

# KANSAS ALUMNI

No. 3, 2012 ■ \$5

## Tournament Triumphs

*Jayhawks muscle their way to title game*

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### **A Gem of a Day**

Old traditions and new blend at Commencement, as the University confers diplomas—and its first honorary degrees.

*By Lydia Benda*

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### **When the Going Gets Tough**

The Jayhawks traveled the Road to the Final Four all the way to the championship game in New Orleans. Although they came up one victory short of a title, along the way they proved their toughness and togetherness.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

*Cover photograph by Steve Puppe*

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*By Terry Rombeck*

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Mountains topping 14,000 feet—called 14ers—get all the glory in Colorado. By focusing on less celebrated but still challenging 13ers, climber Lynn Hartwell Prebble has carved out a special place in the state's climbing lore.

*By Katherine Millett*

# Lift the Chorus



## Code read

**I WAS AMAZED AND** thrilled when I saw the cover of the March *Kansas Alumni*. The painting of Chester Nez was outstanding, as was the story about the Navajo code talkers [“Native Speaker,” issue No. 2] by Steven Hill. Albuquerque, N.M., is a fair distance from Lawrence, but it did not seem so far in relation to the story about Mr. Nez.

Since retiring from anesthesiology, I have worked part time doing history and physical exams for the MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) center in Albuquerque for recruits of various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Many recruits come from the surrounding Navajo Reservations in New Mexico and Arizona. I couldn't help but notice that a large percentage of the Native Americans were applying for the U.S. Marine Corps, as compared to the other service branches.

I began questioning these recruits as to why they chose the Marines and received two very prominent answers. First was the history of the Navajo code talkers. Second was the fact that Marines who returned to the reservation after enlistment became outstanding

members and leaders of the community. They are very positive role models for the young people of the reservations, and they cast a very positive light on the Corps.

Mr. Nez (I am sure he knows) can be very proud that his tradition and legacy continue to influence the young Navajo men of today. My thanks to Steven Hill for the article and Brent Learned for the cover painting.

William Brooks Gauert,  
c'54, m'58  
Albuquerque, N.M.

**I ENJOYED THE ARTICLES** about the code talkers and the new lighting on 12th Street. My mother, widowed young, owned a house on 12th Street in the 1950s. She let rooms to students. I remember playing in South Park and then in the 1960s walking that way for Sunday night dinner.

Paula Reeder Short, d'69  
Southfield, Mich.

## Past positive, too

**CHANGE HAPPENS**—sometimes it's good, sometimes bad, sometimes it's just different.

There certainly have been changes in Kenneth Spencer Research Library, but the change from “old” KSRL to “new” suggested in Chris Lazzarino's “Luck of the Irish” [issue No. 2] is created by introducing a fictional negative of old KSRL to contrast with a new positive.

For example: “... the comfy *new* Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room ... where you'll do the research you are *now* allowed to do” (emphasis added). Yes, the reading room is new, but

the not-so-subtle dig at the past is both wrong and offensive. “You” always—well, since 1968—have been “allowed” (even encouraged) to do research (or just read) in the reading rooms, “simply by registering at the front desk.” And, yes, the view has always been there, with the nice amenity of a comfy leather couch (now disappeared) added by Mrs. Spencer to encourage enjoyment of the view.

For another example: “Spencer Research Library, once something of a fortress that discouraged visits from all but qualifying academics and researchers ...” Well, “fortress” seems a little overstated, although it is true that librarians serve as guardians of collections such as these. But discouraged? That is more than overstated; it is simply untrue.

The negatives continue, embedded in the story: “... undergraduates in her Irish and British literature courses, all of whom *now* conduct research in Spencer's Irish holdings ...” “Now,” as if undergraduates were, in the bad old days, forbidden access to the fortress. Grade- and high-schoolers, undergraduates and local street people all used the old KSRL.

KSRL has so many *real* positives (including the Irish collections) it's a pity the article found it necessary to introduce this false positive. A pity, too, that the timing was so inappropriate: St. Patrick shared a birthday with Alexandra Mason, the first Spencer Librarian and the person most responsible for the positives in

KSRL, both old and new. She died last June, happily before this article appeared.

William L. Mitchell, c'59  
Associate Special Collections  
Librarian emeritus  
Lawrence

## Whoop-ee!

**IT IS GREAT TO SEE THE** Rock Chalk song finally purged of the hated “whoooo.” Can we now fix the problem with the chant? When did it get so darn fast? People, it is not a legal disclosure at the end of a late night television advertisement. Slow down! It has a beat: ROCK-chalk JAY-hawk KAY-you, ROCK-chalk JAY-hawk KAY-you, ROCK-chalk JAY-hawk KAY-YOU!

Jeff Shadwick, c'78  
Houston

## Rivalry's end

**I JUST READ VAN B.** Norris' take on the KU/MU breakup [“Who to hate now?” Lift the Chorus, issue No. 2]. Brilliant! I've been attempting to verbalize what the loss of our hated rival Missouri means to me, and Norris did it perfectly.

I grew up on the Missouri side and still have family and very good friends there. I posted on Facebook that I was sad my children will never know the rivalry. There will never be another like it. And I have somehow grown accustomed to loving hating them!

MU alumni posted back that we should keep playing as if nothing has changed. Thank you, Mr. Norris, for confirming my exact thoughts!

Julee Hawk Goeser, b'93  
Lawrence

May 2012

# KANSAS ALUMNI

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- Kansas City – North  
816.746.4570
- Kansas City – South  
816.333.1326
- Lee's Summit  
816.478.2050
- Overland Park  
913.234.0400
- Westwood  
913.588.1227
- Kansas City, Kan.  
913.588.1227
- Shawnee Mission  
913.433.7622
- Kansas City, Kan. – West  
913.299.8846
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The helpful folks at LinkedIn, the online professional networking resource, recently emailed me a bit of advice to enhance my career profile: “Adding another position makes you 12 times more likely to receive career opportunities!”

I laughed, then winced. After working for the same organization for more than half my life, serving my alma mater, I suspect listing my pre-1984 jobs wouldn’t exactly vault me into the forefront of marketability. Most days I don’t really care, and luckily, I’ve learned through the years that if I wait, somehow, some way, my job will change, even if the title and the place remain the same. I’ll feel invigorated, ready to charge ahead.

Sure enough, it happened again. A moment of clarity awakened me, and I realized that once again, my job is brand new—because KU is embarking on another new era.

The thought struck me on a Saturday night, April 28, as I sat in Allen Field House. I was not watching hoops. That night, our temple to basketball tradition transformed into a luminous launchpad for the public phase of *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, KU Endowment’s drive to raise \$1.2 billion and lift the University to new heights. On page 10, we report the astonishing amount already raised, along with campaign goals.

Before Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little announced the number to the Jayhawks assembled that night, she effectively made the case for optimism and ambition by listing only a few of KU’s accomplishments this year:

Four students were named prestigious Goldwater Scholars. All of KU’s nominees were selected, a rare accomplishment among the nation’s universities (see page 17).

KU was second in the nation for faculty members winning Fulbright awards.

Kelsey Murrell became KU’s 26th Rhodes Scholar (“Act II,” issue No. 1). KU boasts more Rhodes Scholars than all other Kansas universities combined.

Diamond Dixon and Andrea Geubelle won national track and field titles, leading the women’s team to second place in the NCAA indoor championships, the highest finish ever for KU women at an NCAA meet.

Brothers Sean and Patrick Kennedy advanced to the elite eight of the National Debate Tournament, continuing KU’s tradition of national prominence.

The University of Kansas Hospital ranked No. 2 among U.S. academic medical centers for quality and safety, according to the University HealthSystem Consortium.



RYAN WAGGONER

Doug Ward, associate professor of journalism, was named Journalism Teacher of the Year by the Scripps Howard Foundation.

And, of course, the men’s and women’s basketball teams provided magical moments, as you’ll read in our cover story.

“We’re proud of our students, faculty and staff because their achievements remind us what a remarkable place this is,” Gray-Little said. “Their success—now and in the future—is the reason we’re here tonight.”


Moments later, she revealed the number that had prompted so much speculation: \$1.2 billion, calling it “a bold goal—matching our bold aspirations.” If the words sound familiar, it’s because Bold Aspirations just happens to be the name of KU’s new strategic plan ([www.boldaspirations.ku.edu](http://www.boldaspirations.ku.edu)).

Strategic plans and momentous years are not new to KU, but this year strikes me as different. Plans have produced real action and genuine cause for excitement.

Work on Bold Aspirations began shortly after the chancellor’s arrival in 2009, when she set three goals: Increase KU’s retention and graduation rates, enhance the University’s scholarly and research profile, and ensure KU has the resources to accomplish both. She named two leaders of the Bold Aspirations project: Jeff Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor, and faculty veteran Mabel Rice, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies. They led a 50-member steering committee, along with other working groups that included more than 160 members.

Lo and behold, even with all those cooks in the kitchen, the plan didn’t fall flat. In fact, it has risen to an impressive height.

When the chancellor presented the plan to the Kansas Board of Regents last December, she outlined specific numbers by which KU would measure its success, and the Regents applauded. *Kansas Alumni* already has reported on some of the progress, including a more generous scholarship program for freshmen, which should be a boon to student recruitment, and the ongoing work to reshape the core curriculum. In the months ahead, we will share more stories on the curriculum, the new common book program, improvements in the freshman experience, and a proposal for new admissions standards.

It’s gratifying to see KU tout its stature as the state’s flagship university and aim to soar to the nation’s top tier. Ambitious goals invigorate us and give us hope that the stars are aligning. They make our remarkable university feel new again. 

# On the Boulevard



Portland's Kyle Durrie, proprietor of Power and Light Press, brought her converted 1982 Step Van to the Spencer Museum of Art this March to share the lost art of letterpress printing. The stop was one of many on her tour of North America teaching workshops and doing demos out of her custom-built studio-in-a-truck.



## Exhibitions

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

"Prepared: Strategies for Activists," Spencer Museum of Art, through July 22

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

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

## Lied Center

### JUNE

**3** Duke TIP Recognition Ceremony

**3-8** Sunflower Girls State

**9** Darrell Scott

**9** "New York New York, A Family Show of Song and Dance"

**15** Midwestern Music Academy Junior High Music Camp

**22** Midwestern Music Academy Percussion Institute

## Murphy Hall

### JULY

**12-15, 19-22** KU Summer Theatre presents "My Fair Lady," Crafton-Preyer Theatre

## Lectures

### JUNE

**2** Preserving Family History workshop with Conservator Whitney Baker and Spencer Research Librarian Sherry Williams, Watson Library

**7** "Displaying the World: Innovation at the World's Fairs, 1851-1939," with Catherine Futter, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art curator of decorative arts. KU Natural History Museum.



### JULY

**11** Lunch 'N Learn Series: "Strategies to Maintain Youth," Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center

## Academic Calendar

### MAY

**28** Memorial Day

### JUNE

**4** First day of summer classes

### JULY

**4** Independence Day

## Special Events

### JUNE

**4-7** Mini College

**14** Craftsy Meet-Up, Spencer Museum of Art





## Flying Jayhawks

### JUNE

- 3-12** Chianti & the Italian Riviera
- 4-15** Changing Tides of History
- 4-17** Iberian Peninsula, North Africa and Canary Islands
- 6-21** Discover Switzerland
- 26-July 7** Mediterranean Inspiration

### JULY

- 12** Craftsy Meet-Up, Spencer Museum of Art

## 'Hawk Days of Summer

*The Association will host about 140 events in 90 days for Jayhawks nationwide*

### JUNE

- 7** Smoky Hill Jayhawk Rally, Hays
- 8** Smoky Hill Golf Tournament, Hays
- 8** Richmond Happy Hour, Midlothian, Va.
- 9** KU Night with Rob Riggle, Chicago
- 13** Jayhawk Lecture Series, "Handicapping the Presidential Election," Bill Lacy, Houston
- 15** Kansas City Jayhawk Open
- 16** KU Day at St. Louis Cardinals, vs. Kansas City Royals

- 21** New York City Boat Cruise

- 22** Great Plains Jayhawk Rally, Garden City

- 23** Great Plains Golf Tournament, Garden City

- 23** Tampa-St. Petersburg Day at the Beach, Treasure Island, Fla.

- 24** East Kansas Chapter Wine Festival, Paola

- 28** Southwest Jayhawk Rally, Liberal

- 29** Southwest Golf Tournament, Liberal

### JULY

- 12** Atlanta Beer Tasting

- 12** Art Fiesta at Emprise Bank, Wichita

- 12** Cow Chip Toss, Wellington

- 13** Wheat Festival Parade, Wellington

- 14** Denver Picnic, Highlands Ranch, Colo.

- 18** KU Night with the Albuquerque Isotopes, Isotopes vs. Memphis Redbirds, Albuquerque, N.M.



The events listed above are highlights from the Alumni Association's packed calendar, which stretches far beyond these pages. For more details about 'Hawk Days of Summer, watch your email for messages about programs in your area, call 800-584-2957 or visit the Association's website at [www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org).

## Directory

- Adams Alumni Center ..... 864-4760
- Athletics..... 800-34-HAWKS
- Booth Hall of Athletics ..... 864-7050
- Dole Institute of Politics ..... 864-4900
- Kansas Union ..... 864-4596
- KU Info..... 864-3506
- KU main number ..... 864-2700
- Lied Center..... 864-ARTS
- University Theatre Tickets ..... 864-3982
- Spencer Museum of Art..... 864-4710

# Jayhawk Walk



STEVE PUPPE

## Barrels of fun

**RAIN AND PARADES GO** together like ants and picnics, but the procession organized by campus environmental groups and Coca-Cola in April actually celebrated the showers that bring May flowers.

KU Rain Barrels on Parade handed out more than 60 used syrup containers donated by Coca-Cola along with kits to transform the tubs into rain-catchers. KU student groups, academic departments, residence halls and Lawrence students from preschool to high school beautified the barrels with original designs.

Finished products were judged in three categories—KU spirit, gardening/farming and community—via a Facebook vote and featured in KU's April 14 Earth Day parade. Winners received a host of prizes from event sponsors, which included Coca-Cola, KU Environs, Dining Services, Student Union Activities, KU Bookstore and the Center for Sustainability.

Barrels were auctioned April 23, raising about \$1,500 to benefit the KU Student Rain Garden. But the overall goal was broader, says event chair Kim Scherman, Eudora senior in English and journalism.

"People don't usually get too excited about 55-gallon drums, but chances are if you paint a rain barrel you'll learn something about it and have a bigger appreciation for gardening and water conservation," Scherman says. "People got excited and inspired to create something beautiful, and that was a lot of fun."

## Everyone's a comedian

**OLIVER HALL'S** declaration of war on Daisy Hill seems the stuff of banner headlines, but it was relegated to Page 5 of the University Daily Kansan. A whale in Potter Lake? Page 5. Legions of fierce squirrels

engaged in a relentless terror spree aimed at total campus domination? Yup, Page 5.

Then again, Page 5 is hardly the hinterlands. That's where students turn every day to read the wildly popular, suddenly maturing and occasionally comically brilliant "Free For All" column.

When the Kansan launched Free For All's anonymous commentary a dozen or so years ago, it plunged into an unfiltered, unfunny cesspool of crude cursing and body-part references. Now, with witticism training provided by Twitter and Facebook, text messages printed in FFA are still silly, but rarely rude and often laugh-out-loud funny.

Running gags—a busman called Driver Dan, campus crushes on Jeff Withey, disgusting roommates, "that awkward moment when ...," and of course acorn-armed squirrels, residence-hall rivalries and that mysterious, mossy leviathan—are supple-



mented with observations on student life that can be banal, brilliant or clip-and-save hilarious.

"At the end of the month," a contributor wrote in April, "I bring home all of the UDK newspapers to my family and read the FFA aloud."

At least they've been forewarned about the squirrels.

## License to brag

**M**ark Cooledge's recent license plate purchase proved prescient. When he learned Texas soon would begin selling KU plates, the El Paso Jayhawk conferred with a KU friend in Phoenix to come up with his desired message. So eager was he to claim his Jayhawk plate that he circled the first available purchase date on his calendar. "The minute the

**KU [and other designs] went on sale, I landed my Final Four plates," he says.**

Although Texas offers various categories of specialty plates, each one must have a one-of-a-kind name, explains Cooledge, g'99. "Believe it or not, apparently no one in Texas has FINO4 as their plates. Perhaps that's why no school in Texas other than Texas Western [UTEP] has won a hoops championship.

"They only care about football here."



COURTESY MARK COOLEDGE



STEVE PUPPE

## Road trip!

**ESCAPEES, ROGUES AND** cruisers take heart: You now can rent cars on campus, thanks to the Hertz on Demand program run by KU Parking and Transit.

An \$8 hourly fee covers gas and insurance, and students can reserve a car on Daisy Hill or near the Kansas Union as little as 15 minutes before they need it. A membership is required, but it's free.

The vehicles—a Ford Escape, a Nissan Rogue and two Chevy Cruzes—are not your father's Oldsmobile. They feature iPod docks and other bells and whistles students find appealing, says Margretta de Vries, who oversees the program.

"We hope it provides one more transportation option to give people a little more flexibility," says de Vries, '97. Grocery store, doctor's office and job interview are among destinations she envisions. "I even see staff members renting a car if they have a meeting and don't want to lose their gold parking spot," she says.

Which raises an interesting question: Renting from parking must have perks, right?

"They don't have gold permits," de Vries says. "You can't drive through campus. And you will be cited if you park illegally."

Great. Now you don't even have to *own* a car to earn a ticket.

## Love serenade

**THEY WEREN'T EXACTLY** Barry White or Marvin Gaye, but prehistoric katydids did their share of romantic crooning millions of years ago.

The ancient insects rubbed parts of their wings together, creating a mating song to attract other Casanova katydids.

Michael Engel, c'93, c'93, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator in charge at the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History museum, and a team of colleagues from China and the United Kingdom wondered what the seductive soundtrack would have sounded like 165 million years ago. They found a specimen with wings preserved well enough to include the scraper and file used to make the tunes, then performed an acoustical analysis that recreated the strains on a computer.

The result was a noise similar to the call of a modern-day cricket. No word, though, on whether stegosaurus stomped on katydids to ensure a good night's sleep.

# Pet rock wall

**D**oes a rock by any other name smell as sweet? We never thought it worth asking, but climbers at the Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center can answer now that the rock climbing wall is officially named Chalk Rock. A good name for a rock, to be sure, but the new moniker does beg the question, *Why?*

According to The University Daily Kansan, the "Name the Wall" video competition was created to draw attention to the center's Outdoor Pursuits Program, which includes the 42-foot climbing wall, a challenge course and outdoor equipment rentals. February through April, rock-wall enthusiasts submitted their ideas via brief YouTube videos, and students cast votes on the rec's Facebook page.

Chalk Rock took home the title, but other contenders were JayRock and off-the-wall Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain. Personally, we like Fido, but then, no one asked us.



LARRY LEROY PEARSON



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<b>Students</b>	<b>\$400 million</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>\$325 million</b>
<b>Faculty</b>	<b>\$300 million</b>
<b>Facilities and Environment</b>	<b>\$175 million</b>

## Far Above

**In quest to reach \$1.2 billion, KU passes the halfway mark**

Growing up in rural McPherson, Greg Loving confessed, “I was pretty much hell bent on getting out—out of McPherson and out of Kansas. I was curious, and I wanted to see and experience something new.”

So he began looking at colleges on the East and West coasts. But he soon learned he was too curious about too many things. He didn’t want to narrow his focus to compete at an elite private college. Ultimately the notion of studying a wide array of subjects at KU, along with the nudge of a scholarship from private donors, convinced Loving to choose KU. Four years later, he has participated in the Honors and University Scholars programs, studied abroad and represented KU at national conferences.

On April 28, just a few short weeks

before his graduation with degrees in economics and chemical engineering, Loving, c’12, e’12, spoke to more than 475 KU donors and leaders in Allen Field House to help launch the public phase of *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, KU Endowment’s historic drive to raise \$1.2 billion by 2016. Since counting began in July 2008, KU has received \$612 million in gifts and pledges from alumni and friends.

In his remarks, Loving credited KU for helping him find his passion and take the first step toward a career: a job in the energy industry, where he will work for two years before completing his MBA at the Harvard Business School. “The opportunities at KU helped me channel my innate curiosity into transformative experiences,” he told the assembled Jayhawks. “Without these opportunities and the private support that made them possible, I might not be on [my current path]. So I’m grateful that I had this university ... in my own backyard.”

Transformation, the watchword of the *Far Above* campaign, was the theme for

the evening. For the occasion, the Endowment team turned KU’s basketball shrine into a stunning multimedia theatre and reception space, complete with a giant video screen and interactive displays that offered glimpses of a handful of KU’s research enterprises and the accomplishments of students and faculty.

The night began with a soaring rendition of “Home on the Range,” sung by internationally acclaimed opera star, KU alumna and professor Joyce Malicky Castle, f’61, backed by the University of Kansas Chamber Singers, conducted by Paul Tucker, director of choral activities. Above and behind the stage, more students lifted dramatic backdrops cued to accompany the music—and echo KU’s Wave the Wheat tradition.

Before goosebumps could subside, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little welcomed the audience, describing the academic and athletic accomplishments of a momentous KU year. Such achievements are “the result of talented individuals coming together in a place that emphasizes their strengths and allows them to realize their full potential,” she said.

“All of that is in service of our noble mission as the state’s flagship university: To lift students and society far above by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world.”

A transcendent mission demands a bold campaign, she continued. “At its heart, *Far Above* is not about the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Hospital. It’s about the students, state and society we serve. It’s about delivering the benefits of a top-tier public research university to the world.”

Leading the campaign are alumni chairs Kurt, d’75, and Sue Shields Watson, d’75, of Andover. Co-chairs are Tom, c’76, g’80, l’80, and Jill Sadowsky Docking, c’78, g’84, of Wichita, and former Kansas governor Mark, l’84, and Stacy Abbott Parkinson, c’81, c’81, l’84, of Potomac, Md. They are joined by 19 other members of a nationwide steering committee.

On behalf of campaign leaders, Kurt Watson addressed the April 28 audience, explaining why now is the time for an ambitious campaign. “More than ever before, we face a highly competitive environment among among large public universities,” he said. “Many of our peers are seizing on the transformative potential of private giving to elevate their universities. They are taking an entrepreneurial approach to channel their scholarship and their resources toward solving global challenges.

“This campaign is not about closing a budget gap or funding the status quo. This is about securing a transformative

investment that will elevate this university, this state and this region we serve.”

Watson described the impact of fundraising in four areas vital to KU and the University of Kansas Hospital:

- Faculty: KU must recruit and retain top teachers, researchers, physicians and staff. Ninety percent of funding for distinguished faculty comes from KU Endowment, and KU must expand these opportunities to retain accomplished mid-career faculty who might be wooed by other universities.

- Undergraduate and graduate students: KU Endowment funded 6,000 scholarships this year, Watson said. “We can and must do more.”

- Programs: KU must sustain more than 350 academic programs across the arts, sciences, humanities and professional schools. “These make it possible for students ... to discover their path, pursue the future they want—and do it right here in Kansas.”

- Facilities and environment: Watson reminded the audience that two-thirds of KU buildings have been funded through private giving, including 85 percent of the



EARL RICHARDSON

Honors student Greg Loving rallied KU supporters during the April 28 launch of *Far Above* at Allen Field House. Campaign chairs Kurt and Sue Shields Watson lead a 25-member nationwide steering committee that will guide the ambitious effort to raise \$1.2 billion for KU by 2016.

land for expansion. “We can build the laboratories, the studios and the classrooms our faculty and staff need to conduct research, to learn, to rehearse, to achieve,” he said. “We can make better health care possible through cancer care, drug discovery and medical technology.”

Later that evening, as Jayhawks celebrated the campaign in one of KU’s most treasured landmarks, KU Band members sounded a fanfare, and guests looked up to the first balcony of bleachers, where

QUINN LONG/KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



**K**U’s Native Medicinal Plant Research Program has identified a common North American plant that shows

promise as a potential cancer fighter.

Led by Barbara Timmermann, University Distinguished Professor and chair of medicinal chemistry, and Kelly Kindscher, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey, the program studies the health benefits of secondary chemical plant compounds [“Prescription: Prairie,” issue No. 4, 2011].

Timmermann, Kindscher and Mark Cohen, surgical oncologist and translational

clinician scientist at KU Medical Center, targeted *Physalis longifolia* (known as wild tomatillo) because it is similar to a South American plant with anti-cancer properties.

“We discovered not only the molecule we were seeking, but also 14 new compounds, most of which have turned out to be even more potent than the original one we were looking for,” Timmermann says. “Discovery is a beautiful thing when it happens like that.”

Researchers hope the compounds lead to new plant-based drugs or dietary supplements.



KIRSTEN BOSNAK/KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

## UPDATE



STEVE PUPPE

**Research rise:** Campus researchers won a school-record \$147.6 million in federal research funding in 2010, ranking KU 41st among national public research universities, up three spots from 2009. KU ranked higher than public universities in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma or Nebraska, according to the National Science Foundation.



EARL RICHARDSON

The celebrants included Beverly Smith Billings, a member of Women Philanthropists for KU, and Jay Howard, a member of the campaign steering committee and former KU Alumni Association national chair.

*Far Above* co-chairs Mark Parkinson and Jill Docking addressed the crowd. Recalling Kansas history, as he did in his 2010 State of the State speech as governor, Parkinson hailed the courage and determination of Kansas settlers, who invested in public higher education as the foundation of prosperity. He described a favorite inspirational image, *Ad Astra*, the bronze sculpture atop the Capitol dome of a Kansa warrior, aiming his arrow toward the North Star in an iconic tribute to the state's motto, "Ad astra per aspera," or "To the stars through difficulties."

"Now our generation of Kansans faces a challenge," Parkinson declared. "As state and federal money dwindles, the issue is whether public universities can survive. Will there still be places of great learning available for all people? That is the question."

"The only Kansas answer is not only yes, but hell yes. The only Kansas answer is that all of us who have benefited from the wisdom of our ancestors in establishing this great place will dig deep so that this University not only survives, but it prospers. ...

"So raise your glass. Now it's our generation's turn to exceed expectations. We salute Kansas and the Kansas spirit of always going *Far Above*."

As Jayhawks raised their glasses, Parkinson and Docking gazed toward the massive video screen, where a Kansa warrior in silhouette took aim and shot an arrow. The vibrant, neon, digital image sailed around the balcony of the Field House.

Heads turned, eyes widened, gasps and cheers erupted, and trumpets blared. \$1.2 billion? Yes. Hell yes.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner



EARL RICHARDSON

Former Gov. Mark Parkinson led the crowd in a toast to the Kansas spirit, and urged Jayhawks to honor settlers' belief that education plays a fundamental role in the state's success.

## High honors

**College and business school recognize outstanding alumni**

Six alumni received their school's highest honor this spring as the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the School of Business bestowed annual distinguished alumni awards at ceremonies on campus and around the country.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences honored four graduates—a head of state and a MacArthur "genius" fellow among them—with an array of events meant to share the celebration with alumni in the winners' hometowns.

"In the past, each year's recipients of the Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award came to Lawrence for a Dean's Club Banquet in their honor," notes CLAS dean Danny Anderson. "It has been a wonderful celebration of accomplishments attended by supporters who live in Lawrence and the region. At the same time, we have missed the loyal supporters who live across the country and were unable to travel to Lawrence for this single occasion."

This year, for the first time, the College took the ceremonies to the honorees, with individual events in each winner's region.

Anderson, g'82, PhD'85, hopes the change allows more alumni across the country to join the celebration. "It also allows me, as dean, to reach out more broadly to honor publicly the contributions and accomplishments of the distinguished alumni from the College in the communities where they've made their most significant contributions," he notes.

The honorees are:

Robert Kipp, g'56, who earned a master's degree in public administration. A civic leader who worked more than 50 years managing city administrations, commercial development and philanthropic efforts in Lawrence, Kansas City, Mo., and Vandalia and Fairborn, Ohio, Kipp also served as a member of the Hall Family Foundation Board of Directors and a vice president at Hallmark. The College



Kipp



Prather



Santos



Spivak

honored him with an event at the BEST Conference Center at the Edwards Campus in April that included a panel discussion and reception for alumni.

Marla Prather, c'78, g'81, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She also was curator for American Art at Tate Modern, in London, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and KU's Spencer Museum of Art. The College hosted a reception and award presentation for alumni May 15 at the New York Public Library. Prather earned bachelor's degrees in art history and French and a master's in art history.

President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia. Elected in 2010, Santos, b'73, is halfway through his first term as Colombia's head of state. As the country's defense minister, he oversaw the 2008 rescue of kidnapped activist and presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt from FARC rebels. After earning bachelor's degrees in economics and business, Santos worked as an editor at *El Tiempo*, the influential newspaper his family founded. Discussions are underway to bring President Santos to campus to receive his award.

Marla Spivak, PhD'89, recipient of a 2010 MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for her research on honeybees. The Distinguished McKnight Professor and Extension Entomologist at the University of Minnesota, she earned a doctorate in entomology. Spivak was honored March 30 with a reception at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minn., with local alumni.

The School of Business recognized

David Booth, c'68, g'69, of Austin, Texas, and David Murfin, b'75, e'75, of Wichita at a private reception April 19 at the Oread Hotel in Lawrence. The award was established in 1998 to recognize business alumni for their dedication to excellence in business, community service and commitment to the University.

Booth founded the investment firm Dimensional Fund Advisors in 1981 and now serves as the firm's chairman and co-CEO. He is a member of the board of trustees at KU Endowment. Booth and his family funded the Booth Family Hall of Athletics, which opened in 2006 in Allen Field House, and in 2010 he made the winning bid of \$4.3 million for James Naismith's original rules of basketball, which he donated to KU.

Murfin leads two Wichita businesses. He is president of Murfin Drilling Company Inc. and chairman and CEO of Murfin Inc. He serves on the National Petroleum Council and is chairman of the National Stripper Well Association. While a student at KU he served as president of Student Union Activities. He is now a trustee for KU Endowment and a member of the School of Business advisory board.



ANN DEAN

Dean of Business Neeli Bendapudi presented the School of Business 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award to David Murfin (left) and David Booth (right) in April.

## Milestones, money and other matters



STEVE PUPPE

■ **2013 budget negotiations** continued in Topeka as *Kansas Alumni* went to press. Requests for \$3 million to hire "foundation professors" to help maintain the University's membership in the Association of American Universities and a \$1.9 million request to close a funding gap in the School of Medicine loan program attracted broad support throughout the session, but the Legislature passed the 90-day deadline May 11 without a final budget.

■ **A \$5 million gift** from Chesapeake Energy Corporation will support energy and environmental education at KU. The money will fund an interactive high-tech auditorium in the planned \$28 million Energy and Environment Center at Lindley Hall. The 40,000-square-foot expansion will provide an interactive learning space for teaching geologists, engineers and environmental scientists.



STEVE PUPPE

■ **A \$500,000 gift** from the Burns & McDonnell Foundation will benefit the School of Engineering's Building on Excellence Initiative, an effort to boost the number of engineering graduates to help meet industry demand. The gift will support the school's plan to improve student recruitment and retention, add faculty, increase classroom and lab space, and expand opportunities for experiential learning.

# Hilltopics

A summer renovation will upgrade students' favorite central-campus hangout, Wescoe Beach, with improved seating, lighting and landscaping.



STEVE PUPPE

## CAMPUS

### Makeover slated for the beach

**STUDENTS WILL FIND** a shadier, more welcoming Wescoe Beach next fall, as the popular gathering spot outside Wescoe Hall gets a \$250,000 renovation over summer break.

The project will remove the raised concrete planters where students now perch between classes and replace them with seating areas more comfortable and more conducive to group interaction.

“Wescoe Beach hasn’t been updated since it was built, and it’s really just a sea of

concrete with no real seating for students,” says student body president Libby Johnson, who made improving the campus hangout one of her campaign promises.

Peg Livingood, project manager for Design and Construction Management, says the planters are too tall in some areas and too short in others for comfortable sitting, and the linear arrangement makes group confabs awkward. The raised beds also make it difficult to grow trees.

The new design calls for L-shaped seating configurations and larger-canopied trees planted directly in the ground. More shade and better lighting should improve

the area day and night. “We’re trying to make it more user friendly, essentially,” Livingood says.

Student Senate approved \$100,000 for the project and the Campus Safety Advisory Board kicked in \$25,000 for lighting. The Chancellor’s and Provost’s offices will match those funds.

“Wescoe Beach is the heart of campus, and students are going to come no matter what,” Johnson says in explaining why she made improving an already popular spot part of her campaign platform. “I think [the renovation] is a matter of stating that student community is a priority on our campus.”

## LECTURE

### Mitchell says U.S. ideals will triumph

**GEORGE MITCHELL**, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader who helped forge peace in Northern Ireland and served as U.S. special envoy for Middle East Peace, remains optimistic that the United States will overcome its current political divisions. Mitchell, who delivered the 2012

*Continued on page 17*

# VISITOR

## Truth and fiction

**W**est Indian novelist, poet and essayist Jamaica Kincaid read from her forthcoming novel *See Now Then* during the final event of the Hall Center for the Humanities’ 2011-2012 Humanities Lecture Series. Kincaid’s appearance was the Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture, devoted to issues relating to multicultural society.

**WHEN:** April 10

**WHERE:** Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

**BACKGROUND:** Considered among the top three living Caribbean writers (along with Derek Walcott and V.S. Naipaul), the Antigua native established the dominant themes of her writing—gender, sexuality, race, ethnic identity and place—in two early novels, *Annie John* (1985) and *Lucy* (1990).

**ANECDOTE:** While much of

her work explores the effects of colonialism on native West Indians, Kincaid said she does not find herself particularly inspired by her homeland. “Strangely, I’ve never written anything while in Antigua; I’m quite paralyzed that way,” Kincaid said. “I think if I had stayed there, I would not have become a writer.”

**QUOTES:** “I like to exaggerate. I used to be told when I was a child that I mustn’t lie, because where



STEVE PUPPE

there is a liar there is a thief. I lied as a child, but it was only to protect a way of seeing myself when I didn’t want my parents to know. I suppose my writing has that in it, a way of saying something that I don’t want myself to really know.”





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Civil War & Southern Culture ■  
March 22-31

Tahitian Jewels ■  
April 7-18

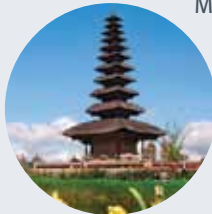
Cruise the Waterways and Canals  
of Holland & Belgium ◆  
April 19-27

Mediterranean Marvels ■  
April 20-28

Celtic Lands ●  
May 1-10

Villages and Vineyards of Italy ◆  
May 21-31

Jewels of Antiquity Cruise -  
Cannes to Venice ◆  
May 28-June 12



The Great Journey  
Through Europe ●  
June 8-18

European Tapestry ■  
June 12-20

Baltic Treasures ■  
June 24-July 5

Discover England's Lake District ◆  
July 19-30



Prague ◆  
July 22-30

Alaskan Discovery ■  
August 7-14

Arctic Circle-Iceland to Greenland ●  
August 12-24

Scotland ◆  
August 12-20

Tuscany & Cinque Terre ▲  
August 30-September 7

Italy's Magnificent Lake District ◆  
September 3-11

Paris to Provence ●  
September 9-17

Treasures of East Africa ◆  
September 11-25

Along the Ancient Coast of Turkey ★  
September 24-October 1

Canada & New England ■  
September 24-October 6

Eastern & Oriental Express-  
Bangkok to Bali ◆  
October 2-15

Natural Wonders of the Galapagos ■  
October 5-12

Cradle of History ■  
October 7-18

Polar Bears of Churchill ◆  
October 26-31

Cruise to South America ◆  
December 8-22

## 2013 Schedule

Crystal Caribbean Cruise ◆  
January 4-16

Ancient Mysteries ■  
January 5-23

Pearls of Southeast Asia-  
Hong Kong to Bali ◆  
January 12-29

Expedition to Antarctica ●  
January 17-30

Treasures of Southern  
Africa ◆  
January 29-February 12

Cuba  
February 5-12

Splendors Down Under ■  
February 24-March 14

Mayan Mystique ■  
March 18-28



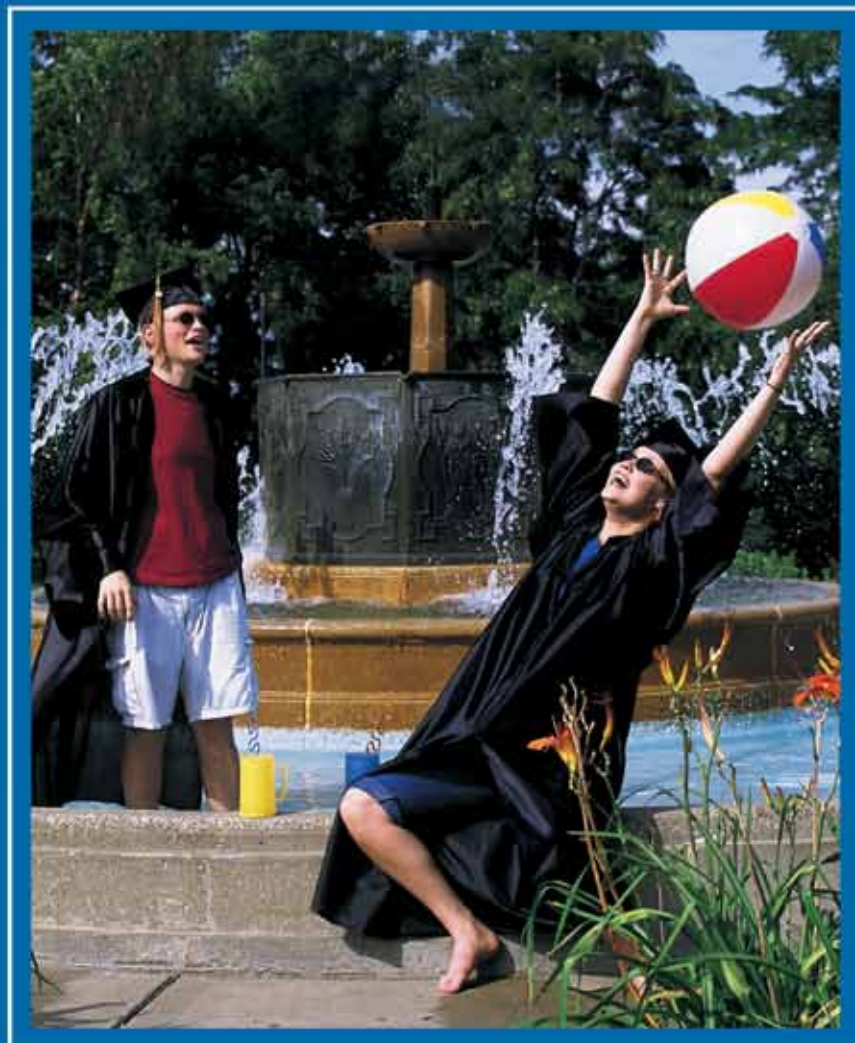
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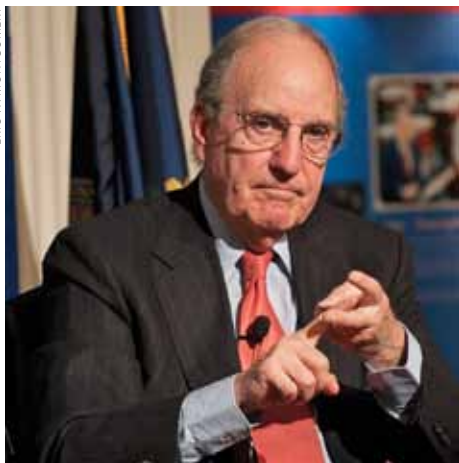
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Mitchell

Dole Lecture April 4 at the Dole Institute of Politics, said the strength of the United States lies in its founding ideals of freedom and opportunity. Those ideals have inspired the recent Arab Spring uprisings and the yearning of immigrants to live in America, he said. "People don't come here because we have more and better missiles. They come here because they believe they can have a better life. ... Our ideals are what move people elsewhere toward the United States. Their disappointment is not in our ideals, but when they perceive that we don't live up to the ideals we proclaim."

Mitchell represented Maine in the Senate from 1980 to 1995. With Republican colleagues Bob Dole and Howard Baker and fellow Democrat Tom Daschle, he formed the Bipartisan Policy Center. Acknowledging the current divisive political climate, he urged patience and continued participation: "Yes, we are deeply divided, ... but I believe there remains in all Americans a fundamental commitment to the country itself rather than an ideology or a political party."

From 1996 to 2000, Mitchell led the Northern Ireland Peace Talks, which

ended decades of violence. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given by the U.S. government.

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

## ACADEMICS

### Honors students earn Goldwater scholarships

**FOUR HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS** won Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, considered the most prestigious awards for undergraduates in math and science fields.

Goldwater scholars receive up to \$7,500 for tuition, fees, books and room and board. Up to 300 scholars are chosen from more than 1,000 mathematics, science and engineering students nominated by their colleges and universities.

Since the award was started by Congress in 1986, 53 Jayhawks have received Goldwater scholarships. This year's winners are:

Theodore Christensen IV, Topeka sophomore in biochemistry. Christensen hopes to complete master's and doctoral degrees and then teach at a research university.

Jeremy Ims, Overland Park junior in physics, mathematics and astronomy. Ims plans to pursue graduate work in high-energy astrophysics, with an emphasis in computational mathematics and computer simulation.

Rodi Torres-Gavosto, Lawrence junior in chemistry. He plans to earn a PhD and begin a career as a professor of chemistry, focusing on research in nanomaterials.

Brittany Krutty, Olathe junior in physics. Krutty wants to earn a master's in physics and teach and conduct research on the treatment and disposal of radioactive waste.

## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Barbara Atkinson** will retire earlier than planned from her dual roles as executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine.

Atkinson had announced in November that she would step down as dean as soon as a replacement could be found but planned to remain as executive vice chancellor until the end of 2013. Now she will retire from both jobs June 30. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little appointed Steven Stites, the Peter T. Bohan professor and chair of internal medicine, as acting vice chancellor and executive dean. A search is under way to fill both positions.

■ **Stanley Rolfe** will serve as interim dean while the School of Engineering conducts a search to replace Stuart Bell, who will leave in July to become executive vice chancellor and provost at Louisiana State University. Dean since 2002, Bell oversaw the opening of Eaton Hall and construction of the new research building that opens later this year, the Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center. Rolfe, the Albert P. Learned Distinguished Professor in civil engineering, joined the KU faculty in 1969 and served as a department chair for 23 years.

■ **Terance T. Tsue** is the KU Cancer Center's first physician-in-chief. The Douglas A. Girod, MD, Endowed Professor of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and vice chairman of the department of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery, Tsue has been a member of the KU School of Medicine faculty since 1996. As physician-in-chief, he will provide clinical oversight to the cancer center, which is ranked 44th nationally among hospital cancer programs according to U.S. News and World Report.



STEVE PUPPE

*"People don't come here because we have more and better missiles. They come here because they believe they can have a better life."*

—George Mitchell

JEFF JACOBSEN



**Jayhawks Diamond Dixon, Denesha Morris, Taylor Washington and Paris Daniels are the fastest 4x400 relay team in the Big 12—and the NCAA.**

## Fast and far

### Women's track speeds to runner-up finish at Big 12

Second place has never been so sweet. At least not for KU women's track, which won five events on the final day of the Big 12 Outdoor Track & Field Championships to take home team silver.

The Jayhawks scored 129.5 points, 9.5 points behind Texas but a single point better than last year's national champions, Texas A&M. It was the best conference-meet placing in the history of KU women's track. The KU women finished third in the Big 12 Indoor, second at the NCAA Indoor, and entered the conference outdoor meet May 11-13 in Manhattan ranked No. 5 nationally.

As they have done throughout the season, the Jayhawks relied on an emerging roster of stars:

Sophomore Diamond Dixon defended her Big 12 title in the 400 meters, setting a meet record and personal best with a winning time of 51.09 seconds. Texas A&M's Kanika Beckles earlier in the day set the Big 12's season-best mark during a qualifying round; in the finals, Dixon used

a fast start and strong closing kick to hold off Beckles.

Dixon's 51.09 was the fastest NCAA mark of the season, eighth-best in the world, and earns Dixon an automatic spot in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Junior Paris Daniels won the 200 meters in a photo finish, topping Texas A&M's Ashley Collier by .003 seconds. Daniels' winning time, 22.887, earned her a ticket to the U.S. Olympic Trials, as did her third-place performance in the 100-meter dash.

Following Dixon's win in the 400 and Daniels' in the 200, the Jayhawks were in third place, three points behind second-place A&M with one event remaining: the 4x400-meter relay.


Junior Denesha Morris rocketed through the first leg with a lead of more than a second. Daniels, running her fourth event of the day, maintained the KU lead in the second leg, as did junior Taylor Washington in the third. Dixon grabbed the baton in the lead and cruised to a final time of 3 minutes, 28.10 seconds—another KU record and the NCAA's fastest time of the year. It was the first 4x400 Big 12 title for any team outside of Texas and broke the meet record by more than a second.

Junior Andrea Geubelle, the national leader in the triple jump, earlier in the day won the Big 12 title with her second leap, 44 feet, 2.75 inches. She won the event by nearly a foot, and placed second in the long jump.

Senior Rebeka Stowe dominated the 3,000-meter steeplechase. After opening an early lead, Stowe won in 10:18.11, more than 17 seconds faster than her closest competitor.

Senior Alena Krechyk won the hammer throw on the meet's opening day, setting meet and school records with a throw of 226 feet, 5 inches, the NCAA's third-best mark of the season. Junior Francine Simpson won the long jump on Day 2 with a winning mark of 21 feet, 10.75 inches.

Freshman Michael Stigler won the men's 400-meter hurdles with a school-record time of 49.45 seconds, good for an automatic berth in the Olympic trials. Junior thrower Mason Finley placed second in both the shot put and discus, scoring 16 of the men's team's 64 points, good for eighth place.

The NCAA Outdoor Championships are June 6-9 in Des Moines, Iowa. The U.S. Olympic Trials are June 22-30 in Eugene, Ore. 

# Hail to thee, 'Hawks

## Football turnaround starts with new postgame Alma Mater ritual

Four-time Super Bowl winner Charlie Weis brings to KU a legendary playbook. Turns out his game planning doesn't end when the game does.

Shortly before the April 28 Blue-White spring game, Weis announced that the Jayhawks will conclude every home game by walking to the student section to sing the Alma Mater, which will be played by the Marching Jayhawks.

"I sit there in Allen Field House, which is obviously the mecca of college basketball, and I love watching our basketball team play," Weis said. "I turn around and I look at the students when they are interacting with the basketball team. I like the pep band. I like the whole experience; it's not just a basketball game.

"I know when you are 2-10 overall and 0-9 in the conference, it is tougher for students to buy in and show that same kind of loyalty and devotion to our football team. We have to do something on the field to help that. That goes without saying. I get it. But at the same time, if you don't try to make that bond between the football team and the students and the football team and the band, then how is it going to happen? By accident? I don't believe that things happen just by accident too often. You have to plan for them."

Weis, whose prowess as an offensive guru is perhaps exceeded only by his skills as a motivator, also notes that the new postgame ritual will provide extra incentive for players to get the program turned around pronto.

"It's really tough to go up in front of your students to sing the Alma Mater after losing a football game," he said. "It is also tough for the students to stay there until the end of the game to be part of that. We are going to own up to our end of the

*"It's really tough to go up in front of your students to sing the Alma Mater after losing a football game. ... We are going to own up to our end of the bargain. We are going to be there."* —coach Charlie Weis



QB Dayne Crist (10) was one of three seniors voted a captain by their teammates. It's a rarity, because Crist is a graduate transfer and, other than the spring game, has yet play at KU. Perhaps the vote hints that players are eager for a fresh start with coach Charlie Weis. Also chosen were defensive end Toben Oporum and offensive lineman Tanner Hawkinson.

bargain. We are going to be there. I am going to start Tweeting to death, to start working those students to make sure they are there, too."

As for the football side of Weis' rebuilding project, the early returns are pretty much as expected: The offense, to be led by transfer Dayne Crist (who is immediately eligible because he graduated from Notre Dame), has talent. Whatever talent the defense possesses will almost certainly be stretched thin by lack of depth.

Crist, who played for Weis as a freshman in Weis' final year as Notre Dame's coach, completed 11 of 19 passes for 156 yards in the spring game.

"I thought he slung it around pretty good," Weis said. "He knows the offense, he knows how to run the operation. He can get us out of trouble when it's a bad call.

I was generally pleased."

Crist split time as Blue-team quarterback with BYU transfer Jake Heaps, who will have to sit out a year. In their final chance to see Heaps in game action until 2013, Weis and his assistants watched the live-armed QB complete seven of 10 passes for 106 yards and a touchdown. For Heaps' first play as a Jayhawk, Weis called a flea-flicker, and Heaps responded with a 46-yard strike to senior receiver Kale Pick.

"I didn't have to call reverses and I didn't have to call flea-flickers," Weis said, "but the fans want to have some fun, too."

The game's breakout star and offensive MVP was sophomore running back Tony Pierson, who ran for 141 yards on just seven carries, including an 88-yard touchdown dash that displayed Pierson's brilliant open-field speed.

"I told him that with holes that big, he better be able to score a touchdown," Weis said. "I also told him that there aren't that many guys who run 88 yards [at top speed]. Tony is dangerous in space."



# Sports

White-team quarterback Michael Cummings, a redshirt freshman who will be Crist's likely backup, completed two of seven pass attempts while also carrying the ball seven times, including a long run of 23 yards. He was harassed relentlessly by sophomore linebacker Michael Reynolds, voted defensive MVP after racking up three sacks and four tackles for loss.

"Whether he's playing outside linebacker or defensive end, he has edge speed," Weis said. "We don't have that many guys right now who have that type of speed. If he can figure it out, he'll really be able to help us."

The Jayhawks open fall practice Aug. 1 to begin preparations for the Sept. 1 season opener against South Dakota State in Memorial Stadium.

The 10-team Big 12 this season will play a nine-game, round-robin conference schedule, which for KU begins Sept. 15 against newcomer TCU. Other home conference games are Oct. 13 against Oklahoma State, Oct. 27 with Texas on Homecoming weekend, and Nov. 17

against Iowa State.

Conference road games are Oct. 6 at Kansas State, Oct. 20 at Oklahoma, Nov. 3 at Baylor, Nov. 10 at Texas Tech and Dec. 1 at the other Big 12 newcomer, West Virginia. That final game follows a rare late-season bye week.

"I think we've taken a bunch of steps," Weis said, "but I think we have a bunch of steps to go. Too many times coaches give you some kind of phrase to sugarcoat it, but for us to be competitive on a weekly basis, we have a lot of work to do. Offensively, we're ahead of our defense, but I truly believe we're going to be much improved on defense."

Most of the announced crowd of 15,000 remained in Memorial Stadium to the end of the spring game, a 45-0 victory by the Blue team. They watched as players walked to the east stands, then stood, draped arms over neighbors' shoulders and joined the Jayhawks in singing the Alma Mater. The moment perhaps felt a bit scripted; the tradition has not yet taken hold.

But when it does, it will surely be glorious to view—especially after much-needed victories.



JEFF JACOBSEN

No defender got a hand on Tony Pierson until he made it to the end zone on an 88-yard touchdown run that highlighted his blazing open-field speed.

## UPDATES

Junior left fielder **Maggie Hull** led Big 12 softball with a .409 regular-season batting average, topping **Jill Larson's** school record of .400, set in 1979. ...



JEFF JACOBSEN

Hull

Freshman midfielder **Liana Salazar** will play soccer for her native Colombia this summer in the London Olympics. The soccer team added former Ohio State All-American defender **Cassie Dickerson**, who in May completed her first year in KU's School of Law, and midfielder **Hanna Kallmaier**, a four-year standout on Germany's national youth team. ... Junior golfer **Chris Gilbert** tied the KU three-round record by shooting 202 at the Western

Intercollegiate, where he finished fifth. Fifth-year men's golf coach **Kit Grove**, d'99, was not retained; a search is under way for his replacement. ... 11th Street directly north of Memorial Stadium is now Fambrough Drive. Also honoring the late coach **Don Fambrough**, d'48, KU renamed Maine Street west of the stadium Fambrough Way. "Don Fambrough was an icon," says Athletics Director **Sheahon Zenger**, PhD'96. "Not just on

the KU campus, but across the state of Kansas." ... Receiver **Justin McCay**, a five-star recruit two years ago from Kansas City, Mo., who transferred this spring from Oklahoma, can't play football this season after the NCAA rejected his appeal of the original denial of his waiver request. The NCAA requires transfers to sit out a year of competition; McCay appealed, citing unspecified family circumstances as the reason for his transfer. When his application was denied, NCAA staff suggested McCay appeal their ruling; he did, and it was rejected. "I'm extremely disappointed that common sense did not prevail," said coach **Charlie Weis**. McCay,

who used his redshirt year last season, will be eligible as a junior in 2013. ... The men's basketball team will play four August exhibition games in Europe. The Jayhawks will face the Swiss National Team Aug. 7 and 8 in Fribourg, Switzerland. On Aug. 11 and 12 they will play two French professional teams. The NCAA permits such exhibition games every four years, and allows 10 days of practice, including newcomers not yet enrolled. "With at least six freshmen coming in," says scheduling director **Larry Keating**, "it's a perfect time for this trip." Former St. John's coach **Norm Roberts**, a longtime **Bill Self** assistant, returns to replace **Danny Manning**, c'92, now at Tulsa.

# Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Jayhawks won 27 events during the 85th Kansas Relays. Highlights included victories by the women's 4x400 and 4x100 relay teams, the men's 4x400, Don Wasinger's third-straight 1,500 meters title, another Relays record by Olympian Bershawn "Batman" Jackson in the 400-meter hurdles, and thrilling men's shot put and women's long jump events contested on the streets of downtown Lawrence.





# A Gem of a Day

Commencement welcomes graduates  
to the alumni family and honors  
inspiring leaders

by Lydia Benda

Photographs by Steve Puppe





Mulally



Bair



Dole



Mechem

The University's 140th Commencement May 13 mingled the timeless merriment of hopeful graduates with a new tradition of awarding honorary KU degrees to extraordinary leaders. Alan Mulally, e'68, g'69, president and CEO of Ford Motor Co. and keynote speaker for the ceremony, was one of four inaugural recipients of the honorary degrees, along with former FDIC chair Sheila Bair, c'75, l'78; former Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, '45; and renowned composer Kirke L. Mechem.





After graduates walked (and jumped and danced) down the Hill under a brilliant blue sky, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little welcomed the thousands in Memorial Stadium and called attention to just a few of this year's outstanding achievements at KU, including 48 nationally ranked graduate programs, four Goldwater Scholars and KU's 26th Rhodes Scholar, Kelsey Murrell, c'12.

Tim Emert, vice chair of the Kansas Board of Regents, encouraged new graduates to maintain their idealism once they leave KU, and Jeff Briley, d'74, KU Alumni Association national board chair, welcomed graduates to the alumni family, urging them to "volunteer with passion" in their communities and for their alma mater. He described the fierce loyalty that binds generations of KU alumni, who have contributed their time and resources to the Alumni Association and KU Endowment, two organizations that remain partners in

advancing KU. As a gift from KU Endowment, members of the Class of 2012 will receive a free, one-year membership in the Alumni Association.

Stephen Mazza, dean of law, awarded a doctor of laws to the first honorary degree recipient, Bair, while Gray-Little performed the ceremonial hooding. Bair was recognized for her outstanding contribution to financial policy as chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. during the recent recession. "Her leadership," Mazza said, "helped avert economic disaster and kept millions of Americans in their homes." Mazza also announced a doctor of laws degree for Dole, who was unable to attend the ceremony. The two-time U.S. Senate majority leader and 1996 Republican presidential nominee is known for his leadership as a public servant and statesman dedicated to promoting civility and bipartisanship in politics. Dole represented Kansas

in the Senate for 28 years.

Robert Walzel Jr., dean of music, awarded Mechem a doctor of arts for his notable contributions to choral music and opera. Mechem, called the "dean of American choral composers," created more than 250 symphonies, operas and choral pieces, including the opera "John Brown," and his 1976 piece, "The Jayhawk: Magical Bird Overture."

Mulally received an honorary doctor of science, smiling broadly as Stuart Bell, dean of engineering, announced Mulally's achievements and the chancellor hooded him in his new colors. Mulally began his speech by saying that despite his achievements in the transportation industry, "The most important thing you need to know about me is that I am a Rock Chalk Jayhawk." He reminded alumni to thank their families for their successes, especially their moms, as the ceremony fell on Mother's Day. Led by Mulally, new grads





Clockwise from far left: Graduates poured down the Hill, waving Jayhawk flags as loved ones looked on. Members of the Class of 2012 posed in Memorial Stadium, prepped for their big walk, and celebrated with Big Jay. A smiling Waldo stood out in the business school crowd. New grads thanked families and cheered as they took those long-awaited steps through the Campanile.

gave moms and families a standing ovation.

Mulally, who grew up in Lawrence, said he always followed KU sports, attended KU games and even saw Wilt Chamberlain play his first varsity basketball game. Mulally recalled sitting near the locker room entrance when he and Chamberlain came face to face.

“I said, ‘Hi’ and he said, ‘Hi.’ After that chat, Wilt went out and scored 52 points, setting a school scoring record in his very first game. I like to think that Wilt’s wonderful performance that day was because of the pep talk I gave him,” Mulally said with a laugh. Calling his life strategy “Follow Your Passion 2.0,” he urged graduates to welcome new experiences and turn life’s setbacks into “gems.”

One gem came for Mulally when he enrolled in engineering at KU and joined the U.S. Air Force with a dream to become an astronaut. His plans were thwarted

when he learned he was slightly colorblind.

“I was devastated then,” he said, “but now I know that life had given me a gift.”

He instead took a job at Boeing as an airplane design engineer, and eventually became president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. Mulally said that after 37 years at Boeing he got a call from Bill Ford. “Bill asked me to leave Boeing and join a company that was struggling, in an industry that faced incredible difficulties,” he said. “But it was another gem.”

Mulally is credited with turning Ford around amid the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression. He finished his speech by encouraging grads to be a part of something bigger than them, to be open and willing to learn. “My goal today was to make my remarks just as effective as my pep talk I gave Wilt Chamberlain all those years ago,” Mulally said, “if not quite as short.”

After Mulally’s speech, deans presented the candidates for degrees, inciting bursts of cheers and confetti from grads, families and friends. The School of Pharmacy section shook pill bottles like maracas, the nursing grads wore tiny, white nurse’s hats atop their mortarboards, and the new engineers let out a collective sigh of relief. The School of Medicine grads were the loudest, spraying champagne over one another and cheering so long that the next speaker was barely audible.

To wrap up the festivities, Gray-Little asked graduates to take out their cell phones and photograph themselves—their first pictures as KU grads. The pictures are available on KU’s Facebook page. After the clicks subsided, the ceremony returned to tradition: Graduates, families and friends linked arms for a heartwarming rendition of the Alma Mater and the Rock Chalk Chant, preparing the Class of 2012 to lift the KU chorus ever onward.





# When the Going Gets Tough

BY CHRIS LAZZARINO

**Focused and resilient,  
Final Four Jayhawks  
overcome every  
opponent but one**





**ENTUCKY LOOMED.** Extra-sensory brack-  
etologists need not have  
been consulted to  
foretell that should  
second-seed Kansas  
advance out of the

Midwest Regional, where top-seed North Carolina menaced, and then survive a potential semifinal showdown against East Regional hotshots Syracuse or Ohio State, an NCAA Tournament championship run might muscle into the big, bad Kentucky Wildcats, loaded with top-of-the-draft NBA talent.

So it did, and there it stopped.

But, unlike the heartbreak of recent years, KU's 2012 tournament run from Omaha to New Orleans must be remembered for the wins, not the loss, which in this case didn't happen until Kentucky finally knocked Kansas out, 67-59, in a Superdome showdown.

It might be argued that KU's run to the national title game began Feb. 4, in Columbia, Mo. KU blew an eight-point lead in the final three minutes to lose by three. That kick in the gut could have knocked KU sideways; instead, the Jayhawks emerged strengthened. Coach Bill Self has said the next game, a 68-54 victory four days later at Baylor, then

ranked No. 6 in the country, was the Jayhawks' best performance and the keystone victory for their eighth-consecutive Big 12 championship.

That game at Baylor was when Self saw that his relatively inexperienced Jayhawks, who began the season with only one returning starter, were not just talented and tough, but also brilliantly focused—which made the deep tournament run possible. As coaches explained and players believed, it didn't matter who might be waiting in St. Louis if the Jayhawks couldn't advance out of Omaha, and the New Orleans Final Four would be yet another unrealized dream if KU couldn't win the Midwest Regional in St. Louis.

A day after fighting past underrated North Carolina State, with North Carolina up next in the Elite Eight, junior guard Elijah Johnson found himself seated in a curtained interview room deep inside St. Louis' massive downtown sports and convention complex called the Edward Jones Dome. As he did every day of the tournament, in orchestrated off-day media sessions or post-game locker rooms, Johnson patiently and thoughtfully answered every question put to him.

Johnson next season will be the unquestioned team leader, a role for which he seemed to prepare as his stature soared

with clutch NCAA Tournament performances; when he was asked what it would mean to reach the Final Four, Johnson paused for a dramatic beat, then squashed the notion entirely:

"I don't know what the Final Four is."

With those words, Elijah Johnson revealed the 2012 Jayhawks' self-image.

The "Mario's Miracle" championship victory over Memphis was way back in 2008. The only player from that team still on the roster, senior guard Conner Teahan, was a seldom-used freshman who played one minute in the 2008 Final Four.

As of St. Louis, Final Fours were not yet part of this team's skill set.

The Jayhawks intended to change that, but feared giving it voice or even consideration.

"I'm focused on the Elite Eight," Johnson continued, "and that's what I want to keep it at. I don't want anyone to speed me up. I don't want anyone to speed my teammates up. I want to focus on one thing and one thing only. We've got a championship to win tomorrow and if we win that, then we might find out what the Final Four looks like."

Speeding up? Was that why the Jayhawks exited early the past two seasons? "Yes," Johnson stated flatly. "My freshman year and my sophomore year we sped it up, and we ended up getting slowed down way faster than we were supposed to. I don't want that to happen this year, so I'm focused on the next step. We've been good with that this year. I haven't seen it because we haven't done it. We focused on the game at hand."

The leader-in-waiting then made clear that he was following direction from the current team leader, four-year starter

.....

The Road to the Final Four—which led to the Superdome, where Jayhawks greeted fans of all ages after their open practice—began in Omaha, where Big 12 Player of the Year Thomas Robinson (0) and the Jayhawks powered past Detroit in their NCAA Tournament opener.

.....



STEVE PUPPE

Tyshawn Taylor, who entered the season with more career minutes played at KU (2,736) than the other seven returning players combined (2,394).

“I think that we honestly matured in that area,” Johnson said, “and I give all of that to Tyshawn. Because it hurt him more than it hurt the rest of us, those last two times. All of his hard work went down the drain and he doesn’t want it to happen again. I think that he realized the biggest thing was people getting ahead of themselves and he tried to stop it when it was his time his senior year.”

The question was then put to Taylor, sequestered nearby in his own curtained cubicle.

“We can’t look past anybody,” the point guard said. “I think being in this situation is a little bit easier, because we’re playing against a team that’s expected to win. We’re not the one expected to win, so it’s a little bit easier not to look past like we have in the past.”

The long tournament trail led the Jayhawks and their fans on a Lewis & Clark meets Mark Twain tour through the center of it all, a river run from Omaha, on the banks of the Missouri, through St. Louis, straddling the Mississippi, and straight down the mid-continent watershed that delivers rain and snowmelt from 31 states on an inexorable pull through New Orleans and into the Gulf of Mexico.

For those lucky enough to follow the Jayhawks at every stop, it was a welcome, three-week-long reminder of the subtle delights of our Central Time Zone, a road trip that ambled through mid-America’s warm, wet spring fueled by Omaha steaks, St. Louis pizza, Memphis barbecue, New Orleans gumbo, Bourbon Street booze.

The Omaha Zoo, Gateway Arch and French Quarter, yes, but no deserts, no oceans, and, except for the view from atop the arch, no distant vistas. The only mountains were challenges placed before KU: Purdue and Robbie Hummel, North Carolina State and C.J. Leslie, North Carolina and Harrison Barnes, Ohio State and Jared Sullinger, and, finally, Kentucky and national Player of the Year Anthony Davis.



STEVE PUPPE

But first came Detroit. Maybe it was the still-raw sting of the past two tournaments and fears of yet another wasted year, but KU’s first-round matchup felt dangerous. The 15th-seeded Titans won the Horizon League championship game by 20 points, and featured super sophomore point guard Ray McCallum, explosive forward Doug Anderson, and post players who towered at 6-10 and 6-11.

Scariest of all, the day KU began its 23rd consecutive NCAA Tournament, March 16 in Omaha’s beautiful CenturyLink Center, two other No. 2 seeds had already been dispatched from the tournament: Duke and, to the immense delight of the hundreds of alumni and fans who packed the Alumni Association’s pregame rally in the arena’s convention center, Missouri.

When the game opened with a steal by junior guard Travis Releford followed by a dunk by junior forward Thomas Robinson,

the Big 12’s Player of the Year, and then a huge, high rebound by Robinson off a missed jumper by Anderson, it seemed the Jayhawks, 27-6 and ranked No. 3 in the country, would cruise.

Ten minutes into the game, as the Jayhawks skidded through a series of turnovers and bad fouls, the Titans tied the score, 19-19, then took the lead with a massive dunk by Anderson. (“A walking highlight,” said Robinson).

“They outplayed us, I thought, in the first 10 minutes,” Self said after KU’s 65-50 victory. “Even though the score was pretty even, I thought they were quicker to balls and seemed more active.”

Anderson’s exclamatory dunk appeared to shake KU—afterward lauded as “one of the truly great teams in the country” by Detroit coach Ray McCallum Sr.—out of its funk. A 15-3 run gave the Jayhawks a 34-24 halftime lead, and they put the game



away with a 19-4 streak to open the second half, running their record when leading at halftime to 24-1.

And that's where the mark remained. KU never again owned a halftime lead the rest of the tournament.

The Jayhawks not only didn't lead at halftime of their next game, against Purdue, they didn't lead until three minutes remained in the game, and that one-point margin disappeared 22 seconds later, not to be regained until inside the final minute.

Hummel, the Boilermakers' inspirational 6-8 senior shooting guard who battled through two devastating knee injuries during his collegiate career, powered Purdue to an 8-0 lead two and a half minutes into the game. Self called an early timeout to regroup, but it did no good. Thanks to Hummel's 22 first-half points, and KU's horrendous 29.4 field-goal percentage, the Boilermakers led by as many as 11 before halftime. KU cut that lead to one, with 3:19 remaining in the half, but Purdue pushed it back to six with a field goal, for which Hummel provided the assist, and another Hummel 3-pointer.

"They were better than us for the majority of the game," Self said, "and Robbie Hummel was great."

Self opened the second half with Releford, his best open-court defender, on Hummel, followed by ongoing defensive adjustments that limited Hummel to four second-half points. And, thanks to the final three minutes, the night belonged not to Hummel, but Elijah Johnson.

With 3:04 remaining, Johnson hit a smooth 3-pointer off an assist from Taylor, giving KU its first lead, 57-56. To that point, KU was shooting 32.7 percent from the field and 26.1 on treys.

"He took that shot," Taylor said, "with a smile on his face."

Bigger grins were yet to come. After Purdue regained a three-point lead, Johnson brought down a defensive rebound, hustled the ball up the court and fed a high lob to Taylor, who, despite suffering leg cramps and dehydration two days earlier, skied to the limits of his verticality and brought down a jam, pulling KU within one, 60-59, at 1:02.

"He trusts me," Taylor said, "and I went and got it for him."

Johnson then single-handedly gave KU its game-winning points when he slapped

the ball away in the paint from sure-handed senior guard Lewis Jackson, drove the length of the court for a layup and a one-point lead that grew to three, 63-60, when Taylor closed the game with another dunk.

Johnson led KU's scorers with 18, and on a night when the Jayhawks were 21 of 62 from the field (KU's worst shooting performance in a victory during Self's nine-year tenure), Johnson made seven of his 14 attempts.

"I feel relieved," Self said, "but I feel some jubilation. The kids are excited. If



Tyshawn Taylor (10) missed nearly half of the Detroit game with leg cramps. All hands were needed two days later against Purdue, a thrilling game that brought jubilation from coach Bill Self and Elijah Johnson (15) and Travis Releford (24).



# On Angel's Wings

LAURA JACOBSEN (2)



Angel Goodrich (3) and Chelsea Gardner (15) were two stars of an unexpected NCAA Tournament run for the women's team, which fought its way to a Sweet 16 showdown against Tennessee in Des Moines.



**THE ENTIRETY**—almost—of the sports world will remember Tennessee's Sweet 16 victory over Kansas as the 1,098th and last win for Pat Summitt,

who announced her retirement shortly after the Lady Vols exited the NCAA Tournament with an Elite Eight loss to undefeated Baylor.

While respecting the career accomplishments of one of the greatest coaches in college basketball history, and surely taking pride in being linked to Summitt's legacy, the KU women's basketball team will remember the March 24 game in Des Moines, Iowa, as a disappointing end to an unexpected and energizing run through the NCAA Tournament.

After losing All-Big 12 junior forward Carolyn Davis Feb. 12 to a knee injury, the Jayhawks' hopes for their first NCAA Tournament bid since 2000 seemed dashed.

Although they were 8-10 in the Big 12, the Jayhawks went 19-12 overall, twice beat top-25 teams and recorded the Big 12's second-best road record at 5-4; they edged into the tourney as a No. 11 seed and made the most of the opportunity.

Behind inspired leadership from 5-foot-4 junior point guard Angel Goodrich, who battled through season-ending knee injuries her first two years at KU, the Jayhawks first upset No. 6 seed Nebraska, 57-49, in Little Rock, Ark. Davis' replacement, freshman Chelsea Gardner, had 15 points and 16 rebounds.

The Jayhawks' biggest win of the season was next, as they advanced to the Sweet 16 by toppling No. 3 seed Delaware and superstar junior forward Elena Delle Donne, 70-64. Goodrich scored 27 against the Blue Hens, and senior forward Aishah Sutherland had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Goodrich, who led the nation in assists with 7.4 per game, scored 23 in KU's 84-73

loss to Tennessee; she averaged 23.3 points in the tournament, fifth-best among all NCAA Tournament players. Sutherland closed her KU career with 19 points and eight rebounds against Tennessee.

"We recognized what we lost," coach Bonnie Henrickson said of her team's resiliency after Davis' injury, "but we also had to identify what we hadn't lost. I asked everyone to give a little more. I know it's crazy to ask Angel Goodrich to do more, but we did. And she did.

"We said the goals aren't going to change. We will find a way. We will figure this out."

KU finished 21-13 overall and was ranked No. 25 in the final USA Today/ESPN poll.

"This year their best player has an ACL and somehow they got better through it," men's coach Bill Self said. "And of course Carolyn gets back and they will be even better next year. I think it's pretty special what they're doing." —C.L.



TERRY ROMBECK

Crimson and blue brightened St. Louis, where pregame rallies sponsored by the Alumni Association and Kansas Athletics were bigger draws even than the iconic arch. Towering above the competition was Jeff Withey, who became a breakout star with his performances against North Carolina State and North Carolina.



STEVE PUPPE

.....  
 you looked at our team and somebody said we will be 29-6 and playing in St. Louis in the Sweet 16, everybody would have said, ‘What a great year.’

“I’m proud of our guys because a testimony to a team’s toughness is to figure out a way to win when things aren’t going well. When you don’t have that momentum and energy, it takes toughness. How we won is who we are.”

Southward ho, St. Louis beckoned.

**T**he architecture critic Lawrence W. Cheek in 1998 wrote that the soaring St. Louis arch—whose shape required eight years of intense design by the Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen—represents not so much a symbolic gateway to westward expansion but rather a window into the American spirit of guts, perseverance and profound commitment. “It seems to say,” Cheek wrote, “that with enough courage, intelligence and hard work, anything and everything is possible.”

Jeff Withey, KU’s soaring 7-foot junior center and Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, is evidence that the same holds true

in sports. With years of hard workouts and smart coaching, anything is possible.

Withey is from San Diego, where his first sport was volleyball. He transferred to KU after a brief stay at Arizona, in large part to beef up under the intense tutelage of strength coach Andrea Hudy. The minutes didn’t stack up in games—Withey averaged 3 minutes as a freshman and 6.2 as a sophomore—but they did in practice, where he competed day after day with Cole Aldrich, Marcus and Markieff Morris, and Thomas Robinson.

“What he’s doing this year,” Robinson said, “is nothing unexpected to me.”

Said Taylor, “I think it was Jeff’s first practice with us, and I tried to dunk on him and he blocked the ball, and me, too, and I fell down and busted my lip. And I don’t think I tried again after that.”

Years of sweat paid off for Withey—and Kansas—against North Carolina State in the Sweet 16 in St. Louis. The Wolfpack jumped out to a 9-1 lead, but it would have been worse if Withey hadn’t blocked three shots in the first two minutes. He had seven blocks in the half and 10 in the



STEVE PUPPE

game, overshadowing Robinson’s 18 points and 15 rebounds while tying the school record for most blocks in an NCAA Tournament game and setting the KU season mark at 126.

“I was definitely feeling it,” Withey said. “Everything they put up, I was swatting away and denying.”

Said Robinson: “His blocks bail us out of games ... especially like this.”

After shooting 33.9 percent from the

field against Purdue, KU shot 37.5 percent against NC State.

“According to the shot chart we made two shots for the game outside of 5 feet,” Self said afterward. “For the game. For the game. And won. That’s unbelievable. ... You could go back and look and you say, ‘Well, how did they win?’ It’s because the guys are tough. Man, they’re tough. And they find a way.”

By any measure the Jayhawks were fortunate to advance, but advance they did, straight into the Elite Eight matchup against North Carolina and coach Roy Williams.

Though the Tar Heels were playing without injured point guard Kendall Marshall, they shot 63.6 percent from the field in the first half. Kansas, too, finally regained its stroke, shooting 56.3 percent to keep pace, 47-47, at halftime.

Whenever KU tried to open a lead in the second half Carolina responded. With Kansas nursing a one-point lead with 3:07 remaining, a Carolina defender edged back from Johnson, daring him to shoot

from outside the arc. Johnson had scored only five points to that point, but he didn’t hesitate. Swish.

“He took a step backward,” Johnson said, “and I made him pay for it.”

The clutch trey seemed to give the Jayhawks the breathing room they’d longed for since the second-half run that put Detroit away in game one. A minute later Withey, playing with four fouls, made an aggressive block against 6-11 powerhouse John Henson and had the presence of mind to tap the ball to Taylor, who flew downcourt for a layup. Withey blocked still another at 1:34, leading to a transition dunk by Releford.

Carolina scored its final point with 3:58 remaining, and KU, the region’s No. 2 seed, earned its New Orleans ticket with an 80-67 victory.

“I kind of had a calm about myself today,” Self said. “I felt good about it. And these guys obviously played at a very, very high level.”

Further south still. Time to find out what a Final Four looks like.

Slow starts and gritty comebacks had worked so far, so why stop in New Orleans?

“Guys, what are we doing?!?” Self screamed as the Jayhawks slid out to a 7-2 deficit in their semifinal game March 31 against Ohio State, causing Self to call his third early timeout in four games.

It got worse from there. The Buckeyes, whom KU beat Dec. 10 in Allen Field House with star forward Jared Sullinger out with a back injury, led by 13 points with 1:34 remaining in the first half, which KU cut to nine, 34-25, at halftime. KU shot 36.7 percent from the field and made only one 3-pointer; Ohio State made 15 points with 50 percent shooting behind the arc.

“We were awful in the first half,” Self said afterward. “We had no energy and were tight. In the second half, we came out and played so much better and had so much more energy.”

Good thing, because the Jayhawks needed every ounce of it to advance to the championship game, where, yes, Kentucky loomed, having dispatched its fiercest

STEVE PUPPE (2)



The 32nd and last victory of the season for Robinson (0), Johnson (15) and the rest of the Jayhawks was the national semifinal against Ohio State in New Orleans’ Mercedes-Benz Superdome.





rival, Louisville, in the first national semifinal.

And what a glorious comeback it was.

KU began its run two minutes into the second half when Johnson hit a jump shot to cut Ohio State's lead to seven. KU had the game tied at 14:06, and Ohio State pulled back out to a six-point lead with 5:22 remaining; KU countered with a Robinson jump shot, then a block by junior guard Kevin Young that Johnson took the length of the court for a layup, cutting the margin to two, 55-53, with 4:33 left.

Self's fiery temperament dimmed. As he

watched his team pound out yet another comeback victory—the Jayhawks took the lead for good on a pair of Releford free throws with 1:37 remaining, and hung on through a furious final minute to win by two, 64-62—Self smiled, exuding calm.

"These guys have been in so many close games, they have so much confidence, they just stepped up and made plays," Self said. "These guys want to play against the best. They watched Kentucky all year long, listened to people talk about them. They already cleaned our clock once. I think it's exciting for these guys to play against

them and hopefully make it a non-rhythmic type of game.

"That's what we do. That's who are."

As downtown Lawrence erupted in jubilation, with students and fans swarming Massachusetts Street by the thousands, Self and his staff were already beginning preparations for a rematch with Kentucky two days away.

Although Kansas kept the first game, Nov. 15 in New York City's Madison Square Garden, close in the first half, Kentucky pushed clear for a 75-65 victory.

"The first time we played Kentucky at



EARL RICHARDSON (3)



Just another Saturday night on Mass Street? Not quite, as tens of thousands of fans swarmed downtown Lawrence to celebrate KU's two-point victory over Ohio State, which landed the Jayhawks in a championship-game showdown with top-ranked Kentucky.

the Garden, I felt like we weren't a team," Johnson said. "That was the beginning. Over the course of a year we learned a lot. I think we've been in more tough games this year than Kansas has in a while. I think that definitely made us tougher." Had they paid attention the next day to a full card of racing at New Orleans' Fair Grounds, the Jayhawks might have been inspired by Hero of Order, a 109-1 longshot who won the Louisiana Derby. And they'd have been delighted to see favorite Mission Impazible—whose jockey wore custom-made University of Kentucky

silks—lose the New Orleans Handicap. Back home, fans conjured Big Easy voodoo from afar. The Sandbar refused to serve bourbon (which, by definition, is from Kentucky), and patrons began showing up at downtown restaurants and bars by 8 a.m. to claim their lucky seats. "Dear KU: I've gotten you this far," a fan in Lawrence posted to Facebook. "Now it's up to you." Providential spirits might have washed away in a thunderstorm that deluged New Orleans shortly before the start of the championship. With lightning striping the

gray sky and reports of tornado sirens sounding, a security guard posted at the Superdome entry tried to be reassuring: "Good storm. No hurricane." Not true. On April 2, the hurricane was named Kentucky. Kansas outscored Kentucky, 32-26, in the second half, and Robinson notched his 27th double-double of the season (18 points and 17 rebounds), but this time the slow start proved too much. Kansas trailed by 14 at halftime—it's largest midpoint deficit of the season—and trailed by 15 with 5:14 remaining.



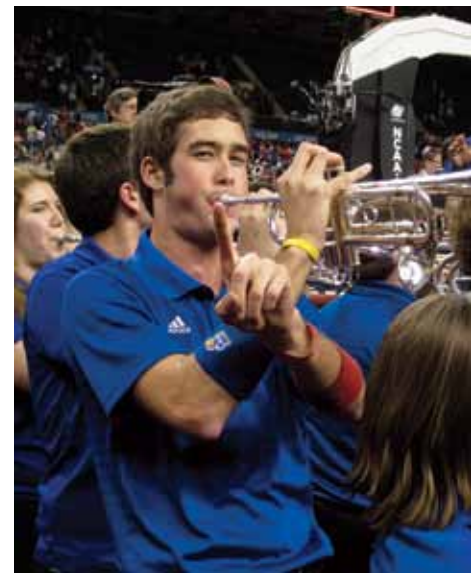
TERRY ROMBECK



TERRY ROMBECK



CHRIS LAZZARINO



CHRIS LAZZARINO

While fans back home whooped it up on Mass Street, traveling Jayhawks celebrated NOLA style, with street bands enlivening alumni rallies, Jayhawks on parade, votive candles lit for luck in the Jackson Square cathedral, and, as trumpeter Josh Maddux proclaimed after the semifinal win, No. 1 KU spirit. The championship loss to Kentucky dimmed KU celebrations, but not KU pride.

Taylor, who finished with 19 points, launched a comeback with a 3-pointer, a field goal and a free throw that pulled KU to within nine, 59-50, at 4:17, and the Jayhawks pulled to within five, 62-57, with 1:37 on the clock, when Robinson converted a pair of free throws.

It was as close as KU could get. No more comebacks. Kentucky had its championship, 67-59.

"We got the game the way we wanted it. It was a muddy track," Self said. "We had opportunities to make some plays to cut it to a one-possession game. We came up short. But, you know, I don't think we lost. I think they just beat us. I'm real proud of our team."

"You know, the fight never stops with us," Taylor said. "Coach said something to us earlier: When you care about something and it doesn't go your way, it's going to hurt a little bit. That's kind of the stage we're going through right now. When we look back on this, we're going to feel OK about it because we fought our hearts out, like we've been fighting our hearts out from the beginning of the season."

The good news had been so plentiful that it seemed almost greedy to mope about losing to Kentucky.

Withey came from out of nowhere to be named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, and he set the record for most blocks in an NCAA Tournament at 31 (equaled by Kentucky's Davis).

Self, who crushed the voting in a Kansas City Star poll of the region's favorite sports figures and now has more Big 12 titles (eight) than losses in Allen Field House (seven), was named the Naismith Men's College Basketball Coach of the Year.

"I can't imagine having his job," said Taylor, a third-team All-American. "We have to deal with one of him; he has to deal with 15 of us. I would go crazy. I would lose it. But he does a great job with all of us. I'm grateful to play for a great coach, and I'm pretty sure he's going into the Hall of Fame one of these days."

"If I was in college," Self said, "I would want to hang with Ty. He's a cool kid."

Robinson, named the Midwest Regional Outstanding Player and picked for the Final Four All-Tournament Team,

announced shortly after the tournament that he would begin providing for his family, strained so intensely last year by the deaths of his mother and both grandparents, by making himself eligible for the NBA draft. He'll likely be the highest KU selection of the Self era.

When asked about Robinson being named a consensus All-American, Self replied, "How cool is that? What's just as cool to me as him being a first-team All-American is Tyshawn being third team. To me, that's the first team for Ty. That's unbelievable to me, how well these guys have done."


And, sadly for the program but good for their careers, assistants Danny Manning, c'92, and Barry Hinson moved on to take charge of their own programs, Manning at Tulsa and Hinson at Southern Illinois. (Also worth noting is that former KU coach Larry Brown, who reunited with the Jayhawks the last couple weeks of the season and throughout the tournament, accepted Southern Methodist's job offer.)

"From start to finish, there's been no team that I've been around that was able to take whatever situation was dealt to them and respond to it favorably," Self said. "And there's been no team that I've been around that represented our university, or ourselves, or their families, any better than this one has."

Kansas won its eighth-consecutive Big 12 championship, five NCAA Tournament

games and finished its season 32-7. It returns Elijah Johnson, Jeff Withey, Travis Releford, Kevin Young and Justin Wesley; adds two freshman forced to sit out the season, guard Ben McLemore and forward Jamari Traylor; and welcomes Wichita Heights forward Perry Ellis, a McDonald's All-American.

Kansas looms.

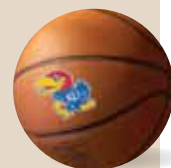
And next time, they'll know what a Final Four looks like. 

## The Road to the Final Four

### Omaha

**KU 65, Detroit 50**

**KU 63, Purdue 60**



### St. Louis

**KU 60, North Carolina State 57**

**KU 80, North Carolina 67**

### New Orleans

**KU 64, Ohio State 62**

**Kentucky 67, Kansas 59**

STEVE PUPPE



# EYES ON

## KU forecasters provide front-line defense against nation's severe weather

by Terry Rombeck

Six men sit at desks, each surrounded by a cluster of monitors that predict the future. Ryan Jewell, for one, doesn't like what he sees.

A low-pressure area is crossing the Ozarks and will shift rapidly to the northeast. Meanwhile, a warm front is headed to the northeast over the Ohio River Valley and will meet up with a strong cold front the next day.

Translation: There's a good chance some part of the eastern United States will be hammered by severe weather.

"Tomorrow's going to be extremely busy," Jewell says. "We'll have some tornadoes."

The silence of the forecasting headquarters at the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) in Norman, Okla., belies the destruc-



# THE STORM

tion that will come the following day. Jewell sips a Mountain Dew as his eyes dart among the 10 computer screens on his desk. The only conversation is an occasional, “Hey, did you see ...” among forecasters examining weather models.

This unassuming room is the center of severe weather prediction for the United States. It is the place where local National Weather Service offices take their cue for launching severe weather watches, where FEMA and National Guard units look when deciding where to send resources ahead of storms and, ultimately, where the entire nation turns when assessing severe-weather risk.

The next day, March 2, more than 70 tornadoes will touch down in 11 states during one of the largest outbreaks ever

recorded in early March. Forty-one people will die in the storms.

Of course, Jewell doesn’t know that yet, but he’s beginning to get a hunch.

He takes another swig of soda and sketches the scenario on a paper map of the United States. This could be a big one.

**J**ewell, c’98, was 6 when straight-line winds destroyed much of his Sioux Falls, S.D., neighborhood.

As a child, Israel Jirak, c’00, was fascinated by how weather affected so much of life on his family’s farm near Stockton.

Both decided to pursue meteorology as a career, and both now work at the Storm Prediction Center.





Ryan Jewell, left, and Israel Jirak, facing page, rely on a variety of computer models to predict severe weather for the entire United States. “There’s not a lot of staff for the area we cover,” Jirak says. “That would probably surprise a lot of people.”

Though the programs are constantly being improved, individual models can still get forecasts spectacularly wrong, in part because their atmospheric data is based on a limited number of weather balloons released by the National Weather Service each day. To compensate, forecasters compare results from as many as 15 different models to get a big-picture look at what might happen.

“It’s obvious where the computer is deficient,” says Jewell, a 12-year veteran

of the SPC. “I’m not losing my job any time soon. We need to interpret the computers.”

Jewell remembers May 22, 2011.

He spent much of his day shift focusing on atmospheric instability over Iowa and Wisconsin, but by the end of duty was looking more at the southern edge of the danger zone, which extended to southwestern Missouri. Conditions reminded him of two other dangerous days he had studied—Aug. 28, 1990, when an F5 tornado killed 29 people in Plainfield, Ill., and May 27, 1997, when an F5 hit Jarrell, Texas, killing 27.

“I didn’t know there would be an F5,” Jewell says of May 22, “but I remember commenting at the end of my shift there was extreme instability.”

That night, after he left work, a massive tornado struck Joplin, Mo., killing 160.

“It ended up being such an isolated event,” Jewell says. “It formed right over Joplin. We’re much better picking those out than we were 20 years ago.”

Adds Jirak: “It’s so challenging on a national scale to find these isolated events.”

And yet that’s exactly what local meteorologists such as David Eversole, c’88, g’92, expect of the Storm Prediction Center every day. As the lead forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Mobile, Ala., Eversole oversees many forecasts each day, including those involving aviation, coastal waters, rip currents and wildfires.

Having the SPC focus solely on severe weather means threats are less likely to fall through the cracks, Eversole says.

“Our attention gets divided by all the different [forecasts] we put out,” he says. “They have the ability to drill down on one thing—severe weather—by not having to do all these other things. They do a much better job than we frankly could.”

“For anybody interested in severe weather,” Jirak says, “this is the place to be.”

The SPC is located in the National Weather Center, a six-year-old building that sparkles with bulletproof glass and is topped by an observation deck to give weather watchers a view for miles around.

The center houses one of the largest collection of weather-related programs in the country. Other tenants are the University of Oklahoma meteorology department and several National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs, including the National Severe Storms Laboratory, Radar Operations Center, Warning Decision Training Branch and the National Weather Service office for central Oklahoma.

The SPC employs about 45 meteorologists and support staff. Jewell is one of five mesoscale forecasters on duty at any time, meaning he predicts which areas of the country are mostly likely to experience severe weather. Jirak is a techniques development meteorologist who creates new computer tools for forecasters, and he also fills in on the forecasting desk.

Most SPC forecasters study the likelihood of tornadoes, straight-line winds and hail, and a few specialize in blizzards and fires. Using computer models, the forecasters start their predictions eight days in advance and revise them as the models—and the observed conditions—become more accurate as a particular day approaches.

“We’re the first line of defense,” says Jirak, who joined the SPC in 2010. “We predict where things are going to happen before they start to happen.”

If forecasters see conditions favorable for severe weather, they work with local National Weather Service offices to issue watches.

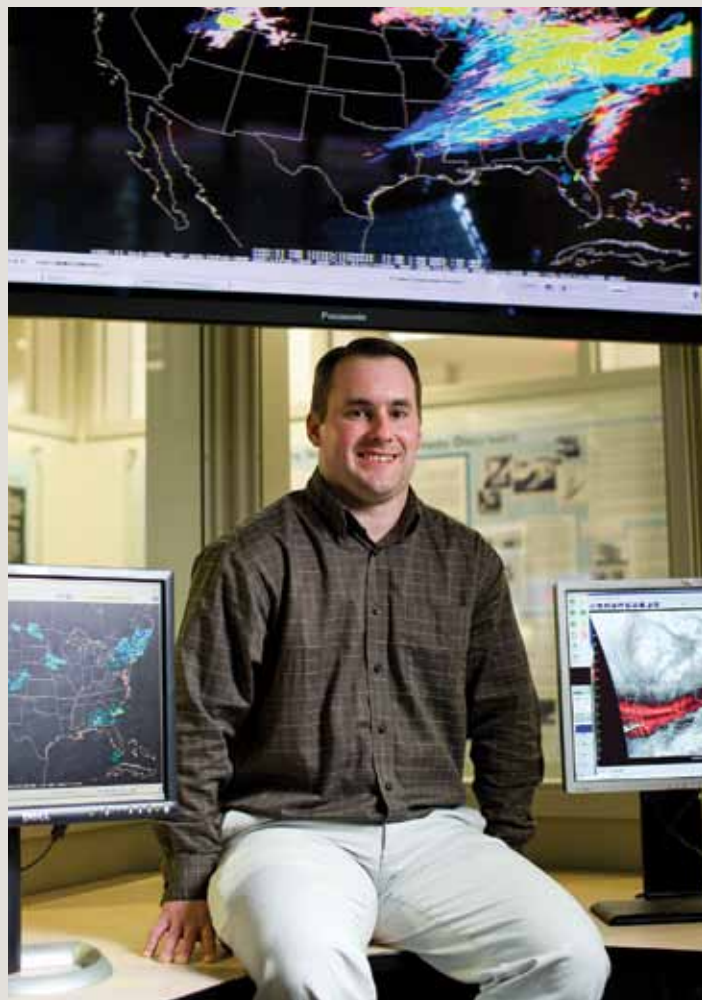
The computer models used by the SPC incorporate a multitude of data, including temperatures, moisture, changes in wind direction and atmospheric pressure tendencies.

Eversole says meteorologists in his office take data provided by the SPC and apply their own knowledge of local weather patterns—in his case, how storms act as they hit landfall from the Gulf of Mexico—to determine the actual threat.

“They’re looking at things on a bigger scale than we are,” Eversole says of the SPC. “If they think we need to issue a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch, they’ll have a conference call with the weather office to give their input. They’ve always been on the ball there. It’s a two-way street—they’re always open to working with us.”

During his sophomore year at KU, Jewell made an offhand comment during class about hopping in his car to experience Hurricane Fran on the East Coast. At 10 that night, just to back up his banter, he was in his 1979 Trans Am headed for North Carolina.

The car broke down in Alabama. By the time it was repaired and Jewell got to North Carolina, the hurricane was in full force.



“Nobody likes being wrong,” Jewell adds. “We talk about it for a few days about whatever didn’t work. Every event you learn more. Every severe event is different. They stay in your mind.”

—Ryan Jewell

“I basically stayed in my car,” he says.

Sometimes, after shifts, he still goes storm chasing with friends. “There’s extra buzz and excitement around here when there’s high risk,” he says.

Jewell and Jirak say a key to working at the SPC is keeping that sort of excitement in check. There’s a fine line between alerting the public and alarming the public. Issue a watch or warning too often, and no one pays attention because of the boy-who-cried-wolf effect. Don’t issue one and risk backlash from locals angry their town got hit by severe weather without advance notice.

“You can get 99 tornadoes covered, and miss one and you’re crucified,” Jewell says. “We hold to science, rather than sway to things like politics.”

The SPC was heralded for its early warnings in April, when a line of particularly dangerous, tornado-producing storms made its way through Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. More than 120 tornadoes were reported April 14, and five people died in Woodward, Okla. Emergency management officials credited the SPC’s early warnings—several days in advance—for sparing lives.

There is no formal review process of SPC forecasts after severe weather strikes. Still, Jirak says most of the meteorologists do their own research when their predictions miss the mark. As he puts it, right or wrong, “There’s always an answer key available the next day.”

“Nobody likes being wrong,” Jewell adds. “We talk about it for a few days about whatever didn’t work. Every event you learn more. Every severe event is different. They stay in your mind.”

Assessing the risk for March 2, Jewell examines a new computer model. This one is for Nashville, Tenn., and it shows a lower risk for severe storms than the other models. It’s a glimmer of hope the next day might not be so destructive after all.

But Jewell immediately recognizes a flaw: The model says the high in Nashville will be 69. All of the other models put the high closer to 80. The change doubles the risk of tornadoes.

“It looks like our best bet might be in Kentucky,” he says. “It’ll probably be a newsworthy day.”

The day indeed will be newsworthy. And the hardest-hit state, just as Jewell predicted, will be Kentucky.

“It’s rare when we’re surprised that something occurs,” Jewell says.

And with that, he turns back to his computer monitors, ever calm before the storm.



Story and photographs by  
Katherine Millett



# Peak Performer

## Climber finds challenge and peace in Colorado's Rocky Mountains

**M**oments before Lynn Hartwell Prebble reached the summit of Mount Flora in Colorado, sun broke through storm clouds to light an Olympian scene: a panorama of silver peaks piercing the icy mist. It

was Oct. 9, 2011, one day after a blizzard had turned back Prebble and her climbing party. Snow blew the next day, too, but in the sudden sunshine at the summit, Prebble opened her backpack, pulled out plastic glasses, and uncorked a bottle of champagne. She toasted friends and family, her blue eyes laughing and her white-gold hair splashed across her shoulders.

Prebble, h'74, had become only the 24th person in the history of Colorado mountaineering to climb all of the state's "13ers," peaks more than 13,000 feet above sea level. There are 637, and it took Prebble 21 years, in all kinds of weather, to bag them.

She is "up" so often that she seems able to metabolize helium. Her spirits are buoyant, and energy prodigious.

"A lot of people climb the 14ers," she explains on the way down Mount Flora, "but there's no glory in climbing the 13ers. In many ways, they're more challenging. You have to find routes where no trail exists, and you have to pull from your bag of tricks.

"Also, I like being in places where almost no one goes. It is a thrill to watch an eagle land. I have found rock crystal formations, and I've watched mountain lions hunt. Sometimes I get up there

in the wildest places, and I think, 'This is home for me.'"

As I try to keep up, Prebble disappears down the trail. She uses a pair of hiking poles for balance and upper-body exercise, and she moves much faster than one would expect of a woman 59

years old and 4 feet 11 inches tall. I had to laugh the third time she began a story with, "I was waiting for people to come down the mountain one time, when ..."

Her pursuit of challenge has taken her to the Himalayas, where she has stood atop Cho Oyu and the southern summit of Chomolungma (Mount Everest). To train for those climbs, she camped below snow-covered ridges in Colorado's mountains and hiked the Sangre de Cristos carrying a pack full of rocks and water bottles.

"People think it's hard to train for Everest," she says

ingenuously, "but it really isn't. All you have to do is be able to carry half your body weight up and down Pikes Peak in a day. In my case, that was only 50 pounds." (Note: The round-trip is 26 miles, with 7,400 feet of vertical gain.)

Raised in Kansas, Prebble was introduced to wilderness by her first husband, who took her on hunting trips. After moving to Colorado with him and their three children, she discovered that trails in the Rocky Mountains often led to mountain lakes. Sitting quietly by a snowmelt lake at sunset, surprised by a herd of elk or bighorn sheep, she reached for her camera instead of her gun.



Prebble climbed Mount Flora with her daughter, Shelly.



“Anymore,” she says, “I’m a vegetarian.”

Her goal-oriented mountain climbing began when she met and married Mark Prebble. He designed and built their home in Silver Cliff, Colo., around a structure of hand-stripped pine trunks. Together the two climb mountains, crew sailboats and kayak rivers here and abroad.

Prebble’s athletic attitude developed in KU’s physical therapy program, especially during the clinical training she received at the School of Allied Health in Kansas City during the early 1970s, when University surgeons were working at the forefront of hip replacement surgery. She focused on the challenges of nonverbal communication with young children and mentally ill adults.

“With young children,” she says, “you have to rely on positioning to cause proper muscle movement and balance. With adults, you sometimes work with people who are too depressed to walk. You have to motivate them. I like teaching people to take care of themselves with better function and less pain.” She became so

proficient that she instructed doctoral students.

Today, Prebble serves on the Technical Rock Rescue Team of Custer County Search and Rescue. She responds to calls for help from lost or benighted climbers in the Sangres, especially on Crestone Peak and Crestone Needle, which are notoriously dangerous because of their crumbly rock and elusive routes. Prebble has sadly recovered bodies and gladly rescued stranded hikers.

She remembers two men who had fallen down a cliff on Crestone Needle and landed on a ledge. Night was falling, and they were stuck between a wall and a drop-off. They could have tried to climb out, but they didn’t.

“The next morning,” Prebble says, “we brought them down with a rope. I asked one what he was thinking about during the night, and he said, ‘You’re going to think I’m crazy, but I kept thinking how beautiful it was.’ That’s the secret right there, I think. He kept a level head, and he lived in the moment.”

Blowing snow didn’t deter the climbers, who were rewarded with sunshine once they reached the summit.

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At Chomolungma’s base camp, before making her bid to reach the highest point on Earth, Prebble sent a message to the principal of the high school where her youngest child, Shelly, was about to graduate. He read the message at the graduation ceremony.

“I was in tears when I heard him read that phrase my mother likes so much,” Shelly told me on the way down Mount Flora. “It’s ‘Follow your bliss.’”

Prebble credits the phrase to the mythologist Joseph Campbell. “It’s never too late to start living your individual adventure,” she says. “Women sometimes need permission to do that. We’re pulled by things we do for other people, but it’s also important to know yourself, to equip yourself with skill and to do what you love.”



**ROCK CHALK  
BALL**

*Special thanks to our loyal volunteers and benefactors*

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Dan, c'85, and Trisha Simons, c'84  
Bill, b'67, g'69, and Marilyn Taylor

# Association



## They went to a garden party

### Jayhawks reminisce with their old friends at Rock Chalk Ball

Jayhawks in their finest flocked April 21 to the Grand Ballroom of Bartle Hall to celebrate the University's growing prominence in Kansas City. The event raised funds to continue the dramatic growth in Alumni Association programs to connect Jayhawks throughout the nation in activities that highlight academic programs and bolster student recruitment.

The 17th edition of the ball, a tradition of the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter, drew more than 600 Jayhawks. As always, the evening began with a silent auction, featuring basketballs signed by the 2011-12 men's team, trips to Colorado, and diamond jewelry. Guests surveyed these and other notable items against the backdrop of the stunning downtown Kansas City skyline through the wall-to-wall windows of the hall, which featured

giant pink and green peonies and lanterns in keeping with the garden party theme.

John Holt, j'81, f'84, news anchor for FOX 4 TV in Kansas City who presided over the 2008 ball in Bartle Hall, returned as emcee for this year's downtown bash. Ever the champion of banter and humor, Holt shared KU memories, including basketball triumphs of 2012 and 2008, and mostly minded his manners, even when referring to a former Big 12 foe.

Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger, PhD'96, shared his thanks for alumni support and invited bidders in the live auction to join him for a summer dinner at his home featuring America's Best Steaks, cooked by the grill master himself, Butch Billips, assoc. The live auction once again summoned the bighearted, as guests bid high not only for dinner with Zenger and his wife, Pam, but also for a

trip to the Oklahoma football game, a weekend in Chicago, and an original painting by Mike Savage, f'80. Although total proceeds from the ball are not yet final, the event set a record, raising more than \$150,000, including \$55,000 for student recruitment efforts.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little highlighted KU's expansions of the Edwards and Medical Center campuses, and with her husband, Shade, invited Jayhawks to join them on the dance floor, where Kokomo, a band well known to alumni since the early 1980s, provided the tunes.

Ball chairs Ray, b'82, g'84, and Sarah Rossi Evans, j'86, led event planning alongside Joy Larson Maxwell, c'03, j'03, the Association's assistant director of Kansas City Programs, and Brooke Briley, d'01, g'04, vice president of the local chapter's

Rock Chalk Ball Committee. As always, members of the Student Alumni Leadership Board, the KU Band and Spirit Squad, and Big Jay and Baby Jay (both in black tie) stoked enthusiasm on another memorable night in Kansas City.







Opposite: Partygoers took to the dance floor to enjoy tunes by the band Kokomo. The silent auction featured birdhouses by notable artists, such as this 'Hawk house by Charlie Podrebarac, '81. This page, from top: Emcee John Holt encouraged shy bidders with his cheers of enthusiasm. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little joined the festivities. A beacon to Jayhawks shone across from the stunning new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Guests delighted in hugs from our mascots, and, of course, plenty of dancing.



# Association

TERRY ROMBECK (2)



## Reunion Weekend

Above: Thomas, j'62, and Virginia Dresher Brown, d'62, reveled in the Rock Chalk Chant at the Class of 1962 50-year pinning dinner April 27. The reunion weekend's activities included tours of campus and Quantrill's Raid sites as well as a brunch hosted by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little at the Outlook. Below: Gold Medal Club members celebrated their 50-plus years as KU graduates with a reunion luncheon April 28.



## Bye, Betty

### Otto retires after 47 years tending records, relationships

Records specialist Betty Otto was a 24-year-old newlywed, just back from a year at her first husband's Army post in Maryland, when she took a \$215-a-month KU Alumni Association job.

On Feb. 2, 1965, she reported to 127 Strong Hall.

"Nothing else offered the same pay and benefits," says Otto, who landed her first job, at Weaver's, when she was 15. Otto retires June 1, ending a 47-year run unequalled in Alumni Association history.

Although the Association was based in Strong Hall in 1965, Otto actually worked across Jayhawk Boulevard, in a solitary room in Flint Hall. She operated Addressograph and Graphotype machines that created address plates and labels for *Kansas Alumni* magazine.

"They called me 'Maggie,'" Otto recalls of her Flint Hall friends, "for the magazine."

Although her career spanned Association offices in Strong Hall, Sudler House, the Kansas Union and, since 1983, the Adams Alumni Center, she claims no sense of ownership. As with her supervision of class banners, which she lovingly tended and displayed for four decades, Otto sees herself only as a caretaker.

"We are here for our alumni," says Otto, herself an Alumni Association Life Member since 1986. "I always consider this as *their* home away from home."

Says Association president Kevin Corbett, c'88, "The average tenure here is something like 12 and a half years, which is important to an organization that is all about building relationships. Continuity of staff who know our alumni constituency is critical. It is long hours and hard work, but it's a gratifying place to work if you love the University of Kansas, and Betty Otto loves the University of Kansas."

The Association also bids a fond farewell to Colleen Winner, receptionist and finance assistant. Winner, who greeted all third-floor visitors, retired May 11 after 15 years of service.

—Chris Lazzarino



Betty Otto

## Life Members

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

Chase P. Altman  
Denise L.S. Baldwin  
Michael J. Banks  
Tracy Ashlock Barton  
Harry G. Baum  
Douglas C. Bittel & Lisa A. Stehno-Bittel  
Kelli M. Blacklock  
Yolanda M. Blaine  
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Jay B. & Michelle B. Brown  
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Leslie E. Rose  
Paul Dean Ross  
Aaron D. Sauder  
Joseph W. Schauf  
David R. Schoech  
Sheri L. Schwab  
Natalie J. Sellers  
Craig R. Sherwood  
Jennifer J. Sherwood  
Stephen T. Sigler  
Rhonda Simpson  
Stephen R. Smith  
Sue Wilkie Snyder  
Kevin P. & Stefanie R. Sparks  
Jason R. Stec  
Kasi M. Stelzer  
Jacob T. & Jennifer Palmore Stolz  
Laura E. Tate  
Kathleen A. Taylor  
P.H. Gordon Thompson  
Tegan J. Thornberry  
Thomas J. & Teresa Keith Walsh  
Bryce D. & Ann Barrows Walter  
Travis P. Walter  
Martha S. Warren  
Mark A. & Emily Huffhines Webster  
Maxwell C. Wescoe  
Lawrence E. Williams  
J. B. Wohlwend  
Sandra Wright  
George W. Wyatt IV  
Kelsey L. Wyrre  
Matthew J. Zinn & Jacquelyn Hecke-Zinn

# Class Notes by Karen Goodell

**35 John Elliott**, b'35, celebrated his 100th birthday April 11. He lives in Wichita, where he retired after a long career with Beech Aircraft Corp. As a KU freshman, he took a class taught by James Naismith.

**46 Richard Madsen**, e'46, wrote *Standing Colors: Memoirs of Navy V-12 Officers*, which recently was published by Outskirts Press. He makes his home in Lenexa.

**52 Donald Clugston**, '52, wrote *Mayday in Joplin*, a book about the 2011 tornado in Joplin, Mo. He lives in Phoenix.

**53 Clyde Lovellette**, '53, will be inducted later this year into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. Clyde played for KU from 1950 to '52 and is the fourth all-time leading scorer in KU history. He and his wife, Judy, live in North Manchester, Ind.

**62 Jon Anderson**, c'62, a retired attorney, makes his home in San Francisco.

**63 Hoite Caston**, c'63, was elected a trustee of Independence Community College. He lives in Independence, where he writes and produces documentaries, commercials and corporate videos with his company, Hoite Caston Productions.

**64 David White**, c'64, is retired in Singapore, where he's active in Democrats Abroad. He's also on the board of KU's Max Kade Center for German-American Studies.

**65 LaRoux Gillespie**, e'65, g'68, was elected president of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He makes his home in Derby.

**Dennis Klein**, d'65, g'67, traveled to South America twice last year. He is a

personal trainer at Express Fitness Center, and he lives in Plano, Texas.

**Sidney Micek**, d'65, g'65, resigned recently as president and CEO of the University of Illinois Foundation, where he spearheaded a \$2.3 billion fundraising campaign. He will continue to work part time on special projects for the foundation. Sidney and **Denise Edgar Micek**, d'65, live in Champaign.

**66 Susan Sheaks Hammons**, c'66, a retired mental health, alcohol and drug counselor, makes her home in Austin, Texas.

**Theora Weddingfeld Noble**, c'66, has a private therapy practice at Woodlands Family Institute. She lives in Conroe, Texas.

**67 Ellie Green Lasater**, d'67, makes her home in Albuquerque, N.M.

**Norma Norman**, d'67, l'89, is a consultant with Norman & Associates in Austin, Texas.

**68 Raymond Baird**, f'68, an artist and painter, makes his home in Las Cruces, N.M., with **Martha Leeson Baird**, d'68, g'74.

**James Clopton**, c'68, g'70, PhD'74, is a professor of psychology at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where **Nancy Mosher Clopton**, c'70, is executive director of the Hope Community of Shalom.

**Karen Frank Palmunen**, c'68, received the 2012 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award from the National Resource Center at the University of South Carolina and Cengage Learning. Karen is an associate professor of French and director of the First-Year Seminar Program at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.

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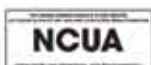
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Anne Miller, M.D.  
Class of 2011,  
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**69 Dianne Eddins Cook**, d'69, works as a marketing consultant at Wells Fargo Advisors. She makes her home in Saint Peters, Mo.

**John Manahan**, d'69, g'82, is a senior consultant for the CGI Group. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Kansas City.

**70 Kathy Goble Duvenci**, f'70, coordinates academic fieldwork for the Missouri Health Professions Consortium in Columbia, Mo.

**71 Carolyn Ramirez Albot**, s'71, is a clinical social worker at Valeo Behavioral Health. She lives in Topeka.

**Thomas Averill**, c'71, g'74, wrote *rode*, a novel that was named Outstanding Western Novel of 2011 by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Tom lives in Topeka, where he's a professor of English at Washburn University.

**Thomas McKenna**, g'71, wrote *Kontum: The Battle to Save South Vietnam*, which

was published recently by the University Press of Kentucky. Thomas lives in Stowe, Vt.

**72 Michael Meeske**, c'72, wrote *Frankenstein's Daemon*, a sequel to Mary Shelley's classic novel, *Frankenstein*. Michael, whose book was published last year by Usher Books, makes his home in Oakland Park, Fla.

**John Nixon**, j'72, was named the New Mexico Sportscaster of the Year. He lives

## PROFILE by Terry Rombeck

### Golfer, pilot leads nonprofit to aid families of soldiers killed in action

Dan Rooney felt a calling, but it wasn't until the flight home from his second tour in Iraq in 2006 that he knew he had to take action.

After landing, as the plane sat at the gate in Grand Rapids, Mich., the pilot made an announcement: The body of Brock Bucklin, an Army corporal killed in Iraq, was on the plane. The pilot requested passengers remain on the plane until the casket had been unloaded and a small ceremony on the tarmac was complete.

"Brock's coffin inched down with the American flag on it, and his brothers, sisters and son were there on the tarmac," Rooney recalls. "It was really difficult to watch, obviously."

Mesmerized by the ceremony, Rooney finally looked up. "I was devastated that more than half the people had already emptied from the plane. It was an epiphany."

Rooney, c'96, g'97, decided to dedicate his life to helping families of soldiers killed and injured in war.

"We're leaving families behind in epic proportions," Rooney says.

Rooney was a member of the KU golf

team and is a part-time PGA professional. He also served as an F-16 pilot in the Air Force and Oklahoma Air National Guard. He combined his two loves—golf and service to country—in his volunteer venture.

That summer, he organized a golf tournament in Michigan to raise money for scholarships for dependents of soldiers who have died while serving. A year later, he created the Folds of Honor Foundation, which has the same goal.

Since then, the foundation has raised \$13 million for scholarships provided to more than 2,600 spouses and children of those killed in war.

"We, unfortunately, can't fly fast enough to meet all the needs out there," Rooney says.

The centerpiece fundraiser is Patriot Golf Day, held each Labor Day weekend, when golfers at courses across the country donate \$1 or more to their greens fees, with proceeds going to Folds of Honor.

The foundation also has opened the Patriot Golf Club in Owasso, Okla., near Rooney's home in Broken Arrow, to raise money for scholarships. The course, which opened in 2010, is ranked 43rd on Golfweek magazine's list of best modern golf courses.

Rooney wrote a book, *A Patriot's Calling: Living Life Between Fear and Faith*,



COURTESY DAN ROONEY

Dan Rooney, an F-16 pilot and PGA golfer, is founder and president of the Folds of Honor Foundation. "I knew this was what I was supposed to do with my life," he says.

.....  
which was released in April. The book is a combination of stories from people he has met through his three tours in Iraq and his own philosophy on life. Rooney retired from the duty in 2010 but remains on inactive ready reserve.

"That United Airlines flight interrupted my normal, everyday life so I could tell the stories of these families and the sacrifices they've made," Rooney says. "I want to be able to educate their sons and daughters." 🐦

## Class Notes

in Las Cruces and is known as the Voice of the New Mexico State University Aggies.

**74 Stephen Hadley**, d'74, serves as a U.S. Army senior safety analyst. He and **Catherine McLees Hadley**, '80, live in Whispering Pines, N.C.

**David Ross**, m'74, practices medicine at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka and is vice president and trust officer of Trust Company of Kansas.

**76 Gary George**, EdD'76, retired last year from the Olathe School District, where he was an assistant superintendent. He and his wife, Marilyn, '80, live in Olathe.

**Kevan Vick**, e'76, has retired as executive vice president and fertilizer general manager for CVR Partners and CVR Energy. He and **Gail Ellena Vick**, p'77, live in Lawrence.

**77 Lyle Boll**, j'77, is managing director of Horwath HTL. He and **Mary Hughes Boll**, h'77, make their home in Las Vegas, where she is a medical technician at Quest Diagnostics.

**Chuck Fischer**, f'77, created an iPhone and iPad app, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, which was chosen as a finalist for the Best Fiction Book App Publishing Innovation Award. He owns Chuck Fischer Studio in New York City.

**Robert Nugent**, c'77, l'80, was honored for his contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency. He's chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas. He and his wife, Linda, live in Wichita.

**79 Richard Keyser**, e'79, is senior vice president of operations at Boardwalk Pipeline Partners in Houston.

**Mark Tompkins**, e'79, manages global production for ConocoPhillips in Houston.

**81 Gerald "Jay" Donohue**, b'81, is executive director of the International Association of Administrative Professionals in Kansas City.

**Peter Palij**, e'81, teaches math for the

Mount Vernon City School District. He and **Linda Leibengood Palij**, e'80, g'85, live in Ardsley, N.Y.

**Jonelle Birney Sullivan**, '81, is senior vice president and general manager at Environics Communications. She lives in San Francisco.

**82 Mary Ann Neath Kancel**, c'82, l'84, practices law in Kansas City. She and her husband, **Randall**, j'76, live in Leawood.

**83 David Hillis**, g'83, g'86, PhD'86, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is the Alfred W. Roark Centennial Professor at the University of Texas. He lives in Austin.

**Scott Seyfarth**, b'83, owns Hipskind Seyfarth Risk Solutions in Chicago.

**Jim Sterbenz**, p'83, p'98, works as a pharmacist for the Veterans Administration Eastern Kansas Health Care System at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka. He lives in Hoyt.

**84 Julia Dalfiume**, b'84, is assistant vice president of business for the State Street Corporation in Kansas City. She lives in Lenexa.

**Norazowa Bte Ibrahim**, c'84, is deputy dean of Science UPM in Selangor, Malaysia.

**85 Retired Brig. Gen. Roosevelt Barfield**, c'85, makes his home in Manassas, Va. He served in the Army National Guard as deputy director of operations and logistics for the U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

**Stephanie Dart-Gotsman**, d'85, is chief operating officer for Sterling Dart Productions in Moorpark, Calif.

**Stephen Hoover**, c'85, j'85, owns Wealth Partners Corporation and Retirement Pilot, a retirement-planning firm. He and his wife, Sherri, make their home in Leawood.

**86 Kristy Lantz Astry**, j'86, works as a technical writer for Trimble Navigation in Broomfield, Colo. She and her husband, Martin, live in Erie.

**Rosemarie Truglio Brown**, g'86, PhD'90, recently became senior vice president of education and research for Sesame Workshop in New York City.

**Robert Karwath Jr.**, j'86, is president and CEO of North Coast Communications. He and **Deborah Conrad Karwath**, j'86, live in Duluth, Minn.

**Connie Patton**, c'86, works as an integration engineer at CareFusion. She lives in Carlsbad, Calif.

**Stephanie Shehi-Valdez**, b'86, is a senior tax accountant with Levitzacks in San Diego.

**87 Darya Hirschfeld Folsom**, j'87, anchors the morning news at KRON 4 TV in San Francisco. She lives in Novato.

**Michael Reid**, '87, directs public affairs for the KU Memorial Unions. He makes his home in Lawrence.

**Kevin Westhues**, j'87, produces the news at WOW-TV in Omaha, Neb.

**88 Ian Chai**, c'88, g'92, is a principal lecturer at Multimedia University in Selangor, Malaysia.

**Andrew Hutton**, c'88, b'88, recently became a partner at O'Melveny & Myers in Singapore, where he lives.

**89 Mark Heinrich**, c'89, g'89, commands the Fleet and International Supply Centers in San Diego, where he serves as a U.S. Navy rear admiral.

**John Wiedeman**, c'89, is a radio broadcaster for the Chicago Blackhawks. He lives in Wheaton, Ill.

**Deborah Hoeschele Wilkerson**, c'89, l'93, recently became CEO of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. She and her husband, **Kevin**, c'89, live in Leawood.

**90 Jana Gregory Dawson**, j'90, is senior vice president of human resources at CornerBank in Lawrence, where her husband, **Douglas**, b'92, is community bank president.

**Cesar Vallejo**, '90, is vice president of strategic alliances at Vertical Solutions Inc. in Edmond, Okla.



**91 Ben Larry**, g'91, is senior human business partner with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. He lives in Cottage Grove.

**Michael Shonrock**, PhD'91, is president of Emporia State University.

**Scott Ward**, d'91, g'94, PhD'96, is associate athletics director at KU. He and **Robin Harnden Ward**, g'03, make their home in Lawrence.

**92 Bradford Fitts**, c'92, is a financial adviser at Fitts Financial Strategies in Wichita, where he and **Shannon Rogers Fitts**, c'92, make their home.

**Christine Kirkwood Hamel**, c'92, lives in Lenexa, where she's vice president of marketing, communications and business development at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

**Christopher Norment**, PhD'92, wrote *In the Memory of the Map*, which was published by the University of Iowa Press. He's a professor at State University of New York in Brockport.

**Brent Trouslot**, j'92, works as a senior

program manager for Architectural Graphics in Virginia Beach, Va.

**MARRIED**

**Michael Brandt**, c'92, and **Louise Flory**, c'95, Jan. 20 in New York City, where they live.

**94 Sarah Frazier**, j'94, is senior vice president and market manager at CBS Radio Houston in Houston.

**Nick Hinton**, b'94, owns 5280 Computers in Englewood, Colo.

**Steven Trout**, PhD'94, chairs the English department at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

**John Wilcox**, l'94, is a managing director and shareholder with Dysart Taylor Cotter McMonigle & Monterno in Kansas City.

**Kimberly Williams**, f'94, directs strategic partnerships at M Financial Group in Portland, Ore.

**BORN TO:**

**David Stearns**, c'94, and Jennifer, son, Jacob Robert, Dec. 16 in Olathe. David is a

project specialist at Nokia Location and Commerce in Mission.

**95 Sonia Peacher Gensler**, g'95, wrote *The Revenant*, a young-adult novel that was published last year by Knopf Books. She lives in Norman, Okla.

**Wendy Kirkpatrick Shrief**, c'95, a mechanical engineer, makes her home in Boise, Idaho.

**Darin Weers**, e'95, is an engineering project lead with Airbus. He lives in Wichita.

**96 Alayna Miller Hoenig**, c'96, works as a geologist at Netherland Sewell & Associates in Dallas. She and her husband, John, live in Plano.

**97 Jason Engkjer**, b'97, is a partner in Kalina, Wills, Gisvold & Clark in Minneapolis, Minn.

**BORN TO:**

**Joshua Meyer**, b'97, and Jill, son, Berkeley Adam, July 27 in Hoover, Ala.,



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

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**Third Generations and beyond**

Mail in your son or daughter's resumé, along with information detailing high-school activities. Please provide information about your KU ancestors. Mail a photograph of the student and college-era photos of parents who attended KU. Photos of grandparents should be sent for fifth-generation students only. We will return all photos after the feature is published online in September 2012.



**Deadline for all materials is July 16.**

Mail materials to Jayhawk Generations, KU Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169.

**Questions?**

Contact Lydia Benda at 800-584-2957 or [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org).



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where he joins a brother, Jack, 3. Joshua is chief operating officer at Northwestern Mutual of Alabama.

**98** **Clint Rogers**, b'98, is general manager of the valve division of Casco in Ellsworth.

#### MARRIED

**Michael Levitz**, d'98, g'04, to Meagon Marshall, Nov. 25 in Wailea, Hawaii. They live in Lawrence.

#### BORN TO:

**Lauren Elpern Love**, b'98, and Charles, daughter, Ellen Kathryn, Dec. 14 in Chicago, where she joins a brother, Charlie, who's 3.

**99** **Paul Brewer**, n'99, is an anesthetist at Brewer Anesthesia. He lives in Champaign, Ill.

**Gerry Doyle**, j'99, c'99, edits the International Herald Tribune in Hong Kong.

**Jeff Fay**, b'99, manages network services for Nuance Communications. He and his wife, Maureen, live in Sunnyvale, Calif.

**Rachel Kesselman**, j'99, is a marketing specialist adviser for FedEx in Memphis.

**Samuel Kreider**, g'99, PhD'05, wrote *The Philosophy of Joss Whedon*, which was published recently by the University Press of Kentucky. He lives in Appleton, Wis.

**00** **Jennifer Matlock Ingraham**, g'00, was named senior director for

## PROFILE by Lydia Benda

### Brain bleed survivor recalls trauma in memoir

At age 22, Louise Krug suffered the unthinkable. A marble-sized cavernous angioma, or abnormal blood vessel, in her brain bled, leaving her unable to walk, pick up objects or even chew food. Slowly, through surgeries and grueling rehabilitation, she regained her independence.

Krug, j'05, g'09, PhD'12, documents her story—the small victories and the substantial ones—in her memoir, *Louise: Amended*, released in April by Black Balloon Publishing.

"I'd never written creatively until after I'd gotten sick," says Krug, who tried to keep journals after her surgeries in 2005 but found it too tiring and too depressing.

Her father, Clay Stauffer, '79, encouraged her to take a creative writing class. "I thought, maybe this will be a way to work through some of the things she needed to work through," he says.

She went to the class and wrote about "whatever"—but it helped. "It was not academic at all, totally hippie, but I found that it really made me feel better," Krug says.

At a turning point in her recovery, Krug signed a lease and moved back to Lawrence to pursue a KU master's degree in English. *Louise: Amended* is a "many times

edited, many times revised" version of her master's thesis.

The story is told from rotating points of view, including her parents', which she says was a struggle. "I tried to channel their two main feelings: They wanted to help me, but they just felt helpless. Those were the two driving forces between my family's awkward-but-heartfelt actions."

Her father says he's just happy his character didn't do anything really stupid. "Everybody has foibles, but I think she's hardest on herself," Stauffer says. "She has this openness and ambivalence, and that gives her writing a lot of momentum. It's like a piece of music; you want to see how this is going to unfold."

Although Krug hopes *Louise: Amended* can encourage readers, she shies away from labeling it inspirational. "I've read so many illness memoirs that were like, 'I'm proud of this [bad] thing that happened to me; it made me a better person so I don't regret the past.' ... If I could go back I would rather this not have happened, let's just be honest," she says. "But that doesn't mean I'm not thankful for the good things that came from it."



COURTESY LOUISE KRUG

Louise Krug's raw voice and startling frankness about her trauma is surprisingly relatable. "The insecurities, the self-esteem, the looks, the self-image stuff—everybody has times when they feel like that," Krug says. "They don't even have a paralyzed face and they identify with it."

Krug still has partial paralysis in her right foot, trouble using her right hand, and because she can't blink or close her right eye, her eyelid is sewn partially shut. She has double vision. But she is happy. She is a PhD candidate in English and has a 9-month-old daughter, Olive, with her husband, Nick, j'01.

If there is a "moral" to *Louise: Amended*, Krug hopes readers learn that it's OK to go through adversity and not emerge a saint: "You can feel good and bad at the same time, happy and sad at the same time and that's totally fine. And your life can still be good." —

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advancement at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

**Amanda Shaw Newsome**, j'00, and her husband, Britt, live in Denver with their children, Kathleen, 4, and Oscar, 1.

#### BORN TO:

**Aaron Wilmes**, c'00, and Kiersten, son, Zachary Callan, Nov. 7 in Lawrence, where he joins two brothers, Reece, 2, and Braden, 4. Aaron is an optometrist at the Lawrence Optometric Clinic.

**01 Shannon Clements**, g'01, is a senior technical project manager at Cerner in Kansas City. She and her husband, Skye, live in Grain Valley, Mo.

**Jessica Foster**, m'01, is Title V director for the Ohio Department of Health. She lives in Gahanna.

**Matthew Gardner**, j'01, directs marketing communications for the St. Louis Blues. His home is in Ballwin, Mo.

**Andrew Rieke**, b'01, works as an agent for Euler Hermes. He and **Alison Engelman Rieke**, j'01, live in Greenwood Village, Colo., with their daughter, Reese, who's 1.

**Matt Tait**, j'01, who covers KU football for the Lawrence Journal-World, was honored among the top 10 in the beat writing category of the Associated Press Sports Editors' annual awards.

**02 Scott Fieser**, d'02, directs the Wichita clinic at the Athletic and Rehabilitation Center, which opened earlier this year.

**Maria Fogliasso**, j'02, l'06, is director of social media at Intouch Solutions in Overland Park.

**Kathryn Grindberg**, g'02, is an assistant to the bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod in Burlingame, Calif. She lives in San Francisco.

**Thomas Moreland**, d'02, g'04, and his wife, Katrina, celebrated their first anniversary March 5. They live in Urbandale, Iowa, and Tom is CEO of Saint Jude HealthCare in Clive.

**Erica Brown Terry**, c'02, directs development for the St. Luke's Hospital Foundation. She and her husband, Joel, live in Prairie Village.



#### MARRIED

**Amy Pauls**, c'02, to Nathan Wesselowski, Dec. 27 in Inman. They live in Chicago, where Amy teaches yoga.

#### BORN TO:

**Chandler**, b'02, and **Reina Rodriguez Poore**, c'05, daughter, Elliot Ann, Dec. 29 in Prairie Village. Chandler works for UnitedHealthcare in Overland Park, and Reina directs the summer program at Barstow School.

**Janice Keller Williams**, j'02, and Bryan, daughter, Hallie Corinne, Nov. 29 in Shawnee, where they live. Janice is vice president of alumni relations at Pennington and Company in Lawrence.

#### 03 MARRIED

**Travis Gunter**, a'03, and **Jocelyn Babcock**, b'05, Sept. 10 in Carmel Valley, Calif. He is an architect with Slaggie Architects in Kansas City, and she's assistant director of accounting at Children's Mercy Hospital. They live in Shawnee.

#### BORN TO:

**Timothy**, p'03, and **Deborah Finger Bredehoff**, e'04, son, Samuel Ryan, Aug. 13 in Lawrence, where Timothy is a staff pharmacist at Medical Arts Pharmacy. Deborah is an environmental scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**04 Lacy Johnson**, g'04, wrote *Trespasses*, a memoir published by the University of Iowa Press. She makes her home in Houston.

**Keith Locascio**, c'04, is assistant controller at Hyatt Regency Santa Clara in Santa Clara, Calif.

**Sue Tan**, j'04, directs communications at Next Media. She lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Christina Warinner**, c'04, was named a 2012 TED Fellow. She is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Centre for Evolu-

tionary Medicine at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, where she uses genomics to investigate archeological human remains.

#### MARRIED

**Jeff Brodie**, '04, and **Courtney Rhudy**, m'05, Oct. 15 in Kansas City, where he works for Clarkson Construction and she practices internal medicine at the KU Medical Center. They live in Mission.

**Eric Garrett**, c'04, to Ally Li, Nov. 12 in Lawrence. He's president of Garrett's Worldwide Enterprises, where Ally also works. They live in Eudora.

**Charles Hoffmann**, c'04, and **Ginger Ireland**, n'11, Nov. 11 in Liberty, Mo. He's lead e-media developer at Ascend Integrated Media, and she's a nurse at Olathe Medical Center. They live in Kansas City.

**Paul Kramer**, j'04, g'09, to Shayla Rhoads, Oct. 1 in Kansas City. He works for the City of Leavenworth, where they live, and she works at Carmel Hills Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Independence.

#### BORN TO:

**Clay**, c'04, l'09, and **Katy Munch Britton**, c'04, j'04, son, Grant Daniel, Jan. 17 in Lawrence, where Katy is assistant district attorney for Douglas County. Clay is an associate with Lathrop & Gage in Kansas City.

**Jacob**, d'04, g'08, and **Jessica Rodriguez Larsen**, c'04, d'05, g'08, daughter, Caroline Rodriguez, Jan. 16 in Lawrence, where she joins a brother, Jack, 3. Jacob and Jessica both work for USD 497, where he's a special-education resource teacher and she's an English-as-a-second-language resource teacher.

**05 Edward Ham**, c'05, manages sales for Convergence Technologies in Willowbrook, Ill. He lives in Chicago.

#### MARRIED

**Charles VanBlarcum**, c'05, and **Christine Walters**, c'07, Oct. 15 in Lawrence. He's a student teacher at Blue Valley North High School, and she works for the Douglas County District Attorney's Office.

## Class Notes

**06 Cameron Cooke**, c'06, writes comic books for Bluewater Productions. His home is in Kansas City. He's also a trade processor at State Street Bank.

**Ryan Dieckgrafe**, d'06, teaches physical education and coaches at Derby High School. He lives in Derby.

**Monte Engelkemier**, g'06, was promoted to project principal at Stanley Consultants in Muscatine, Iowa.

**Theresa Montano**, j'06, owns Pepperhead in Cortez, Colo.

**Lindsey Smith**, j'06, is an associate at Foulston Siefkin in Wichita.

### MARRIED

**Matthew Johnson**, b'06, g'07, to Elizabeth Wanless, July 2 in Colorado Springs. He works for BGI-Cascade Investments in Seattle, and she's CEO of SwimZip Swimwear. They live in Kirkland, Wash.

**Holly Rauch**, c'06, f'06, and **Mark Oertel**, c'05, m'10, Dec. 3 in Danforth Chapel. They live in Lawrence, where

Holly is a physical therapist at Neu Physical Therapy. Mark is a resident physician at KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

**07 Carson Ballard**, f'07, works as a designer and estimator at Kitchen's Inc. in Dodge City.

**Abby Halper**, c'07, directs regional special events at Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta. She lives in Atlanta.

**Todd Kitchens**, b'07, g'08, is controller of SimplyFun in Bellevue, Wash.

**David**, b'07, and **Jessica Chase Lemmon**, d'09, celebrated their first anniversary April 24. They live in Leawood. He's a financial analyst at State Street Corp., and she works at College Park Family Care Center.

**Matthew Mann**, b'07, is a CPA and senior internal auditor at LSB Industries in Oklahoma City. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Moore, Okla.

**Kevin Poppe**, c'07, does application consulting for iModules Software.

He lives in Overland Park.

### MARRIED

**Caleb Leiker**, c'07, and **Laura Stephens**, c'08, Jan. 21 in Danforth Chapel. They live in New York City, where he's a human-resources generalist for TheLadders.com, and she's the program director for SoHo Parenting.

**Jacob Miller**, b'07, to Jill Parrish, Oct. 15 in Rocheport, Mo. He's an auditor for the State of Kansas in Kansas City, and she manages Tween Brands in Overland Park. They live in De Soto.

### BORN TO:

**Megan Brigham Neville**, p'07, and Steven, daughter, Violet Olivia, Jan. 11 in Shawnee, where she joins a brother, Grady, who's 3.

**Tyler**, '07, and **Maria Benitez Pearce**, p'07, son, Aiden Arthur, Oct. 22 in Olathe, where Tyler is an aerial mapping pilot for Air Associates of Kansas.

**Michael**, '07, and **Sarah Callan Stanclift**,

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b'08, g'09, son, Pearson Daniel, Jan. 19 in Shawnee. Michael is a systems engineer with Alexander Open Systems, and Sarah is an accountant with KPMG.

**08 Ozy Bravo**, e'08, is a structural engineer at Constructive Engineering Design. He lives in Topeka.

**Katie Jahnke Dale**, c'08, is a pro bono fellow at DLA Piper in Chicago.

**Milagros Figueroa-Tetuan**, g'08, a network engineer for Sprint, makes her home in Shawnee.

**Kelly Harris**, d'08 g'10, works as executive assistant to the associate director of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio.

**Jessica Hersh**, d'08, is a special-education teacher at Briarwood Elementary School in Olathe. She and her husband, Thomas, live in Leawood.

**Lauren Uhlmansiek Mishler**, '08, and her husband, **Keaton**, c'09, will celebrate their first anniversary June 25. They live in Kansas City.

**Krystin Harris Turner**, b'08, works as a

vacation planner for Disney in St. Joseph, Mo., where she lives.

**Amelia Yowell**, c'08, is an associate with Foulston Siefkin in Wichita.

#### MARRIED

**Eric Posner**, g'08, to Tracy Glink, Aug. 5 in Chicago. They live in College Park, Md., and Eric is director of bands at Atholton High School in Columbia.

#### BORN TO:

**Matthew**, j'08, and **Sarah Strathman**

## PROFILE by Steven Hill

### Allen 'honored' to guide Lawrence library future

Brad Allen wasn't looking for a job when the position of director of the Lawrence Public Library came open last fall. After less than two years as a branch manager at the public library in Everett, Wash., Allen, c'97, says he was still getting settled and "loving life" on the West Coast, near his wife's family. "Friends told me about this job, and it was like, 'Whoa!' It's a once-in-a-lifetime career opportunity that's just too magical not to go for."

He started May 1, as the library began finalizing plans for a \$19 million renovation and expansion that will add badly needed technology upgrades and 20,000 square feet of space. Voters approved an \$18 million bond issue in 2010, and the Lawrence Public Library Foundation raised \$1 million for the project.

"We're in the design and development phase and haven't begun construction, so it's the ideal time for a new director to come in," says Deborah Doyle Thompson, g'87, chair of the Lawrence Public Library board of directors, which chose Allen from more than 30 candidates. "We think he'll be a wonderful fit."

Allen agrees that the timing couldn't be better. "To be so lucky as to have a hand in

helping the staff and the community make something we can all be proud of," he says, "how could I be any happier with my life?"

Allen grew up in Topeka and worked at the public library there as a teenager. He came to KU as a National Merit finalist and Summerfield Scholar, changing his major from history to American studies and psychology after discovering his interests lay in "people's lives and stories" rather than in the grand sweep of politics.

He embraced the Lawrence music scene, taking time off after graduation to tour with a rock band. When those plans fell through, he built tires at Goodyear, where his father worked, to save money for graduate study in library and information science, which he completed at the University of Illinois. Jobs at public libraries in Los Angeles, Topeka (this time as a supervisor) and Everett followed.

A lover of books, music and film, Allen says libraries played a big role in his life. "I was always the kind of kid who loved to go into the library and check out any kind of weird book I could. To me, it's about



"My wife said one night, 'It just dawned on me that you're director of the Lawrence Public Library. That's crazy,'" Brad Allen says. "I said, 'It is. What an honor, right?' It's an honor."

serendipity, about finding something you never even knew you wanted," he says. "I think that's what a library can do; it can make your life fuller."

He'll work to promote those qualities in Lawrence's new library, and he's interested in using technology such as audio and video recording equipment to boost opportunities for patrons to create their own content. Details will depend on what the community wants, he stresses, but one thing he's sure of: The community wants.

"I have a lot of love for Lawrence, and I feel like it's a city that cares about its library and wants something great out of its library. That's why I'm here."

## Class Notes

**Lindberg**, c'09, son, David James, June 17 in Montrose, Colo.

**09 Jane Morrissey**, c'09, makes her home in Kansas City.

**Andrew Wank**, b'09, works as a wealth manager for Pegasus Capital Management in Overland Park.

### MARRIED

**Paul Schreffler**, c'09, to Kaylan Lehotsky, Oct. 9. They both work for the U.S. Secret Service, where he's a uniformed division officer and she's a Web-content manager. They live in Rockville, Md.

**10 Adam Booth**, d'10, is a season-ticket services account executive for the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

**Lindsey Elmore**, b'10, g'11, works as a foreign tax accountant for Koch Supply and Trading in Wichita.

**Mark Samsel**, f'10, practices law with Lathrop & Gage in Overland Park.

**Tony Venturella**, g'10, directs communications for the Kansas Senate in Topeka. He lives in Olathe.

### MARRIED

**Rachel Allen**, d'10, to Jeffrey Stone, Nov. 5 in Hutchinson. They live in Kansas City, where Rachel teaches second grade.

**Benjamin Kalinkowitz**, g'10, to Rachel Feinmark, Sept. 18, in Luray, Va. They live in Chicago.

**Bethany Marstall**, c'10, to Michael Langley, July 3 in Topeka. They live in Enid, Okla., where he is stationed at Vance Air Force Base.

**Matthew Stiles**, d'10, and **Emily Thomas**, d'10, July 9 in Lawrence. He's an assistant football and basketball coach at Lawrence High School, and she teaches second grade in De Soto. They live in Lenexa.

### BORN TO:

**Dana Sparks Cummins**, p'10, and Tyler, daughter, Claire Jamison, Jan. 1 in Lawrence. Dana is a pharmacist at Dillons Pharmacy in Topeka.

**11 Latoni Baker**, c'11, is a mutual fund corporate security representative

for Boston Financial Data Services. She lives in Lawrence.

**Michael Brennon**, g'11, lives in Wichita, where he's a design engineer at Cessna Aircraft.

**Daisy Duncan**, c'11, works as a psycho-social rehabilitation specialist at the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence.

**Peggy Flood**, b'11, works as an accountant for Riggs & Associates. She lives in Weir.

**Andrew Grim**, b'11, works as a casualty broker at Partners Specialty Group in Kansas City. He lives in Lawrence.

**Mark Harbaugh**, n'11, is a nurse at Russell Regional Hospital. He lives in Hays.

**Bret Imgrund**, d'11, is a sales associate at Centriq Training in Leawood. He and **Caitlin McCormick Imgrund**, c'11, live in Overland Park.

**John McCormick**, d'11, works as a sales support representative at Cambium Learning Group-Voyager in Longmont, Colo. He lives in Louisville.

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**Sara Swezy**, j'11, works as a communications intern for Democratic GAIN in Washington, D.C.

**Bolor Urjinee**, g'11, is an AP specialist at ESCREEN. Her home is in Overland Park.

**Daniel Usem**, c'11, works as an account executive at Groupon in Chicago.

**Sudha Tiruchengodu Yegyanarayan**, g'11, is a network system administrator at Ericsson in Lenexa.

#### MARRIED

**Jason McCandless**, b'11, g'11, to Tiffany Peterson, July 23 in Lawrence. He works in

the auditing department at BKD in Kansas City, and she teaches sixth-grade math at Eudora Middle School. They live in Shawnee.

**Matthew Thames**, g'11, and **Holly Maygers**, '11, Sept. 4 in Lawrence. He's an architect at GFF Architects in Dallas, where they live, and she's a nurse at Methodist Charlton Medical Center.

**12 Caroline Dowey**, c'12, works as a sales associate at MD Enterprises in Lenexa. She lives in Overland Park.

**Michael Fee**, j'12, is an assistant

strategist at OMD. His home is in Chicago.

**Emily Folks**, j'12, c'12, coordinates sales for Andrews McMeel Publishing in Kansas City.

#### ASSOCIATES

**Del Brinkman**, assoc., was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. He was dean of journalism and vice chancellor for academic affairs at KU and director of journalism programs at the Knight Foundation in Miami. Del and his wife, Carolyn, live in Bloomington, Ind.

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Savage colors his world with flair and passion

Now long established as one of Kansas City's iconic painters, Mike Savage says it was a KU photography class that provided his pivotal insight. As Professor Pok-Chi Lau examined a selection of Savage's images, he first praised—"I really like what you're doing"—then added the comment that has since made all the difference: "But get rid of your ego."

"That was a turning point in my life," Savage says in his airy, book-lined studio above the garage behind his Westwood home. "He thought I wasn't delving in far enough. I was trying to make it look good instead of doing what was coming out of me. You're good at what you do; believe in that. Go find out. Make mistakes."

Savage, f'80, has been ridding himself of artistic ego ever since. He describes himself as a contemporary Impressionist, but that's as far as he'll go in attaching himself to the slightest scent of a high-minded, difficult artist. ("ARTSY-FARTSY" is a 20-point word in the novelty Scrabble blocks arranged near his desk.)

Savage's work is accessible both literally and figuratively. His colorful acrylic-on-canvas paintings are prized by collectors and displayed across Kansas City, includ-

ing in his own gallery, Sav-Art, and yet he donates original works for numerous causes (his KU images have become a Rock Chalk Ball tradition) and he accepts commission work, even if the commission ends up being zero and the subjects are beloved pets or the four children of a woman whom a buddy hoped to marry.

"I'm a happy-go-lucky guy about the art," he says. "I don't have any angst about it. I like the beauty of painting."

Savage embraces technology—he has 58,000 songs in iTunes and music is his constant companion while working—and, after photographing his paintings, he generates prints from a high-end digital printer; when galleries call in their orders, he not only makes the prints, but he'll often deliver them, too.

"It's kind of magic stuff," Dave Seal, owner of Framewoods Gallery in downtown Lawrence, says of Savage's KU prints, "and it's affordable. Yes, he's contemporary and Impressionistic, but he makes it a little more modern, and local."

Savage has struggled for three years with chronic pain, destroyed knee and shoulder




STEVE PUPPE

Mike Savage says he's a "blue-collar guy" who finds joy in books, music and friends. "Don't get too serious," he advised his career-minded son. "Just find your groove and go with it."

ligaments, three collapsed vertebrae and loss of hearing in his right ear since he was felled by a blood infection later diagnosed as a form of rheumatic fever. He's planning a brief break to recharge and reorganize.

"I used to jam. I'm a workhorse," he says. "Now, by mid-afternoon I'm kind of wiped out, so I have to plan. I finally said I've got to stop. I'm not deathly ill or anything, but I can't produce that much for everybody else to keep doing what I want to do.

"It's been a readjustment in life, but luckily I'm in a point in my career where I can kind of do that." 

# In Memory

**20 Wesley Brown, '29**, 104, Jan. 23 in Wichita, where he served as a federal district judge for nearly 50 years. He continued to hear a full docket until moving to part time last year. He had received the 1998 Kansas Bar Association's Philip H. Lewis Medal of Distinction, the 2000 Wichita Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2009 Kansas Bar Foundation's Robert K. Weary Award. He is survived by a daughter, a son, four granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren.

**30 Pauline Cox Brown-Pfuetze, c'35**, 99, Dec. 15 in Sabetha. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Clarence Brumback, c'35, m'43**, 97, Jan. 13 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., where was the county's first public-health physician. He worked for the Palm Beach County Health Department and helped pass the national Migrant Health Act of 1962. In 1999, the Palm Beach Post named him one of the 20th century's 100 most important people in Palm Beach County. Two sons, a grandson and a great-grandson survive.

**Frances Nordlund Holmgren, c'37**, 94, Sept. 1 in McLean, Va. She lived in Omaha, Neb., for many years and is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Wallace Kraft Sr., b'39**, 96, Jan. 28 in Lawrence, where he was retired from a career with William Volker and Company in Kansas City. He is survived by six sons, five of whom are Phillip, c'72, John, p'76, David, f'85, James, '68, and Jeffrey, '86; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Roberta Works Lesh, '33**, 100, Jan. 16 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker and a former teacher. Several nieces and nephews survive.

**Charles Maxwell Jr., '34**, 96, March 6 in Overland Park. For many years, he lived in Columbus, where he founded Maxwell Bridge Company. He is survived by his

wife, Jane Hancock Maxwell, assoc.; two sons, John, c'63, and Charles, e'63; two daughters, Jan Maxwell Houser, j'71, and Ellen Maxwell Wallerstedt, '79; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Clifford Nesselrode Jr., '39**, 94, Nov. 1 in Bartlesville, Okla. He lived for many years in Kansas City, where he was president of Home State and Wyandotte banks and was active in civic affairs. He is survived by his wife, Betty, assoc.; a son; a daughter, Camilla Nesselrode Whitright, d'70; two stepsons; a stepdaughter; and 11 grandchildren.

**Laurence Smith, c'35, l'37**, 97, Jan. 18 in Kansas City, where he was a retired judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court. He is survived by his wife, Jan, two daughters, a stepdaughter, two stepsons, eight grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Caryl Anderson Toedter, c'36**, 98, Jan. 29 in Marysville, where she was a retired teacher. A sister survives.

**Omer Voss, l'39**, 95, Feb. 16 in Wilmette, Ill., where he was retired vice chairman of International Harvester Company/Navistar. A son and a daughter survive.

**40 Curtis Alloway, b'42**, 91, Jan. 19 in Kansas City, where he was a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. He is survived by a daughter, Patricia Alloway Clement, c'68; two sons, Lee, c'70, and Gordon, j'72, g'10; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**James Bernard, c'41, l'48**, 91, Feb. 8 in Kansas City, where he practiced law with Slagle, Bernard and Gorman until retiring in 2010. He is survived by a son, James Jr., c'73; a daughter, Susan Bernard Lawrence, d'76; and five grandchildren.

**Ruby Jasper Bibb, '49**, 91, Dec. 8 in Topeka, where she had been active in community affairs. Her son, David, c'77, g'83, survives.

**Elizabeth "Betty" Pile Cushing, b'45**, 88, Feb. 1 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker. She was active in civic and church affairs. Surviving are a daughter,

Elizabeth Cushing Conner, d'68, g'72; a son, William, assoc.; and four grandsons.

**Calvin Dresser, e'47**, 86, Feb. 7 in Chesterfield, Mo., where he was retired from a career at the Naval Air Warfare Development Center in Warminster, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Cooper Dresser, c'47; three sons; a sister, Mary Dresser Burchill, c'62; and three grandchildren.

**Catherine Osgood Gardner, j'46**, 92, Jan. 25 in Lawrence, where she was a retired librarian. She is survived by a son and two daughters, Nancy Perkins Fallon, '82, and Pamela Perkins Hughes, '84.

**Harriet Darby Gibson, '40**, 93, Feb. 25 in Kansas City, where she was active in the Junior League and the International Junior League. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Harry, e'65, g'66, and Paul, assoc.; two daughters, one of whom is Cathy Gibson Stiglic, d'69; two sisters, Edith Darby Evans, d'47, and Joan Darby Edwards, '42; 10 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Elsie Lowell Haight, d'40**, 92, Oct. 10 in Kansas City, where she enjoyed bridge and needlepoint. She is survived by a daughter, Jean Haight Anderson, d'67; a son, John Jr., c'69, m'73; two sisters, Jean Lowell Peterson, c'41, and Betty Lowell Anderson, d'67; and two grandchildren.

**Teresa Comley Hamilton, '44**, 90, Dec. 16 in Overland Park., where she was a hospital volunteer. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, c'41; two sons, William, j'67, and Ken, '66; a sister, Lucille Hamilton Dotson, '44; a granddaughter; and a great-grandson.

**Marjorie Easter Ramsey, '47**, 87, Jan. 25 in Hutchinson, where she moved in 2007 after living in Garden City for more than 50 years. She is survived by her husband, Leon, p'49; four daughters, three of whom are Gwendolyn Ramsey Arnett, c'76, m'79, Juli Ramsey Burnett, b'79, g'81, and Sheryll Ramsey Clarke, d'82; a brother, George Easter, b'57; two sisters, Martha Easter Longhofer, c'48, and Frieda Easter Worrall, d'56; and two grandchildren.

**Paul Resler, c'48**, 89, Dec. 20 in Chesterfield, Mo. He started Resler

Optometry in Florissant and helped found the optometry school at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is survived by his wife, Marion, a daughter, a son, a sister and four grandchildren.

**Etta Kathryn "Kitty" McGauhey Riddle, f'42**, 90, Dec. 24 in Portland, Ore., where she was retired after teaching piano for more than 60 years. She is survived by her husband, Earl, c'42; two daughters; a son; a brother; six grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

**Richard Rosenfield, d'47, g'51**, 89, Feb. 21 in Centralia. He lived in Onaga, where he was a teacher and a coach. The Rosenfield Sports Complex in Onaga was named for him. Survivors include his daughter, Becky Rosenfield Householder, n'72; and three granddaughters.

**Marvin "Solly" Sollenberger, e'43**, 91, Jan. 12 in Fort Collins, Colo. While at KU, he played basketball for Coach Phog Allen. Survivors include a son, Michael, b'67; a daughter, Linda Sollenberger Land, d'69; and 10 grandchildren.

**Althea Shuss Vratil, c'44**, 89, Dec. 3 in Shawnee Mission. She is survived by two sons, John, d'67, l'71, and James, '81; a daughter, Margaret Vratil Vineyard, d'69; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Orlin Wagner, b'49, l'55**, 84, Jan. 22 in Wichita, where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean; two sons, one of whom is Orlin II, '74; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

**50 Allen Asher, p'56**, 81, March 2 in Phoenix, where he was a retired pharmacist. A memorial has been established with the KU Endowment Association. He is survived by his wife, Ann Wood Asher, c'56; three sons, Steve, b'77, Craig, '83, and Scott, e'93; a brother, Kenneth, p'66; and six grandchildren.

**Royal Barker, m'53**, 90, Dec. 25 in Council Grove, where he was a retired physician. He is survived by his wife, Betty; four sons, three of whom are Leigh, c'72, Rodney Barnes, m'74, and Lance, '75; three daughters, one of whom is Tracy Barker Rock, f'78; a sister; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Patricia Munson Bowen, c'54, n'57**, 79,

Feb. 17 in Manhattan. She lived in Clay Center, where she was a retired nurse. She is survived by her husband, Montie, e'53; a son; two daughters, one of whom is Jennifer Bowen Schmitendorf, c'86, g'11; three brothers; and three grandchildren.

**Joyce Cazier, d'54**, 79, Dec. 28 in Mission, where she taught school and owned Jabberwock Gallery. She is survived by her son, Mark, '94; two daughters, Ingrid, s'79, and Natalie Ellis Morris, d'83; and two grandchildren.

**Richard Coffelt, c'56, l'59**, 79, Jan. 25 in Hays, where he practiced law and taught business law at Fort Hays State University. He is survived by his wife, JoAnn; two daughters, one of whom is Christine Coffelt Frost, j'85; a son; a brother; and five grandchildren.

**Cline Drago Jr., p'59**, 80, Feb. 5 in Fort Collins, Colo., where he was a retired hospital pharmacist. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Robert Dunwell, d'52, g'56, EdD'61**, 81, March 9 in Topeka, where he had chaired the department of education at Washburn University. He also had been a professor of education at the University of Hawaii, the University of Texas-El Paso and at the University of Northern Colorado-Greeley. Survivors include his wife, Janice Alcorn Dunwell, n'54; two daughters; a son; a sister, Frances Kokrda Russell, d'66, g'75; and a grandson.

**Franklin "Greg" Fisk, d'52, g'58, PhD'63**, 80, Dec. 28 in Portage, Mich. He co-wrote two widely used science textbooks and was a professor emeritus of science studies at Western Michigan University, where he taught for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, Kay, a son, two daughters, a sister, a brother and a grandchild.

**Donald Gates, e'55**, 78, Jan. 14 in Kansas City, where he owned Gates Combustion Service. He is survived by a son, five daughters, 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Leo Hayden, b'52**, 81, Oct. 17 in Parkville, Mo., where he was retired from a 30-year career with Ford Motor Co. He is survived by his wife, Grace Whitenack Hayden, n'55; two sons; a daughter, Jill

Hayden Hagel, n'87, g'91; a brother, Ralph, b'57; and three grandchildren.

**Charles Hoag, b'53**, 80, March 8 in Kansas City. He lived in Lawrence, where he was retired from a career with Equitable Life Insurance. He played basketball, football and baseball at KU, where he helped lead the Jayhawks to a Big Seven Conference Championship and an NCAA National Championship in basketball in 1952. That same year, he won a gold medal in basketball for the United States at the Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a son, Chuck, '86; three daughters, Cheryl Hoag Gasiewski, b'82, Deanna Hoag Chadick, '87, and Karen Hoag Kosbab, '82; a sister; and nine grandchildren.

**Merrill Holmberg, b'52**, 87, Jan. 29 in Overland Park, where he was retired from Bendix. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Mary Lou, assoc.; two daughters, Laura Holmberg Stack, n'78, and Julia Holmberg Rodlund, n'84; a son, James, b'80, l'84; a brother, J.D., e'51; 10 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Robert James, e'58**, 75, Jan. 30 in Westwood Hills, where he was retired from a 47-year career as a civil engineer. Survivors include his companion, Patricia Hogan; two sons; two stepsons, one of whom is Quinn Carmichael, c'91; a brother, Jack, c'61; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**James Martin, b'52**, 81, Jan. 10 in Prairie Village, where he was former managing partner of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson. In 2010, he received the KU School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award. Surviving are his wife, Pat; four sons, one of whom is Patrick, '12; and two granddaughters.

**Bonita Bowman Matthew, c'53**, 80, Feb. 20 in Olathe, where she owned Appletree Gifts and Interiors and had helped found the Olathe Junior Service League. She is survived by her husband, William, m'56; a son; a daughter, Mary, g'92; and three grandchildren.

**Ralph McClung, p'51**, 84, Nov. 2 in Longmont, Colo., where he was retired manager of King Soopers Pharmacy.

## In Memory

Survivors include four sons, two daughters, a sister, a brother and 11 grandchildren.

**Gary Miller, e'57, 76**, Jan. 21 in Overland Park, where he founded Sunflower Associates. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two daughters, Anne, '82, and Jane Miller Rowe, '86; two stepsons, one of whom is Christopher Miller, a'85, e'85, m'95; and eight grandchildren.

**Kathleen McKelvy Murray, c'50, 82**, Oct. 22 in Manhattan. She is survived by three daughters, one of whom is Mary Ann Murray Simons, '80; two sons, one of whom is Kevin Petracek, l'83; and 11 grandchildren.

**Donna Pyle, c'51, 82**, Jan. 15 in Hutchinson, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Pyle Baker, c'89; three sons, two of whom are Eric, f'83, and Christopher, c'88; a sister; and six grandchildren.

**James Ruble Jr., m'53, 85**, Dec. 12 in Overbrook, where he founded the Overbrook Community Clinic and had served as mayor and city councilman. He is survived by a son; two daughters, one of whom is Rebecca, m'82; a sister; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Millard Spencer, c'50, g'52, m'55, 83**, Jan. 18 in Oklahoma City. He practiced medicine with Radiology and Nuclear Medicine in Topeka for many years. Surviving are his wife, Polly Quattlebaum Spencer, assoc.; three daughters, Deb, c'75, g'79; and Marilyn Spencer Morris, '78; two sons; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**James Will, b'56, 77**, Nov. 25 in Wichita. He lived in Halstead, where he was retired vice president of Halstead Bank. Many cousins survive.

**60 Richard Aschenbrenner, m'68, 70**, Jan. 13 in Lawrence. He directed the respiratory department of Bay Harbor Hospital in Lomita, Calif., for many years. Survivors include his wife, Ann, four sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.

**Al Correll, '63, 72**, Feb. 18 in Tacoma, Wash., where he was retired director of human relations for the city of Tacoma. At

KU he played basketball for coach Dick Harp and holds the school record for free-throw shooting percentage, hitting 90 percent for the 1964 season. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, a son and a daughter.

**Larry Denny, b'64, l'67, 69**, March 7 in Kansas City, where he practiced law. A sister survives.

**Robert Guntert, '60, 74**, Dec. 24 in Smithville, Mo., where he was retired branch manager and vice president of Commerce Bancshares. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Kay, a daughter, a son, two stepsons, a stepdaughter, a brother and nine grandchildren.

**Robert Hosch, b'62, 72**, Feb. 23 in San Antonio. He had a 32-year career with Sears. Surviving are his wife, Wilda, a son, a stepson, a sister and three grandchildren.

**John Learned, c'60, d'60, f'60, 82**, Feb. 27 in Oklahoma City, where he owned a bronze casting foundry. He helped universities in Oklahoma establish bronze foundries, and he was a speaker at the first International Bronze Conference. His work was commissioned by the administration of President Dwight Eisenhower as a gift to Mexico in the 1950s. He is survived by six sons, Chet, c'82, Johnny, '76, Matt, f'88, George, '90, Brent, f'93, and Newt, '89; four daughters, two of whom are Lori, c'94, l'99, and Christina, '90; three brothers, George, c'49, g'52, m'55, Albert, '45, and Bob, c'51, p'54; a sister, Martha, '48; and 10 grandchildren.

**Delvy Lewis, '66, 68**, March 5 in Topeka. While at KU, he was a point guard for basketball Coach Ted Owens. He played in the 1964 and 1965 Big Eight Holiday Tournament championships and was named MVP of the 1965 tournament. Survivors include his wife, Karen Dunaway Lewis, d'68; three daughters; his mother; a sister; a brother; and three grandchildren.

**George Lyon, c'63, 75**, Oct. 13 in Lee's Summit, Mo., where he was retired from Allied Signal Aerospace. He is survived by his wife, Esther, a son, a daughter, two sisters and three grandchildren.

**Reuben McCornack, b'64, 69**, Jan. 6 in Washington, D.C., where he was a political activist and grassroots organizer who was

devoted to peaceful conflict resolution and to providing affordable housing. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; a son; and a brother, Donald, b'65.

**Lee McMaster, l'61, 74**, Jan. 2 in Wichita, where he was a retired major in the U.S. Marine Corps and a trial lawyer. He is survived by his wife, Jane Dean McMaster, c'60; three daughters, two of whom are Margaret McMaster Caccia, c'85, and Kathryn McMaster Kraske, '88; and seven grandchildren.

**Christopher Pinet, c'66, 67**, Nov. 17 in Bozeman, where he taught French at Montana State University for 29 years. Last year, he was awarded the Gold Medal of Francophone Merit from the French Renaissance Society in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; a daughter; a son; and four sisters, Nancy Pinet Tilford, c'69, Rosemary Pinet Hartner, d'73, Winifred Pinet, c'80, g'82, and Michele Pinet, f'85.

**Ruth Weideman Rick, g'67, 97**, Nov. 25 in Prairie Village, where she was a former teacher and a community volunteer. She is survived by a son, Gregory Jr., m'66; a daughter; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Darrell Sligar d'62, g'69, 70**, Jan. 4 in Monett, Mo., where he was a retired software developer for Jack Henry and Associates. Earlier, he had worked as a high-school principal. He is survived by his wife, Jane, three sons, a daughter, two stepdaughters, four brothers and 12 grandchildren.

**Paul Whipple, e'61, 75**, Dec. 16 in Easton, Pa. He was a NASA contractor on the Saturn rockets that powered the Apollo space missions and later managed projects to lay the groundwork for fiber-optic cable networks. Two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren survive.

**70 Catherine "Cay" Leonard Bayer, '75, 59**, Nov. 20 in Overland Park, where she was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Donald, l'76; a daughter, Catherine Bayer Eichman, c'02, g'05; two sisters; and a granddaughter.

**Debra Mills Wagner Beaver, d'77, 56**, Jan. 5 in Overland Park, where she was an account manager with Walgreens Infusion

Services. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Ross Wagner, '11; her parents; a brother; and two sisters, one of whom is Sun Dee Mills Larson, '94.

**Maurice Breidenthal III, a'73**, 61, Nov. 26 in Wichita, where he was a principal in the Breidenthal Partnership. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn McCoy Breidenthal, d'73; three sons, Matthew, e'01, Mark, '05, and John, e'04; and two grandsons.

**Thomas Lusty, j'71**, 64, Jan. 6 in Stuart, Fla. He had served on the board of the Kansas City chapter of the KU Alumni Association. Survivors include his wife, Karen, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a son, a sister and four grandchildren.

**Jay Wiens, p'71**, 65, Feb. 21 in Hutchinson. He lived in McPherson and had been a pharmacist at Medical Center Pharmacy. Surviving are his wife, Rita, a son, two daughters, his mother, a brother and seven grandchildren.

**80 Karen "Kum-Sah-Quah" Masqua Cadue, d'86**, 66, Jan. 16 in Lawrence, where she worked for Vangent Inc. She was a member of the Kickapoo Tribe and had served on the Gaming Revenue Ordinance Committee. Surviving are her husband, Steve, '83; three daughters, Michelle, '98, Cheryl Cadue Middleton, j'95, and Carole Cadue-Blackwood, c'03; a son; a brother, Calvin Masqua, '79; two sisters; an adopted brother; an adopted sister; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Carolyn Risley Hill, s'85**, 62, March 20 in Wichita. She was retired CEO of Starkey Inc. and had worked for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Surviving are three brothers, one of whom is Allyn Risley, e'72.

**Karolyn Kells, g'84**, 64, Jan. 20 in Garden City. She had been an associate professor of nursing at Fort Hays State University. Survivors include her father, two brothers and a sister.

**Gloria Ragan, c'84**, 88, Oct. 7 in Westwood Hills. She had been a senior flight crew recruiter for Trans World Airlines and later coordinated the UMKC School of Medicine's Council on Curriculum and Selection.

**Frank Ventura, b'85**, 48, Jan. 16 in Mokena, where he was president of Frank Ventura CPA and had served on the local school board. He is survived by a son; a daughter; his parents, Frank Jr., '61, and Carol Seufert Ventura, g'80; and a sister, Susan Ventura Gallagher, b'84.

**00 Jennifer Raley Arnett, l'05**, 31, Jan. 30 in Kansas City, where she had practiced law with Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enoch. She is survived by her parents, a brother, two sisters and her grandparents.

**Keith Cantu, d'06**, 30, March 15 in Eureka. He is survived by his parents, a stepbrother and a stepsister.

**10 Maud Gonne Humphrey, c'12**, 51, Feb. 1 in Lawrence, where she was office manager of KU's art history department. She is survived by her husband, Keith, a son, her mother and four sisters.

#### THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**Joseph Collins, '72**, 72, Jan. 14 at his vacation home on St. George Island, Fla. He lived in Lawrence, where he was herpetologist emeritus at KU. He worked at KU's Natural History Museum for more than 30 years and had been an adjunct herpetologist at the Kansas Biological Survey. He also co-founded the Center for North American Herpetology and had written many books about reptiles and amphibians. Surviving are his wife, Suzanne Ryse Collins, '82; a daughter, Nancy Collins Weaver, c'78; a brother; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter.

**Robert Fairchild, c'42, m'50**, 89, Dec. 2 in Prairie Village, where he was a retired physician. He had been an associate professor of pediatrics at the KU Medical Center and a professor of pediatrics and nursing at UMKC. He also was director of clinics at Children's Mercy Hospital and former president of the Jackson and Johnson county medical societies. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; a daughter; three sons, one of whom is Robert, l'73; a brother, Paul, c'47, g'49; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

**Louis Frydman**, 81, Jan. 24 in Lawrence, where he was a retired associate professor

of social welfare at KU. He was a survivor of the Holocaust and made frequent presentations about his experiences to area students. In 2007, he was the featured speaker at the Holocaust Remembrance Service at the Kansas State Capitol. He is survived by his wife, Jane Brunner Frydman, PhD'73, l'77; three sons, John, c'83, Richard, j'84, l'87, and Dan, d'86, s'90; five grandchildren; and two stepgrandsons.

**Rensselaer "Rens" McClure, m'48**, 86, Feb. 14 in Lawrence, where he practiced medicine at KU's Watkins Hospital for 26 years before retiring in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Mary Anne Wolf McClure, d'52; two daughters, Cynthia, s'94, and Laura McClure Nash, '73; three sons, David, c'78, l'85, g'89, Rensselaer, c'79, and Scott, c'86; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Evelyn Swartz, EdD'64**, 85, March 8 in Lawrence, where she was a professor emerita of education at KU. She was named an Outstanding Educator of America in 1972, 1973 and 1974, was inducted into the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 1979 and received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Meritorious Service in 1988. Five nephews survive.

#### ASSOCIATES

**Betty Wolfe Dobbins**, 92, Feb. 29 in Lawrence, where she was co-founder of the Chuck Wagon Restaurant. She is survived by a daughter, Sharon Dobbins Millsap, c'63; two sons, Kent, d'67, and John Jr., '72; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Bertie McConnell**, 90, Feb. 21 in Lawrence. She recently received national media attention when she joined Washburn University's chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha as a 90-year-old pledge. Survivors include a daughter, Judith McConnell-Farmer, d'70; a son, Donald Jr., b'80, g'83; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

**Joel Mosher**, 54, March 3 in Olathe, where he practiced law with Shook, Hardy & Bacon. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Andrea, assoc.; a son, Kevin, '93; and two grandchildren.

# Rock Chalk Review



**Ornithologist Mark Robbins says this winter's mass migration of snowy owls into the Midwest, the largest in almost 40 years, provided valuable specimens and other data that could fill important gaps in science's understanding of the arctic birds.**

researchers identify them—by photographing owls from the back and in flight. “We involved everyone from ranchers and farmers and mailmen,” Robbins says. “Your average person who never really knew about snowy owls got keyed up about this.”

Hundreds of people showed up at Clinton Lake in Lawrence when three snowy owls were spotted. “It was like a bear jam at Yellowstone,” Robbins says. Three thousand people viewed owls one Saturday at Missouri’s Smithfield Lake. Robbins attributes much of the interest to the “mystical” appeal owls hold for many people. The Harry Potter craze may even have contributed to the frenzy. Harry’s owl, Hedwig, is a snowy owl.



## Blizzard of owls

**With help from Kansas birders, KU researchers harvest windfall of data from arctic invasion**

An unusual influx of snowy owls into Kansas and Missouri this winter proved a boon to researchers at the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum. The mass migration—which biologists call an “irruption”—provided an opportunity to enlist citizen scientists in the institute’s work while also doubling its specimen holdings of an arctic bird that is a rare find this far south.

“Small numbers of snowy owls will winter as far south as the Dakotas, and we’ll get a couple of reports for Kansas every other year on average,” says Mark Robbins, collection manager in ornithology at the institute. “But nothing like this winter’s irruption. It’s probably one of the biggest ever and certainly the biggest since 1974-’75.”

Ornithologists logged 135 snowy owl sightings in Kansas and 60 in Missouri between mid-November and mid-March.

Those numbers could rise once Robbins examines all the data. Many sightings likely went unreported.

No one knows for sure why so many owls left the Arctic, but theories focus on a population crash in the bird’s chief food source, lemmings.

Snowy owls establish feeding territories and drive out competitors, Robbins says, and yearlings are first to disperse when food grows scarce.

Robbins gathered 15 to 20 dead owls for the museum’s collection. Most were yearling birds in poor shape. A yearling male in good condition typically weighs at least 1,800 grams; one Robbins examined weighed only 842 grams. Many specimens he collected died in accidents or starved.

While that’s an outcome no bird-lover would want, scientists and birdwatchers made the most of the situation.

“This was a unique opportunity, having this data set that in a normal year wouldn’t be available,” Robbins says. “We took advantage.”

Alerts to birding listservs in Kansas and Missouri in mid-November put birdwatchers on the lookout for snowy owls and spread the word on how to help

“The birds did not do well. This irruption was bad for the birds. But hundreds and in some cases thousands of people were able to enjoy something they’ll remember the rest of their lives,” Robbins says. “Maybe they’ll pay more attention to conservation issues. That’s a real positive.”

The digital revolution has made it easier for nonscientists to get involved, Robbins says. “Email, the Web, digital cameras have revolutionized what people can contribute to a special event like this. This is as good as it gets as far as bringing your average person in and having them contribute.”

The reports of owl sightings and the collected specimens will bolster data that was previously thin in Kansas and Missouri. The birds added this year are a welcome addition to the Natural History Museum’s owl specimens, the oldest of which dates to 1875.

The full value of those specimens likely won’t be understood for years, “because they may help answer questions we haven’t even thought of yet,” Robbins notes. But they are already paying dividends for some researchers. Joseph Manthey, a PhD student in ecology and evolutionary biology who works with ornithology researchers at the Biodiversity Institute, used stable isotope analysis to narrow where in the Arctic the newly collected owls originated.

The research project was for a class on global change and isotopic approaches taught by Joy Ward, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and the Thelma and Edward Wohlgenuth Faculty Scholar. Students study global change issues, including changes in the migration patterns of animals, and learn the technology of applying stable isotopes to understand those changes, Ward says. Essentially, Manthey analyzed the oxygen isotope in the owls’ feathers to narrow down where in the Arctic the birds may have come from.

“I think it speaks to KU conducting courses that are relevant to important scientific questions at a national and international level,” Ward says, “but ones that are also very important close to home: Why are we seeing this bird along Kansas roads when we’ve never seen it before? To

start answering that question you have to answer where they came from, first of all.”

Manthey’s research findings are another example of the uniqueness of the snowy owl invasion of 2011.

“This was a special event,” Robbins says. “You’re not looking at some dickie bird that would interest only birdwatchers. This became an event for everybody.”

“That’s the broad spectrum of something like this, from the average person enjoying—and contributing—to it, to the hard science that follows.”

—Steven Hill

## Apocalypse then

### Exhibition shows how threat of atomic war shaped America’s ‘age of anxiety’

After the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, most Americans felt relief: World War II was won. But soon after, contends Independence, Mo., historian Michael Scheibach, PhD’93, another feeling took hold as people began grappling with the threat posed by this powerful new weapon.

“We have an incredible bomb, and by 1949 the Soviets have a bomb,” Scheibach says. With images of the immense destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still fresh, fear that this terrible technology could be used against us dominated American foreign policy and everyday life. “The bomb was underneath everything, and that’s why historians have called this the age of anxiety,” Scheibach says. “The foundation of the Cold War was not the possibility, but the probability, of an atomic attack by the Soviets.”

The idea that the Soviets would attack unless we were prepared spawned a government campaign to “inform, instruct and literally scare Americans” into readying themselves to survive an atomic

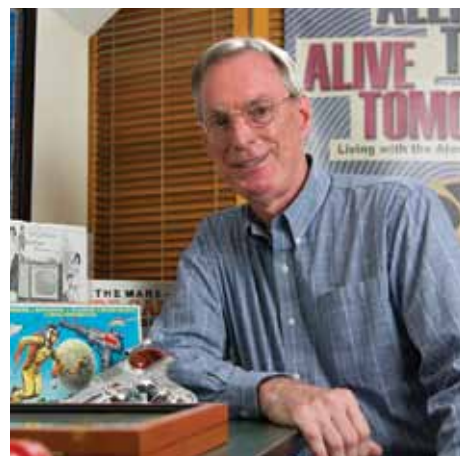


COURTESY MICHAEL SCHEIBACH

attack, Scheibach says— spawning a grim tide of government posters, booklets and pamphlets such as “If We Are Bombed” and “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow.”

Scheibach and Exhibits USA put together a traveling exhibition of these and other Atomic Age artifacts. “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow: Living With the Atomic Bomb, 1945-1965” examines how the threat of atomic war shaped American life for two decades. The 80 items in the exhibition are drawn from his personal collection, which numbers 200 to 300 pieces. Along with deadly serious government directives calling for adults to build fallout shelters and children to “duck and cover,” products such as the Dazey Atomic Ice Crusher and a toy radar center—which allowed children to track and report enemy aircraft—show how deeply the bomb was ingrained in pop culture.

The toys and comic books are part of the craziness of the period,” Scheibach says.

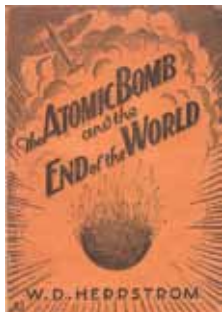


STEVE PUPPE

Michael Scheibach drew on his extensive personal collection of atomic-age artifacts for the “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow” exhibition.

## Rock Chalk Review

COURTESY MICHAEL SCHEIBACH



Comic books, doomsday tracts and toy bombers (page 69) show how atomic war was both feared and embraced by American culture in the '50s and '60s.

“At the same time the government was basically trying to scare you into being ready, the culture was assimilating that.” While doing duck and cover drills in schools, kids also were digging Atomic Bomb Rings from cereal boxes, reading about nuclear annihilation in comic books and receiving a toy Geiger counter or Fallout Shelter Paper Doll Cutout Family as birthday gifts. Says Scheibach, “It was kind of a bizarre period.”

His interest in the era started while he was researching his doctoral dissertation in American studies at KU. Studying the history of the family, he began focusing on adolescence and quickly realized the period of 1945 to 1955 was underexamined. He grew fascinated by how quickly the atomic threat became an urgent topic in high schools. As early as September 1945, a month after the atomic attacks on Japan, schools were hosting programs and speakers warning of the bomb’s dangers.

Now Scheibach is excited by the effect that “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow” may have on today’s adolescents.

“I think the exhibition is extremely relevant in the post-9/11 world. There are a lot of young people that 9/11 is their dividing point. What this exhibit does is demonstrate there was another time, another generation that lived through something much scarier, much more of a probability.

“People think the war on terror is something new, but it’s not. You might say the 1950s was a war on terror—on a global scale. And we lived through that.”

“Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow” will show at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pa., through May 25, before

moving to Park City, Utah, on June 16. Future stops include Wichita, in 2013, and Montezuma, in 2015. For a complete tour schedule, visit [eusa.org](http://eusa.org).

—Steven Hill

## Head game

### Playful sculpture earns student outstanding artist award

The head, all 800 pounds of it, is difficult to wrap your mind around.

It is upside-down, suspended from the ceiling. Or is it? Because it also is a hollow vessel, artist David Platter claims it’s right-side-up. It is stationary but gives the illusion that it is falling, with enough kinetic energy to make a viewer ask, “What if it *did* fall?”

“I’m playing with the idea of our mind,” says Platter, 31. “I’m attempting to understand what it means to physically exist in a relationship to the unknown or the void. I know I physically exist, but there’s an unknown out there.”

For all the concepts the head—titled “Charting the Self”—represents, this may be the surest: It marks Platter’s emergence onto the international sculpture scene.

The stone and concrete work, which Platter made as part of his master’s of fine arts thesis work, was one of 15 pieces selected last fall for the International Sculpture Center’s 2011 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards. “Charting the Self,” which was on display at the KU Art and Design Gallery in 2010, has been part of

the ISC’s exhibition at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, N.J., this spring.

On top of that honor, Platter last month was selected for an eight-week fellowship at Art St. Urban, an arts organization in Lucerne, Switzerland. Two ISC honorees are selected for the fellowships each year. Platter will study this summer with Heinz Aeschlimann, an internationally acclaimed sculptor.

“It’s like icing on the cake,” Platter says. “I’m kind of in a daze still.”

Platter, who lives in Kansas City, Kan., and is operations manager at a ceramics studio, has received inquiries about solo shows at galleries on both coasts. He’s currently trying to build a body of work large enough for his own exhibitions, with the goal of someday supporting his family as a full-time artist.

“I think it’s huge for my exposure,” he says of the recent recognition. “But part of it is what I make of it as an individual. I’m trying my best to pursue any opportunity that comes of it. I feel like I’m a little fish getting to swim in the big pond.”

—Terry Rombeck



Heads he wins: Platter’s mind-bending, stone-and-concrete noggin claimed one of 15 outstanding student sculpture awards given by the International Sculpture Center.

CHUCK FRANCE/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS





Averill

## Triumphant ride

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City named Tom Averill's *rode* the Outstanding Western Novel of 2011. Averill, c'71, g'74, based his latest book on a favorite folk ballad, "Tennessee Stud." He created a tale of adventure and abiding love, with a hero, Robert Johnson, and his

magnificent horse, The Stud. Framed for murder, Johnson flees his home in the Arkansas Territory on a dangerous journey ("He loves the girl with golden hair," *Rock Chalk Review*, issue No. 5, 2011). Averill is professor of English and writer-in-residence at Washburn University. —

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

## A haunting

### **The Revenant exposes spirits and lies in a Cherokee girls' school**

The year is 1896 and 17-year-old Willemina is on the run—from her demanding, weary mother, who yanked her from school to work at home, and her daydreaming father, who died and left her without hope. Scared and stubborn, Willie steals the identity and teaching certificate of her boarding-school roommate and hops a train to teach at the Cherokee Female Seminary in Tahlequah, Okla.

On the way, Willie ruminates on her new, false identity as Angeline McClure: "I knew in my heart I was something much worse than a player on the world's stage. And more than the summer heat made the perspiration trickle down the back of my neck. I jumped and blushed and perspired for good reason. I was a liar and a thief."

The moment she steps into the ornate Victorian building, Willie is ashamed by her misperceptions of how a Cherokee

school would look. The girls' lacy smocks and prim chignons put Willie's dowdy dress and dirty face to shame. However, this is the first and least outlandish shock she will encounter at Tahlequah.

There, Willie, the headstrong narrator of Sonia Gensler's striking first novel, *The Revenant*, is thrust into an unknown world as she copes with emotions so common for teenagers. "The cool thing for me about teen literature is that we all remember that time," says Gensler, g'95. "It's such an intense time of your life because there are so many adult things happening for the first time and it's inherently dramatic and full of conflict."

Willie soon learns (through the conspiratorial whispers of her students) that she lives in the room of a murdered girl, whose incessant tapping on her window and violent appearances overcome Willie's initial incredulity. After a séance with her only confidante, Olivia, Willie is convinced the spiritual activity at Tahlequah is real.

"The only sounds were our breathing

and the faint sputter of the candle wax melting. The triangle glided silently over the board. After a moment, I felt a tingle spread along my fingers. I looked up and saw Olivia staring back at me, her eyes wide." Willie is resolved—forced—to delve deeper to save her sanity and, eventually, her own skin.

The drama between Willie and Eli Sevenstar, a male student who once loved the supposed hunter, brings a believable realism and youthful vulnerability to Willie's voice:

"I tried to compose myself, but when I lifted my face to Olivia, I saw her eyes widen and it choked me once again. 'Were you...?' Her brow furrowed. 'Did you have feelings for him?' ... Unable to face her dismay, I pulled the covers over my head." Willie deals with the confusion of young romance, but must feign maturity amid the adult tug-of-war with her students and the appearances of spirits.

Willie's shrouded identity and surreptitious ghouls can remain hidden only so long before a spiritual quake hurdles her deeper than she could ever fathom into the reality of her ghosts, her love, her lies and the obligations from which she ran.

Along Willie's evolution from evasive, strong-willed teenager to a broken-down-but-growing young woman, Gensler creates a heroine who testifies to the push and pull of youth, balancing adventure with moments of clutch-your-chest thrills. *The Revenant* is a gripping young adult novel with appeal for anyone who has ever been 17 or run away from life only to find it. —

—Lydia Benda



*The Revenant*

by Sonia Gensler

\$13.59

Alfred A. Knopf

# Glorious to View Photograph by Susan Younger



**New grass and blooming crabapple trees frame Fraser Hall in spring green.**

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