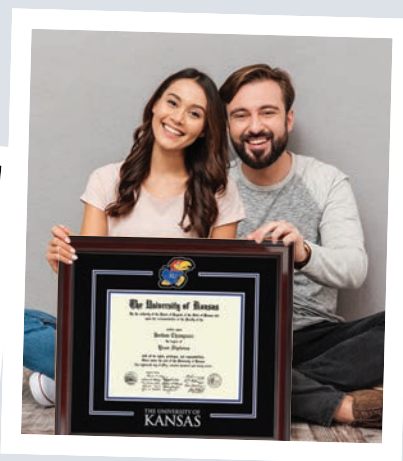
**Tony Reames**, PhD'15, is assistant professor in the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**Haley Burgess Strube**, h'15, manages operations at Scott City HealthMart Pharmacy. She and **Robert**, '15, make their home in Scott City.

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### MARRIED

**Natalie Scott**, h'15, g'17, and **Joseph Kivlin**, h'17, g'19, Dec. 15 in Mission, where they make their home. Natalie is an occupational therapist at Aegis Therapies.

**16 Margaret Hair**, g'16, directs external affairs at the KU School of Law. She lives in Lawrence with **Zachary Fridell**, l'16, assistant revisor of statutes for the state of Kansas.

**Merideth Warinner**, d'16, coordinates operations and membership at the KU Alumni Association.

**17 Kelly Cordingley**, c'17, j'17, lives in Chicago, where she manages marketing and content at Travel Mindset.

**Gerald Dessus**, g'17, in January was named to the International Literacy Association's 30 Under 30 list. He teaches social justice at Mastery Charter School's Shoemaker Campus in Philadelphia.

**Meredith Hess**, b'17, g'18, is an auditor at Deloitte in Kansas City.

**Brandon McDonald**, c'17, is an analyst at

Zurich in Overland Park. He commutes from Lawrence.

**Luke McElwain**, g'17, g'18, is an intern at Yaeger Architecture in Overland Park.

**Alexandria Petitjean O'Rourke**, c'17, lives in Overland Park, where she's a human resources specialist at Hallmark Cards.

**William Twaler**, g'17, is a chef and associate professor at the International Culinary Institute in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

### MARRIED

**Taylor McElhaney**, d'17, to Kala White, Aug. 4 in Oologah, Oklahoma. They make their home in Hutchinson.

**18 Christian Blair**, l'18, is an associate attorney at Kutak Rock in Omaha, Nebraska. He specializes in trademark clearance and technology transactions.

**Mercedes Bounthapanya**, c'18, lives in Lawrence, where she's an administrative assistant and coordinates diversity, equity and inclusion at the College of Liberal Arts

& Sciences. She also is a makeup artist and hosted two tutorial events on campus this spring.

**Caroline Burkard**, j'18, is a multimedia journalist at WECT News 6 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

**Alisha Casey**, b'18, is an IFS business analyst at DSI in Kansas City.

**Walter Kalu**, m'18, is a psychiatric hospitalist at Ascension Via Christi Behavioral Health Center in Wichita.

**Lauren Muth**, a'18, lives in Prairie Village, where she's a creative strategist at Lighthouse Global.

**Ian Shea-Cahir**, g'18, g'19, directs communications at Eisterhold Associates in Kansas City. He lives in Shawnee.

**19 Alejandro Besada**, c'19, is chief instructor at Elite Martial Arts in Overland Park. He lives in Leawood.

**Renee Clare-Kovacs**, g'19, is lead roaster at Caffeinated Content in Atlanta. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Cumming, Georgia.

**McKenzi Davis**, j'19, works at KSNT in Topeka, where she's a multimedia journalist.

**Jennifer Chappell Deckert**, g'19, is an assistant professor of social work at Bethel College in North Newton. She and her husband, Aaron, have three children, Lydia, Andy and Abby.

**Dylan Driver**, b'19, manages projects at ATG Sports in Andover. He lives in Wichita.

**Adina East**, g'19, teaches fourth grade at Liberty Oaks Elementary School in Liberty, Missouri. She lives in Lee's Summit and has two children, Trinity and Avery.

**Alexis Gough-Worley**, b'19, is a reporting analyst at Cerner. She lives in Overland Park.

**Ashley Klymiuk**, PhD'19, lives in Chicago, where she manages paleobotany collections at the Field Museum of Natural History.

**Jordan Lamb**, b'19, is an accounting clerk at Gary Crossley Ford in Kansas City.

**Taylor McMurtry**, c'19, lives in Kansas City, where she's a mental health technician at Research Psychiatric Center.

**Elizabeth Bianco Persun**, b'19, is a

consultant at Cerner in Kansas City.

**Jane Ryan, b'19**, is a digital marketing analyst at Starkey Hearing Technologies in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. She makes her home in Chanhassen.

**Michael Schonwetter, g'19**, lives in Overland Park, where he's an account executive at Mansfield Oil Company.

**Sara Sydow Smith, g'19**, teaches at Queen of the Holy Rosary Wea in Bucyrus. She and her husband, Anthony, live in Louisburg and have a daughter, Madelyn, who just turned 2.

**Britton Winkler Voss, c'19**, is a CPA at

Johnson & Company in Derby, where she lives with her husband, Nathan, and their son, Owen.

**Dawn Wagoner, g'19**, is an instructional coach in the Anchorage School District in Alaska. She has two sons, William and Joseph.

**Faith Whiteley, d'19**, coordinates accounts at SAGE Communications in Kansas City. She commutes from Lawrence.

**Jordan Wolf, j'19**, is an editorial producer at MiLB.com. He lives in Lawrence.

**Sarah Wolt, b'19**, is a senior loan support analyst at PNC Financial Services. She lives in Lawrence.

### ASSOCIATES

**Michael Githens, assoc.**, is a credit supervisor at Pioneer Balloon Company in Wichita, where he lives with **Jennie**, assoc., a systems solutions analyst at INTRUST Bank.

**Douglas Schmitt, assoc.**, lives in Topeka, where he's fire chief at Soldier Township Fire Department.

## PROFILE by David Garfield

### 'Legendary' career started at KU for Hedrick

Tom Hedrick grew up dreaming of playing Major League Baseball. But after being cut from his high school baseball team in Newton, Massachusetts, he had an epiphany during his walk home.

"Right in front of the Newton Center Library, I stamped my foot down and said, 'By God, I'm going to be a sportscaster just like Curt Gowdy,'" Hedrick recalls. "He was my idol."

Twelve years later, in 1963, Gowdy was broadcasting a Kansas City Chiefs game and asked Hedrick to spot for him. "Helping me today is a great young broadcaster named Tommy Hedrick; we call him 'The Parrot,'" Hedrick recalls Gowdy saying. "He's going to make it big someday."

Hedrick, g'58, made it "big" with a legendary 62-year broadcasting career. He called three Super Bowls (I, II, IV), two Final Fours, nine Cotton Bowls and ABC's "Wide World of Sports." He was the voice of the Jayhawks, Chiefs, Nebraska Cornhuskers, Cincinnati Reds, Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Baker Wildcats. A six-time Kansas Sportscaster of the Year, he is enshrined in the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Baker Athletics Hall of Fame.

Hedrick, who retired in February after calling his final Baker basketball game, honed his trade as a Baker undergrad broadcasting games across campus on his tape recorder. At KU, where he became the first student to receive a master's in radio-television, he worked at KLWN and assisted his mentor, voice of the Jayhawks Monte

Moore. Wilt Chamberlain was among his students, and Hedrick disc jockeyed on Chamberlain's radio show, "Flippin' with the Dipper."

In 1960 Hedrick was sports director at a Hutchinson radio station when Moore called him to audition as voice of the Jayhawks and "rigged (it) so I'd win."

"I helped you; you help somebody else," Hedrick says Moore told him.

"The thing I'm proudest," Hedrick says, "I've had 82 kids I got started in this noble profession," including Kevin Harlan, j'82; Gary Bender, g'64; and Bill Kurtis, j'62.

Hedrick calls Super Bowl IV (the Chiefs shocked the Minnesota Vikings, 23-7) the career highlight he'll "never forget as long



STEVE PUPPE

"Biggest break I ever had," Hedrick says of becoming the voice of the Jayhawks from 1960 to '67 and 1975 to '83. "Getting that job at 24 set up my career."

as I live." Afterwards, he received a call from President Richard Nixon, who asked to speak to quarterback Len Dawson.

"I said, 'Mr. President, if you wait, I'll get him for you.' Lenny's talking to about 50 reporters. I said, 'Leonard, you have an important phone call.' 'What is it Parrot?' I said, 'the president of the United States.' That was like an avalanche. I bet 50 people ran over me."

How would he like to be remembered? "Always prepared, always honest and not afraid to tell the truth and try to help others."

—Garfield, c'88, is a Lawrence freelance writer.

# In Memory

**40s Sarah "June" Paulk Barelli, '45,** 97, Dec. 5 in Kansas City. She was a homemaker and volunteered in her community. Surviving are a daughter, Janet, n'08; four sons; 12 grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

**Martha Goodrich Coate, c'48,** 92, Jan. 24 in Prairie Village. She worked for the Kansas Children's Service League and was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. Survivors include her husband, Arthur, b'49; two sons, one of whom is Arthur Jr., c'75, g'85; a daughter, Sarah Coate Johnston, m'76, g'13; a brother, Judson Goodrich, c'47, g'48; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**John Dixon, c'40, m'42,** 100, Oct. 23 in Mason City, Iowa, where he was the city's deputy medical examiner. He is survived by a daughter, Susan Dixon Dalton, c'68, g'70; a sister, Mary Dixon Scharmann, c'52; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Warren Hall, b'47,** 97, Dec. 11 in Overland Park. He owned Boelte-Hall, a commercial printing company in Roeland Park. Surviving are a son, Steve, '70; a daughter, Barb, c'73, n'83; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Dorothy Kintzel Harris, c'45,** 94, Jan. 12 in Atlantic, Iowa. She taught at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. Survivors include three daughters, Elizabeth Harris Heller, c'69, Susan Harris Coleman, f'76, and Laura Harris Graham, c'93; a son; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Ruth Kelley Hayden, c'43,** 97, Dec. 29 in Atwood, where she was a travel agent and columnist for the Atwood Citizen-Patriot. She is survived by four sons, three of whom are Kelley, c'69, g'72, g'73, PhD'83, Tom, '71, and Paul, '87; a daughter, Katy, p'75; and five grandchildren.

**Virginia Williams Holzle, c'47, g'48,** 93, Feb. 7 in Topeka, where she taught English as a second language. She also was active in her church. Survivors include a son, Ross, e'74, g'78; two daughters; a brother,

Fred Williams, e'58, g'60; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Josephine "JoAnn" Hurst Kappelman, c'49,** 92, Jan. 13 in Lawrence, where she retired after a 25-year career as an account representative and secretary at Capitol Federal Savings. She is survived by two daughters, Margaret Kappelman Rose, '82, and Carol, c'84; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Elman Rinehart, b'49,** 98, Feb. 2 in Overland Park, where he retired as assistant controller and data processing manager at Katz Drug Company and later worked for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. His wife, Cecilia Medved Rinehart, g'50, survives.

**Paul Seymour Jr., '47,** 95, Jan. 21 in Wichita, where he was president of Arrowhead Petroleum Company and served on several boards in the community. He is survived by his wife, Dorothea, assoc.; three sons, Paul III, c'76, John, c'78, and William Todd, c'82; two daughters, Elizabeth Seymour Marshall, '84, and Katherine Seymour Deeter, c'85; a brother, Todd, j'50; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Robert Taggart, '49,** 92, Feb. 9 in Topeka. He worked in real estate development and owned an appraisal company. He also served several terms in the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate. Survivors include his wife, Jeanne; two daughters; a son; a sister, Doris Taggart Lentz, assoc.; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson.

**Margaret Strattan Wilson, b'40,** 100, Feb. 6 in Lansing. She lived in Weston, Missouri, and worked in insurance and banking. Survivors include three sons, one of whom is Abe Shafer IV, l'68; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Nola Ginther Winters, '47,** 93, Jan. 14 in Atwood. She lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she was assistant corporate secretary and director of corporate and public relations at Holly Sugar

Corporation. Several nieces and nephews survive.

**50s Joan Stockmyer Baird, d'55,** 84, Nov. 20 in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She taught high school English, history and science and later published a community newspaper with her husband. Surviving are her husband, James, j'55; three daughters, one of whom is Laura Baird Gatson, c'82; two sons, one of whom is Robert, '83; a sister; a brother; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Franklin Bichlmeier, m'58,** 86, Jan. 11 in Overland Park, where he retired after more than 30 years as a cardiothoracic surgeon. Survivors include his wife, Caryl; two daughters, one of whom is Kathryn Bichlmeier David, '86; a son, Mark, '93; and four grandchildren.

**David "Dan" Chase, e'58,** 82, Feb. 26 in Englewood, Florida. He was a retired patent attorney. He is survived by his wife, Kay; two daughters, one of whom is Mary Chase Derousseau, l'91; and four grandchildren.

**George Christopher, e'52,** 88, Feb. 13 in Tyler, Texas, where he retired after serving as CEO of Christopher Steel in Wichita. His wife, Mary; two daughters; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Brenda Klassen Craig, h'85; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren survive.

**Frank Exter, e'52,** 92, Nov. 22 in Reno, Nevada. He lived in San Luis Obispo, California, where he owned a motel and worked in commercial real estate. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. His wife, Norma, two daughters, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

**William Halverhout, b'50,** 93, Dec. 16 in Phoenix. He lived in Prairie Village for several years, where he was vice president of Haas & Associates. Surviving are his wife, Karen York Halverhout, c'50; a son, Winn, b'75, l'78; a daughter, Anne Halverhout Curzon, e'77, g'81; a sister, Anna Halverhout Greiner, d'58, g'65; two grandsons; and a great-grandson.

**Hollis Hands, c'51, m'55,** 90, Jan. 22 in Amarillo, Texas, where he was an obstetrician and gynecologist for nearly 50 years.

He is survived by a daughter, two sons, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Thomas Jones, b'57**, 84, Feb. 3 in Bakersfield, California. He retired as vice president of finance at Occidental Petroleum. A son, a daughter, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren survive.

**James Jukes, b'55**, 86, Feb. 13 in Waunakee, Wisconsin. He worked at credit unions throughout the Midwest for 40 years. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis; two sons; a daughter; a brother, Richard, e'52; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Larry Keenan, c'52, l'54**, 89, Feb. 23 in Great Bend, where he practiced law for 60 years. In 1960, he was elected Barton County Attorney, and in 2016 he received the KU School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Patty, assoc.; three sons, two of whom are Matthew, c'81, l'84, and Marty, c'82, l'85; two daughters, one of whom is Beth Keenan Hudak, b'89; a stepdaughter, Denise Degner Shaw, n'82; three stepsons, two of whom are Jamey Degner, m'84, and Rex Degner, m'85; two brothers; 15 grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

**Dorothy Wandling Kennedy, d'54**, 86, Feb. 27 in Prairie Village. She lived in Salina for more than 50 years, where she co-founded the Salina Charities League and delivered meals to those in need for nearly 30 years. Survivors include two daughters, Carol Kennedy Johnson, b'77, and Katie Kennedy Chalfant, j'81; two sons, Don, c'87, and Bill, j'92; 18 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Thomas Kennedy, c'59, g'70**, 82, Feb. 22 in Fairfax, Virginia, where he was a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and executive director of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

**Elisabeth Bertsch Mason, n'53**, 86, Feb. 11 in Marmaduke, Arkansas, where she was a registered nurse and later became a

postmaster. Surviving are a daughter; two sons; and a sister, Ruth Bertsch Glatt, n'52.

**Leon Mason, b'55**, 85, Jan. 9 in Boulder, Colorado. His career included posts at IBM and Regis University and as a financial adviser. Survivors include his partner, Sheila, three sons, and three grandchildren.

**Beverly Phillips May, f'56, g'57**, 84, Feb. 22 in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. She taught piano lessons and music history. A son, a daughter, a brother and three granddaughters survive.

**Robert "Hod" McIntosh, b'55**, 88, Feb. 27 in Prairie Village, where he retired after nearly 40 years with Employers Reinsurance Corp. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, assoc.; and four daughters, Heather, b'85, Kendra, e'88, Shaunna, c'89, and Kerry, h'91.

**Alice "Vicki" Parker Meuli, d'59**, 81, Feb. 21 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She was an elementary school teacher and also performed in local theatre. She is survived by her husband, Larry, c'58, m'62; two daughters; a son; and six grandchildren.

**James Moorhead, a'55**, 87, Nov. 7 in Lone Tree, Colorado, where he was a retired architect. His wife, Cecilia, two sons, three daughters, a stepson, a stepdaughter, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

**George Pohlman, b'58**, 86, Oct. 1 in North Tustin, California. He had a 35-year career as regional sales manager at Colgate-Palmolive. His wife, Maggie, two daughters and three grandchildren survive.

**Gretchen Kendall Pratt, c'56**, 84, Feb. 1 in Overland Park, where she was a homemaker. Surviving are three daughters, Betsy Isern Guthrie, c'81, Amy Isern Mulich, j'84, and Molly Isern Curtis, '87; a son, Chad Isern, c'89; three stepdaughters, one of whom is Margaret Pratt, c'77; a stepson; a sister; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

**Carl "Red" Privitera, '51**, 94, Jan. 4 in Kansas City. He owned Mark One Electric Company and also worked in commercial real estate. Survivors include three sons, two of whom are Carl II, e'85, and Anthony, b'87; a daughter; a brother; nine grandchildren; and four

great-grandchildren.

**Dorothy Davidson Rich, c'52**, 88, Jan. 15 in Lawrence. She was a homemaker. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Jamie, c'81; a daughter; a brother, David Davidson, c'49, g'51; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson.

**Herbert Schumacher, f'54, g'63, EdD'73**, 86, Sept. 12 in Erie, Colorado. He taught ceramics for 25 years at the University of Northern Colorado. His wife, Carlene, three sons, a daughter and three grandchildren survive.

**Robert Shaw, b'51**, 89, Sept. 3 in Oklahoma City, where he was a certified government financial manager and retired as comptroller at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Clarence "C.O." Sherwood, '52**, 88, Feb. 21 in Wichita. He lived in Lyons for more than 70 years and owned Lyons Lumber Company. Survivors include his wife, Billie; a son, Craig, f'78; two daughters, one of whom is Stacy Sherwood Stafford, '80; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Paul Skolaut, b'51**, 89, Feb. 18 in Wichita. He owned several Pizza Hut restaurants in Hutchinson, Emporia and Salina. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; five daughters, one of whom is Mary Skolaut Birch, j'74; a son; a sister; 12 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

**Marilynn Smith, '51**, 89, April 9 in Goodyear, Arizona. She was a professional golfer and helped found the Ladies Professional Golf Association in 1950. During her nearly 25-year career, she won 21 LGPA titles and served as president of the LPGA from 1958 to 1960. She was inducted in the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2006.

**Barbara Richard Thiele, '50**, 90, Jan. 20 in Topeka, where she worked at TARC for several years before co-founding Discovery School, a Montessori preschool. She is survived by two sons, Jeffrey, m'79, and James, e'81; a daughter, Sara Thiele Heydari, '82; six grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; five great-grandchild-

## In Memory

dren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

**Frank Darrell Timken, d'52, g'64**, 88, Jan. 2 in Topeka, where he was a teacher. Survivors include his wife, Clarice; a son, Mark, c'79; a daughter; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Warren Wandling, d'59, g'61**, 84, Jan. 25 in Wichita. He had a long career with AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company and retired as agency manager. Surviving are his wife, Nancy Simone Wandling, d'57; three sons, Warren Jr., c'86, Todd, '86, and Lee, c'11; and six grandchildren.

**Virginia Nalley Woodson, c'53**, 86, Nov. 13 in Palo Alto, California. She taught elementary school and helped establish magnet programs. She also was an administrative assistant to the executive pastor at her church. Survivors include two sons; a brother, Victor Nalley, c'51; a sister, Gloria Nalley Jardon, '64; and three grandsons.

**60s Rob Ash, b'64**, 76, Jan. 17 in Prairie Village, where he owned Ash Battery Systems. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Smith Ash, '66; two daughters, Susan Ash Hoffman, f'92, and Molly Ash Kohring, '94; a son; two brothers, Stephen, m'71, and James, c'76; and eight grandchildren.

**Dennis Brady, d'66**, 74, Dec. 20 in Hercules, California. He worked in retail sales and for an insurance company in San Francisco. His wife, Elaine, two sons and a brother survive.

**Margaret "Marge" Brake, e'69, e'73**, 73, Feb. 23 in Las Vegas, where she was a civil engineer at Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company. Surviving are three sisters, one of whom is Jaye Brake, c'73; and a brother.

**James Cook, e'68**, 73, Feb. 5 in Overland Park, where he was a consulting engineer at Crown Center Redevelopment. He is survived by his wife, Eva Lord Cook, c'92, g'02; two sons, Theron, c'09, and Walter, c'14; a daughter; a sister, Kate Cook Lawrence, c'71; and two grandchildren.

**Benoyd "Butch" Ellison, d'62, g'74**, 79, Feb. 13 in Kansas City, where he was a teacher and school administrator for 37 years in Kansas City Kansas Public

Schools. He also served 12 years as a commissioner in Wyandotte County. Survivors include his wife, Lee Ann Parks Ellison, '61; a son, Guy, '86; a daughter; a brother, Nolen, d'63; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Doug Farmer, j'63**, 79, Feb. 11 in Blue Springs, Missouri. He was a real estate agent for more than 20 years. He is survived by two sons; a brother, Art, g'81; a sister; and two grandsons.

**Marilyn Kay Harris, s'69**, 71, Nov. 16 in Media, Pennsylvania. She was associate professor emerita and chair of the criminal justice department at Temple University, where she helped create the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. Her partner, Jack, and a brother survive.

**Fred LaMar, c'63, g'65**, 77, Jan. 30 in Lenexa, where he retired as director of risk management and insurance at Farmland Industries. Survivors include his wife, Marcia Nielsen LaMar, d'67; a daughter; three stepdaughters; a sister, Rebecca, d'69; two grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

**Leo Lutz, '61**, 80, Jan. 2 in Lawrence. He had a long career in commercial banking in California and was an accomplished fine art photographer. His wife, Wilma, a son, a daughter and two sisters survive.

**James Mahoney, '68**, 75, Jan. 17 in Albany, Missouri, where he was a farmer and real estate appraiser. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Gyulavics Mahoney, d'70; and a daughter.

**Mason McIntire, c'67, g'69**, 73, Jan. 18 in Maryville, Missouri. He owned McIntire Lumber in Mound City, Missouri. Surviving are his wife, Judy Bailey McIntire, c'68; two daughters, one of whom is Jill McIntire Green, c'98, g'00; a sister; and six grandchildren.

**Judith Scott Mills-Hinch, d'68**, 71, Feb. 24 in Havre de Grace, Maryland. She lived in Aberdeen, where she was an EMT and firefighter. She retired from the Aberdeen Police Department as communications officer. Survivors include a son, a half-sister and a grandson.

**Marvin Duane Mulkey, e'62**, 78, Feb. 4 in Naples, Florida. He worked at Honeywell UOP in Des Plaines, Illinois, for 40 years. A son, a daughter and

two grandchildren survive.

**Jeannette "Liz" Langel Munns, d'61**, 80, Jan. 1 in Topeka, where she was a teacher. Several nieces and nephews survive.

**Maryanna Quilty, c'69, s'77**, 71, Jan. 17 in Topeka. She was a social worker at the Menninger Clinic and Stormont Vail Hospital. A brother survives.

**William Vollbracht, b'60**, 80, Dec. 30 in Denver. He was founder and chair of Land Title Guarantee Company and also co-founded Alpine Banks. Surviving are his wife, Leslie, two daughters and two grandchildren.

**70s Lee Adcox, EdD'70**, 88, Jan. 13 in Overland Park, where he owned LEA Inc. His wife, Connie, two sons, three daughters, 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren survive.

**Marsha Sawyer Bjerkan, j'78, g'88**, 62, Feb. 25 in Prairie Village. She worked for several mobile phone carrier companies and Morgan Stanley. Survivors include a brother, James, e'74; and a sister, Kristine Bjerkan Lawrence, '76.

**Kevin Condon, c'73, g'75, PhD'81**, 74, Dec. 29 in Denver, where he was a certified financial planner and partner at a web-based financial advising company. He is survived by his wife, Glenda; two daughters; a brother, Mark, c'71; and six grandchildren.

**Dean Corwin, f'71**, 69, Dec. 10 in Topeka. He was a retired librarian at Washburn University. Surviving are two sons; two brothers, one of whom is Harold, c'65, g'67; and four grandchildren.

**Thomas Ewan, e'79**, 62, Jan. 21 in Olathe. He worked for Boeing and later owned Landmark Title in Paola. He is survived by his wife, Pamela; a son, Dustin, '07; his mother; a sister, Susan Ewan Dunaway, d'72; and a brother.

**Ronald Faught, e'78**, 62, Feb. 1 in Topeka. He worked at DuPont for 21 years before starting a residential construction company. Survivors include four sons, three of whom are Ronald Jr., '99, Danny, b'15, and Allen, g'15; three daughters; his mother; two brothers, one of whom is Donald, e'73; a sister; and three grandchildren.

**Thomas Gilcrest, d'71**, 69, Jan. 17 in



Leawood, where he retired as director of design-build services at Blue Scope Construction. Surviving are his wife, Telia; a daughter, Jeslyn, c'09, '11; and a sister.

**Christian Hoffman, b'73**, 69, Jan. 24 in Salina. He was president and CEO of UMB-NBA. His mother and two brothers, Bill, c'75, g'77, and Tom, g'88, survive.

**Michael Luthi, f'73**, 70, Nov. 3 in Davis, California, where he was senior producer and director of academic technology services at the University of California-Davis. Survivors include his wife, Deborah Bordner Luthi, d'72; a son; two sisters; and two grandsons.

**William Majors, EdD'79**, 76, Feb. 24 in Meriden. He was a teacher and school administrator and retired as assistant executive director at the Kansas Association of School Boards. He is survived by his wife, Betty, '93; a son; a daughter; and three grandchildren.

**Charles Marshall, b'71**, 70, Nov. 13 in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was an attorney who specialized in asbestos cases. Surviving are his wife, Patty, two sons, a daughter, a brother and two grandchildren.

**Kenneth Peterson, j'70**, 71, Feb. 19 in Topeka. He was a field reporter at the Topeka Capital-Journal and press secretary for Rep. Jim Slattery in Washington, D.C., before retiring as executive director of the Kansas Petroleum Council. Survivors include a son, Kyle, '14; and a daughter.

**Loren Rabon, f'70**, 79, Dec. 4 in Freehold, New Jersey. He owned a design and construction company. His wife, Linda, a son, three daughters, a brother, 12 grandchildren and a great-grandson survive.

**James "Jace" Rexroad, c'74**, 69, Jan. 17 in Hutchinson. He had a 20-year career in medical technology and later founded Primus Corporation, which developed one of the first blood tests for diabetes. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. His wife, Janet Svoboda, c'73, survives.

**Margo Kelsey Roberts, g'74**, 69, Jan. 18 in Dodge Center, Minnesota, where she and her husband owned a chiropractic practice and also rehabilitated homes. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom

is Kelsey, c'99, l'02; a son, David, c'02; a sister; a brother; and five grandchildren.

**Gail Miller Watson, c'71**, 67, Aug. 18, 2017, in New Orleans, where she was a physical therapist. Surviving are her husband, Robert; a son, Lance, c'07; and a brother.

**80s Elizabeth Baker Melton, c'82**, 59, Feb. 7 in Raytown, Missouri. She taught special-needs children in the Blue Valley School District. Surviving are her husband, Kevin, two daughters, a step-daughter, a sister, a brother and five grandchildren.

**Allen Vance, b'80, g'85**, 60, Jan. 9 in Kansas City, where he was a rates administrator for KC Water Services. A sister, Cynthia Vance Knighton, h'77, survives.

**Dick Williams, '83**, 59, Feb. 18 in Plano, Texas, where he worked in technology. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by three sisters, Kimberly, b'79, Lynn, j'79, and Evan Williams Walter, c'85; and a brother, Russell, '90.

**90s David Hale, c'91**, 55, Jan. 18 in Lawrence, where he worked for Indoff Business Products. Surviving are his partner, Laura; a daughter; his parents, Gary, j'58, l'71, and Kay Roberts Hale, n'74; and a brother, Greg, '94.

**10s Susan Greenberg, c'12**, 47, Jan. 4 in Lawrence, where she was an artist and photographer. She is survived by her wife, Jessica; her parents, David, f'65, and Judy Greenberg, assoc.; and two sisters, one of whom is Julie, '89.

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**Marc Asher, m'62**, 82, Feb. 1 in Leawood, where he was University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Orthopedic Surgery. In 1999 he was named School of Medicine Alumnus of the Year, and in 2009 he was awarded the Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion. Surviving are his wife, Elinor, and a daughter.

**Beverly Boyd, assoc.**, 93, Jan. 26 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita of English. She received Brooklyn

College's Distinguished Alumna Award in 1979.

**Alison Heath Carter, d'68**, 72, Jan. 26 in Lawrence. She worked part time at the Dole Institute and was a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, George, c'72; a daughter, Elizabeth, c'14; and a sister, Rae Heath Hederstedt, d'64.

**Joseph Meek, c'54, m'57**, 87, Jan. 30 in Wichita, where he was an endocrinologist and chair of internal medicine and dean at KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Surviving are his wife, Bette; two daughters, Nancy Meek Leonard, n'84, and Kathryn Meek Thompson, c'89; a son; a brother; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Janet Sharistianian, 75**, Feb. 6 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita of English. She led the development of the women's studies program and served as director of the Research Institute on Women from 1979 to 1983. In 1985 she was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

**Sarah Chappell Trulove, g'82**, 83, Feb. 14 in Lawrence. She was assistant director of the Hall Center for the Humanities from 1983 to 1987 and a lecturer in the humanities and Western Civilization program. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Jim Woelfel, assoc.; a son, Paul Trulove, c'84; a daughter; three stepdaughters; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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**Beverly Londerholm, assoc.**, 84, Jan. 11 in Leawood. She worked for the U.S. Census Bureau. Surviving are three sons, two of whom are Robert Jr., d'77, and Stephen, '82; a daughter; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Genevieve McMahan, assoc.**, 101, Jan. 10 in Lawrence. She was a teacher and managed membership for the National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers in Washington, D.C. A son, a daughter, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

# Rock Chalk Review

COURTESY, JOMO TARIKU (3)



## African influence

**Designer adds modern twist to traditional cultural themes**

On a campus visit in 1987, Jomo Tariku had a chance meeting with a professor that changed his course in life.

Tariku was born in Kenya and grew up in Ethiopia; after finishing high school he moved to Olathe to attend MidAmerica Nazarene University with his brother.

“I wasn’t good at anything but drawing and sketching,” Tariku recalls, “and one of the professors said, ‘It looks like art is your passion: What are you doing here?’”

Exploring a transfer, he came to Mount Oread over summer break. Campus was nearly deserted, but he found Richard Branham, professor of industrial design, in his office. Branham invited him in and asked about his interests. Fine art, Tariku told him. Sketching and painting objects, not people.

“He said, ‘Have you looked into industrial design?’ I’d never heard of industrial design, let alone looked into it,” Tariku

recalls with a laugh. “I said, ‘Please explain.’”

He quickly realized the mix of science, art and engineering that Branham outlined was exactly what he wanted to do.

Now a furniture designer, he recently launched his own studio and is gaining attention for his modern takes on traditional African themes.

“For me, design is really an interpretation of your culture, your heritage,” says Tariku, a’10, who lives near Washington, D.C., where he works as a data scientist for The World Bank. “It’s not just the lines and how you build it, it’s the color, it’s the things that have been passed on to you being reinterpreted into the objects you design.”



Ashanti



Nyala

“If you’ve traveled through Africa, or you are African or African American and have a heritage that connects you, I want to give you something that relates to that,” Tariku says.

Among the pieces now attracting invitations to international design shows and showcases in design magazines are his Nyala chair, inspired by the horns of a South African antelope; the Ashanti stool, a reinterpretation of a traditional Ghanaian stool; and the MeQuamya chair, inspired by T-shaped staffs used in Ethiopian Orthodox church ceremonies.

“In my home growing up, we had all these carved pieces, beads and masks and stools,” and that type of work is what most museums and galleries think of as African design, Tariku says. “But that’s not me, even though it is my inspiration.”

In addition to launching his own forward-thinking pieces, Tariku works to improve diversity in the design industry as a charter member of the Black Artists and Designers Guild. In April, he exhibited work and appeared on a panel at “Beyond the Mask: Storytelling in Black Art & Design,” the collective’s first exhibition at the influential High Point furniture market.

“The biggest obstacle is lack of name recognition, and we are on the way to accomplishing that for guild members,” Tariku says. “I have not seen this type of intensity around the work of black artists and designers, and I’ve been around for many years. It’s exciting to see.”

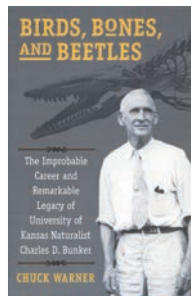
—Steven Hill

## No ordinary man

**New book tells overdue story of key figure in KU museum**

On his first day in Lawrence, Charles Bunker, a shy man in his early 20s who had moved from Illinois with his family when his father accepted a job at Haskell Institute, decided to explore.

Bunker trekked that chilly morning in March 1891 from his family’s rented home at 17th and Massachusetts streets to see the school southeast of town where his father now worked. His anxiety about meeting new people prevented Bunker from venturing inside, so he headed back. That’s when he first noticed the hill west



*Birds, Bones, and Beetles*

By Chuck Warner

University Press of Kansas,  
\$24.95

of Lawrence, topped by a cluster of impressive new buildings.

He knew he should be job hunting, but Bunker instead ventured west, and up. He soaked in the valley views and admired the institution, whatever it was, anchored like a fort with overwatch of an encampment.

The next morning, Bunker asked the neighborhood grocer if he knew of any taxidermists in town. An avid outdoorsman, Bunker had trained in taxidermy back in Mendota and hoped to continue with the trade in Kansas. The grocer replied that the only taxidermy was happening at the university—which Bunker had already unknowingly visited.

So begins Chuck Warner's charming and authoritative biography of his grandfather: *Birds, Bones, and Beetles: The Improbable Career and Remarkable Legacy of University of Kansas Naturalist Charles D. Bunker*.

Encouraged by his family, as well as staff members at Dyche Hall's Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum who have long been eager for Bunker's story to be told, Warner, b'67, l'70, decided to tackle the project after retiring from his 20-year career as president of U.S. Bank's Lawrence branches and nearly as many years on the business side at Centron Films.

The story of natural history at KU has always been about "The Dashing Kansan," Lewis Lindsay Dyche, c'1884, l'1884, g'1888. It's a formula that worked for more than a century because the story is a good one. *Birds, Bones, and Beetles* illuminates the legend's over-reliance on one man.

What was built here required the dedication of many, including a shy man from Illinois who could disappear within a crowded room and always found himself on the back row of any photograph.

"As I researched, it occurred to me that Charles Bunker was not the typical history book hero who led a country, won a battle, or discovered a cure for a dreaded disease," Warner writes. "So why is his story worth saving? First of all, appearances can be deceiving—his accomplishments were far from commonplace. Secondly, his story illustrates how those who lead quiet lives can still make a significant difference in the world around them, a message that seems important in this world of status and wealth worshipping."

Although not hired until 1895, after Dyche had found fame with the exhibition he brought to Chicago's 1893 Colombian Exhibition, Bunker helped Dyche build the museum's Panorama. He conducted field research of his own, developed a still-in-use system for using beetles to clean flesh from specimen bones, and in 1911 discovered the now-iconic 45-foot sea serpent later identified as the largest mosasaur ever found in North America.

In fall 1935, Bunker agreed to meet with a student reporter on assignment from *The Graduate Magazine*, *Kansas Alumni's* precursor. The shy scientist had difficulty telling his own story, so Catherine Penner Kruse, c'36, asked about former students.

"Bunk" beamed, and handed over a stack of letters he had recently received for his 65th birthday. *The Graduate Magazine*

reprinted in full the admiring notes from naturalists who had trained under Bunker and gone on to glory at such institutions as the Smithsonian, Cal-Berkeley and the U.S. Biological Survey.

"The legacy was his students," Warner says. "This is not a book about science. This is a book about a guy, who just happened to work in science."

—Chris Lazzarino

## Shimomura's muse

**Artist's show mixes new works with earlier paintings**

Roger Shimomura's new exhibition, "American Muse," at Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art in Kansas City's Crossroads district, packs a wallop.

Bold and bright, with the compositional flair and razor focus of the comic book panels that have long influenced Shimomura's work, 105 paintings fill the main floor of the compact gallery with a riot of color and image.

"It's sort of like walking inside a graphic novel," says gallery owner Sherry Leedy, g'80. "Paintings change character due to their surroundings, and to see this many of Roger's paintings together has more of a punch than if you saw just one. It's a very dense show."

The subject matter, too, is visceral and immediate: In a series of paintings that draw on Shimomura's earlier depictions of his imprisonment with his family and other Japanese Americans in World War II



Shimomura

## Rock Chalk Review

internment camps, the artist takes on President Trump's treatment of Muslim immigrants and other ethnic and religious minorities. Called "Muslims and More," the series of 50 12-by-12 inch paintings was created in the last year.

"It started with the idea that what was happening to Muslims is similar to what happened to Japanese Americans," said Shimomura, who has mostly stopped granting interviews and accepting visiting artist invitations as he nears 80. "There was talk about, well, we could put them in camps, and, as they prove themselves loyal, we will let them out. That idea sent shock waves throughout the whole Japanese American community," he said in a KU news release.

"And so that's when I started doing these paintings that treated Muslim people a lot like Japanese Americans and putting them behind barbed wire, since Trump said that he would probably be willing to do the same thing to Muslims they did to the Japanese Americans."

Some have called this exhibition Shimomura's most political ever, but Leedy offers a slightly different take.

"I think Roger's work has always been political, but this new work is maybe the least distanced from current events," she says. Past work based on his childhood at the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho—represented here by two dozen paintings in a series titled "Minidoka and Beyond"—was separated by time and distance from the experiences that inspired them, Leedy notes. The imagery from the "Muslims and More" series has a ripped-from-the-headlines immediacy. "The issue is in the current news, so we're all sort of hypersensitive to it, more attuned to it right now."

A third series in the exhibition, "Great American Muse," mixes American Pop Art and Japanese Wood Block imagery while referencing various artists—Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Keith Haring—who presumably influenced the development of Shimomura's work over the years.

The effect is of an artist looking back on an exceptional career while still engaging fiercely with the issues of the day. And while Shimomura has said this exhibition

is the last one on his calendar, Leedy laughs when asked if "American Muse" is a final chance to see this many Shimomura paintings in one space.

"What I would say is it's Roger's most recent last exhibition."

—Steven Hill

"American Muse" runs through May 25 at Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, 2004 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City. For more information visit [sherryleedy.com](http://sherryleedy.com).

## '60s seen through Esquire eyes

### Magazine archive featured in lively Spencer exhibition

Kate Meyer, the Spencer Museum of Art's curator for works on paper, describes the University's Esquire magazine holdings as "kind of wild," and she adds that she is not aware of any of other U.S. institution with a similar mass-market magazine archive.

The challenge, though, is how the museum can best share highlights from the collection.

"The first thought I have is a nervous one," says Meyer, g'04, PhD'11, "because I think, 'Oh, it's this men's magazine and it's going to be all sexist or dated. Whatever are we going to do with this? How could it be relevant to anything?'"

Meyer's answer to the questions she posed is "Politics, Race, Celebrity: Photographs from the Esquire Collection," on view in Spencer's Larry & Barbara Marshall Family Balcony through July 7.

The lively exhibition uses famous faces and names to explore Esquire's take on monumental U.S. events and movements, including Watergate and the downfall of Richard Nixon, second-wave feminism, civil rights and the counterculture, while encouraging comparisons with similar current events.

"I hope that the exhibition is an example of the way Esquire was sinking its teeth into lots of topics," Meyer says, "and ends up being a really fascinating insight



Top: Dan Wynn, "Body and Soul: Gloria Steinem and her partner, Dorothy Pittman Hughes, demonstrate the style that has thrilled audiences on the Women's Liberation lecture circuit," 1971. Above: Robert L. Greger, "In New York, a policeman attempts to remove a Negro demonstrating against racial discrimination," circa 1963. Gifts of Esquire, Inc.

through material culture, into what was happening in the world, and definitely in the U.S., especially in the years we were focusing on, the 1960s."

Thanks to the depth of KU's Esquire holdings—acquired in 1980, due in large part to the efforts of the late Professor Emeritus Lee Young, g'68, founder of the magazine sequence at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications and namesake of the fund that supported the current exhibition—Meyer could post a rich variety of camera-ready original photographs, some even still bearing an editor's wax-pencil crop marks, while also displaying magazines in which some of the images appeared.

"They can see that people saw this

image, and they saw it in the form of the magazine, and here's how it looked on the magazine pages. That is a valuable proof of concept of how much images can permeate, and we take that for granted in a pre-internet understanding of the world.

"The image of Nixon with the caption, 'Why is this man laughing?' That's a pre-internet meme, and Esquire did it all the time."

—Chris Lazzarino

## Small-town drama

### Childhood visits to Kansas inspire writer's page-turning plots

Lisa Stormes Hawker grew up in Denver and lives there now, but all her "golden childhood memories" were made in Kansas, and it's there she returns for the settings of her thriller novels.

Hawker's debut, *The Drowning Game*, published in 2015 by Harper Collins, was one of six finalists for the International Thriller Writers' Best First Novel Award. She has since written three more books; her most recent, *The Throwaways*, was published by Vanishing Point Press in early 2019.

All are thrillers set in small, rural

communities—fictional stand-ins for her mother's hometown, Lincoln Center, where Hawker, j'86, spent summers as a kid. She calls Kansas her spiritual home.

"I grew up in the suburbs, and they were just so vanilla," she says. "You couldn't walk anywhere; you had to be driven. When I got to this tiny little town in Kansas, you could walk to the pool, you could walk downtown and buy candy. It was just magic, it really was."

More important, for a kid who wrote her first murder mystery at age 9, there was drama. "The things that happened there," Hawker says, "would never happen in the suburbs."

*The Throwaways* begins in Lawrence, when Hawker's protagonist gives a ride to a stranger he meets at a liquor store and finds himself framed for a triple murder before fleeing to his central Kansas hometown. The plot was inspired by something that happened to a KU classmate. The real-life incident didn't end with murder—that was Hawker's twist.

"I thought to myself, 'Wow, what if the worst had happened?'" she says of the novel's genesis. "I like thinking of those

scenarios; that to me is a lot of fun."

Also fun is the deeper world she builds for her characters beyond the pages of her books. Her website, lshawker.com, includes a music blog from the heroine of her second novel, *Blood and Bone*; a fictional corporate site for a nefarious artificial intelligence startup from her third novel, *End of the Road*; and music playlists inspired by all four of her books. She also included a real phone number in *The Throwaways*, which she monitors, delighting when readers

leave voicemails for her fictional character.

"I'm just a sucker for that sort of thing," says Hawker, who found inspiration from the way J.K. Rowling created Pottermore for Harry Potter fans. "I love fantasy worlds, what can I tell you?"

As for the real-world trials and troubles that fuel a page turner, Hawker is happy to look for those in what many would think of as the unlikeliest of places: the small town.

"Let's face it, drama is everywhere, isn't it? It really is. You just have to look hard enough."

—Steven Hill



COURTESY LISA HAWKER

Hawker

## Untold no more

Since the 1954 Supreme Court decision that ruled public school segregation unconstitutional, "historians, political scientists, and others have unintentionally participated in a kind of historical erasure," writes John Edgar Tidwell, professor emeritus of English, in *Recovering Untold Stories: An Enduring Legacy of the Brown v. Board of Education Decision*.

By citing only one of five cases that challenged racial segregation in U.S. public

schools in the landmark *Oliver Brown et al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka*, they have "unwittingly reduced the story" by obscuring the many remaining plaintiffs, several hundred in all, under the legal term "et al."—Latin for "and others."

*Recovering Untold Stories*, published this spring by KU Libraries, adds the contributions of two dozen of those "others" to the historical record.



The book is the culmination of workshops conducted in 2017 by the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research to help families write a first-person narrative about their experiences with the case and its aftermath. Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the late Rev. Oliver Brown and founding president of the foundation, led the workshop with help from four KU scholars: Tidwell;

Deborah Dandridge, '94, curator of African American Experience collections, Spencer Research Library; Darren Canady, playwright and associate professor of English; and Vincent Omni, '19, graduate teaching assistant in the department of English. The project received support from KU's Hall Center for the Humanities.

The book is available in print from KU Bookstore for \$19.25 or by free download online at [kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/27702](https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/27702).

—Steven Hill

# Glorious to View Photograph by Dan Storey



Brightly colored tulips signal spring's arrival on Mount Oread. Each fall, KU landscapers plant hundreds of bulbs around the Chi Omega Fountain and in front of Watson Library and Smith, Strong and Budig halls. Once the blossoms fade, the crew replaces them with early spring annuals.

# ROCK CHALK, FOREVER A JAYHAWK!

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From your first days on Daisy Hill to strolling beneath the Campanile on graduation day, KU Libraries are proud to have supported your journey at the University of Kansas. No matter your path on Mount Oread, thank you for bringing us with you every step of the way.

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