

KANSAS ALUMNI

No. 2, 2012 ■ \$5



Code of Honor

Navajo code talker Chester Nez

- IRISH LITERATURE
- HOSPITAL VIGILS



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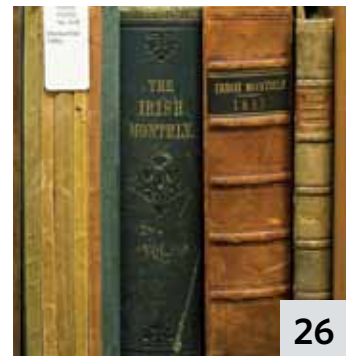
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COVER STORY

Native Speaker

With a newly published memoir, 91-year-old Chester Nez—one of the original 29 Navajo code talkers from World War II—looks back on a remarkable life.

By Steven Hill

*Cover painting by
Brent Learned*

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Luck of the Irish

A toast and tribute to KU's world-class collection of Irish literature.

By Chris Lazzarino

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In the Moment

KU Hospital volunteers offer comfort and find grace in their vigils with the dying.

By Chris Lazzarino

Lift the Chorus



No whoop

KUDOS TO LARRY TENOPIR for asking KU students to stop drowning out the 125-year-old Rock Chalk chant with their whooping and hollering [Lift the Chorus, issue No. 1].

Obviously, in a world filled with serious challenges (hunger, violence, etc.), this may seem a frivolous concern. But as Tenopir points out, the chant makes KU unique. It is one of the many reasons I'm proud to call myself a Jayhawk.

I read every issue of *Kansas Alumni* from cover to cover as soon as it arrives. I'm impressed by the high quality—the great photos and the depth and breadth of all the articles.

Carol McMillen Benson, c'62
Modesto, Calif.

AMEN TO LARRY TENOPIR'S letter! It is great to hear the Rock Chalk chant on TV. Tell the students to get louder (without the yelling).

Harold E. Goss, b'47
Leawood

Who to hate now?

I AM A KU GRAD, AND I hate Mizzou! I love to hate Mizzou! I live close to the border, and I know Mizzou grads. They are good people,

and I count them among my closest friends. But when they don their black and gold, and congregate together in their stadiums and field houses, when they chant their silly MIZ-ZOU chant, they are brash, unsportsmanlike bullies and thugs.

They feel the same way about me, and I am glad they do. In fact, I would take offense if they didn't. KU and MU are peers, comparable in scholastics and sports, and it is this equality that allows me to hate them without pity or envy.

I love my university, and maybe that gives me equal capacity to hate Mizzou, as if the universe demands a balance, dark matter to offset the visible kind. The football and basketball meetings of the past were beyond spirited contests, beyond rivalries. They were more akin to a collegiate holy war—something like needing to win to keep evil at bay. An old KU T-shirt said it best: "Kansas: Protecting America from Missouri since 1854." Love may very well be a sibling of hate.

This Border War thing isn't about the stability or reputation of the SEC or the supposed disintegration of the Big 12. It's not about Missouri not starting the whole conference confusion or KU's opportunity or lack thereof to flee to another conference.

What it's about is a God-ordained relationship forged by a history stretching back over a century and a half. For better or worse, richer or poorer, we were fixed in this position, joined at the hip, as symbolized by a city formed by the

confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, with its halves distinguished by the state in which each is located.

Now, what God hath joined, the Missouri AD has torn asunder. After more than a century of this union, Mizzou has divorced the Big 12, choosing a younger and richer partner.

Do we feel jilted? Of course we do. But, you say, we can still have our rivalry; we can still dislike each other. Yes, your house is still next door, but it is empty because your hateful heart has turned to another. It can never be the same.

So take your money and go play with your new friends. We are very, very sorry to see you go. What I fear, for myself, is that I will never be able to hate anyone else as I have hated Mizzou, and I hope that strange balance in nature does not somehow translate into loving my own university a little less.

Van B. Norris, b'71
Horton

Immigration cost

I DISAGREE WITH THE "best solution" to illegal immigration recommended by Tanya Golash-Boza ["Legalize It," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 1]. Illegal aliens have violated the laws of this nation. Just because "legalization would be the most cost-efficient solution, and practically speaking it makes the most sense," does not make it practical. Where do you draw the line on any criminal action being cost efficient? Prosecution of all criminal actions is costly, but it is a cost we all

must endure to bring violators to justice.

She states that many pay taxes, spend money and play a large role in the economy. The role is largely negative as many send their money to their home country and do not pay taxes, medical costs or car insurance. That drives up medical costs, insurance rates and taxes the rest of us must endure. They are not subject to "whims of the state," but are subject to our laws, as are U.S. citizens and legal aliens who go through proper immigration procedures.

This great nation has always welcomed those who may be oppressed in other countries or who want an opportunity to make their lives better in a free and democratic society. There is a system in place to accommodate them. Where do law-abiding citizens get to choose which laws they want to observe and which they don't? What is good for society is observance and adherence to the laws of this nation.

George Temple, d'71
Granbury, Texas

Identity crisis

Editor's Note: The authors of "Thai Game" [Lift the Chorus, issue No. 1] were misidentified: The letter was written by William, c'55, and Velma Gaston Farrar, j'54, Kansas City, Mo. Several readers noted that a page 19 photograph of comedians Paul Rudd, '92, Jason Sudeikis and Andy Samberg actually pictures singer Josh Groban, not Samberg. In our defense, we note that Samberg once impersonated Groban in a "Saturday Night Live" sketch. Will we ever really know?

March 2012

KANSAS ALUMNI

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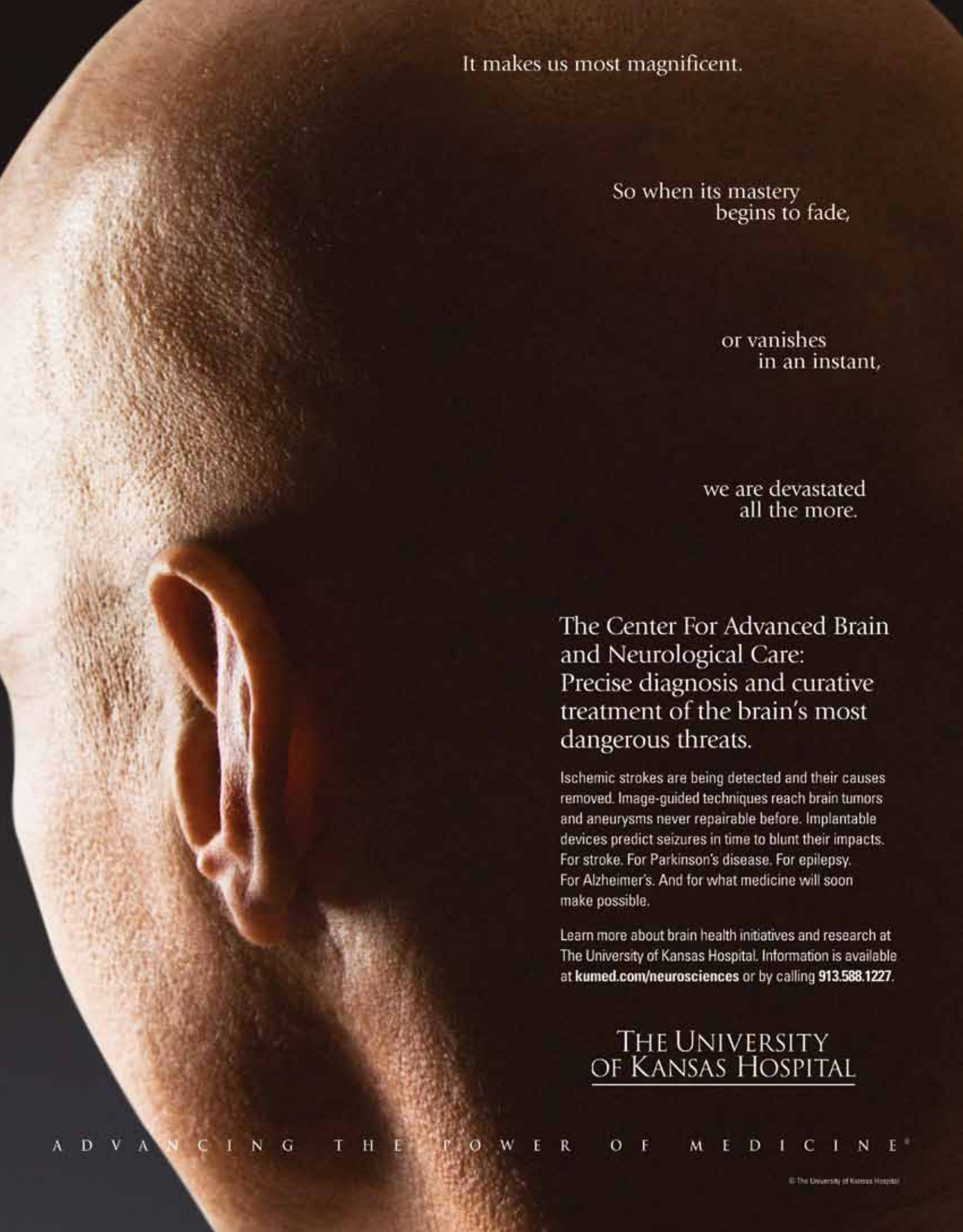
Deaths in the KU family

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Writer Daniel Woodrell keeps it real; piano student rides international win to Carnegie Hall.

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Scene on campus



It makes us most magnificent.

So when its mastery
begins to fade,

or vanishes
in an instant,

we are devastated
all the more.

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As our magazine team contemplated a cover portrait of World War II Navajo code talker Chester Nez, '53, one name quickly emerged as the perfect artist for the assignment: Brent Learned.

Learned, f'93, who has earned national notice for his vivid, contemporary paintings of Plains Indians, was the subject of a *Kansas Alumni* story in issue No. 3, 2006, which featured his bold painting of a wolf on the cover.

When we contacted Learned in Oklahoma City, our choice proved even wiser than we imagined. Learned had met Nez in 2007, at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis. Learned was there for an Indian art market at the prestigious Eiteljorg, where his work is in the permanent collection, and Nez was one of three Navajo code talkers to attend the museum's celebration of the World War II film "Windtalkers." The two soon discovered they shared a connection not only to KU but also to what is now Haskell Indian Nations University.

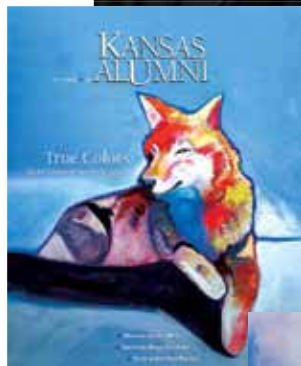
"Chester mentioned Haskell and said he loved Lawrence and KU, and I told him my mom had gone to Haskell," Learned recalls. "It was so good to make the connection far from Lawrence. We talked for about 10 minutes; he was being swamped by so many people who wanted to meet him."

But even in those brief moments, Learned sensed Nez's humble commitment as a U.S. Marine: "He told me, 'I did what my country called upon me to do.'"

Last fall, when we called Learned with the cover assignment, he read Nez's 2011 memoir, *Code Talker*, and thought about painting a portrait of 91-year-old Nez in his wheelchair, holding a sheep. "Reading his book, I learned that one of his first loves was raising sheep with his family," Learned explains, "but then I talked to my father. I've always asked my father for guidance because he was a great visionary."

John Learned, c'60, d'60, f'60, who died Feb. 27, shortly before this magazine went to press, was a sculptor and painter. As a U.S. Marine, he served in the Korean War and later

EARL RICHARDSON



"Chester mentioned Haskell and said he loved Lawrence and KU, and I told him my mom had gone to Haskell. It was so good to make the connection far from Lawrence. We talked for about 10 minutes; he was being swamped by so many people who wanted to meet him."

—Brent Learned

married Haskell alumna and Women's Army Corps member Juanita Howling Buffalo, of the Arapaho Nation. Their son Brent honors his heritage in his art, signing his work with his Arapaho name, Haa-Naa-Jaa-Ne-Doa, which means Buffalo Bull Howling.

"My father urged me to think about how much a man like Chester has given to his country," Learned says. "He grew up at a time when his language was taken away and his identity was stripped, but he went overseas and gave so much. My father said, 'I think you would want to depict his life over time, and the man he became.'"

So Learned started a fresh canvas, carefully selecting symbols of Nez's life, from his childhood raising sheep in New Mexico, through the war, his years in Lawrence and his life today.

"For Plains Indians, our regalia explains how we became who we are," Learned says, "so I tried to create symbols that could be his Navajo regalia—the 1940s Fighting Jayhawk, Haskell, the Navajo word for sheep, and even one of his paintings, but in my style. He is also an artist and an art lover."

The result is a second stunning Brent Learned cover for *Kansas Alumni*, a complement to Steven Hill's powerful story of a remarkable World War II

Jayhawk—and a testament to the surprising yet strong ties between an artist and his subject.

On the Boulevard



A small shack on West Campus glowed orange with fire in late February as students and professors in KU's ceramics program fired the Train Kiln, one of six KU-operated kilns at the site. The kiln, which reached more than 2,400 degrees, housed nearly 200 ceramics pieces from KU and community artists. "We are proud to operate them," graduate student Neil Goss says of the kilns, "and even more so to share them with people."

Exhibitions

Annual Visual Art Scholarship Show, Art and Design Building, May 1

"Conversation XII: Crafting Continuities," Spencer Museum of Art, through June 17

"Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing," Spencer Museum of Art, March 24 through July 20

"39 Trails: Research in the Peruvian Amazon," Spencer Museum of Art, March 24 through July 22

Lied Center

MARCH

30 School of Music Scholarship Concert

31 Mnozil Brass

APRIL

10-14 Compagnia TPO "Farfalle" (Butterflies)

19-20 University Dance Company

20 Philippe Lefebvre, organ, Bales Organ Recital Hall

26 KU Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and University Band

27 Helianthus Contemporary Ensemble, Bales Organ Recital Hall

MAY

3 KU School of Music Opera Gala

University Theatre

MARCH

30-31, April 1-4 "The Foreigner," William Inge Memorial Theatre

APRIL

20-22, 27-29 "Merrily We Roll Along," with KU Opera, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

Lectures

MARCH

26 Arab Spring Lecture Series, James Gelvin, Spooner Hall

27 "Some Leaders Are Born Women!" Sarah Weddington, Kansas Union

APRIL

5 "World War II Oral Histories: African American Veterans Share Their Stories," Dole Institute of Politics

10 "Landscapes and Memory," Jamaica Kincaid, Kansas Union

Murphy Hall events

MARCH

27 Joyce Castle, mezzo soprano, and Mark Ferrell, piano

APRIL

10 University Singers, Collegium Musicum



17 Men's Glee Club,
Women's Glee Club and
Oread Consort

18 KU Trombone Choir

29 Instrumental Collegium

30 Chamber Choir and
Concert Choir

MAY

1 Borromeo String Quartet

Academic Calendar

MARCH

19-25 Spring break

MAY

3 Last day of spring classes

4 Stop Day

7-11 Final exams

13 Commencement

Special Events

APRIL

25-28 Africa World
Documentary Film Festival,
Spencer Museum of Art

26-27 New Dance,
Elizabeth Sherbon Dance
Theatre, Robinson Center

University Women's Club

APRIL

5 Scholarship awards,
Kansas Union

MAY

3 112th annual meeting,
Kansas Union

Kansas Honors Program

MARCH

28 Atchison

APRIL

4 Neodesha

4 Oakley

5 Logan

10 Greensburg Honor Roll

11 Pratt

11 Scott City

Alumni Chapter events

MARCH

22 Wichita Blood Drive,
KU Wichita Campus

23-April 9 Flying Jayhawks
in Asian Explorations

27 Theatre performance,
Pittsburg

28 Blind Tiger Brewery
Tour, Topeka

APRIL

4 Night with the Heat,
Miami

7 Day with the Angels, Los
Angeles

10-18 Flying Jayhawks in
Cruise the Waterways &
Canals of Holland and
Belgium

10-24 Flying Jayhawks in
Legendary Turkey

11 Baseball tailgate, Wichita

12 Denver Engineering
Alumni Reception

12 Jayhawk Dinner, Oberlin

13 Night with the Rockets,
Houston



13 Social Work Day,
Lawrence

14 Dodge City Jayhawk
Stampede

15-23 Flying Jayhawks in
European Coastal
Civilizations

15 Night with the Nuggets,
Denver

21 Rock Chalk Ball, Kansas
City

22 Flint Hills Wine Tasting,
Manhattan

22-May 4 Flying Jayhawks
in Tahitian Jewels

24 Theatre performance,
Liberal and Hugoton

26 Border Chapter Shrimp
Boil, St. Joseph, Mo.

26-29 Class of 1962
50-Year Reunion, Lawrence

26 St. Louis Engineering
Alumni Reception

28 Gold Medal Club
Reunion, Lawrence

MAY

1 Wine tasting, El Dorado

2 Grad Grill, Adams
Alumni Center

5 Hispanic Alumni Chapter
Graduation Banquet, Adams
Alumni Center

6-18 Flying Jayhawks in
Enchanting Ireland

7 Finals Dinner, Adams
Alumni Center

12 Hillel Graduation
Brunch, Lawrence

13 Commencement Open
House, Adams Alumni
Center

13-24 Flying Jayhawks in
Historic Reflections

14-24 Flying Jayhawks in
Austria

More events online

The events listed above are highlights from the Alumni Association's packed calendar, which stretches far beyond these pages. For more details about basketball watch parties, rallies and other Association events, watch for email messages about programs in your area, call 800-584-2957 or visit the Association's website at www.kualumni.org.

Jayhawk Walk

The beetle whisperer

CLIMBING ON MOSS-covered rocks, yards away from nude tourists bathing in hot springs, Crystal Maier made the discovery of her young entomological career.

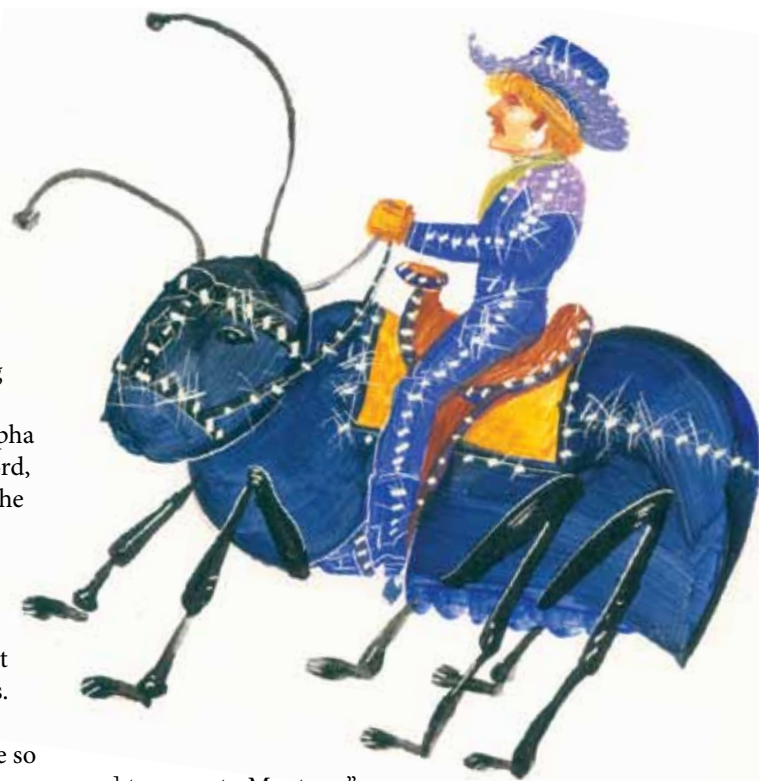
Then a master's student at Montana State University, Maier was among a group that traveled to Idaho in 2007 looking for a tiny beetle in the hydroscaphid family.

The specimens the team collected that day at the Jerry Johnson Hot Springs sat in a container for a year before Maier finally looked at one under a microscope. She realized the beetle didn't look like previously known varieties of hydroscaphids and was, in fact, a new species.

Presuming Jerry Johnson Hot Springs was named for mountain man Liver-Eating Johnson, the entomologists named the beetle *Hydroscapha redfordi*, after Robert Redford, who portrayed Johnson in the 1972 movie "Jeremiah Johnson."

It turns out Jeremiah Johnson and Jerry Johnson weren't the same person, but that didn't bug the scientists. They stuck to their plan.

"Robert Redford has done so much for conservation in Montana, we thought it would still be appropriate," says Maier, now a doctoral student at KU. "He also inspired my adviser [Michael Ivie, MSU associate professor of entomol-



LARRY LEROY PEARSON

ogy] to move to Montana."

While Maier and her colleagues thought naming the beetle after Redford was a high honor, there apparently is no quid pro quo in the biological world.

"[Ivie] was hoping for some attention from Robert Redford," Maier says. "We got a letter from his publicist saying thanks. He was hoping for a donation or something."



TERRY ROMBECK

He is the eggman

Paul Baker may make the best omelets on campus, but you have to find him first. The traveling eggman cooks made-to-order breakfasts from 8 to 10:15 a.m. in five campus buildings a week. "Some of the engineers in Spahr follow me to Murphy because they don't get hot meals very often," Baker says. "But I also think it's because there are more women there."

Not that "Chez Paul"—embroidered on his chef's hat—doesn't make a mean omelet. He's an expert, thanks to Ron Wroczynski, manager of Grab & Go and Hawk Food Stops. "Ron's taught me everything I know about cooking

omelets," says Baker, whose only previous experience was preparing Sunday brunch for his daughters and their friends.

He has finessed the flip and fold to perfection at KU, but by lunchtime Baker is back to work at H&R Block as a CPA. He also volunteers at the Lied Center, ushers at basketball games, works security at football games and serves hot dogs on Wescoe Beach when it's above 60 degrees. "Yeah, I'm retired," Baker says with a laugh. "But I only do what I want to do, so there's no pressure."

Baker makes an impressive 110 to 130 omelets a week and has no plans of slowing. "I tell Ron, I ought to be paying him because I'm having so much fun."

Who is that man?

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, during an office contest to match staff members with their baby photos, someone asked Danny Anderson what he looked like during his college days at KU.

Anderson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, knew exactly where his student ID was at home.

"I showed it around, and they were amused to see my '80s long hair and full beard," says Anderson, g'82, Phd'85.

STEVE PUPPE



Since then, Anderson has continued carrying his ID in his wallet, sometimes pulling it out when speaking with alumni about their days at KU.

He's not the only alumnus who still cherishes his ID. We mentioned this story on Facebook, and several alumni commented that they still knew their cards' whereabouts:

- Michael Kollman, b'96: "Mine is on our refrigerator. I think my wife and kid like to look at it and laugh at me. Lots of dark hair on my ID photo. Not so much anymore."

- Karoline Knock Felts, c'89: "Still carry it! It once got me into a club for free on a college ID night, many years after I had graduated."

- Christy Larson, s'06: "I still carry mine. I also carry my bus

pass from my freshman year! I can't bear to take them out of my purse."

"I think it may be a point of pride," Anderson says. "It's also a great remembrance of how it connected you to aspects of everyday student life."

Command performance

HYERIM JEON, DOCTORAL student in cello performance and principal cellist in the KU Symphony Orchestra, hoped to see Yo-Yo Ma at the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in January, but all three Kansas City concerts sold out.

Jeon got to see the world's most famous cellist after all when she was chosen for a master class with the multi-Grammy winner. She played the Elgar Cello Concerto for Ma and 1,800 music lovers who attended the public event.

"I was very nervous backstage, but when I came onstage and heard the audience, I wasn't nervous at all," says Jeon, g'11. "I thought, 'Oh my God, I have to play very, very well, because it's my big opportunity.' So I tried to enjoy my playing, and I think I played pretty good."

"She played her absolute very best, and Yo-Yo Ma acknowledged it," says Ed Laut, professor of violoncello and division director of strings at the School of Music. "He said to her, 'You and the cello have become one; the strings are like your vocal cords and you

Hundred Years' Wait

When the future life-long KU basketball fan Olive Vorse was born on a Pottawatomie County farm on Jan. 4, 1908, both Robinson Gymnasium and Phog Allen were four games into their first seasons.

Vorse was 42 when, in March 1955, KU dedicated the cavernous fieldhouse named in honor of the Jayhawks' by-then-legendary coach, and she was a 104-year-old birthday girl when she finally saw her first KU basketball game in person, Jan. 4 against Kansas State.

Seated courtside with her nephew, longtime season-ticket holder Dennis Beach, d'69, Vorse sported a Jayhawk cheek tattoo applied by nurses at Topeka's Presbyterian Manor, a Jayhawk jacket and a Jayhawk smile. She enjoyed a pregame "Happy Birthday" serenade from the student section, and cheered along as the Jayhawks delivered the best possible gift, an 18-point victory over the Wildcats.

It was the 1,991st KU victory of Olive Vorse's lifetime; here's a Rock Chalk cheer for many more.



MIKE YODER

spoke the music."

Ma played Jeon's cello, demonstrating techniques that might improve her sound, and they also played together. "He taught her things she could really use, things she needed to hear," Laut says. "As an

education experience, it was the ultimate."

Jeon concurs. "It's like the best event of my life, I think. To see Yo-Yo Ma standing over there, smiling at me, that made me feel very comfortable to play."



JANIS PORIETIS

STEVE PUPPE



BEST bet pays off

Johnson Countians invest in Edwards Campus growth as third point of triangle

The new Business, Engineering, Science and Technology Building at KU's Edwards Campus is a marvel, a \$23 million glass-and-brick complex bristling with the latest state-of-the-art computer and classroom technology and built to environmentally friendly LEED platinum standards. Actually three separate structures in one, BEST doubles the building count on the Johnson County campus to six and increases total square footage by more than 50 percent.

In a word: Impressive.

But what thrills Bob Clark, vice chancellor of the Edwards Campus, is the sentiment behind the funding that made it all possible.

"What impresses me most is that voters had enough faith in KU that they would vote for a one-eighth-cent sales tax in perpetuity," Clark says of the Education Research Triangle initiative, a partnership

among Johnson County, KU and Kansas State University. "As impressive as the building is, as important as it is in creating a different perspective of the campus—it's the fact that voters, at a time when the economy was at its worst, favored it so highly. That's a testament to the degree to which Johnson County believes education is the way to keep our economic engines healthy and people working."

The November 2008 vote came in the midst of the global financial crisis. "The economy had tanked, and it felt like we were being set up for disappointment," Clark recalls. He credits the efforts of volunteers, rallied in part by the Alumni Association's Jayhawks for Higher Education group, for helping sustain support at a time of historic economic uncertainty. Johnson County voters approved the tax,

The BEST Building on the Edwards Campus is the third structure funded by the Education Research Triangle.

to be used to support higher education and cancer and food safety research in the county, by a margin of 57 to 43 percent. The K-State Olathe Innovation campus opened in 2011, and the KU Clinical Research Center in Fairway opened earlier this year.

The BEST Building in Overland Park includes two large lecture halls, two small seminar rooms, 14 classrooms, four computer labs and 36 offices for faculty and staff. A 4,000-square-foot conference center accommodates

"This is unique. We can find no other county that is supporting its state university as Johnson County is now." —Vice Chancellor Bob Clark

groups as large as 400.

The building eventually will house 10 new programs in business, engineering, science and technology disciplines. Students enrolled in the first new program, a bachelor's degree in business administration, began using the building a few weeks before its official March 2 grand opening. The Kansas Board of Regents, which must approve new degree offerings, is expected to approve a bachelor of science and information technology. Also in the planning stages are professional science master's degrees in project management and environmental assessment. The Regents' approval in February of an expansion of the MetroKC tuition waiver also should drive higher demand for the programs. The waiver extends resident tuition rates for Edwards Campus classes to graduate and undergraduate students from 11 Missouri counties.

The building and programs are built on expectations, Clark says.

"The county has expectations that these degree programs are going to respond to the workforce needs of the area and improve the economic foundation of Johnson County. We are focused on the local economy, so it puts a little more pressure on us to make the right choices."

Many BEST classrooms are wired to allow professors to videotape classes, so students who miss class because of job-related travel can monitor the sessions from the road or view them later. Seating arrays are designed to give students more contact with faculty and one another—a teaching style that works particularly well with Edwards' adult student body, Clark says. (The average undergraduate on campus is 27, the average graduate student 31.) Abundant nooks and seating areas give students places to relax or engage with the campus community. A long wall of glass lets in natural light and heightens the building's open, welcoming feel.

From his office in neighboring Regnier Hall, Clark enjoys a commanding view of the new building—now that construction is mostly complete. "I kind of miss the Porta Potties," he chuckles, a reference to the equipment that dominated his vista during construction.

What he sees outside his window these days is the embodiment of a certain spirit. Of hard times weathered. Of optimism for a stronger future.

"This building is a testament to the degree to which Johnson County believes education is the way to keep our economic engine healthy," Clark says. —



TERRY ROMBECK

Amy Perko, a former KU associate athletics director, now advocates for reforms in college sports as executive director of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

Sporting chance

Former associate AD calls for better balance in college sports

From Amy Perko's perspective, college athletics is at a crossroads.

With lucrative television contracts

STEVE PUPPE



The Bioscience and Technology Business Center, a business incubator on West Campus that opened in 2010, is officially full.

Built to offer lab and

office space and ease access to KU researchers for businesses in fast-growing fields ["Growth Spur," Hilltopics, issue No. 1, 2011], the center leased the last of its available space to

Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated in January.

Ligand has a prior connection to the University. In 2011 the global drug discovery company acquired CyDex Pharmaceuticals, a startup created in 1993 to commercialize a KU drug delivery technology invented in the labs of Val Stella, University distinguished professor of

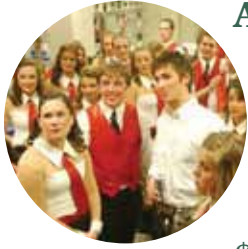
pharmaceutical chemistry.

Ligand is expected to expand work with several KU departments.

"This is exactly what we envisioned when we created the BTBC," said center director Matt McClorey, g'99, l'99, "companies coming here to create high-tech, high-paying jobs and to collaborate with KU researchers."

UPDATE

Hilltopics



A grand total: Rock Chalk Revue, the student variety show that puts the fun in fundraising, marked its 29th year in March. But a bigger milestone looms: Last year's show contributed a record \$62,000, bringing the total raised for

United Way of Douglas County since 1983 to \$958,000. The 2012 show, "Easier Said Than Done," looks to be a cinch to push total donations past the \$1 million mark.

luring some universities into larger athletic conferences, she believes the complicated issues driving the sports arms race come down to a philosophical decision: Will the college athletics of the future be based on a professional model or an amateur model?

Perko, a former KU associate athletics director who now serves as executive director of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, makes it clear which side she falls on.

"In a nutshell, we're trying to emphasize the college in college sports," she says.

Perko returned to campus in January to kick off a semester-long discussion about the role of athletics on college campuses.

The events are organized by the University Community Forum on Higher Education and Athletics at Ecumenical Campus Ministries. Bill Tuttle, a retired professor of American studies, says the group is concerned about a variety of issues in collegiate athletics, including conference realignment, sexual abuse scandals, the use of player likenesses in video games and the power of the Bowl Championship Series to control college football.

Perko, who has been with the Knight Commission since 2005, says the NCAA's academic reforms, such as tying a program's postseason eligibility to its graduation rates, have been a good start. But they don't go far enough.

"We can't keep saying, 'We're fixing the model by increasing academic standards, but don't mess with the money,'" Perko says.

One proposal from the Knight Commission would reward universities that maintain a proper balance between spending on academics and spending on athletics. Once that proper ratio is determined, a portion of television funds earned during the NCAA men's basketball tournament would be distributed to those schools that maintain it. Currently, the tournament money is distributed to teams that are most successful in the tournament.

"We want to get away from the idea of million-dollar free throws," she says, referring to the slim margin that can determine large payouts in the NCAA tournament. "We need to realign our financial incentives with our values."

Other priorities of the Knight Commission include better financial reporting by athletics departments and treating college athletes as amateurs, not professionals.

Perko says despite the hot-button issues surrounding college athletics, she rarely is invited to speak on campuses. She praised the ongoing series of discussions at KU, which also have included a panel of journalists discussing the role of the media in college sports. —

—Terry Rombeck

High flier

Distinguished paleontology grad earns China's highest honor

Before he came to KU as a graduate student in 1995, Zhonghe Zhou had already begun to make a name for himself in the science world.

Two years earlier, he was one of three paleontologists at China's Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) to see an early Cretaceous specimen that would eventually be identified—while Zhou was visiting KU—as an undiscovered bird genus. Zhou and colleagues later named the find *Confuciusornis*.

Hailed as an important addition to the avian family tree, the find generated much excitement among researchers, who found *Confuciusornis* far more primitive than modern birds but more advanced than *Archaeopteryx*, the earliest known bird, discovered in 1861.

"Next to *Archaeopteryx*, *Confuciusornis* is probably the most famous fossil bird in the world," says Larry Martin, PhD'73, senior curator of paleontology at the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum and professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. Martin has co-authored several papers on the genus with Zhou, PhD'00, and supervised his doctoral dissertation.

Since his time at KU, Zhou's standing has continued to grow. Three years ago he was named director of the IVPP, the most respected paleontological institute in China. In December he was elected to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The lifetime appointment, the highest honor for a Chinese scientist, is both a tribute to his research achievements and a harbinger of world-class work to come, says Desui Miao, collection manager in paleontology at the Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum.

"The Chinese academy is the equivalent of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S.," Miao says. "The competition to get in is fierce."

At 46, Zhou is the youngest member in the Academy's earth science division.

"Earth scientists usually need a long time to accumulate enough work to get in," Miao says. "They have to grow into it. To get elected in paleontology in your 40s is almost unheard of."

One of the most prominent paleontologists in the world and a leading expert in fossil birds, Zhou has made fossil finds that are widely cited as evidence that flight evolved "from the trees down," rather than from the ground up—most likely in feathered dinosaurs.

As head of the internationally renowned IVPP, he is in the thick of some of the most important paleontology research on the planet, Martin says.

"China has been the most rapidly growing paleontology region in the last two decades. If you look at the high-impact journals, probably two-thirds of what has been published, the fossils came out of China. One result is the Chinese have put an enormous investment into paleontology, many times the investment of the rest of the world put together."

Zhou maintains close connections to his alma mater. He and Martin collaborate, publishing two research papers together in

2011, and he is co-sponsoring graduate student Amanda Falk, g'10, who is now in China on a Fulbright grant.

"I am maintaining collaborations with quite a few international colleagues, but I will always treasure the collaboration with KU colleagues and students," Zhou wrote in an email. "I regard this as part of the tribute I can pay to KU."

Zhou says he's not alone in working with KU paleontologists, and he is always eager to encourage more of these collaborations.

"We are continuing to work with him all the time, and it has been a very good relationship for the University," says Martin, who adds that Zhou's election to the Chinese Academy may help more KU researchers explore the country's rich fossil deposits.

"China is where the important discoveries are being made," Martin says. "It's the hot place right now."

Major U.S. institutions are conducting research there, he notes, and at least one prominent American university is making a full-court press to establish a paleontological relationship with China, spending millions on the effort.

"That we are there with our limited resources is kind of remarkable."

Milestones, money and other matters



JEFF JACOBSEN

■ **KU's proposals for the 2013** general operating budget and specific enhancements have attracted support from key members of state-house committees this spring, but as *Kansas Alumni* went

to press, the Legislature had yet to finalize budget decisions. The University's budget request includes \$3 million to hire "foundation professors" who would help maintain KU's membership in the Association of American Universities, and \$1.9 million to make up a shortfall in the School of Medicine loan program. KU's state agenda also emphasizes broad support for health care in the state, including strengthening medical education and continued support for the KU Cancer Center.

■ **An anonymous \$2.5 million gift** from a KU alumnus and his wife is the largest gift in the School of Education's history. The money will establish scholarships for education majors and also includes funding for leadership skills training.

■ **U.S. Navy Rear Admiral** Mark Heinrich, g'89, g'89, was honored by the School of Business as a distinguished MBA alumnus during a campus visit in February. "At the School of Business, we pride ourselves on our efforts to serve those who serve our country, and honoring him is a small token of gratitude for his military service," said Neeli Bendapudi, dean of business. "He is a fine example of the caliber of Jayhawks found all around the world." Heinrich is commander of Naval Supply Systems Command and the 46th chief of Supply Corps. He graduated from KU's interdisciplinary petroleum management MBA program for Naval Supply Corps officers.



COURTESY ZHONGHE ZHOU

As director of the China's Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology and a newly elected member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhonghe Zhou is one of the most prominent paleontologists in the world, says his KU mentor and collaborator, Larry Martin.

Hilltopics

TERRY ROMBECK



Candy Crowley, recipient of this year's William Allen White citation, says she is covering her last presidential campaign on the road. She is pictured with a portrait of White in Stauffer-Flint Hall.

JOURNALISM

Longtime CNN correspondent wins William Allen White citation

CANDY CROWLEY, the CNN chief political correspondent, swore she would never cover another presidential campaign after 2004.

Then Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton entered the race in 2008, providing an intriguing matchup for the Democratic nomination.

This time around, Crowley agreed to cover the Republican nomination pro-

cess—only because she thought Mitt Romney would be a shoo-in and she wouldn't have to spend much time on the road.

"I thought it would all be over by the end of January," she says.

Instead, Crowley was still in the middle of covering the campaign when she visited KU in February to accept the William Allen White Citation from the foundation that bears the legendary newspaper editor's name.

Crowley says the political fate of whoever wins the Republican nomination will rely on the state of the economy in mid-summer.

"If the economy feels better to people, then I think you have to give the advantage to the incumbent," she says.

Crowley, who hosts CNN's "State of the Union," says she attempts to maintain the middle ground in a cable news landscape that is perceived as partisan.

"I would like everyone to come away from my show saying, 'I wonder whose side she's on,'" Crowley says.

Crowley says she is concerned about the growing pressures on journalists to multitask, with blogs and social media taking up time that used to be spent fact-checking.

"What Twitter translates to me is you're 140 characters away from being fired," she says. "It takes longer for me to write a Tweet than an entire news story."

—Terry Rombeck

ANTHROPOLOGY

Mummy helps link researchers with Peruvian culture

AS A SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGIST, Bart Dean usually focuses on the recent past. So how did the associate professor of anthropology come to find himself and two graduate students rewrapping a 450-year-old mummy in Tarapoto, Peru, in December?

"I'm an expert not on 500 years ago, but on five or 50 years ago," Dean says. "But discussing the mummy, it provides a window to talk about death and talk about memory. It's a somewhat safe way to help a part of the world that has been traumatized with deep, deep wounds."

The mummy is from the collection of the Regional Museum of the National University of San Martin, where Dean traveled on a Fulbright teaching award last fall to promote the interdisciplinary study of Amazonia. The region has been a

VISITOR

Civic engagement

Former Minnesota Governor and Republican presidential candidate Tim Pawlenty shared his experiences in state and national politics and urged students to become more involved in civic life during an onstage interview with Bill Lacy, director of the Dole Institute.

WHEN: Feb. 7

WHERE: Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, co-

sponsored by KU College Republicans.

BACKGROUND: Pawlenty served as governor of Minnesota from 2003 to 2011 following a 10-year stint in the state's House of Representatives. He entered the 2012 presidential race in May and dropped out in August after taking third place in Iowa's Ames Straw Poll.

ANECDOTE: With a quip, Pawlenty, who has endorsed

Mitt Romney for president, deflected a question about his potential job in a Republican administration. "I can't afford that KU tuition on a Cabinet salary," he joked. His daughter Anna came to the Hill this fall as a freshman.

QUOTES: "We need your talent, your energy, your creativity, your passion and vision for the future, your collaborative nature with us intergenerationally," Pawlenty told KU students in attendance.



STEVE PUPPE

"Regardless of your political background, I know everyone in this room cares about our country. We will not have an effective, functioning democracy if we have large numbers of our citizenry checked out."



A KU professor and his students enlisted indigenous weavers from Tarapoto, Peru, to make a shroud for the funeral bundle of a 450-year mummy at the Regional Museum of the National University of San Martin.

natural migration corridor for centuries and a burial ground during Peru's long civil war against Shining Path rebels.

For the ritual rewrapping, he enlisted local weavers to design and make new garments for the mummy. The weavers are from the Quechua-speaking indigenous people who for many years were treated as second-class citizens in Peru.

"Anthropology can be a bridge between these different worlds," says Dean, who was joined in Peru by graduate students Joshua Homan, c'06, g'12, and Sydney Silverstein. "I think it provides a safe space to ask questions about the role Quechua speakers play in the Peruvian nation. Civil wars have been fought over questions like this."

CAMPUS

New path lights way to Mass St.

STUDENT STROLLERS heading downtown have a smoother, more brightly lit route to follow now that a pedestrian pathway through the Oread Neighbor-



STEVE PUPPE

hood is complete.

The ADA-compliant path follows 12th Street from Oread Avenue to Vermont Street and crosses South Park to Massachusetts Street. Motion-activated street lamps line the route, and pedestrian-activated stop lights ease passage through busy crossings at Kentucky and Tennessee streets.

The student-led initiative, championed by Elise Higgins, c'10, former community affairs director for the Student Senate, was paid for with KU Student

Safety funds and Community Development Block Grant money from the City of Lawrence.

"It was executed very well," says Higgins, who now works for Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, a Topeka health care advocacy group. "What we wanted was a safer way between campus and downtown, and that's what we got."

Milestones, money and other matters



STEVE PUPPE

■ Starting in fall 2012, the **William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications** will offer the first mass communications doctoral program in Kansas. The new program, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in January, will focus on media and society.

■ A **\$2.4 million estate gift** from the late George A. Daniels, e'55, will fund renewable scholarships that pay full tuition, fees, books, and room and board for in-state undergraduates. Daniels earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering while attending KU on a Summerfield Scholarship and went on to hold four patents.

■ **Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little** in January approved a new Universitywide policy requiring all employees of KU and affiliates to report to law enforcement suspected sexual abuse of children under 18 years old that occurs on property owned or operated by the University or in conjunction with a University-sponsored event or activity. The full text of the policy is available at kualumni.org/crimereporting.

■ **The Hospital Authority Board** at the University of Kansas Hospital will contribute \$2 million in 2012 to KU's effort to achieve National Cancer Institute designation for the KU Cancer Center. The commitment includes \$1 million for clinical cancer research, \$500,000 for cancer clinical trials and \$500,000 to support the Cancer Partners Advisory Board.

"We can't perpetuate this cherished country unless we have an informed, engaged citizenry. It's precious, but it requires each of us to do something."

—Tim Pawlenty



Mizzou in rear view

**Regular-season thrills
a fading memory as Jayhawks
look toward tourney titles**

KU's epic victory over Missouri—the foreseeable future between the fiercest of rivals—was a week old, and two more conference games had been played since. But the unequaled thrills of Feb. 25 were still ringing through heads and hearts as coach Bill Self addressed the media after his Jayhawks closed out their regular season with a 10-point victory over Texas.

After winning at least a share of the Big 12 title with their overtime triumph over

Mizzou, claiming the title outright two days later at Oklahoma State and closing with the 73-63 victory over Texas, the Jayhawks had powered their way through the first-ever 18-game, round-robin conference schedule at 16-2. Missouri and Baylor, both top-10 teams, were two and four games back, respectively.

Including the two milestone Missouri games—KU's last appearance in Columbia was a thrilling, heartbreaking three-point loss—plus the fact that Self's Jayhawks returned only one starter (senior guard Tyshawn Taylor) after losing three to early departure for the NBA, the season seemed, even by KU standards, memorable.

And for the briefest of moments, Self allowed himself one final reflection:

"I never dreamed that the winner of the

Guard Tyshawn Taylor, a four-year starter, scored 24 points—including game-winning free throws with 8.6 seconds remaining in overtime—and played 44 minutes against Missouri in Allen Field House.

league would have two losses. I thought four would tie it and three would win it outright. To only have two is pretty remarkable."

And just as swiftly, he moved on.

Whatever glow remained from the thunderous Missouri game and the entirely unpredictable regular-season thrill ride, Self snuffed out the embers and, as of about 11 p.m. on March 3, looked only toward the postseason. His Jayhawks had just won their eighth-straight conference title; Self knows that conference titles only go so far at Kansas.

"It's been a great run," said KU's ninth-year coach, "but we've had enough pats on the back about winning the league. That's over. We need to put our focus on trying to make it a special season. It's a good season, you can't take that away from us, but it won't be special unless you play well from this point forward."

And yet even as the top-seeded Jayhawks (26-5 overall and ranked No. 3 nationally) headed to the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City as *Kansas Alumni* went to press, they still had plenty of regular-season business remaining—namely, scooping up individual honors by the armful.

Junior forward Thomas Robinson, who will almost certainly forgo his senior season and head to the NBA, was the Big 12 coaches' choice as conference Player of the Year. Robinson was the only player in the Big 12 to average a double-double (18 points and 11.9 rebounds a game). Against eight nationally ranked teams, he averaged 19.8 points and 12.3 rebounds and shot 55.6 percent from the field. Along with Kentucky freshman sensation Anthony Davis, Robinson is one of two favorites for

national player of the year awards that will be announced during Final Four week.

Remarkably, he had never even been a starter until this season. Playing behind Cole Aldrich and Marcus and Markieff Morris, Robinson started only three games and averaged 10.9 minutes in his first two seasons; this year he was one of four Jayhawks to average more than 30 minutes a game.

“I think it’s a two-horse race, without question,” Self said of national player of the year voting, “and they’re both horses. Thoroughbreds.”

Joining Robinson as a unanimous choice as first-team All-Big 12 was senior guard Tyshawn Taylor, who averaged 17.2 points a game and even outscored Robinson during conference play at 18.6 points a game. Against eight ranked opponents, Taylor averaged 19.1 points and 4.9 assists while shooting 50 percent from behind the 3-point arc. He was among the league’s top five in scoring, field-goal percentage (48.9), 3-point field goal percentage (43.1) and assists (4.9), and posted back-to-back 28-point games.



“We’re happy for overachieving in conference play, but that’s not enough. There’s still a bigger trophy out there.”

—junior forward Thomas Robinson

Taylor also joined Darnell Valentine and Kirk Hinrich as the only Jayhawks with at least 1,400 career points, 500 assists and 150 steals. Most important, he will complete his final nine credit hours this semester and walk down the Hill in May.

“He’s meant about as much to our program as anybody who has been here for four years,” Self said. “He, without question, is one of the premier players in the country. ... It hasn’t always been easy for him because he’s felt the weight of all the Kansas fans on his back, and maybe rightfully so, but I think he’s turned everybody with his play and his actions this year.”

Self was named Big 12 Co-Coach of the Year, along with Iowa State’s Fred Hoiberg, and was also chosen national Coach of the Year by The Sporting News.

All the trophies and Big 12 championship rings will be put on proud display in the men’s basketball offices and Booth Family Hall of Athletics. But the momentum built by an overachieving team that looped through the rugged Big 12 with only two losses and overcame a 19-point second-half deficit to beat Missouri—“That’s about as good as it gets,” Self said—had everyone dreaming bigger dreams about dances yet to come.

“Hopefully this is the year that we can do it,” Self said. “You look around the country, Connecticut didn’t have the best team last year and they won it, Duke the year before didn’t have the best team and

Junior center Jeff Withey (5) blocked 100 shots during the regular season and was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year. Senior guard Conner Teahan (2) said the win over Missouri was as thrilling as the 2008 national championship victory over Memphis.



they won it. Sometimes somebody finds lightning in a bottle and gets hot, and I do think we have the pieces in place that we could do that.”

As they considered their tournament prospects, both Taylor and Robinson referenced disappointing runs by their previous two Kansas squads, which were both No. 1 seeds.

“I think this team has a little bit more of an edge because even being a [projected] No. 1 seed, we definitely have to earn it and no one is going to give it to us,” Taylor said. “This team is a little hungrier than those two teams.”

Said Robinson: “I feel more comfortable about this team than previous years. We’re just right. We don’t have too much or too little. We’re happy for overachieving in conference play, but that’s not enough. There’s still a bigger trophy out there.”

At the buzzer

'Hawks keep NCAA dreams alive with win in regular-season finale

Junior forward Carolyn Davis's selection to the All-Big 12 team for the second consecutive season was hardly a surprise. Or, it wouldn't have been before Feb. 12, when Davis was lost for the season with a dislocated knee and torn anterior cruciate ligament during KU's 47-43 loss at Kansas State.

Entering the game, the Jayhawks were 17-6 overall, 6-5 in the tough Big 12 and seemingly poised to land their first NCAA Tournament bid since 2000; after losing Davis, who was ranked among the national leaders in field-goal percentage and had scored 20 points eight times, KU dropped three in a row (including the KSU game) and five of six.

After a heartbreaking, three-point Senior Night loss to Oklahoma State Feb.

29, the Jayhawks had just one regular-season game remaining: March 4, at Oklahoma. With 23 points and nine rebounds by senior Aishah Sutherland, the Jayhawks won their fifth Big 12 road game of the year, 83-77.

Junior guard Angel Goodrich led the Big 12 with 7.6 assists a game and was named All-Big 12 second team. Sutherland was awarded honorable mention. Sutherland was fourth in rebounding (9.1) and 10th in scoring (13.9).

As of press time, the Jayhawks were headed to the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City likely needing at least one victory to strengthen their case for an NCAA Tournament bid. But, thanks to the win at OU, at least all hope was not lost.

"When Aishah and Angel play well, good things happen for us," says coach Bonnie Henrickson. "When those two lead us, the young ones follow. We have five upperclassmen and we play four freshmen, and it starts with those two."



JEFF JACOBSEN

Forward Aishah Sutherland, KU's only senior, had to step up her game when frontcourt mate Carolyn Davis was lost to a season-ending knee injury.

UPDATES

After opening with consecutive losses, the softball team won 15 games in a row—the second-longest winning streak in school history—and along the way won three tournament titles.

"We're trying to build consistency within our program

and bring the same intensity every time they come out here," says coach **Megan Smith**. "They've answered that call."

With four RBI against Wisconsin March 3, senior **Liz Kocon** set KU's career RBI record at 119. Freshman pitcher **Alicia Pille** started 7-2 and sophomore **Kristin Martinez** was 3-0. ...

The sports world widely embraced the March 2 50th anniversary of the 100-point NBA game by **Wilt Chamberlain**, '59, but no commentary topped that offered by Hall of Fame coach **Bob Knight**: "He may be the best all-around athlete that America ever produced," Knight said on ESPN. ...

Tennis opened its season 7-0 in dual matches. During that streak, sophomore **Claire Dreyer** and freshman **Maria Belen Ludueña** were undefeated in singles play. ... Coach **Charlie Weis** named veteran NFL coach

Dave Campo his defensive coordinator, and former KU player and coach **Clint Bowen**, d'96, returns as special teams coordinator and defensive backs coach. The spring game is 1 p.m. April 28, and the Jayhawks open the season Sept. 1 against South Dakota State. Homecoming is Oct. 27, vs. Texas. ... Junior **Andrea**



JEFF JACOBSEN (2)

Kocon

Geubelle won the triple jump at the Big 12 Indoor meet, and sophomore sprinter **Diamond Dixon** won the 400 and anchored KU's winning 4x400 relay team. Dixon was named regional athlete of the year by a track coaches' association, and horizontal jumps coach **Wayne Pate** was named assistant coach of the year.



Dreyer



Not only did he stand in for injured center Jeff Withey for the opening tip of overtime, but forward Thomas Robinson (0) also scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in KU's 87-86 victory over Missouri Feb. 25 in Allen Field House, where even coach Bill Self took part in joyous celebrations. "Just when I thought we couldn't get to another level," Robinson said, "we stuck together and we got better tonight." Guard Elijah Johnson (15) and his alma-mater-singing teammates closed the regular season with a 73-63 Senior Night victory over Texas.





Native Spe



aker

A Navajo code talker adds his own chapter to the history of his people and his country

by Steven Hill

Photographs courtesy Nez family



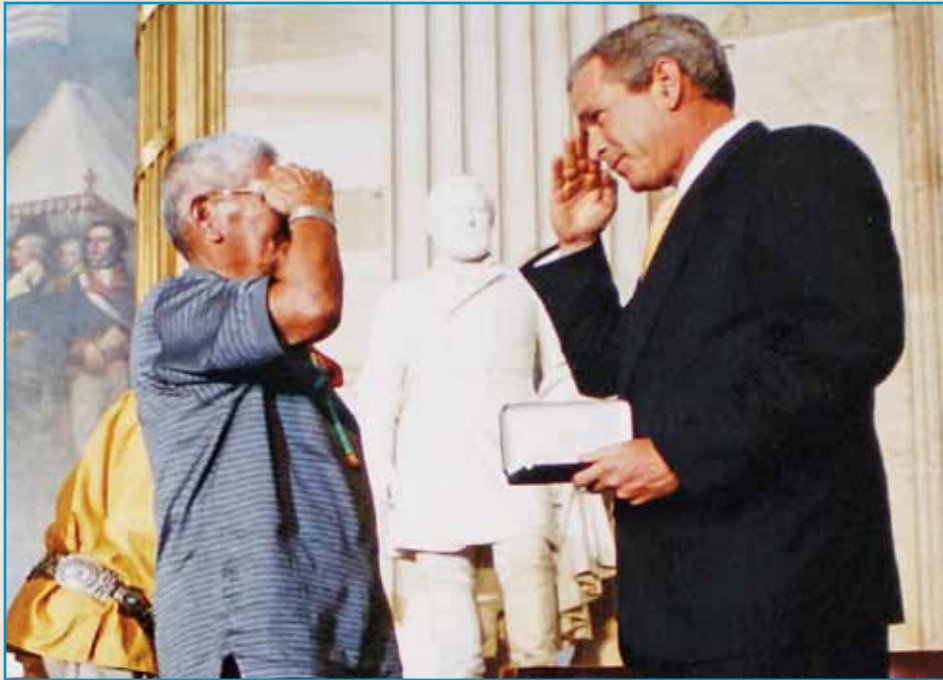
At 91, Chester Nez still can't forget the bloody beaches of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam and Peleliu.

As a young U.S. Marine, he was a key member of the forces that stormed those beaches during World War II and liberated the islands from the Japanese. His skills were so valued that he usually was spared from the first wave, instead advancing with the second or third, wading through the fallen bodies of fellow Marines, some friends since boot camp.

Nez was a "living code machine," one of the original 29 Navajo recruits who devised a military code based on their native language. The Japanese, who had deciphered U.S. communications seemingly at will, never cracked the new code. Military historians say it helped the United States turn the tide in the South Pacific.

By war's end more than 400 Navajos would serve as code talkers. But as one of the original 29, Nez was there from the beginning, when these men fluent in both Navajo and English first learned the reason for their recruitment. Locked in a room at Camp Elliott in San Diego, he and his comrades were told they'd been selected for the critical mission of devising a new code that Marines could use to communicate troop movements and battle plans. He was there, too, charging down the ramp of a landing craft, when the first four-man code talker teams tested their new invention under fire, on Nov. 4, 1942, at the Battle of Guadalcanal.

In *Code Talker*, a memoir co-written with Judith Schiess Avila and published in September by Berkley Caliber, Nez, '53,



Chester Nez greeted President George W. Bush with a salute during a 2001 ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Nez and his fellow code talkers. Opposite page: In Tuba City, Ariz., where Marine Corps recruiters enlisted the help of Nez and his fellow Navajos months after Pearl Harbor. Previous page: Twenty-four of the original 29 Navajo code talkers.

recounts that terrifying beach landing, his first combat experience.

“We rushed down into chest-deep water, holding our rifles above our heads in the continuing rain. Japanese artillery shells exploded around us. Noise roared, continuous, like the clamor of an enraged crowd. Sharp punctuations—individual explosions—added to the din. Bodies of Japanese and American soldiers floated everywhere. I smelled death, as bullets sliced into the water. Blood stained the tide washing onto the beach. ...

“Navajo belief forbids contact with the dead, but we waded through floating bodies, intent on not becoming one of them. *Close your mind*, I told myself. I tried not to think about all those dead men, their *chindí* violently released from this life. *I am a Marine. Marines move forward.*”

At the time Nez was one among a handful of Navajo men fighting to protect their country and their families, to prove that their people—then not even allowed to vote in Nez’s home state of New

Mexico—could contribute to the war effort and to the life of the nation.

Now, 70 years later, he is the last.

A mutual friend introduced Judith Schiess Avila to Chester Nez. Avila thought she might write a magazine piece about his war experience, but after their first meeting she told Nez and his son, Michael, she wanted more. She wanted to write his life story.

“His story is so fascinating, so different from what I knew,” Avila says. “His life growing up on a reservation, herding sheep, the boarding school—it was all totally new to me and totally fascinating.”

Though other books have chronicled the

wartime contributions of the Navajo code talkers, Avila believes Nez’s memoir is the first to focus more broadly on a code talker’s entire life. In doing so, the book highlights the remarkable Navajo culture of resilience and independence that made Nez and other men like him ideal candidates for their chosen mission.

Nez grew up in the Checkerboard area of New Mexico on what is now called the Navajo Nation. As a boy he helped his father and grandparents tend sheep and goats, sleeping on the ground and tramping 15 to 20 miles a day as they followed their large herd across broad swaths of grassland. At 8 he was sent to learn English at one of the government boarding schools located at old U.S. Army outposts. Matrons and older boys treated him cruelly. Food was scarce. Children were told not to speak Navajo and were beaten if they disobeyed.

“The whole boarding school thing is a symptom of the idea that we could come in and take over and everyone should be like us,” Avila says. “Luckily it didn’t work, because there’s an awful lot our different cultures can contribute to our society. The code talkers’ success in World War II is a huge example.”

Indeed, less than a decade after official government policy had aimed to eradicate the Navajo language, the government turned to Nez and his fellow Navajo because it believed their language ideally suited to form the basis of a code.

Philip Johnston, a civil engineer whose missionary parents raised him on the Navajo Reservation, proposed the idea. The World War I veteran knew about the limited use of Choctaw and Comanche to transmit messages in that war, and his own experience with Navajo convinced him it would be perfect for a secret code. It was an unwritten language, and its complex

“Chester will say, ‘I didn’t do any more than so many other men did.’ But he did something other soldiers never could have done, and it was crucial.”

—Judith Schiess Avila

structure and tonal qualities made it difficult for non-native speakers to learn. Even Johnston, who moved onto the reservation at 4 and grew up speaking Navajo, never mastered it. Estimates then put the number of non-native speakers at 30, and many Navajo contested that, believing their language's subtle complexities—the difficult pronunciations, complicated grammar and insular lexicon that made it so foreign to outsiders' ears—could only be spoken by those who absorbed it from infancy.

A better military code was direly needed. At the time, messages sent via the standard "Shackle" code had to be written in English and encrypted with a coding machine before transmission. The receiver had to decode the message via machine and write it out in English. The process was time consuming—and ineffective. A year into the war, the Japanese had broken every American code.

With the Navajo code, the men themselves served as code machines. Working in pairs (one man cranked the radio while the other spoke), code talkers took an English message, translated it in their heads and spoke the message in code—all from memory and all while under fire. A code talker on the receiving end would mentally translate the message and write it out in English. At no time was the Navajo code written down, and because the system was not merely spoken Navajo, but instead a code based on Navajo, it made no sense to Navajo speakers who didn't know the code. That proved valuable later, when the Japanese identified the language and tried to get Navajo prisoners-of-war to translate it. Furthermore, messages that took hours to send via Shackle were transmitted in minutes using the Navajo code.

Marine recruiters showed up in Tuba City, Arizona, where Nez was attending a government-run boarding school, in April 1942. Fluent in both Navajo and English, he was just what the Marines were looking for. Their offer confirmed his long-held feeling that his destiny lay outside the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation.

"I wanted to see how people lived off the reservation," Nez recalls in *Code Talker*.





Chester Nez at home in Albuquerque with (front row) granddaughter Shawnia Nez Whitfield, daughter-in-law Rita Nez, (back row) grandson Michael Nez, great-grandson Emery Whitfield, grandson Latham Nez and son Michael Nez.

“I was curious to learn about the possibilities and opportunities offered out there in the larger world. And, more than anything, I wanted to serve and defend my country.”

At 91, Nez has trouble hearing. He lost both legs in recent years to diabetes, and he uses a wheelchair to get around the Albuquerque home where he lives with Michael and Rita, his daughter-in-law. The faces of his Navajo comrades, though, are still sharp in his mind, their names lively on his tongue. Roy Begay, his partner at Guadalcanal. Wilsie Bitsie. Cosey Brown. Lowell Damon. Balmer Slowtalker. Harry Tsosie. He names them all in his book, and laments that some who served after the original 29 never got the recognition they deserved. Because the code talker program was classified until 1968, code talkers were not allowed to talk about their experience after the war. Some who died in combat or before the code was declassified took the secret to their graves.

The forced silence also made it difficult for Nez to put the war behind him after his combat duty ended in 1945, on the eve of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

“The secrecy that the Marines had imposed upon the code talkers stifled me,” he writes. “It wasn’t much help to talk about what I’d done and seen in general terms. ... My memories were very specific and very disturbing, and I decided that it was better not to say much at all if I couldn’t reveal my true story.”

Back home on the Checkerboard, Nez was haunted by the spirits—the *chindi*—of dead Japanese soldiers. His family, who prayed for his safety while he was overseas, hired a medicine man to put on a four-day ceremony to drive away the spirits and return him to the spiritual balance Navajo call the Right Way.

The secrecy also meant the code talkers would not get credit initially for their outsized role in helping the United States defeat the Japanese.

“They weren’t in the books that came out after the flush of victory, they weren’t in the movies,” Avila says. But she also notes that Navajo culture does not celebrate the accomplishments of one who has done his expected duty.

“Chester will say, ‘I didn’t do any more than so many other men did.’ But he did something other soldiers never could have done, and it was crucial. He feels he just

did his duty to his country, that he didn’t back away from what needed to be done. I think that has informed the whole remainder of his life: He did what he should, even though it was scary and it was hard to do.”

Says Avila, “I hope we all feel that way when we’re 91.”

The code talkers did eventually earn the thanks of the nation. They were hailed in books and movies and by presidents Nixon, Reagan and Bush. In 2001, George W. Bush presented Nez and three other original code talkers the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation’s highest civilian award, in the Capitol Rotunda. After shaking the president’s hand, Nez snapped off a sharp salute, to the delight of the audience.

Asked about it now, he says what an honor it was for him and his people—then cracks that he’s looking for someplace to hook his gold medal.

“He’s got a great sense of humor and he’s very upbeat in his personality,” Avila says. “He’s just a good, wise man who tried to be fair and honest.” And the obvious irony of his young life—that the same country that tried to erase his culture and language later asked him to use those very things to help it win a war—is not something he dwells on.

“Everyone who reads the book picks up on that irony immediately, but he feels no rancor about the way he was treated. Things that would make other people feel angry or slighted, he just shrugs his shoulders and says, ‘That’s the way it is. They’ll learn.’”

Nez came to Lawrence to earn his high school degree at Haskell, then enrolled at KU to study commercial art. His time on the Hill was interrupted by a stateside stint in the Korean War, and he eventually used up his GI Bill money before earning his degree. He made the most of his college years, boxing Golden Gloves and trying out for “Ted Mack’s Amateur Hour,” where he crooned “(I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons.” “It was a very un-Navajo thing to do,” Nez says, but after serving in the Marines nothing intimidated him.

His fortitude and sense of humor have been tested by life. He lost two children in infancy and a third died in a car wreck at 21. His marriage to Ethel Catron, a Haskell student he met while at KU, broke up. With age has come medical challenges. "I only wish I could be half the man he is to go through all that and still carry on," says Michael Nez.

A sense of perspective and gratitude—born, perhaps, from surviving a war that claimed so many comrades—helped Chester rise above. "I am so happy I came back alive to tell my story, and so happy I'm still here," he says. "My life is 100 percent."


Writing *Code Talker* has given Nez an opportunity to look back over the long, eventful stretch of his life and reflect on his journey, to share what he learned with family and friends. "Pop is a pretty humble man," Michael says. "He never talked much about his deeds in the war. I never realized how much he missed the friends he lost in the war until he was doing the interviews for the book." The memoir's success (see sidebar) has allowed him to tell a larger story—the story of his Navajo people—on a national platform.

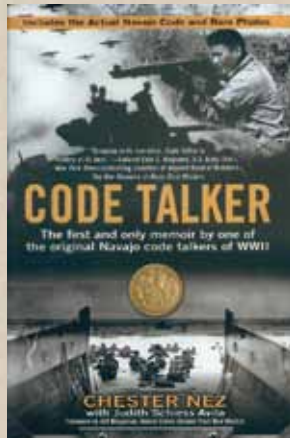
It's a platform that surely would have been beyond the imagining of a small boy listening near a campfire beneath a diamond blanket of stars in 1920s New Mexico as his father and grandmother told "the great stories" of the Long Walk (when the Navajo were forced onto reservations) and the Great Livestock Massacre (when the U.S. government destroyed millions of the tribe's sheep and goats), epic tragedies preserved in Navajo oral history.

With *Code Talker*, Nez is adding his own chapter to that history. "My fellow code talkers and I have become part of a new oral and written tradition, a Navajo victory," he writes. "Our story is not one of sorrow, like the Long Walk and the Great Livestock Massacre, but one of triumph."

It's a story not only of war, but of a life long- and well-lived. Chester Nez is grateful for the chance to tell it.

At 91, he is still strong, in his way, like the code he helped devise.

Unbroken. 



Code Talker

By Chester Nez
with Judith Schiess Avila
Berkley Caliber, \$26.95

Code Talker grew from more than 100 hours of interviews with Nez. The book attracted interest from a university press, but after the press dragged its feet for a year Avila looked elsewhere and even considered self-publishing.

"I felt an obligation to Chester to have his story told, because of all the time he spent with

me and all that he disclosed," Avila says. "One way or another it was going to get out there."

Before dipping into her own bank account, she decided to try to find an agent. "I've been writing a long time and this is the first book I've published, so I knew how hard it can be. Getting an agent can take months and months."

She emailed several New York agencies, and within hours Scott Miller, of Trident Media Group, wrote back.

"He said, 'This sounds fascinating; send me the whole proposal.' That was on a Friday. Monday he called and said, 'I can sell this.' By Friday he had sold it to Penguin," the parent company of Berkley Caliber.

Code Talker has sold well. The hardcover is in its ninth printing, and a paperback is due Aug. 7.


Kindle and Nook editions are available, and an audio book—with authentic Navajo pronunciations—recently appeared.

Also gratifying, for Nez, is the reception he gets at book signings.

At the first signing, Avila prayed that at least a few people would show up.

"More than 500 people came. They turned them away at the door. There were 150 books, and people were fighting over them. Chester signed his name for three hours, had his picture taken with kids, families. One woman wrote in his book, 'Will you marry me?' He grinned and said, 'Yes!' He was like a rock star."

Though he's enjoying the attention book signings, print stories and national radio interviews bring, Nez keeps the spotlight on his brothers-in-arms. They're all gone now, but he thrills in rekindling the memory of these original 29 code talkers (and the hundreds who followed them) in the nation's mind.

"I'm so happy and so proud," he says, "that all these people are going to know what my Navajo people did for their country." 

—Steven Hill



Nez and Avila

U^LY^SS^SE^S
by
JAMES JOYCE

SHAKESPEARE AND C^O
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PA

AME WRITER

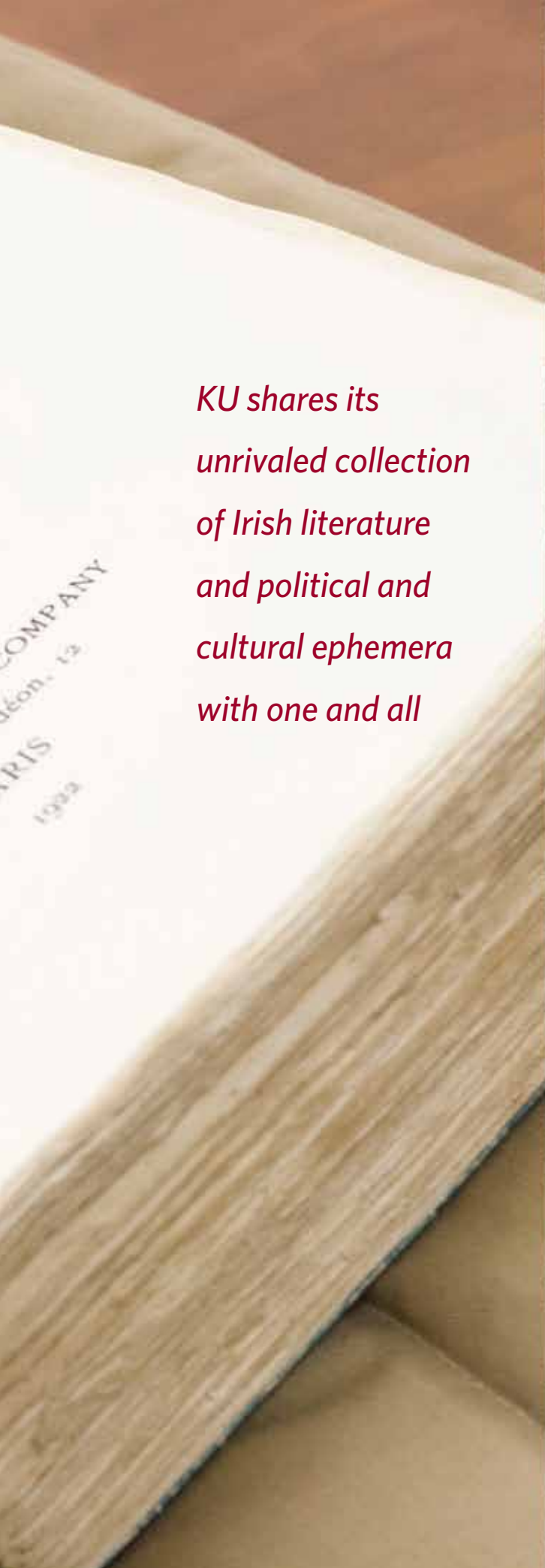
THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN

THE BUCHT PRESS
LONDON

Luck *of the* Irish

by Chris Lazzarino

Photographs by Steve Puppe



*KU shares its
unrivalled collection
of Irish literature
and political and
cultural ephemera
with one and all*

The best campus view you've probably never seen is found on the third floor of a building you've perhaps never visited, Spencer Research Library. Enter from the elevated terrace behind Strong Hall. At the welcoming new reception desk in the renovated lobby you'll see the comfy new Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room; it's where you'll do the research you are now allowed to do, simply by registering at the front desk—but first, the view.

Continue past the reception desk, linger over display cases filled with treasures from the Spencer Library's varied collections, then head down a hallway and into the red-carpeted North Gallery.

At the far end is a wall of glass with an up-close view of the Campanile so perfect it's nearly startling: Potter Lake. The Hill. Memorial Stadium. The Kaw River Valley. KU buildings simply weren't designed to highlight views to the north, away from Jayhawk Boulevard; this is an exception on a memorable scale.

Spencer Research Library, once something of a fortress that discouraged visits from all but qualified academics and researchers, is refashioning itself as an invigorating haven open to all visitors, including undergraduates and alumni, and the campus view is a significant selling point.



“Personally, I think this is one of the nicest and most inspiring spaces on campus,” says Special Collections Librarian Elspeth Healey, who came to KU in February 2011 after two and a half years of graduate study at the University of Texas, where she worked in the splendid Harry Ransom Center, UT’s humanities research library and museum. “It is open to the public, so if students want to come in here and read a book and look out at the Campanile, they can, and they don’t even have to check their bags to get back here.”

Healey turns away from the vista’s allure and motions toward another wall of glass—this one interior, enclosing stacks of old and rare books, including a particular point of pride for the Spencer Research Library: its world-class collection of Irish literature, manuscripts, political documents, prison diaries, maps, posters and even century-old tickets to revolutionary rallies, thought to be the largest and most

Spencer Research Library, once something of a fortress that discouraged visits from all but qualified academics and researchers, is refashioning itself as an invigorating haven open to all visitors, including undergraduates and alumni.

complete collection of its kind outside of Dublin.

“The view of the Campanile is magnificent,” Healey says, “but we think the view is equally magnificent back in this direction.”

In this season celebrating all things Irish, Healey and her colleagues are eager for the Spencer’s collection to join the party. Sure, pints of Guinness and festive parades make for a fine day of revelry, but Irish literature is timeless, and nowhere outside of Ireland is it richer than at KU.

So forget the goofy green stereotypes; instead let’s raise a toast to a mint-condition, first-edition of *Ulysses*, signed by James Joyce—and more. Much, much more.

KU launched its Irish holdings in 1953 by acquiring from Chicago attorney and book collector James F. Spoerri an unusually complete assemblage of books, pamphlets and magazines by and about the novelist and poet James Joyce. The collection, which now numbers more than 1,000 items, includes all first editions of Joyce’s work except five “minor items” that

were produced only for copyright purposes.

Included in the Spoerri collection are three copies of the behemoth first-edition of *Ulysses*, published in 1922 in France by Sylvia Beach's Shakespeare and Company. The book's production, completed in Dijon by printer Maurice Darantiere, was limited to a run of 1,000, much of which was reserved in advance by a literary public that had been teased with serializations published in American and English journals. The first 100 were printed on handmade Dutch paper and signed by Joyce; 150, numbered 101 to 250, were printed on handmade "Verge d'Arches" paper; and another 750, numbered 251 to 1,000, were printed on unspecified handmade paper.

KU's signed edition is No. 88; the collection also includes books from both of the other paper types, numbered 117 and 290. The mint-condition Spencer editions also have the original paper covers, in the shade of blue specified by Joyce himself.



Librarian Elspeth Healey in Spencer Research Library's North Gallery, whose design with large windows around the stacks was based on Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The view in the other direction is a magnificent Campanile vista.



*Irish literature
is timeless, and
nowhere outside
of Ireland is it
richer than at KU.*



advertisement announces, but delays mounted upon delays, eventually culminating in the printer destroying the first press run and Joyce responding with “Gas from a Burner.”

“These sorts of items give students a fuller extent of the history and the culture and the politics around the particular period of Irish history in which our collections are the strongest,” Conrad says. “And those happen to be some of the most exciting periods of Irish history, the foundation of Ireland as an independent country.”

Ulysses and “Gas from a Burner” might be the Irish collection’s headliners, but the Joyce holdings are dwarfed by the Spencer’s P.S. O’Hegarty Collection, more than 25,000 items dedicated to the Irish poet and playwright William Butler Yeats—like Joyce, a titan of 20th-century Western literature. KU’s holdings include first editions of all of Yeats’ works but two; many later and variant editions, particularly useful when studying a writer such as Yeats, known to revise his work in later editions; books, letters and other items from his personal library and his family’s collections; and a mountain of literature and ephemera from the heart of Ireland’s literary renaissance, including Abbey Theatre plays and programs, the plays of Synge and Lady Gregory, and the complete output of craft studio presses run by Yeats’ sisters, Elizabeth and Lilly.

KU bought the Yeats collection in 1955 from O’Hegarty, himself a notable figure in Irish political and literary history. O’Hegarty, who died shortly after selling his Yeats collection to KU, had been secretary of the Irish Post Office, and was a bookseller, collector, historian, and a political activist once exiled to England and Wales. Four years after his death, KU acquired from O’Hegarty’s widow everything else—more than 25,000 items—from his private library.

“One of the things I tell my students is, ‘Other than the person who put it on the shelf, you may be the first person since P.S. O’Hegarty’s widow, who stuck this in a box to send to KU, to have looked at any particular item,’” Conrad says. “That is to say, they’ve moved around, but they



With their very heft and dignity, the first-edition *Ulysses* editions, with 732 numbered pages, impart a gravitas that serves Joyce’s complex novel well. It is a hard book, a big book, and seeing the original exactly as Joyce did when he launched *Ulysses* upon the world reminds us that books are more than the words contained between the covers.

haven’t all been looked at, and there is such a treasure trove of materials—including things that no one has put in a book anywhere, things that absolutely nobody else knows about.

“It’s all in there, waiting to be found.”

Conrad recalls the time she was giving a tour of the collection when she happened upon a newspaper broadsheet from the Easter Rising of 1916 that would have been tacked to a sandwich board placed on the sidewalk outside a Dublin news agent’s shop.

“It’s really exciting,” Conrad says. “On the history side, we have all this ephemera, which is stuff people usually don’t collect, or they collect it and it falls apart and they don’t keep it. There’s so much there, and I don’t know even a tiny bit of it.”

An authoritative literature collection from any international culture would of course carry immense value, both to

researchers and students and, to one extent or another, the wider public. But a deep collection of original Irish literature and political artifacts and ephemera, representing the heart of a literary renaissance and political upheaval from a land and people founded upon storytelling traditions and political intensity—and a country that has had such lasting influence on our own—represents a rare opportunity.

It is impossible to look at a leather-bound autograph book, which once belonged to an Irish patriot named Paul Cusack, and not be moved to further investigation of Irish independence. It was not uncommon for Irish political prisoners to keep these so-called “autograph books,” in which they would sketch images from their prison camp and, much as high school seniors do with their yearbooks, invite others to share inscriptions of good wishes. Unlike American yearbooks, the inscriptions often included family names and hometown addresses, in the event death notifications had to be made, and bore witness to the intensity of their devotion to poetry, literature, art and heritage.

In Cusack’s book—which he began while in Frongoch Camp, in Wales, in 1916, and later continued while held in Dublin’s Mountjoy Prison in 1921—a fellow prisoner named William J. Buckley writes, “Erin, for your mother dear, we fought and bled/Inspired by the spirits of our martyred dead ...” Another inscription is from playwright Terence MacSwiney, who later became lord mayor of Cork before dying on a hunger strike in a British prison in 1920.

Says Healey, “I knew a little bit about the Irish collections before I came here. But when I started the job, when I saw the Joyce collection and I saw the Yeats collection, I said, ‘Oh, this is really fascinating.’ I had no idea the extent of the collections, how wide ranging and comprehensive the materials really are.

“I feel very, very lucky.”

As do we all when ensconced in a lovely room with a view—of our own treasured pastoral setting, and the verdant landscape of Irish literature. —





In the Moment

Bedside vigils for patients in their final hours teach employee volunteers as much about life as death

The email blast, sent at 9:59 p.m. on a cold February night by an intensive care nurse at University of Kansas Hospital, delivered its heartbreaking message in eight stark words: “Family has left and will not be back.”

Family had left and would not be back, but a patient near death would not die alone. Soon an on-call volunteer, a hospital employee giving freely of his or her own time and compassion and wisdom and emotion, would arrive to take up vigil where family members, for reasons known only to them, had declined. No One Dies Alone (NODA), a program launched by the hospital in April 2011, would tend to its 85th bedside vigil in less than a year.

“Patients not only deserve, but very much need to know that as long as they draw breath and as long as they’re part of this side of the world, we are going to give

them all the care we can,” says Chaplain Roy Sanders, the program’s director. “No One Dies Alone allows them, even if on a subliminal level, to know that somebody is with them, caring for them. We just don’t leave people alone to go through that process without support.”

It probably seems unthinkable to most of us that as we prepare to depart for the next world we might be left with no one in this one; surely these patients must be indigents who have long since lost contact with those who love them. And yet only three of NODA’s first 85 patients were homeless. The rest were terminally ill people whose families, for one reason or another, could not or would not be at their side.

Some families are too distant to arrive in time or can’t afford to travel or leave work. Sometimes family and friends simply choose not to be there when their loved

by Chris Lazzarino
Photographs by Steve Puppe

“Patients not only deserve, but very much need to know that as long as they draw breath and as long as they’re part of this side of the world, we are going to give them all the care we can.” —Chaplain Roy Sanders



Sanders

one dies. “Not everybody,” Sanders says, “can be part of a dying situation.”

NODA volunteers are sometimes briefed with a few details about the patient by bedside nurses, sometimes not. It doesn’t really matter, because it doesn’t affect their duties: Be compassionate. Talk. Sing. Read a poem. Caress a hand. Tend to dry lips with a moist towel. Most of all, be there. Be present.

Because nurses notify volunteers only when it appears death will likely occur within 72 hours, patients are usually not conscious or are sedated with pain medication and are no longer alert. But that matters not.

“One of the things we learn in training is that even if they can’t speak to you or if they aren’t opening their eyes, they can hear you and know that you’re there,” says volunteer Anna Adams, a compliance auditor and certified public accountant. “We operate with the assumption that they can hear.”

Adams, who once hoped to become a doctor, found in No One Dies Alone an opportunity to offer compassionate care to patients in great need. She’s since learned a priceless skill that carried over into her personal life: the ability to sit in a quiet room and simply be present. No Facebook updates, no online Scrabble, no TV.

Only peace and quiet, in their most meaningful applications.

“I try to think about what my mom would do when I was sick and scared,” Adams says. “She would just say, ‘Well, I’m right here with you.’ That’s what I’ve done with the patients I’ve sat with. I hold their hand and tell them that I’m there if they need me.

“It would be really easy to sit and think about your day, what’s going in your life, worrying about things. I’ve learned how to sit and be present with that person every single second that I’m there. When you are truly present, that’s how a connection happens.”

When Chaplain Sanders joined University of Kansas Hospital two years ago, he was given oversight of a small committee, called the “spiritual response team,” that had been searching for creative ways to overcome its limited staffing and resources to better meet needs of terminally ill patients and their families. As he researched spiritual programs at other hospitals, Sanders found one that had originated in Eugene, Ore., in November 2001.

Sandra Clarke, an intensive care nurse at Eugene’s Sacred Heart Medical Center, created No One Dies Alone in response to a personal crisis brought on by her inability to remain at a dying patient’s side. One rainy night, one of Clarke’s seven patients asked in a failing voice, “Will you stay with me?” He was, as Clarke describes on Sacred Heart’s website, “so frail, pale, old and

tremulous.” She wanted to stay, but couldn’t. Other patients also demanded her attention. When she finally made it back to his room more than an hour later, the man was dead.

“I reasoned that he was a DNR [do not resuscitate], no family, very old, end-stage multi-organ disease,” Clarke writes. “Now he was gone, and I felt awful. It was okay for him to die, it was his time—but not alone. I looked around; scores of people were nearby providing state-of-the-art patient care. For this man, state-of-the-art should have been dignity and respect.”



Adams

“I try to think about what my mom would do when I was sick and scared. She would just say, ‘Well, I’m right here with you.’ That’s what I’ve done with the patients I’ve sat with. I hold their hand and tell them that I’m there if they need me.”

—Anna Adams

No One Dies Alone, the program created by Clarke and Sacred Heart's spiritual director, has caught on across the country. It tends not only to the needs of patients, but also helps alleviate stresses common to nurses who care for critically and terminally ill patients.

"Part of nursing burnout is now called 'compassion fatigue,'" Sanders says. "Until these programs came along, they had to deal with it totally alone, and it begins to either wear them out or cause them to become very distant. And of course the last thing you want is a distant nurse. No One Dies Alone was generated by a nurse who finally had enough of people wanting somebody to be with them and not being able to provide it."

When he launched No One Dies Alone at KU, Sanders decided the program would at first limit its ranks to hospital employees—a group that had already been vetted with medical tests and background checks. That saved money for a program that didn't have any. Hospital employees were already on the same email system, which eased communications, and, most important of all, they would likely be a stable group—which has proven to be true. In nearly a year, none have left the program.

"They buy into it," Sanders says. "They are giving back to their own institution."

NODA currently has 92 volunteers. Sanders hopes to eventually have 150, so he recently accepted the program's first retired employee and one vigil volunteer who had never before been affiliated with the hospital. (Anyone interested in joining NODA should email noda@kumc.edu.) About 25 percent of volunteers are nurses. Another 25 percent or so are others who work in patient care, and about half are non-clinical staff, administrators and managers.

Lynn Dreier is chief operating officer of Mid-America Cardiology, a private practice that joined University of Kansas Hospital 11 years ago and now has 13 locations, 235 employees and 38 cardiologists. Despite the demands of her job, Dreier picked up the phone "within seconds" of hearing the first call for volunteers.



Dreier

"It's a personal thing for me. I worry about people, and I can't imagine what it would be like to be all alone and knowing you were dying." —Lynn Dreier

"It's a personal thing for me," Dreier says. "I worry about people, and I can't imagine what it would be like to be all alone and knowing you were dying."

Eager to help, she was concerned that volunteers would have to have a clinical background. She was assured that was not the case. "You just need a compassionate heart," she says, "and to be someone who can be there to comfort people."

After completing a half-day of training, as required of all NODA volunteers, Dreier, like many others, was surprised at her reaction as she prepared to enter a dying patient's room for the first time.

"I thought, 'Oh my gosh, they are dying and I'm the only one here with this person. Can I do enough?'"

Her first patient was a man who was seemingly not alert to his surroundings. Dreier tended to him as if he were. The patient had a daughter who was far away and could not be at her father's side. Dreier used her cellphone to call the woman and, after updating her on her father's condi-

tion, held the phone to his ear.

As his daughter's voice came over the phone, he moved a bit. His eyes started watering.

Dreier got back on the phone and told the daughter, "Your father had not responded in the three hours that I've been sitting here, but he heard what you said, and that you love him." The daughter broke down and sobbed.

Dreier sat with the patient two more times. One evening, leaving a cancer society fundraiser, she suddenly felt the need to again be at his bedside, even though another volunteer was there with him. She wasn't on call, but knew she'd be driving straight to the hospital. Just as she reached her car, her phone rang. The man had died.

Herself a cancer survivor who was diagnosed the day after running three miles, Dreier knows that "at any moment your life can take a turn and you can be really ill. I think I appreciate every day more than I ever have before, both for



Beach

“You’re doing a good deed for someone else, but you’re getting something back. ... That patient may not be able to say, ‘Hey, this matters to me,’ but you know in your heart it really does.” —Carol Beach

sitting with someone who is dying and for facing my own fear. It helps me come to grips with that.”

Carol Beach, who works in the hospital’s Health Information Management department, once sat with a friend whose father was dying. When a nurse confirmed that the man was near death, her friend said, “OK, fine, let’s go.”

Recalls Beach, “I said, ‘Wait a minute. Your father is going to go; you’re not going to leave.’ And he says, ‘Yeah, I’m going to leave. I don’t want to be here.’ So we barely made it back to his place and we got a phone call. His father passed. I felt so bad. I should have just said, ‘You know what? The heck with you. I’m going to stay here.’ But I didn’t, and I’ve felt bad about it ever since.”

She was able to be at her own father’s side when he died, but her sister “couldn’t handle it. She just said, ‘Call me and let me know when it’s over,’ which I thought was a strange reaction. But people deal with it however they can. Some of us can deal with it. Some of us can’t.”

Beach describes herself as a perfectionist, and says she was frustrated by her first NODA vigil. “I didn’t do enough,” she says, a common concern among NODA volunteers. The next morning she confirmed that the patient had survived the night, so she asked to be scheduled for his next available vigil. This time, Beach, says, she was prepared.

She read to him. She talked to him. She was fully present in the moment.

“Hey,” she said to him, “when are you going to let me see those pretty blue eyes?”

He opened his eyes and gazed at her. She spoke to him for another second or two, until his eyes closed for the final time. He was gone.

He didn’t go alone.

“One of the interesting things about it is

the unknown,” Beach says. “When you are activated you think, ‘OK, what am I going to get to see? What am I going to get to do? Who am I going to get to help?’”

Even the most dedicated of hospital employees can sometimes lose touch with the reality of their work. Patient names on bedside reports, operation summaries and insurance forms are just that: names on paper or a computer screen. Those who sit vigil with the most desperately ill patients in the most dire circumstances rediscover the true meaning of hospitals and health care: tending to real people who need compassionate care.

“You’re doing a good deed for someone else, but you’re getting something back,” Beach says. “You are gaining the knowledge that you are actually doing something worthwhile, something that matters. That patient may not be able to say, ‘Hey, this matters to me,’ but you know in your heart it really does.”

“You can’t gauge what’s going to happen tomorrow or five minutes from now, so you have to do what you can in the moment. Hopefully that’s going to be enough.”

Family may have left, but volunteers remain, ever present in every moment. Until the last. —

Pastoral residency set for fall

Clergy hoping to include clinical care in their ministry and lay people interested in working through their churches to comfort ailing congregation members are encouraged to apply for the new Clinical Pastoral Education Residency, set to begin in September at University of Kansas Hospital.

The yearlong, full-time, graduate program, which

includes a stipend, leads to board certification, and is the only program of its kind in Kansas City.

“The resident can expect a quantity and quality of pastoral experience at KU that would allow them to have a broad perspective of pastoral care in a clinical setting,” says Chaplain Roy Sanders.

For information, call 913-588-1227 or email cpe@kumc.edu.

—C.L.

BE THE DIFFERENCE FOR KU

"The Chancellors Club Scholarship is both a great honor and a challenge. It has enabled me to focus more on both academic and personal growth by fortifying my ambitions and reminding me that there are people who care about my success at KU and beyond."

*Rebecca Martin, architectural engineering
National Merit Scholar
Chancellors Club Scholar, class of 2014*

**FAR
ABOVE**

*The
Campaign
for
Kansas*

Benefiting students is just one of the goals of *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*. The campaign will help KU secure its position among the top tier of public universities and academic medical centers in the nation.

Your annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the Greater KU Fund qualifies you for Chancellors Club recognition. Giving is easy—call 800-661-5870 or give securely online at www.kuendowment.org/greaterku.

Association

TERRY ROMBECK (2)



At left, Gil Perez-Abraham and Shannon Buhler, cast members with Musical Theatre for Kansas, perform in “Boy Meets Girl.” Above, the full cast performs “Seasons of Love” from “Rent,” one of the show’s finales.

Curtain up! Light the lights!

Alumni Association and KU theatre take student talent on the road

Thanks to the creativity of John Staniunas, chairman of the KU theatre department, stage-struck Kansans this spring will see student performers far from the theatres in Murphy Hall. Staniunas created Musical Theatre for Kansas, a seven-student troupe partnering with the Alumni Association for several performances this spring. The students are performing “Boy Meets Girl,” a 35-minute revue written by Staniunas that features 25 songs from a variety of musical theatre styles and eras.

“I thought there has to be a way to give back to Kansas,” Staniunas says, “and to teach the students some type of philanthropic way of giving back to the state. This show was written specifically to tour, specifically for alumni and for people who are interested in entertainment and musical theatre.”

The troupe made its debut in December in Winfield and performed at an Alumni

Association event March 6 in Topeka. Performances also are scheduled for Pittsburg (March 27) and Liberal (April 24), with an additional stop at Hugoton High School on the way to Liberal.

“Basically, it’s boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back,” says Gil Perez-Abraham, Wichita junior. “It’s just like that American dream type of romance between a man and a woman.”

The show features songs from such musicals as “Rent,” “South Pacific” and “Curtains.”

“They tell us in musical theatre that when a character starts singing, they can no longer express their feelings through words, so they have to express themselves through song,” says

“I thought there has to be a way to give back to Kansas, and to teach the students some type of philanthropic way of giving back to the state. This show was written specifically to tour, specifically for alumni and for people who are interested in entertainment and musical theatre.”

—John Staniunas



Hong Kong



Singapore



Danny Lewis in the Korean Demilitarized Zone



Kuala Lumpur

Events, new groups tie Far East to Hill

Association reaches out to Jayhawks in 5 Asian cities

The Association's international representation expanded in Asia this February as Danny Lewis, d'05, director of alumni programs, hosted five events in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo and Seoul. "We didn't feel we were doing a very good job of keeping track of those folks, staying connected with them and giving them a reason to feel good about their university," Lewis says. "When I got there, I saw that they definitely felt like the forgotten crew."

But when the Association sounded the call that a Jayhawk would fly eastward, roughly 135 alumni turned out for the events, including many who hadn't spoken English since their time at KU. They eagerly asked Lewis for updates on campus life, KU leaders, basketball conference realignments, and what they as alumni could do for the University and fellow graduates. "We made a lot of good connections for alumni who take jobs out there or who might move there after college," Lewis says. "There are a lot of good people we can connect with now."

Those contacts are invaluable, according to Lewis, who believes international alumni chapters benefit alumni and their alma mater. He hopes his trip will add to

the Association's roster of formal international groups, which currently includes London and Hong Kong. "I don't think there's anything more powerful than someone from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, talking to kids from there and saying, 'I went to KU, and this was my experience,'" he says. "It means a lot more coming from someone locally than the guy who is paid to be there."

Lewis was amazed by the breadth of the Jayhawk nation: a former KU baseball player in Tokyo, a U.S. Air Force colonel in Seoul, and waving KU fanatics at every airport. "There are great KU folks out there doing great things," Lewis says, "and it's our job to find them and connect with them."

New alumni group to unite veterans

KU Veterans Alumni Chapter recruits those who served

When Col. Mike Denning and Lt. Col. Randy Masten of the KU Office of Professional Military Graduate Education contemplated ways to reach out to other veterans who have attended KU, they contacted the Alumni Association.

Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, assistant vice president of alumni and student programs at the Association, says he knew right away that the KU Veterans Alumni



Tokyo



Emerson King, Wichita senior on Study Abroad, and David Hong, l'06, in Seoul

Chapter was a great idea. “We felt that establishing a veterans chapter would be a meaningful way for us to recognize, honor, support and celebrate the KU students, alumni, faculty and staff who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces,” he says.

Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, '45, will serve as honorary chair of the chapter. With Denning, c'83, as president and Masten, g'03, as secretary/treasurer and fellow alumni on the executive committee, the chapter has set important goals. The group hopes to raise funds for a Wounded Warrior scholarship, provide broad support for the KU veterans community and ultimately endow a new chair for the military history department. The chapter also plans to support the ROTC commissioning ceremony in May. Members will host events in conjunction with KU games and the annual Lawrence Veterans' Day 5K Run, sponsored by KU ROTC and the KU Collegiate Veterans' Association, a student veteran group.

The KU Veterans Alumni Chapter is open to all veteran alumni, anyone whose government service has put them in close proximity to the military, families of veterans and those who simply want to do their part to help veterans' causes.

“I think there's a large portion of veterans who don't realize how supportive the community is of their service,” Masten says. “Whether you served your initial enlistment or you served 40 years, it's nice

to know how much support there is—on campus, in the community and in the Alumni Association at large—and it makes you feel very connected to each other and KU.”

To become part of the chapter and receive news of events, visit www.kualumni.org/veterans. To share ideas for the organization, email Mike Denning at gmdenning@ku.edu, Randy Masten at randymasten@ku.edu or vice president Greg Freix, g'99, at gfreix@ku.edu.



Communicators, grads win awards

CASE honors KU entities, alumni for talent, volunteer service

Jayhawks soared in regional competition for communications and service sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). KU communicators won 25 awards, including 10 for KU Endowment, seven for the Alumni Association, six for University Relations and two for the Office of Public Affairs.

In addition, alumni volunteers Kurt and Sue Shields Watson and Judy Wright, who recently retired from KU Endowment, received highest honors for volunteer service and service to CASE, a professional association serving educational institutions and advancement professionals in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas.

The awards were presented in January during the CASE District VI conference in Denver. District VI includes 83 public and private colleges, universities and acad-

emies in eight states: Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The Alumni Association received gold

awards for the 2011 special website coverage of 'Hawk Days of Summer, the tour of 142 events in 90 days, and for two features in *Kansas Alumni*: “For Jessica,” by Jennifer Lawler, issue 1, and “The Gamble,” by Tyler Bridges, issue 3.

The Association won four bronze awards, two in graphic design and two more stories in *Kansas Alumni*. The design honors included the *Kansas Alumni* cover, issue 1, “Where's Warren,” photographed by Steve Puppe, j'98, and art directed by Susan Younger, f'91. The second award was for the 2011 wall calendar, designed by Younger and Valerie Spicher, j'94.

Steven Hill, associate editor of *Kansas Alumni*, won bronze awards for two cover stories, “Prescription: Prairie,” issue 4, and “Rescued,” issue 2.

The Watsons, of Andover, received the Volunteers of the Year Award. They currently chair KU's comprehensive campaign, Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas, which is scheduled to kick off April 28. Kurt, d'75, is president and chief operating officer of IMA Financial Group in Wichita. He is past chair of the KU Endowment board of trustees and a current member of its executive committee. Sue, d'75, led the Alumni Association as national chair from 2009 to 2010 and served on the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2011. They helped create the Wichita Chapter's Jayhawk Roundup and have hosted numerous KU events.

Wright, PhD'86, received the Virginia Carter Smith Recognition Award for her service to CASE. She retired from KU



Kurt and Sue Watson



Judy Wright

Endowment on Dec. 22, where she served as assistant vice president and director of the Chancellors Club. Throughout her 17-year career at KU Endowment, she was active in CASE leadership. She chaired the District VI conference in 2008 and served on the District VI board of directors for six years. In addition, she co-chaired the district's philanthropy track and served as a moderator and a presenter. ➤



Alumni Collection

Partnership with KU Bookstore offers shoppers more options

The Association's merchandise shop, known as the Jayhawk Collection, will now be available through the KU Bookstore as the Alumni Collection. The partnership between the Alumni Association and the Kansas Memorial Unions will expand inventory while continuing to offer discounts to Association members.

"The Jayhawk Collection has been popular, but it has also had its limits. Members have asked for a clothing line, but the Association has no retail store, and with limited staff and storage space, an expanded clothing line hasn't been possible," says Dwight Parman, senior vice president for finance. "Working with the experienced staff at the bookstore, we can serve more of our members' needs."

The Alumni Collection is available online through links on the Association's site, kualumni.org, or at the bookstore's site, kubookstore.com. More items will be added, and the Association will continue to sell a few selected items directly. To receive discounts, members should use their alumni ID number to receive 10 percent to 20 percent off purchases according to their membership level. ➤

Presidents Club receptions



Members and potential members of the Presidents Club, the Association's donor group, met at pregame receptions in Kansas City and Lawrence. Celebrating before the KU-MU game Feb. 25 were U.S. Rep. Kevin Yoder, c'99, l'02; Brian King, c'98; Rob Hagg, '03; Kevin Corbett, c'88; and actor and comedian Rob Riggle, c'93. Linda Ellis Sims, e'79, and her husband, Russ, assoc., were among 110 guests Jan. 28 at the Mission Hills Country Club, where alumni watched, paced, shouted and fretted over the disappointing KU-Iowa State game. Baby Jay greeted Jim Lewis, who traveled from Dodge City for the final Border Showdown in Lawrence. Lewis was among the 220 alumni and friends who attended the Feb. 25 reception.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



FRED ELLSWORTH MEDALLION

Since 1975 the Fred Ellsworth Medallion has honored individuals “who have provided unique and significant service to KU.”

Fred Ellsworth Medallion recipients are honored by the Association in the fall and introduced during a home football game.

Past winners have been leaders in Kansas higher education, members of University boards and committees, consultants for KU projects and donors to the University.

If someone you know has continually shared time, talents and resources to

benefit KU, submit a nomination today!

To submit a nomination, contact the KU Alumni Association by March 31 at 800-584-5397 or visit www.kualumni.org.



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www.kualumni.org



Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Jan. 1 through Feb. 29. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

Brian C. Aikins & Lynne E. Kallenbach	Kaase L. Kilian
Linda J. Barclay	Lissa M. Kivisto
George K. Bascom	Tiffany A. Knearem
Venkata R. & Neeli M. Bendapudi	Greg S. Knipp
Abbie Gilmore Biery	James L. Knudson
Phillip R. Boatman	Chris Lazzarino
Jason D. Bryles	Michael T. Leiker
Anne Sharp Buford	Eric V. Love
Bertram Caruthers Jr.	Jason K. Martin
Ann Covalt Clinkscales	Eloy Martinez
Chad D. & Allie Coellner	Daniel S. McFarlane & Melanie E. Kramer
Karen L. Cole	Jacinto Mendoza
Amanda L. Colgan	Charles A. & Vicki L. Miller
William F. & Nika Jerkovich Cummings	Megan M. Neville
Abigail L. Cunningham	Peter & Linda Leibengood Palij
LaDonna Hale Curzon	Patrick E. & Cheryl Messer Peery
Gentry A. Davis	Heath & Carrie Robertson Peterson
William H. & Julie Jones Davis	Robert L. Procter
Jeffrey P. & A. Kristin DeBauge	Bharatwajan Raman
Daniel J. Desko	Clint M. Rogers
Alison M. Erler	Sara E. Rolfes
John C. Ertz	Mark A. Samsel
Emily S. Flom	Heather Houchin Schuette
Debra J. Ford	Ravi M. Shanker
Charles J. Fritch & Ann E. Cooper-Fritch	Calvert W. Simmons
Stuart M. & Kelly M. Gaynes	Ashley N. Smith
Brian Gerber	Sheila M. Smith
Kelsey Gerber	Curtis A. Strum & Kendra N. Morrison
Shirley Edmonds Goza	Nickolas C. Templin
Adam F. & Jennifer J. Halabi	Cher Ulrich
Elizabeth S. Halsch	Erin R. Wiley
James H. Hawkins	David W. & Susan Dumay Wolfe
Carol R. Hayes	Bryan A. & Chelsea Demars Young
James W. Hilbert	
Robert J. & Melissa G. Hingula	
Jennifer P.H. Huang	
James J. Jordan	
Jon F. Kaleugher	
Sibyl Riekenberg Kerr	
Justus R. Kilian	





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www.rockchalkball.org
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information.



This year's Silent Auction will
feature birdhouses by KU artists,
alumni and friends.

Class Notes by Karen Goodell



55 Donald Gaddis, b'55, e'56, keeps busy in retirement playing golf. He and **Patricia Dittimore Gaddis**, d'67, make their home in Palm Desert, Calif.

Sir **Robert Worcester**, b'55, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth to chair the 800th anniversary of the commemoration of the Magna Carta. He's founder and senior adviser for MORI House and chancellor of the University of Kent. His home is in Kent, England.

57 Robert Jackson, b'57, is president of Jackson Partnership LLC in Johns Island, S.C. His home is in Seabrook Island.

59 Bruce, d'59, and **Judith Thomas Voran**, c'60, celebrated their 50th anniversary last November. They live in Strawberry, Ariz.

60 William Taylor, g'60, a retired university professor, makes his home in Exeter, England.

65 Dennis Klein, d'65, g'67, recently traveled to South America. He is retired in Plano, Texas.

66 Sherrill Daniels, c'66, a retired teacher, makes her home in Mankato.

68 Thomas Williamson, a'68, a retired architect, makes his home in Chesterfield, Mo. He plans to move to Springfield, Ill., this year.

Charles, c'68, and **Sharon Borger Wright**, n'68, make their home in Danville, Va.

69 Mark Feaster, '69, has a consulting business in Overland Park, where

he and **Janice Bannister Feaster**, '94, make their home.

Gregory Lewis, c'69, is city manager of Lebanon, N.H.

John Manahan, d'69, g'82, works as senior consultant for the CGI Group in Fairfax, Va. He and **Patricia Dalrymple Manahan**, '85, make their home in Kansas City.

Gregory Nazaruk, c'69, is retired from Magnus Mobility Systems. He lives in Monroe, N.C.

70 R.L. "Puff" Bailey, c'70, recently retired as senior director of development at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He and Joyce live in San Diego.

Darrel Bigham, PhD'70, a former professor of history at the University of Southern Indiana, makes his home in Evansville with **Polly Hitchcock Bigham**, c'68.

Norvel Smith, e'70, g'72, works as general manager for Bridgestone/Firestone Tire. He and **Linda Lecture Smith**, d'71, live in Aiken, S.C.

Nancy Knox Todd, d'70, was named 2011 Woman of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. She's assistant minority leader in the Colorado House of Representatives. Nancy and her husband, **Terry**, '84, live in Aurora.

71 Thomas Biggs, e'71, makes his home in Los Alamos, N.M., with **Vicki Harman Biggs**, d'72.

Alan Bower, d'71, is CEO of Better Times Productions in Agoura Hills, Calif.

Kathleen Brenk Lorfing, n'71, directs nursing quality at Truman Medical Center in Kansas City.

Denise Dotson Low-Weso, c'71, g'74, PhD'98, wrote *Natural Theologies: Essays About Literature of the New Middle West*, which was published last year by Backwaters Press. She and her husband, **Thomas Weso**, c'97, g'05, make their home in Lawrence.

Norman Mueller, c'71, was elected to the

board of the National Criminal Defense Bar. He practices law with Haddon Morgan Mueller Jordan Mackey & Foreman in Denver.

73 Paul Rocereto, m'73, is a wing surgeon with the U.S. Navy in Santee, Calif., where he and his wife, Dianne, make their home.

Wanda Jackson Woods, s'73, is retired in Kansas City.

74 Wayne Mullally, e'74, manages project operations for Chiyoda Almana Engineering in Chonburi, Thailand.

Marc Spencer, e'74, is lead network engineer at Honeywell. He lives in Kansas City.

75 Douglas Anderson, a'75, is vice president of project services with Black & Veatch. He lives in Belton, Mo.

Janice Miller Karlin, c'75, l'80, serves as a U.S. bankruptcy judge. She and her husband, **Calvin**, c'74, l'77, live in Lawrence.

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

a	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b	School of Business
c	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d	School of Education
e	School of Engineering
f	School of Fine Arts
g	Master's Degree
h	School of Allied Health
j	School of Journalism
l	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing
p	School of Pharmacy
PharmD	School of Pharmacy
s	School of Social Welfare
u	School of Music
DE	Doctor of Engineering
DMA	Doctor of Musical Arts
EdD	Doctor of Education
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
(no letter)	Former student
assoc	Associate member of the Alumni Association

76 Scott Beeler, c'76, was named partner-in-charge in the Overland Park law firm of Lathrop & Gage. He lives in Leawood.

Ronald Cobb, g'76, wrote *Islam: What You Need to Know in the Twenty-First Century*. He's clinical director of Hope, Help, Health in Holton.

David Schmitz, d'76, is a school principal for Prairie Hills USD 113 in Sabetha. He and his wife, Gail, live in Holton.

Roger Ward, c'76, works as a consultant in West Palm Beach, Fla.

77 David Mendelsohn, b'77, g'79, is senior vice president of finance for Black & Veatch. He lives in Overland Park.

John Yohe, b'77, makes his home in Phoenix.

78 Hannes Dear Combest, j'78, is chief executive officer of the National Auctioneers Association. She lives in Lawrence.

Steven Ellis, c'78, a retired university administrator, lives in Colorado Springs.

Deonarine Jaggernaut, e'78, g'79, is a petroleum engineer for Petrotrin and a lecturer at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. He lives in Trinidad, West Indies.

79 James McCarten, b'79, is a partner in the Nashville firm of Burr & Forman. He lives in Brentwood.

Paul Mokeski, c'79, recently was inducted into the Crespi Carmelite High School Alumni Association's Hall of Fame. He's head coach of the Reno Bighorns. Paul and **Linda Mankin Mokeski**, c'81, make their home in Reno, Nev.

80 David Kenner, c'80, is a shareholder in Levy & Craig. He and Nancy live in Kansas City.

William Scanlan, e'80, is vice president at NuTech Energy Alliance in Littleton, Colo.

Richard Terry, e'80, g'90, works as a senior structural engineer for HNTB. He lives in Overland Park.

Richard Zetzsche, c'80, owns Applied Research Technologies. He lives in Commack, N.Y.

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-Elaine Frisbie, KU Mini College Alumna

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81 Sarah Smull Hatfield, b'81, g'83, directs human resources for Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics in Denver.

Joel Light, c'81, directs Wichita facilities and product assurance for Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita, where he and Barbara make their home.

David Vernon, j'81, is senior vice president of development for Wingstop in Richardson, Texas.

Vickie Walton-James, j'81, is deputy national editor for National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. She makes her home in Vienna, Va.

82 Robert McMaster, g'82, PhD'84, is vice president and dean of undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota. He and Mitzi live in Minneapolis.

Michael Miller, g'82, retired last year as assistant director for project management with KU Facilities Operations. He lives in Lawrence.

William Southern, b'82, directs finance for Toledo Blade in Toledo, Ohio. His home is in Canton, Mich.

83 Dan Harris, c'83, is general sales manager for Statewide Remodeling in Dallas. He and Mitzi live in Flower Mound.

Dianna McKinsey, b'83, owns Innovative Printing Solutions in Laguna Hills, Calif. She and her husband, Gregory Dome, live in Carlsbad.

Philip Rumbaoa, g'83, m'95, practices medicine at Missouri Vein Care in Columbia. He lives in Boonville.

Pam Vignatelli, c'83, directs human resources for Compass Minerals in Leawood, where she and her husband, **Douglas Edmonds**, e'79, l'82, make their home.

84 Kathy Roseberry Clemmons, c'84, is executive director of Homestead of Auburn Assisted Living. She and her

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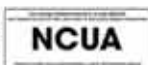
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husband, Dale, live in Tecumseh.

Daniel Young, c'84, is senior applications developer for Staples Promotional Products in Overland Park. He and Linda Kay live in Olathe.

85 Bruce Connelly, c'85, is vice president of sports performance at Nike in Beaverton, Ore. He lives in Portland.

Carolyn Cooper, PhD'85, a retired professor at Eastern Illinois University, lives in Urbana.

MARRIED

Jacquelyn Johnson Ferguson, b'85, to Bryan Johnson, Nov. 11 in Lawrence.

86 Andreas Bynum, c'86, is vice president of information technology at Freddie Mac in McLean, Va. He lives in Ashburn.

John Heeney, j'86, is vice president of convention sales at the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association. He and **Debbie Hoy Heeney**, '87, have a home in Cincinnati.



Abhik Huq, e'86, is of counsel with Volpe & Koenig. He makes his home in Lawrenceville, N.J.

87 Thomas Ranker, g'87, PhD'87, is program director at the National Science Foundation. He and his wife, **Paula Trapp**, g'81, g'86, PhD'87, live in Falls Church, Va.

PROFILE by Steven Hill

'A lot on the line' for bass pro in rookie season

When the 2012 Bassmaster Elite Series kicks off March 15 on Florida's St. Johns River, 27-year-old tournament angler Casey Scanlon will take his biggest step yet toward realizing a goal he's chased since grade school: to become a professional bass fisherman.

Scanlon, '08, got hooked on the sport as a kid watching fishing shows on TV. He caught his first bass at 10, and by 12 he'd saved enough lawn-mowing money to buy his first boat. "I had a boat before I could drive," Scanlon recalls. "My dad had to drop me off at the lake." He talked a local bass club into waiving its age requirement so he could join at 15—then promptly won the first tournament he entered.

"Since that first tournament it's been a goal to make it to this level," Scanlon says. "The Elite Series is the Major Leagues of fishing. It's the highest you can go."

He started fishing pro-am tournaments while at KU, moving from level to level until he reached the Central Open, one of three regional series that serve as a farm system for the pros.

"The Opens are like Triple-A baseball," Scanlon says. "It's the only way to make it to the Elite Series."

Competition is tough and odds are long:

Only the top five finishers in each regional earn invitations to the big show, and some slots are taken by anglers already in the Elite Series. In 2011, Scanlon won three first-place finishes, one second and three thirds to snare one of nine Elite Series spots open to new anglers.

To get there, Scanlon put fishing first. He chose his KU major—communications—with an eye toward the sponsorship duties that bass fishing, like NASCAR, demands of pros. The Lenexa native built a landscaping business that gave him the freedom to put in serious time on the water honing his fishing tactics and casting skills.

Though some may scoff at the notion, fishing is hard work—when a paycheck is on the line.

"The goal is to find the winning fish in a body of water a hundred miles long or better," Scanlon notes. Hours of research and map study go into tournament preparation. Equipment must be kept in top shape. And physical demands are high




Lenexa angler Casey Scanlon debuts on the Bassmaster Elite Series professional fishing tournament circuit in March.

COURTESY CASEY SCANLON

in a sport where anglers compete dawn to dusk in high-pressure tournaments.

"You have to be mentally and physically sharp, because the moment you let up is probably the moment you'll get a bite. Tournaments are so close, just a few ounces can cost you \$50,000. There's a lot on the line."

The same is true for Scanlon's rookie year: Cash enough checks to cover entry fees and make a name for himself, and he'll attract more sponsors next season.

"If I do well, I could be doing this for 30, 40 years. There's nothing better than doing something you love, and to me, that's bass fishing." 

Class Notes

88 Ian Chai, c'88, g'92, is an assistant professor of computer programming at Multimedia University in Selangor, Malaysia.

Lisa Knudsen Harkrader, f'88, wrote *The Adventures of Beanboy*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She lives in Tonganoxie.

Stephanie Lewis, c'88, is vice president of human resources at People's Health Center. She lives in St. Louis.

Michele McGuire, PhD'88, is a professor of education at Nova Southeastern University in Miami. She lives in Pembroke Pines.

Michael McKenzie, e'88, is senior director of packaging operations at Frito-Lay in Plano, Texas. He and Marketa live in Allen.

Charles "Bud" Munson Jr., f'88, is retired in Leawood.

Lisa Rost Roatch, c'88, l'92, practices law with Heartland Capital Ventures. She lives in Overland Park.

89 Sean Harriman, c'89, is senior planning manager for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in Miami.

Lisa Capel Jones, b'89, co-owns DL Jones & Associates, a real-estate company in Anthem, Ariz.

Steven Phillips, b'89, recently became president of Allied Oil and Tire. He lives in Omaha, Neb., with his wife, Linda.

90 Stewart Bailey, j'90, was executive producer earlier this year of NBC's "New Year's Eve with Carson Daly." He lives in Valley Village, Calif., where he's executive producer of "Last Call with Carson Daly."

James Phillips, g'90, is a senior proposal manager with Black & Veatch in Overland Park. He lives in Prairie Village.

Dawn Viets, n'90, is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence, Mo.

91 Stephen Foster, c'91, works as a speciality sales representative for Forest Labs in Bloomington, Ind.

Allyson Carson Haldeman, c'91, is a professional relations officer with the State of Kansas in Topeka.

Julie Mettenburg, j'91, is executive director of the Kansas Rural Center. She and her husband, Peter Burns, live in Lawrence.

Michael Shonrock, PhD'91, recently became president of Emporia State University. He had been senior vice president and associate professor of educational psychology and leadership at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Zhenggang Wang, g'91, g'93, does consulting with BS&B Safety Systems. He and **Teng Chunhong**, g'85, PhD'90, live in Haslett, Mich.

92 Lynette Alford, j'92, is a marketing support specialist for Financial Services in Overland Park. She lives in Lansing.

John Allen Jr., g'92, works as senior Vatican analyst for CNN and as senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter. He and **Shannon Levitt-Allen**, c'92, live in Denver.

Lori Calcara, j'92, works as a personal

health care account manager for Procter & Gamble. She lives in Olathe.

Maria Pareja Lopez, g'92, teaches Spanish at Community City University of Hong Kong.

Joseph Schaaf, c'92, does health care policy analysis for Prime Therapeutics. He lives in Omaha, Neb.

Mona Ewing Yeager, c'92, is group director of career services for Kaplan University in Chicago, where she lives.

93 Kristy Delrio Enlow-Pelc, j'93, works as a graphic designer for SAP Americas in Newtown Square, Pa. She and her husband, Jason, live in Havertown.

Loren Israel, l'93, works as assistant general counsel at the University of Cincinnati, where **Maya Davis Israel**, g'05, PhD'09, is a professor.

Craig Parrish, c'93, is vice president of sales at McAfee Inc. He and his wife, Suzi, live in Dallas.

Robert Reeves, b'93, is CEO and president of Anthon Energy in Keller,

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Texas, where he and Aimee live.

Kristina Brammell Smith, j'93, works as an agent for State Farm Insurance in Texarkana, Texas.

Tina Truscott Strautman, h'93, works as an occupational therapist at the Carruth Center in Houston. She and her husband, **William**, '89, live in Cypress.

94 Gayle Newman Acheson, p'94, is a pharmacist at Stormont-Vail Health Center in Topeka. She lives in Perry.

Michael Allison, c'94, is a financial

adviser with Merrill Lynch in Charlotte, N.C.

Julie Apker, g'94, PhD'00, is an associate professor of communications at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. She and her husband, **Richard Phares**, g'95, live in Paw Paw, where he owns Classic Lawn Care.

Jennifer Bennett, c'94, wrote *When You Were a Baby Jayhawk*, which was published recently. She teaches theatre in Granada, Spain, where she and her husband, **Javier Martinez de Velasco**, g'91,

live with their children, Gabriela and Anton.

Julie Benson Dunnaway, d'94, g'06, teaches physical education, health and wellness for Olathe USD 233. She and her husband, **Troy**, d'93, live in Eudora.

Bryan Lerner, j'94, does consulting with LMI. He lives in New York City.

Dana Hernstrom Liska, c'94, practices veterinary dermatology with the Animal Dermatology Referral Clinic. She lives in Frisco, Texas.

Sarah Frazier Redick, j'94, directs sales

PROFILE by Terry Rombeck

Author hopes to continue success with 'Beanboy'

In third grade, Lisa Harkrader narrowed her career choices to two: She would either be a children's novelist or second baseman for the Kansas City Royals.

Now having given up on the baseball route, Harkrader, f'88, is taking strides toward being a full-time children's fiction author with her latest novel, *The Adventures of Beanboy* (Houghton Mifflin, \$9.99).

The novel is the follow-up to *Airball: My Life in Briefs*, Harkrader's first children's novel, which received a prestigious William Allen White Children's Book Award in 2008 and either won or was nominated for several other awards.

Long a freelance writer who specialized in nonfiction books for children—"I write anything people will pay me to write," she says—Harkrader hopes to eventually shed some of the extra assignments and focus on her first love, fiction.

"I want to make sure I give readers a real, authentic story," she says. "I want them to take something away from it and give them some tools to solve the problems in their own lives."

The Adventures of Beanboy, intended for a middle-school audience, tells the story of Tucker MacBean, who dreams of being a

superhero and enters a contest to create a sidekick for one of his favorite comic book characters. Meanwhile, Tucker wishes he had superpowers of his own to deal with a bullying girl at his school.

Harkrader, who lives in Tonganoxie, says she didn't want the book to be an "ABC Afterschool Special," but she says she disagrees with the notion that children should stand up to bullies and wanted to send a different message.

"I'm thinking that might not be great advice," she says. "[Tucker] gets to

know her and where she comes from. She shifts from the bad guy to being a victim."

The idea for the book came from an episode of Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," in which he described a pair of high school boys who outsmart the bullies terrorizing their lives.

Harkrader relied on her fine arts degree and experience as a freelance graphic designer to illustrate the book using cartoon panels that complement her words. The book is set in the college town of "Wheaton," but Harkrader admits it is




Lisa Harkrader has followed her award-winning debut children's novel, *Airball: My Life in Briefs*, with *The Adventures of Beanboy*.

basically Lawrence with a few tweaks.

Harkrader also used an element of her own family in the book. Tucker's brother has special needs, just as the author's 28-year-old daughter does. But instead of making disability the focus of the story, she says, "I wanted to make sure, as a character, he was just part of the family."

With two novels under her belt, Harkrader is starting to work on a third. She is glad to be living the dream she made for her self back in third grade.

"The goal," she says, "is to do this all the time." 

TERRY ROMBECK

Class Notes

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and is a vice president at CBS Radio Houston.

95 Mark Button, j'95, is executive editor of Texas Links magazine. He lives in Houston.

BORN TO:

Jennifer Crow Pratt, c'95, and **Samuel**, e'99, g'02, son, Dexter Raymond, Dec. 2 in St. Louis.

96 Edward Lief, c'96, is vice president of employee benefits and commercial insurance at Heffernan Insurance Brokers in Portland, Ore. He makes his home in Canby.

97 Kathryn Moeser Peckham, d'97, owns North End Physical Therapy. She lives in Tacoma, Wash., with her husband, Eric.

Megan Lowdermilk Wall, d'97, works as a physical therapist at the Belle Center in St. Louis.

MARRIED

Elizabeth Rollheiser, n'97, to Tony

Jordan, Oct. 29 in Kansas City. Elizabeth coordinates accreditation and patient safety at Truman Medical Center, and Tony works for Selco.

Justin Willett, b'97, to Emily Eckhart, May 6 in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. He works for Bluescope Steel, and she works for KU Medical Center. They live in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

Mark Luttrell, c'97, g'00, g'08, and Megan, daughter, Madison Ava, Sept. 6 in Lawrence, where Mark is a physical therapist at Bird Physical Therapy.

98 Karli Pigg Alderson, c'98, m'02, practices medicine at Stormont-Vail Health Care and Cotton O'Neil Clinic in Topeka, where she and her husband, **Thomas**, c'02, m'07, make their home.

Scott Opie, e'98, g'08, works as a railroad engineer at Hanson Professional Services in Kansas City.

Mark Harpring, g'98, PhD'05, edited *Studies in Honor of Vernon Chamberlin*, which features work by 18 distinguished

professors honoring Chamberlin, g'53, PhD'57, professor emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese at KU. Harpring is associate professor of Hispanic studies at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

Melissa Hoag Sherman, c'98, l'01, and **Christopher**, l'01, make their home in Leawood with their daughters, Audrey, 6; Zoe, 4; and Lily, 1. Melissa practices law with Lathrop & Gage in Overland Park, where Christopher practices law with Payne & Jones.

99 Billie Richards McClain, b'99, was named vice president and portfolio manager at Tower Wealth Managers in Prairie Village.

Michael Roberts, c'99, works as district manager at Peet's Coffee & Tea. He and **Maria Erzinger Roberts**, c'90, live in Libertyville, Ill.

Philip Thomas, b'99, manages strategic planning at Samsung Electronics America. He lives in San Diego.

Erica VanRoss, c'99, works as a corporate communication consultant at Wells Fargo Advisors in St. Louis.

Class Notes



Ross Vogel, b'99, is president of LBD in Kansas City.

00 Sarah Russell Janssen, c'00, manages real estate for CBRE. She lives in Barrington, Ill.

Jeffrey Moehlenkamp, PhD'00, is a group leader at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Mount Vernon, Ind.

01 William McNulty III, c'01, is vice president and co-founder of Team Rubicon. He lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Amanda Wilcox Meyer, j'01, manages sales capability for Coca-Cola Refreshments in Glen Allen, Va. She and her husband, **Scott**, c'03, live in Richmond.

Katie Slaughter Schillare, j'01, directs special events for Midland Theatre/AEG Live in Kansas City.

Khemarat Suthiwan, c'01, is a permit technician with Slawson Exploration in Boulder, Colo.

Melissa Thomson, j'01, works as regional marketing manager with AECOM. She lives in Chicago.

Craig Watcke, c'01, is CEO of Cheeseman in Fort Recovery, Ohio. He lives in New Bremen.

MARRIED

Jason Green, b'01, to Shireen Smith, Oct. 15 in Chapel Hill, N.C. He's a national key accounts manager for Multivac. Their home is in Raleigh.

Elizabeth Yoder, d'01, g'03, to Jonathan Beadle, Dec. 3 in Lawrence. She teaches third grade at the Kansas State School for the Deaf in Olathe, and he's an operations technician at Centurylink. They live in Overland Park.

02 Brian Deck, b'02, does consulting for Deloitte in Chicago, where he and **Hilary Dunn Deck**, j'02, make their home.

Christina Gawlik, d'02, g'05, is an assistant professor at Texas Woman's University in Denton. She lives in Plano.

Jason Stopper, c'02, is business manager at Mountain Town Dental in West Jefferson, N.C.

MARRIED

Beth Wegner, s'02, l'05, and **Henry "Buck" Wendel**, '12, Sept. 17 in Lawrence. She's the community outreach and crime prevention specialist with the Olathe Police Department, and he's a client service manager at ExpertPlan in Overland Park. Their home is in Lenexa.

BORN TO:

Sherre-Khan Blackmon Jones, c'02, and **Marcellus**, j'03, daughter, Maison Simone, Sept. 29 in Eudora. Sherre-Khan teaches at Raintree Montessori School in Lawrence, and Marcellus is a cardio speciality representative for Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals.

Kelli Colyer Lieurance, c'02, l'05, and **Thomas**, c'01, twin girls, McKenzie James and Devon Alexandra, May 26 in Omaha, Neb.

03 Spencer Cryder, c'03, works as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. He lives in Falls Church, Va.

Christopher Hartley, j'03, is a sales counselor for Highland Homes in Plano, Texas.

Beth Williams, b'03, works as a risk analyst for Lockton Companies. Her home is in Clive, Iowa.

MARRIED

Adrienne Clements, l'03, to Bill Makens, July 9 in Austin, Texas. Their home is in Fort Worth.

David Harold, b'03, e'03, to Sarah Bodenman, Oct. 7 in Austin, Texas. David

is an engineer with Statoil, and Sarah is a public-relations consultant with Weber Shandwick. They live in Houston.

Leslie Harold, b'03, and **Meredith Poore**, c'05, g'09, PhD'12, July 9 in Lawrence. He is an investment analyst for Scout Investments, and she works for the Shawnee Mission School District. Their home is in Kansas City.

Sara Wunder, c'03, to Spencer Steward, Sept. 10 at Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. She is a senior animal-care specialist at Busch Gardens in Tampa, and he works for

Primedia. They live in Seffner.

BORN TO:

Nicholaus, d'03, g'09, and **Meghan Ralston Adams**, c'03, daughter, Olivia Faye, Nov. 23 in Overland Park.

04 Cale Dark, b'04, g'05, is a financial analyst with Hallmark Cards. He lives in Overland Park.

Leslie Duncan DeMent, j'04, works as a senior media planner for Sitewire Marketplace Solutions in Tempe, Ariz.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Headmaster bids aloha to his Hawaii alma mater

When he was hired in June 1988 as president of Kamehameha Schools, in Honolulu, Michael Chun's employment history hinted he might not last long.

"I had 10 years at the University of Hawaii, four years with the city and three years in private practice," Chun, e'66, PhD'70, says with a chuckle from his Kamehameha office. "It wasn't looking too good. I figured maybe it would be two years and then look for something else."

As he approaches his June retirement from Kamehameha 24 years later, headmaster Chun, an environmental engineer turned educator, looks back with joy at the unexpected career opportunity that returned him to his boyhood alma mater at what turned out to be an exceedingly difficult time in the school's proud history.

Kamehameha, a K-12 school system with preference for children of Hawaiian ancestry, was founded by Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last direct descendant of Kamehameha I, and her businessman husband, Charles Reed Bishop. Three years after Bernice's 1884 death, Kamehameha opened its doors to 37 boys. A girls' school opened in 1894, and in 1965 the schools integrated as co-educational.

Chun attended from kindergarten until

his 1961 high school graduation. He spent a semester at the University of Hawaii and completed an Army commitment, after which his Kamehameha football coach, who had played at Emporia State, sent film to KU coach Jack Mitchell. In fall 1962, Chun arrived at KU.

"I had a very undistinguished football career, to be frank," he says. "I had shoulder surgery and was unable to really move on after that. But, the school carried me for three years, I finished the fourth year on my own, and then returned to Hawaii in 1966."

After earning a master's degree at Hawaii, Chun returned to KU for doctoral studies under Distinguished Professor Ross McKinney. In 1970 he began teaching and researching water and waste management at Hawaii, which he left in 1981 to become director of Honolulu's department of public works. He joined a private engineering firm in 1985, and in 1988 Chun was the surprise choice to take over as Kamehameha's president.

The timing for the school was fortunate,



Michael Chun, says Honolulu architect and fellow Jayhawk Lloyd Sueda, a'66, "has so much loyalty and aloha for his alma maters," both KU and Kamehameha Schools.

because Chun in the 1990s helped guide Kamehameha through its darkest scandal, centered on exorbitant salaries commanded by its trustees. Kamehameha emerged newly energized, and, with \$120 million in new construction more than halfway completed, Chun and his wife, Bina, g'70, decided it was a good time for retirement and travel.

"This leap-taking has been very difficult this school year," says Chun, who in 1994 was awarded KU's Distinguished Service Citation. "I am ready to walk away from work, but it's been very difficult thinking about walking away from people, relationships, experiences."

Class Notes

Katherine Glendening, h'04, works as an aging-services program specialist for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in Washington, D.C., where she lives.

Sherry Hoover, e'04, manages project controls for Black & Veatch in Leawood.

Jessica Kirby, c'04, is a department manager with Nordstrom in Dallas.

Misty Koch, c'04, works as a physician assistant at Olathe Medical Services. She lives in Gardner.

Heath, d'04, g'09, and **Carrie Robertson Peterson**, c'04, make their home in Lawrence with their daughter, Presley Belle, 1, and son, Beau Kent, 4. Heath is an assistant vice president at the KU Alumni Association and Carrie is a dentist with East Topeka Dental Associates.

Meneka Scott, n'04, was honored by the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City as a 2012 Black Achiever in Business and Industry. She works as a nurse at Providence Medical Center in Kansas City.

Sarah Smiley, g'04, PhD'08, is an

assistant professor at Kent State University in Salem, Ohio.

Kyle Wiedwald, c'04, manages customer service for Aviva Life and Annuity in Topeka.



MARRIED

Lindsay Betts, b'04, c'04, to Douglas Wing, Oct. 14 in San Francisco, where she's a surety underwriter for Liberty Mutual and he manages analytics at ISO.

Lon Ihry, d'04, to Heidi Stensland, Oct. 28 in Fargo, N.D., where he's a delivery driver for UPS and she's a personal banker at State Bank & Trust.

05 Donald Baker, g'05, owns Water Resources Solutions. He and **Tammy Benschoter Baker**, c'84, live in Overland Park.

Eric Berg, PhD'05, is an associate professor of philosophy and religion at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill. He lives in Springfield.

Christopher Koepsel, b'05, is an

associate at Latham & Watkins in Los Angeles.

Benjamin Mantooth, c'05, j'05, works as a project manager consultant with Digital Evolution Group in Overland Park.

Kevin Vohs, p'05, is a pharmacist at Vohs Pharmacy in Louisburg.

MARRIED

Ted Pugh, b'05, to Helen West, Nov. 12 in Kansas City. He's executive vice president at Dickinson County Bank in Enterprise, where they live. Helen teaches seventh-grade world geography at Fort Riley Middle School.

John Sterling, c'05, l'09, to Lauren Thompson, May 14 in Kansas City, where they live.

Jamie Winkelman, b'05, and **Christopher Gomez**, '11, Nov. 5 in Lawrence, where they live. She's assistant director for annual giving at KU Endowment, and he's a consultant for Pennington & Company.

Megan Winter, l'05, to Matthew Beckman, Oct. 1 in San Diego, where Megan practices law with Fisher &

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Phillips. Matthew directs digital partnerships for Active Network. They live in Encinitas.

Kristen Woodward, c'05, to Bryan Reyes, Nov. 4 in Jacksonville, Fla., where she manages marketing for the Genesis Group. Bryan is a senior tax manager for Griggs Group CPAs in Ponte Vedra Beach. Their home is in Orange Park.

BORN TO:

Bret, b'05, and **Monica Randall Dittmer**, s'05, son, London Randall, Sept. 3 in Lawrence, where he joins a brother, Orion,

3. Bret is a senior executive at Macy's, and Monica directs operations for the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence.

Lora Lafferty Thornburg, p'05, and **Kenyon**, '07, daughter, Marlee Sue, May 18 in Olathe.

06 **Richard Mulhern**, a'06, g'09, works as an architect in London, England, where he and **Marina Lemee Mulhern**, '09, make their home.

Benjamin Ruf, c'06, is a partner in ILITE. He lives in Chicago.

Jessica Schuster, b'06, works as an

executive compensation consultant for BDO USA in Houston.

MARRIED

Katherine Bushouse, j'06, to Michael Panzica, Oct. 15 in Lawrence. She's a marketing specialist at BDO in Chicago, where they live, and he's a real-estate acquisitions associate for Burnham Capital Group.

Gregory Masenthin, j'06, to Julia Ellis, Sept. 23 in Manzanillo, Costa Rica. They live in Chicago.

Aubree Mullinix, d'06, g'09, Oct. 1 to

PROFILE by Lydia Benda

Artist's work embodies Kansas

Justin Marable's art bleeds the colors of Kansas sunsets and highlights familiar scenes such as lonely barns, flocking birds and local monuments.

His complex method of photographing, screen printing, cutting, stenciling and painting, which is both time consuming and labor intensive, brings to life the soul of Kansas, and any prairie dweller can attest to his art's sincerity.

"The imagery within my work comes from a very honest place," Marable says. Raised in the northeast Kansas farm town of Robinson and residing in Topeka, Marable, f'05, relates to the many layers of Midwestern life.

His ability to create art that seems to define Kansas has built him a following and a steady flow of commissioned work. "Most of these custom pieces capture the essence of the Midwest, whether it's a family farm, house, business or spot in nature significant to the client," Marable says. He also has been asked to represent Kansas for Art in Hand, a national project that will create a deck of playing cards, with each card design submitted by an artist from a different state.

Participating in grassroots efforts is just one way Marable marries his love for art

and his desire to provoke thought and discussion about environmental and social topics. "For example," Marable says, "with my enviro-social body of work, I try to provoke playfulness to somewhat relieve the

COURTESY JUSTIN MARABLE



weight of the topics." In such work, a cheerful rainbow shining on a field of truncated tree stumps or a T-Rex coughing at a train's billowing smoke are the main subjects, rather than his usual pastoral scenes.

His band, Interior Seas, also references the physical and social landscape, and will represent Kansas for State of Music, a music compilation featuring unsigned/indie bands from each state. The band will perform at SXSW music festival in Austin this month.



DANIEL W. COBURN/TOPEKA MAGAZINE

Justin Marable spends many long hours and late nights in his home studio in Topeka (above). "It's a constant struggle but I couldn't see myself doing anything else," Marable says. His artwork, such as "Farmland Flight" (left), has a distinct and colorful aesthetic due to his unique methods and regional subjects.

Amid his many projects, talents and passions (including his wife, Bailey, and three young daughters), Marable continues to create artwork that speaks to his love of nature and his desire to protect it. "My hope," he says, "is to create an ongoing stream of original art and music that flows from my roots in urban and rural Kansas to the surrounding local and global community."

To learn more about Marable and view his online gallery, visit www.justinmarable.com.

Class Notes

Jeffrey Wolf, Oct. 1 in Kansas City. Aubree is a physical therapist at SERC of Shawnee, and Jeffrey is a freight broker at Freight-Quote in Lenexa. Their home is in Roeland Park.

BORN TO:

Austin, c'06, and **Elissa Lemesany Koelling**, c'07, son, Connor William, Oct. 21 in Lawrence, where they live. Austin is a switchman for Union Pacific Railroad in Kansas City, and Elissa is office manager for Parkway Properties.

07 Michele Evink, p'07, directs pharmacy services at Clark County Hospital in Osceola, Iowa.

Marion Hixon, g'07, manages communications for the Air Traffic Control Association in Alexandria, Va. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Milos Jekic, c'07, f'11, works as an associate at Seecreek Law Firm. He lives in Overland Park.

Aaron Kuhn, b'07, supervises accounts for Intouch Solutions in Chicago.

Joel Leader, d'07, teaches for Lewisville ISD. He lives in Carrollton, Texas.

Phillip Martinez, e'07, founded Phil-square, where he's creative director. His home is in Lawrence.

Joshua Roehr, d'07, is general manager of Omaha Beef Indoor Football in Omaha, Neb., where he and **Kelli Nuss Roehr**, c'07, make their home.

Ashley Stepp, p'07, is a CVS pharmacist in Kansas City.

Bryn Maughmer Stewart, c'07, manages sales and marketing for VidaMedica Corporation. She lives in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Katharine Ward, c'07, j'07, is a senior communications representative with Bayer HealthCare in Leawood.

MARRIED

Meghan Kinley, c'07, to Kevin Spreer, Nov. 25 in Cancun, Mexico. She directs development at Independence Inc., and he's a senior service technician at Ingersoll Rand. They live in Lawrence.

08 Kristen Buck, g'08, works as an architect at LRK Architects in Memphis, Tenn.

Janaina Correa, j'08, won "O Aprendiz," the Brazilian version of the American TV series "The Apprentice," last December. Jana, who played volleyball during her time at KU, is a native of Brazil. She has a home in Olathe.

Bevan Graybill, d'08, practices law with the Oklahoma Court of Civic Appeals in Oklahoma City.

Andy Schumm, d'08, works as a manufacturer's representative for Blazer Brusa Sales. He lives in Overland Park.

Andrew Sherwood, j'08, is a graduate assistant in the University of Arkansas Athletics Department in Fayetteville.

Barbara Smith, j'08, c'08, is lead teacher at Parkwood Day School. She lives in Leawood.

John Wickey, c'08, is store manager for Wells Fargo & Company in Lenexa. He and **Megan Overall Wickey**, '09, live in Shawnee.

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Kevin Corbett, c'88, Alumni Association president, and Kyle Vann, e'69, The Woodlands, Texas, show off Vann's new Texas plate. Doug, e'66, g'72, and Marilyn Stone Ashbrook, d'66, Gaithersburg, Md., proudly display their new Maryland plate.



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Class Notes



At the Top of the Hill by Debra Clemente



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MARRIED

Kent Bahr, c'j08, and **Kaitlyn Farrell**, c'10, Oct. 1 in Kansas City. He's a trainer with Farmers Insurance, and she's an environmental scientist at Tetra Tech in Olathe, where they make their home.

Michael Gore, c'08, to Alexandra Sobel, Sept. 4 in Milwaukee. He studies computing and digital media at DePaul University, and she works for WorldChicago. Their home is in Evanston, Ill.

Elizabeth Phelps, g'08, to Logan Alvarez, July 9 in Cozumel, Mexico. She works for Bloom & Associates Therapy in Lawrence, where they live, and he's employed by UPS.

Adam Rankin, e'08, and **Elizabeth Newton**, '12, Nov. 5 in Danforth Chapel. They live in Lawrence, and Adam works as a design engineer at Engineered Air in De Soto.

09 Lt. **Dale Baumbach**, g'09, is head of security at Navy Medical Center in San Diego.

Kevin Brown, b'09, g'11, works as an accountant for Ernst & Young. He lives in Chicago.

Jacob Hill, b'09, manages accounts for AT&T in Dallas.

Peter Holmes, c'09, serves as a transportation officer with the U.S. Army in Melbourne, Fla.

Kelly Jenkins, c'09, recently completed a master's in history at the University of Liverpool. She lives in Merseyside, England.

Betty Kaspar, j'09, coordinates the marketing program at Cerner. She lives in Overland Park.

Devin Kellerman, c'09, is lead geography clerk at the U.S. Census Bureau. His home is in Concord, N.H.

Etienne Laubignat, j'09, is vice president of institutional sales at Dougherty & Co. in Minneapolis, Minn.

Erin Monfort Nelson, f'09, works as a graduate teaching assistant at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Jane Nettels, c'09, supervises customer

experience for Banana Republic. She lives in Leawood.

Allison Owens, j'09, is an associate with Starcom in Chicago.

MARRIED

Lindsey Rich, c'09, to Chad Heckert, Oct. 8 in Danforth Chapel. They live in St. Joseph, Mo., and Lindsey is a technical writer for Lucity Inc. in Overland Park.

Jeremy Schuyler, c'09, and **Jennifer Schneider**, c'09, Oct. 29 in Danforth Chapel. He works for Waddell and Reed in Shawnee Mission, and she teaches reading at Hillcrest Elementary School in Lawrence, where they live.

10 **Jacob Ashley**, c'10, is a physical scientist at ERDC-CRREL in Hanover, N.H. He lives in Canaan.

Kelly Ewing, s'10, works as Head Start specialist at the Family Conservancy in Kansas City.

Kathy Le, e'10, is an architectural and electrical engineer for LDB & Associates.

She lives in Irving, Calif.

Christopher Lipinski, g'10, works as a geologist with Chevron in Bakersfield, Calif.

Celina Suarez, PhD'10, is an NSF postdoctoral fellow at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

Michael Younger, e'10, works as an engineer at EBH & Associates in Pratt.

MARRIED

Matthew Gee, b'10, to Katie Schmidt, Oct. 1 in Hutchinson, where he's an account manager for Scott's Professional Lawn and Landscape and she's an athletics trainer at Pinnacle Sports Medicine and Orthopaedics.

Heather Reid, c'10, and **Chad Klaassen**, e'11, June 4 in Andover. She works for the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce, and he's a structural engineer with Sprint.

11 Brian Larkin, e'11, is an analyst with GE Energy Financial Services in Stamford, Conn.

Stephanie Nance, d'11, is a certified nursing assistant at Homestead of Leawood. She lives in Overland Park.

Samantha Nuernberger, j'11, works as an associate at Starcom in Chicago.

MARRIED

George Diepenbrock, g'11, to Lindsey Slater, Nov. 5 in Lawrence,

where he reports for the Lawrence Journal-World and she's a producer at 6News Lawrence.

Kristin Smith, u'11, and **Christopher Hoffman**, '12, Sept. 24 in Hutchinson. She's a case manager with Bert Nash in Lawrence, and he's the systems administrator for KU Bookstore.

Eric McClafflin, b'11, to Jennifer Greer, Oct. 8 in Smithton. They live in Westphalia, and Eric serves as a combat simulator analyst for the U.S. Army.

12 Katherine Ferro, g'12, g'12, manages operations group purchasing for the Child Health Corporation of America in Mission. She lives in Leawood.

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In Memory

30s **Roberta Brabant Allen, c'34**, 99, Dec. 9 in Grafton, Ill. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Benjamin, '62; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Paul Getto, '39, 94, Dec. 21 in Lawrence, where he practiced dentistry and oral surgery for many years. He is survived by his wife, Winnie Hagberg Getto, '77; two sons, Paul, d'73, g'78, and Charles, '73; a daughter, Jane Getto Allen, '82; and seven grandchildren.

Robert Harrison, c'39, 95, Dec. 7 in Lawrence, where he was former owner of Gill Real Estate and Insurance. A daughter-in-law survives.

Helen Kinney Lutes, b'33, 99, Dec. 17 in Vanderbilt Beach, Fla. She had a 34-year career with the U.S. Departments of the Army and Defense and with the Department of State's Agency for International Development. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Shirley Jones Mann, c'36, 97, Nov. 12 in Hutchinson. She is survived by a son, Robert, f'70; a grandson; and two great-granddaughters.

Joseph Robertson, e'37, 95, May 23 in Bartlesville, Okla., where he was a paint engineer for Phillips Petroleum. Survivors include a son, John, b'68; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

Patricia "Patsy" Edson Tombaugh, c'39, 99, Jan. 12 in Las Cruces, N.M., where she was a retired teacher. She appeared in 2010 on the PBS series "NOVA" focusing on the controversy surrounding the demotion of Pluto, which was discovered as a planet in 1930 by her late husband, Clyde, c'36, g'39. Survivors include a son, a daughter, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

40s **Dolores Grossenbacher Aul, c'44**, 89, Dec. 6 in Sabetha, where she was a homemaker and a former teacher. She is survived by a son, Ronald, b'84, g'86; two daughters; a brother; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Beverly Baumer, j'48, 84, April 1 in

Hutchinson, where she was a former feature and trade journal writer. She is survived by her sister, Marjorie Baumer, '48, and several nieces and nephews.

Earlene Maninger Beal, c'49, 88, Oct. 4 in Custar, Ohio, where she was a former teacher and Franklin County Welfare Department case worker. Among survivors are two daughters, a son, three sisters and a brother.

Willis Beyer, e'48, 89, Oct. 30 in Gridley, where he served on the Gridley City Council for many years. He is survived by a daughter; four sons, one of whom is Philip, p'84; 20 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

John Bills, c'48, 86, Dec. 17 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Chambers Bills, f'50; three daughters, one of whom is J. Allison Bills-Eustis, c'79; a sister; and three granddaughters.

Virginia Kaspar Dolezal, p'40, 93, Dec. 21 in Lawrence, where she was a retired pharmacist. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a son, Jeff, c'69, d'71; a daughter, Marcia Dolezal Wewers, p'73; and three granddaughters.

Lloyd Elliott, b'41, 91, Nov. 13 in Topeka, where he was retired vice president and Kansas branch manager for the Trinity Companies. He is survived by his wife, Vivian; a daughter, Linda Elliott Fegley, c'68; and a son, Steve, c'71.

Elizabeth Evans, c'48, 85, Nov. 29 in Stamford, Conn. She taught psychology and counseling at the collegiate level and had held marketing and human-resources positions at several U.S. corporations.

James Galle, c'47, 89, Dec. 12 in Overland Park, where he had been associate dean of administration at Park College and extension director for the National College of Business. He is survived by two sons, James, a'76, g'96, and David, b'80; and five grandchildren.

Doris Turney Gibbs, f'45, 87, Oct. 22 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she was a

retired teacher. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Eugene Harnish, d'49, 91, Nov. 13 in Hiawatha, where he was retired from a 30-year career teaching high school. He is survived by his wife, Jo, and a brother.

Fred Jaedicke Jr., c'49, 87, Oct. 15 in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he was an independent landman. He is survived by his wife, Mildred; a son; a daughter; a sister, Kay Jaedicke, assoc.; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Duane Kline Jr., c'44, m'46, 89, Nov. 27 in Cheyenne, Wyo., where he was a retired orthopedic surgeon. Survivors include his wife, Joanna Wagstaff Kline, c'76; four sons; a daughter; and 13 grandchildren.

Emily Yount Miller, c'40, g'41, 93, Jan. 1 in Wichita. Two sons, a daughter and a grandson survive.

Albert "Skeet" Nicolet, '47, 88, Dec. 9 in Fort Dodge. He had served on the Cimarron School Board and on the Cimarron City Council, and he owned and operated Nicolet's Clothing Store for many years. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Larsen Nicolet, '48; three sons, two of whom are Gregory, '70, and Marc, '72; a daughter, Suzanne, d'79, s'83; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Tom Porter, b'44, 88, Oct. 19 in Ottawa, where he owned and operated Porter-Spears Insurance. He is survived by a son, Charlie, c'75; three daughters, one of whom is Donna Porter Saylor, d'69; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Thomas Saffell, d'47, g'50, EdD'71, 86, Nov. 16 in Wichita, where he was a former teacher, principal and coach. He had been a college professor and president in Colorado and is survived by his wife, Ruth Green Saffell, e'46; three daughters, two of whom are Linda Saffell Kraus, d'71, and Cynthia Saffell Lightner, '72; two sons, Thomas, '71, and Kirk, c'85; a sister; 16 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Thomas Schlegel, e'40, 93, Nov. 15 in Lancaster, Pa. He was retired from a 35-year career as an electrical engineer with Gilbert Commonwealth. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two daughters and a granddaughter survive.

Hope Miller Swamer, d'45, 87, Nov. 15 in Jennersville, Pa., where she was a retired music teacher. She is survived by three daughters, two sons, two stepdaughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Harry Wigner, '41, 93, Nov. 5 in Atwood, where he was a retired farmer and stockman. He is survived by a son, Harry Jr., c'77; a daughter, Betsy Wigner Holste, '74; and two grandchildren.

Donald Williams, b'42, 92, Aug. 27 in Olathe, where he owned a farm-implementation business for many years. He is survived by two daughters, Nancy Williams Shepard, d'66, and Shirley Williams Montgomery, f'68; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

50s Robert Arbuckle, e'51, 82, Nov. 12 in Buhler, where he was a structural engineer with Landmark Architects and Engineers. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Karla; a daughter; two sons, David, b'83, and Jess, b'82; two stepsons, one of whom is Adam Pousson, c'11; 10 grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Fred Ball, b'56, 77, Oct. 28 in Olathe, where he was CEO of the Four B Corporation. He is survived by his wife, JoAnne Young Ball, '57; two daughters, Debbie Ball Simpson, c'80, and Diane Ball Wilkerson, '83; a son, David, '85; and seven grandchildren.

Jim Black, e'50, 83, Nov. 14 in Topeka, where he was a retired construction supervisor at First Management. He lived in Lawrence for many years and had served on the Lawrence City Commission and as a director of the Chamber of Commerce. Survivors include three sons, two of whom are James, j'75, and Chris, b'76; a daughter, Elizabeth, s'77; two sisters, Cara Black Taft, c'45, and Margaret Black Hall, c'54; a brother, Frank, b'57; and three grandchildren.

Rupert Bledsoe, e'50, 91, Nov. 9 in Seattle, where he was retired from a 25-year career with General Electric X-Ray. Two sons survive.

John Brockhouse, m'57, 79, Aug. 20 in Emporia, where he practiced medicine at

the Medical Arts Clinic for 37 years. He is survived by his wife, Alice, two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Dean Burkhead, c'53, l'55, 80, Nov. 17 in Lawrence, where he was a retired attorney and partner in the law firm of Riling, Burkhead and Nitcher. He is survived by his wife, Rosalie; a son, Thomas, b'86; five daughters, three of whom are Deanna Burkhead Lowe, c'75, Pamela, '87, and Kimberly Burkhead Lewis, '79; a brother, Donald, b'57; a sister; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Ramon Carpenter, e'54, g'56, 82, Sept. 11 in New Orleans. He lived in Lady Lake, Fla., and had been a professor of physics at the University of Iowa until retiring. He is survived by his wife, Martha, two daughters, two sons, a sister and two grandchildren.

Arthur Clevenger, p'50, 88, Nov. 10 in Yakima, Wash., where he was a retired physician. He helped found Sunnyside General Hospital, where he served as a trustee for many years. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Monahan Clevenger, assoc.; a son; three daughters; and two grandchildren.

Sue Hughes Collins, c'55, 78, Nov. 20 in Belleville, where she and her husband had operated a clothing store and a Sears & Roebuck catalog store. She later lived in Lawrence, where she was a comptroller at First Management. Surviving are her husband, Jack, '55; and two sons, Jack Jr., f'82, g'89, and Steven, f'83.

Warren Crosby Jr., m'57, 80, Oct. 5 in Oklahoma City, where he was a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Oklahoma. Among survivors are his wife, Joanne, a daughter and two sisters.

Dale Engel, b'51, 82, Dec. 30 in Kansas City, where he had been CFO of Con-ChemCo. While at KU, he played basketball for coach Phog Allen. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Mary Swanson Engel, '52; a son; a daughter, Carol Engel Poppe, c'77; six grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

William Evans Jr., c'50, m'58, 87, Dec. 28 in Leawood, where he practiced

medicine for many years.

Fred Firner, e'50, 87, Nov. 9 in Overland Park, where he retired after a 34-year career with Kansas City Power & Light. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; a daughter; Francie Firner Stoner, c'72, c'73; a stepson; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A.L. Folkner, m'57, 81, Nov. 14 in Tubac, Ariz., where he was a retired physician. He practiced medicine in Warrensburg, Mo., for many years, and had served as mayor and as city councilman. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; four daughters, one of whom is Patricia Folkner Leicht, '80; a sister; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Fox, p'52, 82, Nov. 20 in Detroit, where he was a pharmacist and former TV host at WJBK. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, a daughter, a sister and a grandson.

John Hattaway, b'59, 80, Oct. 28 in De Soto, where he was retired from a 38-year career with Black & Veatch. He is survived by two sons, Brian, e'88, g'90, and Brett, j'93, l'96; and four grandchildren.

James Hershberger, c'53, 80, Nov. 23 in Bonita Springs, Fla. He had been an independent oil producer in Wichita for many years and had been named Kansas Man of the Year. He set many national track records at KU, where the University's track is named for him. He also founded the Hershberger Games, which featured athletes competing in 18 sporting events in 15 hours. He is survived by his wife, Sally Pugh Hershberger, assoc.; four daughters, two of whom are Nicole Hershberger Hall, '90, and Angela Hershberger Gaddie, '95; two sons; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

John Hoyt, e'50, 83, Nov. 5 in Bartlesville, Okla., where he worked for Hoyt Oil and later became a franchisee with Village Inn Pancake House. He is survived by his wife, Gretchen Freeburg Hoyt, '53; three daughters; Kathleen, g'77, Leslie Hoyt Brier, f'77, and Anne, '80; a son; two sisters, Suzanne Hoyt Marquis, c'53, and Shirley Hoyt VonRuden, c'49, h'51; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

The Rev. **Hervey Macferran, c'51**, 83,

In Memory

Aug. 3 in Aurora, Colo., where he was a retired Presbyterian minister. He is survived by his wife, Jean; a daughter; a son; a brother, Sewall, b'48; and two grandchildren.

Joyce Rohrer Molina, f'50, d'51, 83, Oct. 3 in Paola, where she taught private voice lessons for 40 years. She is survived by her husband, Charles, d'58, g'62; a daughter, Patrice Molina Sollenberger, d'76, g'80; a son; and five grandchildren.

Guifford Moore, b'52, 85, Sept. 24 in Flagstaff, Ariz., where he worked as a Richfield Oil Co. distributor and later as a jobber for Conoco. He is survived by his wife, Georgia Ginther Moore, d'51.

Peggy Horne Murray, c'56, 78, Nov. 13 in Leawood, where she had a long career in the insurance industry. She is survived by a son, Kevin, b'82; and four grandchildren.

Harold Patterson, '54, 79, Nov. 21 in Burdett. He was a member of the Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame and lettered in football, basketball and baseball while at KU. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and played in the Canadian Football League for 14 seasons. He later returned to Kansas, where he had a construction business. Survivors include a son, two daughters, a brother, four sisters, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Pat Moon Ranson, d'57, 74, Nov. 4 in Independence. She lived in Wichita for many years and had served as a state senator and as former chairwoman of the Leadership 2000 Board of Trustees, the Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Wichita/Sedgwick County Airport Authority. She is survived by a son, Bradley Storey, '82; a daughter, Jennifer Storey Reumund, '91; a sister, Carolyn Kay Moon Kayser, d'61; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

James Reavis, g'50, 84, June 27 in Grove, Okla., where he lived. He had a 40-year career as technical manager of Farmland Industries' Coffeyville Refinery. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite; two sons, J.L. Jr., e'72, g'74, and Dan, e'75; a daughter, Nancy Reavis Schurr, n'78; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Shmalberg, b'50, 84, Nov. 22 in Lawrence, where he was president and CEO of Scotch Industries. He founded the Share the Warmth program, which has collected, cleaned and distributed more than 200,000 free winter coats through the Salvation Army in Lawrence and Topeka. Surviving are his wife, Jackie Kreider Shmalberg, '50; two sons, Jeffery, b'77, and Scott, b'81; five grandchildren; and three stepgrandchildren.

Harlan Unruh, p'53, 81, July 1 in Chino, Calif., where he was former manager of Gemmel Pharmacy. He is survived by his wife, Patsye, assoc.; a son; a daughter; eight grandchildren; two foster grandchildren; a stepgrandchild; and three great-grandchildren.

Kenneth White, e'54, 79, Nov. 21 in Austin, Texas. He lived in Salina for many years and was a structural engineer and past chairman of Kansas Consulting Engineers. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Tweet White, d'54; a son, Richard, e'91; a daughter; two sisters; and a grandson.

60s Harry "Bud" Anderson Jr., b'65, 69, Dec. 24 in Sarasota, Fla. He had lived in Lawrence and Topeka and is survived by his wife, Cheryl Adams Anderson, c'64; a daughter, Jennifer Anderson Gongora, b'92; a son, Jeffrey, '97; a brother; and two grandsons.

Robert Becker, d'68, 64, Feb. 16, 2011, in Kansas City. He is survived by his wife, Terry, a daughter, a son and his father.

Howard Chin, m'60, 81, Nov. 26 in Oakland, Calif., where he was retired chief of pediatrics at Children's Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Olga, three sons and seven grandchildren.

Linda Galliard Converse, d'65, 68, Nov. 22 in Garfield, where she was a former band teacher. She was the first woman to play in the KU Brass Choir and is survived by her husband, Kent, d'63; a daughter; two sons; her mother; two sisters, one of whom is Gay Galliard Sauer, h'80; six grandchildren; and three stepgrandchildren.

Thomas Erskine, g'64, 72, June 23 in Portland, Maine. He had chaired the English department and been dean of arts

and sciences at Salisbury University in Maryland. He is survived by his wife, Edna, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

Cedric Fortune, m'66, 71, Nov. 14 in Olathe, where he practiced medicine and served on the Olathe School Board. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, two sons, a stepson, a stepdaughter, three grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

Ronald Fry, e'61, 72, Aug. 12 in Milwaukee. A son, a daughter and four grandchildren survive.

Edmund Hafemeister, g'62, 92, Sept. 16 in Leavenworth, where he was a retired principal. He is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Preble Harres, '61, 73, Dec. 7 in Centennial, Colo., where he was retired president and CEO of AAA Propane Sales and Rental. He is survived by his wife, Annette, two daughters, three sons and four grandchildren.

George Hohl, '63, 70, Dec. 31 in Prairie Village, where he was CEO of the Salvajor Company. Among survivors are three sons, two of whom are Christopher, e'95, and Matthew, '01; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Col. **Robert Iott, p'60**, 73, Oct. 20 in Yakima, Wash., where he was former executive director of Group Health Northwest. As a member of the U.S. Air Force's Medical Service Corps, he provided health care and medical services to servicemen in Turkey; West Germany; Texas; Alabama; Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; Illinois; and Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Joan, a son and a daughter.

Jack Jewell, c'62, g'74, 92, Nov. 2 in Topeka. He lived in Lawrence, where he was retired from Saudi Arabian Airlines. Surviving are his wife, Marion Palmer Jewell, c'80; two daughters, Norma Jewell Schilmoeller, c'69, g'73, PhD'78, and Glee Jewell Garlie, d'81; three sons, James, j'77, William, '84, and Glenn, c'85; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Rockne Krebs, f'61, 72, Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C., where he was a laser artist. He is survived by two daughters, a son, his mother and two brothers.

Jean Sorum Mills, b'60, g'82, 72, Dec. 10 in Topeka. She is survived by her husband, Phil Jr., m'64; two sons, David, c'90, and Alan, c'90, d'94, g'01; a daughter, Allison Mills Thornbrugh, g'86; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

James Moore, b'63, g'64, l'67, 77, Dec. 16 in Lawrence, where he was a retired CPA and attorney in the Douglas County Appraiser's Office. Two nieces and two nephews survive.

Genevra Doze Newell, d'60, 73, Oct. 8 in Aurora, Colo. She is survived by three sons; a sister, Rosemary Doze Thomas, b'63; a brother, John Doze, d'66; and six grandchildren.

Max Rife, g'68, 84, Dec. 24 in Lawrence, where he coached basketball, taught history and was associate principal at Lawrence High School. He is survived by his wife, Wilma Stratton Rife, g'70; two sons, Joel, e'78, g'84; and Kurt, '78; two daughters, Patricia Rife, j'86, and Elizabeth Rife Holub, c'83; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

Jan Zellhoefer Timmons, g'62, PhD'65, 80, July 16 in Stockton, Calif. She taught speech and education at Colorado State University, San Joaquin Delta College and at the University of the Pacific, where she received the Order of Pacific, the university's highest honor, at her retirement in 2000.

70s Monte Jordan, f'76, 58, Nov. 15 in San Marcos, Calif., where he was a marriage and family therapist. His mother and a brother survive.

Linda Jones McCoy, d'70, g'73, EdD'78, 70, Nov. 27 in Pittsburg, where she was a retired professor of education. She is survived by her husband, Keith, d'62, g'71; two sons; two daughters, one of whom is Elizabeth McCoy Crabill, c'03, l'06; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

James Rohrer, c'70, PhD'75, 64, Oct. 25 in Mobile, where he was an associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Susie, a daughter, a stepson, three grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

Susan Groebe Sakata, f'77, 57, Oct. 27. She lived in Parkville, Mo., and had

worked for Black & Veatch. Surviving are her husband, Dan, a stepdaughter and a stepgranddaughter.

80s Kenneth Brigman, a'89, 56, Oct. 23 in Maryville, Ill. He was an architect for the Korte Company in Highland and is survived by his wife, Susan Klunk Brigman, assoc.; a son; his mother; a sister; and two brothers.

Marlin Locke, m'83, 54, Feb. 3, 2011, in Wakeeney, where he practiced medicine. He is survived by his wife, Debra; two sons, Nathan, c'10, and Cameron, '12; two daughters, Erin Locke Nilhas, g'12, and Kirsten, 14; three brothers; and two sisters.

Kimberly Setty-Norton, j'86, 47, Jan. 4 in Wichita, where she was a news anchor for KWCH-TV. She recently had been named to the Hutchinson High School Wall of Honor. Survivors include her husband, Kent; a son; a daughter; her mother; a brother, Kent Setty, d'92; and a stepsister.

90s Heidi Garren-Everley, c'97, 36, Nov. 21 in Overland Park, where she was a dentist at Marketplace Dental Care. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Mark, c'97, m'01; a daughter; a son; her mother; her stepfather, Douglas Reynolds, b'73; her father; her stepmother; a brother, Matthew Garren, '02; three sisters, two of whom are Lisa Garren Goodman, '00, and Ashley, '12; and her grandmother.

Susan Hotz, c'93, m'97, 41, Nov. 20 in Dallas, where she was a neurologist at Medical City Dallas Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Michael Shiekh; two daughters; her parents, John, c'57, l'60, and Ann Terflinger Hotz, c'55; a brother, Joseph Hotz, c'84; and a sister, Teresa Hotz Schul, '89.

Iain Lewis, e'94, 40, Aug. 13 in Lake Charles, La., where he worked at PPG. Among survivors are his wife, Maria; a daughter; his father, Gerald, '72; a sister, Geraldine Lewis, d'07; and two brothers, one of whom is Robert, e'93, m'99, g'99.

00s Laura Millikan Baldwin, e'04, 30, Dec. 15 in Lawrence. She is

survived by her husband, Jacob, e'03; two sons; her father, Steven Millikan, b'75; her mother; and a sister, Brandyn Millikan Ford, '98.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Thomas Buckman, 88, Dec. 1 in New York City, where he was president of the Foundation Corporation. He had been director of libraries at KU from 1961 to 1968, and had overseen the introduction of computer technology in the libraries as well as the completion of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library and an addition to Watson Library. Two daughters and a brother survive.

Catherine Sullins Cole, g'90, 60, Jan. 3 in Kansas City, where she was an associate professor of nursing at the KU School of Nursing. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Elwood; two sons; one of whom is Zachary, g'08; a brother; and a sister.

Ernest Crow, m'44, 91, Dec. 26 in Wichita, where he was a retired cardiologist and co-founder of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. In 1985, he was named the KU Medical Alumni Association's Alumnus of the Year. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Barbara Crow Biersmith, c'67, g'69; two sons, one of whom is Rick, c'89; a brother; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Martha Miller Hensley, g'80, f'87, g'94, 83, Jan. 3 in Lawrence, where she helped found the Institute for Cognitive Film Studies at KU. She is survived by a daughter, Harriet Hensley, s'71, s'75; two sons, one of whom is Dan, c'71, l'74; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Arno Knapper, 86, Jan. 19 in Lawrence, where he was professor of business at KU from 1948 until retiring in 1988. A niece survives. He won the HOPE (Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award in 1972.

Shirley Veith, PhD'89, 82, Dec. 3 in Red Wing, Minn. She taught nursing at KU for several years. Three cousins survive.

Rock Chalk Review

DAVID FROST



Carnegie bound

18-year-old pianist wins international competition

Perfectly postured in a gray turtleneck and black cardigan, Yangmingtian Zhao appears more dapper gentleman than fresh-faced dorm-dweller. But the 18-year-old pianist extraordinaire has rarely acted his age. The Hainan, China, sophomore already has many accolades to his name, most notably his recent first prize in the American Fine Arts Festival Golden Era of Romantic Music Liszt International Competition. As the winner, he will take the coveted stage at Carnegie Hall May 12.

“He comes across as very polished even though he’s very young,” says Steven Spooner, associate professor of music.

“He’s a transfer student with two years of college under his belt despite the fact that he’s only 18 years old. The students here in my studio nicknamed him ‘old man’ because he is so mature and gentlemanly; he’s not like a typical 18-year-old.”

From a young age, Zhao’s musical aptitude was apparent. He began studying piano at age 4, and at 13 attended the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. Prior to coming to KU, Zhao studied piano performance for two years at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore.

Zhao submitted his winning performance of Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by video, which was shot during the honors recital at KU’s International Institute for Young Musicians last summer. “I think I performed pretty well at that time, so I determined to send this video for the competition,” Zhao says. Many

other competitors traveled to the live auditions in Paris, Tokyo and New York. “I didn’t expect to win because many very high-level pianists went to the live performance and had the aural advantage.” Fortunately for Zhao, his immense talent spoke for itself, “aural advantage” or not.

After playing at Carnegie Hall this spring, Zhao will give a string of solo recitals, starting at St. Stephen of Hungary Church in New York City and then in China and Singapore.

Zhao is thrilled with his win in the Liszt competition, but Spooner says this contest is just one of many in Zhao’s future.

“Mingtian is the level of pianist that he can pretty much do any international competition he wants to, so we are working during the year on at least five or six big competitions like that all over the world.”

Just this February Zhao learned he had won third prize in another international contest, the World International Piano Competition, which has no age limitations. Zhao was up against the best and most revered piano players in the world. “It’s actually more difficult,” he says. “The first-prize winner is a very excellent pianist from Russia, and the second-prize winner is a piano teacher in Italy, so I’m the youngest of the prizewinners. I feel very lucky.”

He accepts his praise with grace and humility and credits his family in China (none are musicians, by the way) and his teachers at KU for his success. “This really is an achievement that we reached together,” Zhao says.

Spooner says he seldom has a student with so much potential to perform at the professional level. “But in Mingtian’s case, I really have a lot of confidence that he will be a concert pianist. And that’s a tough thing to do. There are very few people who can say they are truly making a living as pianists, but I think he’s one of them.”

—Lydia Benda

Native tongue

Linguists work to revitalize Cherokee language

At an elementary school in Tahlequah, Okla., children are learning all of their subjects in a language on the brink of extinction.

The children, who attend the Cherokee Nation Immersion School and already speak English, are part of a larger effort to save the tribe's native language.

"Over the past decade or so, the Cherokee people are beginning to realize the language has perhaps one more generation left," says Lizette Peter, g'00, PhD'03, specialist in second language acquisition at the School of Education.

Peter is one of three KU staff members involved in the Cherokee language revitalization project, which is funded with three grants totaling nearly \$200,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Science Foundation.

There are around 300,000 citizens of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, but most of the first-language speakers are 60 and older, says Marcellino Berardo, g'93, PhD'00, assistant specialist in the KU Applied English Center.

Cherokee is a difficult language to learn because a shift in tone or the length of a vowel can drastically change the meaning of a word or phrase.

One advantage for the revitalization team is the language's long written history. In the early 1800s, Sequoyah, a Cherokee silversmith and linguist, created 80 symbols to represent the language's sounds, and many in the tribe are familiar with the system today.

Those working with the language project, which also includes representatives from the Cherokee Nation and the University of Oklahoma, already have created a searchable Cherokee Electronic Dictionary with more than 10,000 entries. They will record words over the next two years, giving the dictionary an audio component.

At the immersion school, Peter and Tracy Hirata-Edds, g'07, lecturer at the



STEVE PUPPE

KU's Tracy Hirata-Edds, Marcellino Berardo and Lizette Peter are working with the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma to revive the tribe's native language. The project includes teaching Cherokee at a school in Tahlequah, Okla., writing grammar rules and creating audio recordings of Cherokee words.

Applied English Center, have created a curriculum for students in the Cherokee language and are translating Oklahoma state testing standards. That translation work often requires consulting the Cherokee Nation's Speakers Bureau, which meets twice a month and develops new words to accommodate technological developments.

Another aspect of the project involves developing grammar rules for the language. Researchers pair native, fluent speakers with proficient second-language learners to document Cherokee.

"Amazon.com doesn't just have a grammar book," Berardo says.

The KU language specialists say they don't know how prevalent the Cherokee language will become. But because generations of people were dissuaded and even punished for speaking the language during assimilation efforts, those who grew up speaking it are enjoying the new wave of interest in their language.

"When you use your language, you're not simply communicating a message," Berardo says. "You're saying, 'We're together. We're in this ethnic group. This shows our identity of who we are together.'"

—Terry Rombeck

When rage comes

Woodrell's stories hone Ozark violence to a shimmering surety

Death arrives early in *The Outlaw Album*, a short-story collection by novelist Daniel Woodrell, and stays late into the thick Ozark night. "The Echo of Neighborly Bones," the slim book's opening entry, begins, "Once Boshell finally killed his neighbor he couldn't seem to quit killing him."

It is the sort of line that, once conjured, can push a writer toward an entire book, and Boshell's insatiable rage against the "opinionated foreigner from Minnesota" sets Woodrell, c'80, off on an examination of savage, pointless violence.

Nearly a week after shooting Jepperson



The Outlaw Album
by Daniel Woodrell
\$24.99, Little,
Brown and
Company

Rock Chalk Review

dead with a squirrel rifle—“bullet to the heart, classic and effective”—Boshell again addresses the issue of Jepperson’s arrogance. He uncovers the corpse from its rocky tomb and beats it with a stout stick “enough times to snuff a live man.” When he returns home, his wife asks, “Wherever’d you get off to?”

“Oh, you know. I just can’t get to feelin’ done with the son of a bitch,” he answers.

“In all this rain?”

Like Boshell’s murderous bullet, *The Outlaw Album*, Woodrell’s first story collection after eight novels, is classic and effective. The danger always arrives quickly, and it is real.

“Man, I’m diggin’ your hole already in my head,” snarls a machete-wielding monster who thunders into the late pages of “Twin Forks” and threatens to cut up a man for using the mildest of curse words. “I hope it’s dug to fit you, ‘cause you’re goin’ to be dead in it a long time.”

—Chris Lazzarino

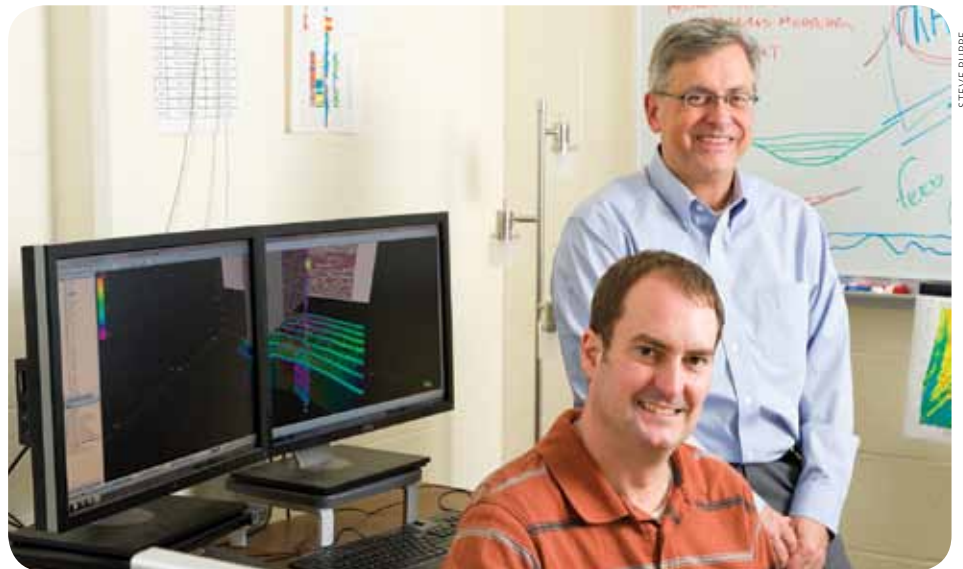
Carbon cleanup

Geologists hope greenhouse gas might boost oil production

With a history of oil production dating to 1860, Kansas has generated more than 6 billion barrels of oil. But production peaked in 1957, and many Kansas oil fields are approaching the end of their usable lifespans. Now a state team of geologists and private industry, led by Lynn Watney and Jason Rush of the Kansas Geological Survey, based on West Campus, will test whether injections of compressed carbon dioxide might boost recovery of remaining oil by up to 25 percent, or perhaps a long-term total of 300 million barrels.

When a well’s primary production slows, oil fields can be flooded with water to help drive the remaining oil toward the well. But flooding has limited usefulness, as oil driven into pores of deep rock formations is no longer reachable.

That’s where carbon dioxide can come to the rescue: As a third option, carbon



Geologists Jason Rush (l) and Lynn Watney lead Kansas Geological Survey’s quest to enhance oil recovery by injecting depleted wells with carbon dioxide. The technique could also prove a long-term solution for storing greenhouse gases captured in Kansas power plants, factories and refineries.

dioxide helps drive oil out of the rock and, with added buoyancy, into a newly formed oil reserve that can then be pushed toward the production well.

The technique was first employed in West Texas during the Arab oil embargo. Texas’ advantage was that it could tap a natural source of carbon dioxide trapped in the neck of a subsurface volcano. Kansas has no such resource, so it has had to wait for technology to capture man-made carbon dioxide—a greenhouse gas—and economic incentives to make carbon dioxide-assisted recovery feasible.

Thanks to an \$11.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy—which brought total DOE funding of Kansas Geological Survey’s “carbon sequestration research” to about \$23 million—the research team hopes to begin its in-ground testing at the Wellington oil field, south of Wichita, by April 2013.

“The experience of West Texas and elsewhere around the world shows that it’s a proven approach,” says Watney, PhD’85. “What we’re looking at are the efficiencies. We will test small-scale injections to see whether we’ve been successful in designing the wells and that it does what we say it’s going to do.”

Carbon dioxide for the tests will be captured at an ethanol plant near Colwich, compressed and transported by truck. For the technique to be feasible, pipelines will have to be constructed from carbon-dioxide producers—including power plants, fertilizer and ethanol plants, and chemical refineries—to the oil fields.

Should that occur, oil fields would have relatively limited capacity for carbon dioxide injection, perhaps lasting only a few decades, Watney says. Because carbon dioxide emissions must be greatly reduced for many more decades than that, a more

“The techniques that we’ll be developing and the knowledge we’ll be gaining can still be useful long after the oil fields cease to be viable.”

—Lynn Watney, Kansas Geological Survey

permanent solution to CO2 sequestration would use Kansas' massive saline aquifers, which are extremely deep underground and are too salty for the water to be useful above ground.

So the Kansas team—which also includes Kansas State University, BER-EXCO Inc., Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories and Sandia Technology—will also inject at least 40,000 metric tons of captured CO2 5,000 feet underground, into the lower portion of the Arbuckle aquifer, which is more than 1,300 feet below the Wellington oil field.

“That becomes the long-term component of carbon sequestration,” says Watney, who notes that it's a technique already being employed by French and Norwegian companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. “Industry is helping us implement this because they are interested in enhanced oil recovery. But the techniques that we'll be developing and the knowledge we'll be gaining can still be useful long after the oil fields cease to be viable.”

—Chris Lazzarino



James Seaver (above, circa 1970s) donated his extensive opera record collection to the University. Seaver saw many technological changes at KPR (right) during his 59-year run as host of “Opera Is My Hobby,” but he always read from his handwritten scripts.

Opera Is My Hobby

KPR favorite comes to a close

For many radio listeners during the past 59 years, Friday night was reserved for a date with James Seaver. Opera experts and novices alike could tune in and learn from Seaver's soothing voice on Kansas Public Radio's “Opera Is My Hobby.”

The show's final broadcast aired Dec. 30, after his death at 92 in March 2011. The show's finale was chosen by his son, Robert, and marked the end of its nearly six-decade run, one of the longest in radio history.

Seaver began hosting the show on Sept. 19, 1952, just four days after KANU-FM (now KPR) signed on the air. Each week he showed up with unrivaled enthusiasm and, arms full of records and eyes straining to read his penciled legal pad of notes, zealously taught about love, war, violence and vibrato. “He had such a way of telling a story,” says Laura Lorson, c'89, KPR's “All Things Considered” local host, editor and producer. “He would tell you a story about something that happened in the time of Pericles and you felt like you were there.”

Chubby Smith, Seaver's engineer at KPR from 2000 until last March, admits he knew more about rock 'n' roll than opera

before assisting Seaver. “I learned all kinds of stuff from Jim, just from sitting there and listening to him explaining the opera,” Smith says. “It's more than fat ladies with those antler hats on screaming really loudly.”

Seaver's vast knowledge and thoughtful explanations impacted many during his time at KPR and at KU, where he served as director of the Western Civilization program for more than three decades. He led many Study Abroad trips and received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for service to KU and the Chancellors Club career teaching award, among many other honors. He also donated more than 24,000 of his opera records to the University to create the James Seaver Opera Archive, which contains many rare, early Berliner and Edison records.

Darrell Brogdon, KPR program director, says the station has no immediate plans to rebroadcast the show or to put it into syndication. “Without Jim Seaver to create new shows, we felt the time had come to bring the series to a respectful close after a remarkable run of 50-plus years,” Brogdon says.

“Opera Is My Hobby” was a perennial KPR favorite, and Seaver was posthumously inducted into the Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2011.

—Lydia Benda



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Glorious to View

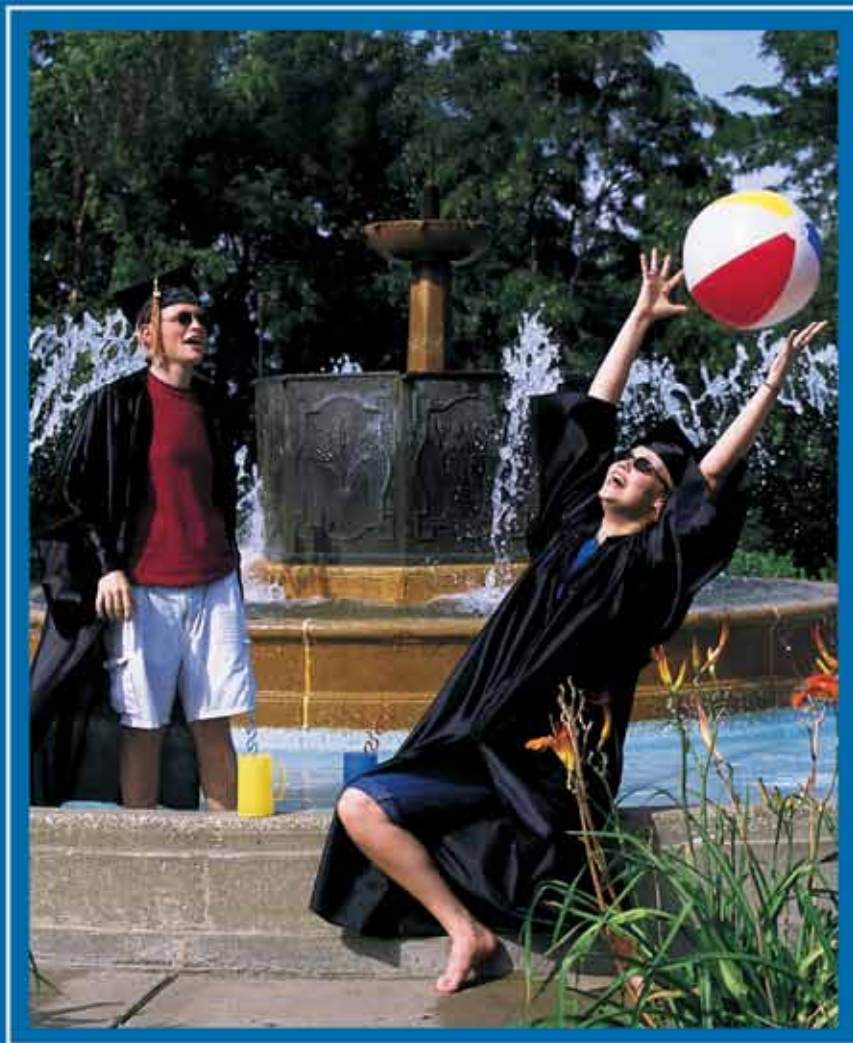
Photograph by Steve Puppe



Coach Bill Self has never allowed players expected to depart early for the NBA to be honored during Senior Night celebrations—until this year, when he brought Big 12 Player of the Year Thomas Robinson onto the court to receive a final Allen Field House ovation. “He’s a remarkable kid,” Self says, “and he deserves the things that are coming his way.”

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