

KANSAS ALUMNI

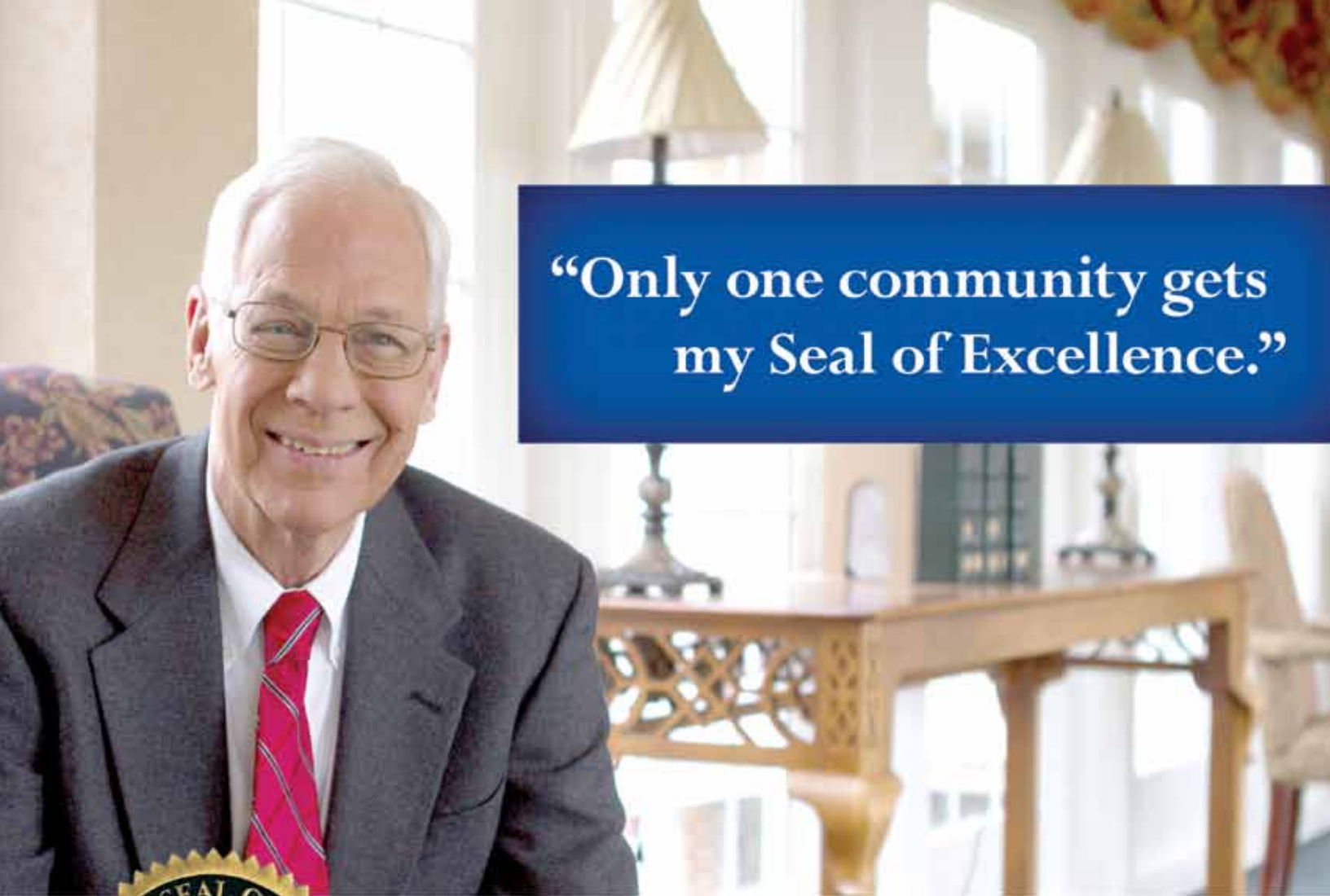
No 4, 2013 ■ \$5

Best of the Best

*Lindsay Vollmer's NCAA gold
lifts KU to historic team title*

■ TOM TOMATO

■ COLLEGE ESSAY



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COVER STORY

Golden Girls

A team-first attitude helped track and field achieve a program first for KU women's athletics: A national championship.

By Chris Lazzarino

Cover photograph by Jeff Jacobsen

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Refresher Course

Facing a career change, our essayist looks homeward to Mount Oread—and KU's Mini College—for fresh perspective.

By Jennifer Lawler

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The Tater-Mater Man

The man, the myth, the 'maters: Meet Tom Wagner, the botanical tinkerer behind the Green Zebra tomato.

By Steven Hill

Lift the Chorus



Carnegie kudos

I READ WITH INTEREST the article about the KU Wind Ensemble's concert in Carnegie Hall ["The Big Stage," issue No. 3]. In March, our Port Angeles, Washington, high school strings orchestra presented a concert on the same stage. The school makes the trip every four years, and when they return in 2017 I will have two grandchildren in the orchestra!

I attended band camps at the University of Missouri and KU. I was so impressed that I chose to attend KU and won a scholarship to live in Miller Hall. I couldn't fit band in my schedule, but campus life worked out fine. I enjoyed hearing the music instead of playing it.

Last summer, I took my daughter and granddaughter to see KU on the way to my high school reunion in Missouri. We enjoyed visiting the Natural History Museum and seeing the wonderful Panorama, the rest of the museum and the entire Hill. My how it has grown since I walked those walks.

Thanks for such a great magazine, a way to keep in

touch with a fantastic University.

Mary Fran Poe Smith, d'56, g'59
Port Angeles, Wash.

Not swimmingly

I JUST FINISHED READING the May magazine with the article about the athletics upgrades ["Level Playing Fields," issue No. 3].

You have an excellent magazine, and it keeps me up to date on the happenings at the University and brings updates on friends from my days at KU.

The article on the facilities upgrade for women's athletics identifies how important this will be for KU's young women athletes. The new facilities make me very proud to be a Jayhawk.

However, I am also very disappointed that some male athletes are denied the opportunity to compete for KU. The 2001 cancellation of the KU men's swimming program is an example.

I have two grandsons attending high school in Kansas. They are A students and are considering careers in engineering. They will not be able to attend KU and continue swimming at the collegiate level. What's worse, in order to swim competitively at the collegiate level, they will have to attend a school out of state.

There are no colleges at any level in Kansas that offer men's swimming.

This situation is part of a growing policy in our state and across the country to elevate one group at the expense of another group of individuals who may be as deserving, but have the misfortune to be the "incorrect" gender.

Thank you for allowing me to express my frustration at this unfortunate situation.

John E. Virr, e'60
Topeka

A nifty fifty

I AM STILL BASKING in the afterglow of my 50-year reunion! I knew it would be a good time, but it far exceeded my expectations. It was great to see former classmates and to meet lots of new friends.

I am amazed at how efficient the Alumni Association staff was and how everything started and ended right on schedule. Kudos especially to Nikki Epley for her overall management of the event.

I took in everything while I was there: the tours, the meals and receptions, and the incredible "There's No Place Like Home" video. I have practically stopped people on the street to tell them about the reunion!

I've always been a proud Jayhawk, but this revved up my



Your opinion counts

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

pride to an all-time high. Now I'm looking forward to the Gold Medal Club luncheon next year.

Thanks to everyone who put in so much work to make this reunion as special and memorable as it was.

Mary Lou Auer, d'63
Topeka

New familiar name

I HAVE READ your magazine for years, finding many fine articles. However, as I age I recognize fewer names. Now I usually find the names I know in the In Memory section.

However, I found a young man's name in the January issue: Roderick Bloom ["FFall in the name of love," Jayhawk Walk, issue No. 1]. He is my grandson, a second year student at KU.

I appreciate your articles, well written and with fine pictures.

Richard Ohmart, c'58, m'62
Oakley



Calling all Jayhawk Generations

Each fall the Association recognizes second-, third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-generation freshmen in Jayhawk Generations, our annual online tribute.

Please submit your student's information and photos by Aug. 15. For details, visit kualumni.org or contact Leah Kohlman, lkohlman@kualumni.org or 785-864-1720.

July 2013

KANSAS ALUMNI

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Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3169. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org.

Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. For letters published, we'll send a free gift of KU Campus Playing Cards, a \$5 value.



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Scene on campus

Imagine a day when **every bone marrow transplant patient** has a match.

A new day of hope for cancer patients is here.

Even if you're related, a perfect match is difficult to find. Bone marrow transplant patients typically wait months for a lifesaving match. Now, specialists at The University of Kansas Cancer Center have new ways to match almost any patient immediately, including the opportunity to match with a parent, sibling or adult child. And a match could mean a cure. In this region, it's only happening here.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER

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Just one year ago, the University and the state of Kansas rejoiced in the announcement of National Cancer Institute designation for the University of Kansas Cancer Center. The monumental achievement resulted from KU's years of commitment and collaboration with partners throughout the state and the Greater Kansas City area, including individual donors and foundations, Kansas governors and legislators, the Kansas Bioscience Authority, Kansas State University, 18 hospitals, and thousands of allies statewide, including Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Alumni Association's legislative advocacy network, and other Kansans who supported investment in an enterprise that would improve health care, the economy and the quality of life throughout the region.



By summer 2012, the quest for NCI designation had generated more than 1,100 jobs and contributed more than \$450 million to regional economies.

Not surprisingly, KU's overall research continued 20 years of growth through 2012. The University reported this summer that research expenditures grew to \$275.2 million in fiscal year 2011-'12, with about \$250 million coming from the U.S. government and other sources outside of Kansas. Research expenditures have increased steadily since 1993 and doubled since 2000. "KU bolsters the state's economy in a range of ways," Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, said July 8 as the latest figures were released. "Not only are jobs directly created by this research, but we make discoveries that generate prosperity and well-being for people across the state."

Continuing good news about the impact of KU research is tempered, however, by the fear that federal budget cuts known as the sequester will become permanent. And, at the state level, the spirit of shared commitment that led to NCI designation seems absent when it comes to Kansas higher education in general—despite higher education's proven benefits to the state in meeting workforce needs and enhancing Kansans' earning power. According to a December 2012 report from the State Higher Education Executive Officers, a national nonprofit group, the median income from 2006 to 2010 of Kansans with bachelor's degrees was \$45,343, more than \$17,000 above the median income of high school graduates. As of 2011, college graduates in Kansas had an unemployment rate half that of workers without college degrees.

As the Kansas Legislature convened in January, Gov. Sam Brownback, 1'82, proposed two years of flat funding for higher education. But ultimately, despite the efforts of Jayhawks for Higher Education and other allies of higher education, the Legislature passed, and Brownback approved, a budget that cuts \$48.7 million from higher education statewide over fiscal years

2014 and 2015. For KU, the reductions total \$13.53 million: \$5.26 million at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses and \$8.27 million for KU Medical Center. The Legislature also restricted the ways in which Medical Center leaders can enact the cuts.

Meanwhile, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado are increasing funds for higher education now that the economy is improving. In Iowa and Nebraska, education leaders agreed to freeze tuition rates in response to more generous state appropriations.

Students in Kansas, however, will continue to pay more to earn their degrees. The Kansas Board of Regents approved tuition increases for fall 2014 ranging from 3 percent at Fort Hays State University to 8.1 percent at Wichita State University. At KU, tuition and fees will rise 4.4 percent, to \$9,225 for two semesters for in-state fall 2013 freshmen taking 30 credit hours during the academic year. But 65 percent of returning KU undergraduates will avoid the increase because they locked in their four-year tuition rates as freshmen under KU's tuition compact.

The choice to approve tuition increases is "one of the most difficult decisions we make," said Fred Logan of Leawood, who joined the Board of Regents in 2011 and became chair July 1. "It's always a question of balancing accessibility and excellence. When the Legislature made the cuts, it forced our hand. ... I thought KU did a great job coming in with an increase under 5 percent."

Despite what he calls "unacceptable" budgets for 2014 and 2015, Logan said he remained generally optimistic about higher education in Kansas. "I think this year was something of an anomaly. The cuts ended up taking place because there was such a significant fight over the governor's revenue package, and the Legislature just ran out of time."

Logan expects an intense campaign to restore the cuts, and he urges alumni to make their voices heard now and throughout the coming legislative session. "It is extremely important that alumni be involved, that they talk to their legislators," he said. "They must let them know that KU is important to them and that higher education is critically important. There is a role for all of us to play in protecting that investment. Alumni need to tell their legislators that they don't want to see higher education cut."

Jayhawks for Higher Education members, who in recent years helped make the case successfully for funding the KU Cancer Center and expanding programs to educate pharmacists and engineers, must step up their efforts in the months ahead, as the Regents work to restore the state's investment in colleges and universities. If you live in Kansas, please join the cause by signing up at kualumni.org/jhe.

On the Boulevard



KU's 141st Commencement ceremony May 19 featured the usual tearful moms, popped champagne and impromptu stadium antics as well as three recipients of honorary doctorates: dancer and choreographer Karole Armitage; artist and educator Wendell Castle, f'58, g'66; and Land Institute founder Wes Jackson, g'60.

Exhibitions

“Conversation XIV: Water,”
Spencer Museum of Art,
through July 28

“An Errant Line: Ann
Hamilton / Cynthia Schira,”
Spencer Museum of Art,
through Aug. 11

“KU Common Work of Art,”
Spencer Museum of Art,
through 2013

Lied Center

SEPTEMBER

- 6** Asphalt Orchestra
- 8** Anderson W. Chandler
lecture featuring Rob Kaplan
- 16** Blue Man Group

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series

SEPTEMBER

12-13 “The Role of Islam in
Post 9/11 America,” Arsalan
Iftikhar

OCTOBER

22-23 “Unseen—The
History of Privacy,” Jill
Lepore

NOVEMBER

18-19 “An Evening with
Junot Diaz: Literature,
Diaspora, and Immigration,”
Junot Diaz

FEBRUARY

13 “Imagining the Past:
Interplay between Literary
and Visual Imagery in Late
Medieval France,” Anne
Hedeman

MARCH

11-12 “Through the Eye of a
Needle: Wealth, the Fall of
Rome, and the Making of
Christianity in the West,
350-500 AD,” Peter Brown

APRIL

24-25 “The Supreme Court
in the Age of Obama,” Jeffrey
Toobin

Academic Calendar

JULY

26 Summer classes end

AUGUST

26 Fall classes begin

Special Events

JULY

27 Saturday Art Adventure:
Art of the Edge, Spencer
Museum of Art

AUGUST

- 24** Traditions Night,
Memorial Stadium
- 24** 'Hawk Fest, Adams
Alumni Center
- 25** Opening Convocation

SEPTEMBER

- 20** Family Weekend
- 29-Oct. 5** Homecoming

Commencement photographs by Steve Puppe

To view more photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/kansasalumni/sets/



Association Events

JULY

- 17** Oatmeal, Omelets and the Oread: Houston Breakfast Networking Event
- 19** Smoky Hill Golf Tournament, Hays
- 22** Rhythm and Meaning: Jazz at KU, St. Louis
- 25** Cleveland Alumni Reception, Cleveland
- 26** KU Night at Yards Brewing Company, Philadelphia
- 26** Pittsburgh Alumni Reception, Pittsburgh
- 27** Columbus Alumni Happy Hour, Dublin, Ohio
- 27** Salina Steak Out
- 27** KU Day at Port City Brewery, Alexandria, Va.
- 28** KU Day on the Severn River, Severna Park, Md.



AUGUST

- 2** Milwaukee River Boat Cruise, Milwaukee,
- 3** Indianapolis Brewery Tour & Tasting, Indianapolis
- 4** Los Angeles Summer Reception
- 8** Denver Networking Breakfast
- 9** Reno Alumni Reception, Reno, Nev.
- 9** Southeast Washington Alumni Reception, Richland, Wash.
- 10** Beat the Heat Summer Picnic, Las Vegas
- 10** Portland Alumni Reception, Portland, Ore.
- 11** KU Day at Buffalo Trace Distillery, Frankfort, Ky.
- 11** Seattle Alumni Summer Picnic, Sammamish, Wash.
- 16** KU Kickoff at Corinth Square, Kansas City



21 KU Night with the Albuquerque Isotopes, Albuquerque, N.M.

21 Oatmeal, Omelets and the Oread: Houston Breakfast Networking Event

22 San Antonio Alumni Reception

23 Charlotte Alumni Reception, Charlotte, N.C.

SEPTEMBER

12 Denver Networking Breakfast

For more details about the Association's annual 'Hawk Days of Summer' tour, including breakfast, lunch and dinner receptions, call 800-584-2957 or visit www.kualumni.org.



Ray Evans, 2012-'13 Alumni Association chair, welcomed graduates to the alumni family, "perhaps the most important community of your lifetime." Evans, b'82, g'84, encouraged the newest alumni to take advantage of the one-year gift membership in the Alumni Association provided by KU Endowment and follow the Association on Twitter (@kualumni).

Jayhawk Walk

Tail-wagging stress relief, Part I

WHEN PET THERAPY DOGS visited Anschutz Library on the weekend before finals, they were greeted by delighted students who bolted from tail-end-of-the-semester studies for some big-time belly rubbin’.

“Finals week is a crazy, stressful, intense crunch time, so the dogs were great,” says Lawrence sophomore Steve Norris, a business and marketing major who put aside prepping for his French final to greet the pooches and their pals. “And in the whole dog vs. cat spectrum, I’m 100 percent dog, so I definitely loved it.”

The collaboration between KU Libraries and Mo-Kan Pet Partners was a first for the University, but follows a national trend of defusing finals stress with visits from therapy dogs. Amy Handelman Bennett, j’86, a Kansas City medical editor who brought her beloved All-American mutt Ginger, says she recalls the pressures of her own student days and was delighted to help others find relief.

“Not many walked past without petting the dogs, and I don’t mean give them a scratch behind the ears and move on,” Bennett says. “They got down on the floor with the dogs. I think the dogs got more out of it than the people.”



COURTESY AMY BENNETT

Tail-wagging stress relief, Part II

FIRST CAME THE SCREAM: “I’m done! I’m graduating!” And then, recalled a Chicago freshman who was studying for her microbiology final on Anschutz Library’s main floor, “All of a sudden a naked man with nothing on but a backpack is sprinting right toward us. The library was silent for a few seconds, because no one knew what happened, and then the whole library started cheering and screaming. The mood was down before that; after that, everyone was laughing and talking. We were cheering for him. It was pretty awesome.”

The nursing major who got the unexpected extra-credit lesson in anatomy—and requested anonymity to expose the details—added a modern twist to campus streaking’s tradition: She grabbed for her iPhone 5 and snapped a picture that quickly ricocheted across social media.

“It’s like, scary, my reflexes with cameras,” she said, with tinges of both pride and concern. “I had my phone out, and I don’t know why it was my first instinct, but I just snapped a picture, really fast, and it was a good angle: It didn’t show too much and it was a little blurry.”



Mrs. Kansas times two

Two Lawrence women were crowned Mrs. Kansas this spring.

Elizabeth Kellison Stephens, ’12, cinched her sash March 2. Rachel Smith Karwas, j’08, claimed hers March 24.

Two Jayhawks. Same title. Different contests.

Stephens’ win qualifies her to compete in the Mrs. America pageant, the winner of which represents the United States in the Mrs. World competition in December.

Karwas’ title advances her to the Mrs. United States pageant, which takes place in Las Vegas July 27 to Aug. 1.

Both are using the beauty contests for

STEVE PUPPE



Stephens and Karwas

married women to promote issues that mean much to them. For Stephens, who grew up poor and works now at the Lawrence Community Shelter, the issue is family homelessness. For Karwas, an event coordinator for KU Libraries, the issue is childhood cancer,

which took the life of a friend’s child in 2011.

Says Karwas of the dual—not dueling—honors, “It makes me extra proud that we both went to KU. I’m a huge fan of this school, so I think it’s really positive that we have two titleholders from the same university.”



STEVE PUPPE

A chip off the old book

AS THE WINNERS OF THE 57th annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest were announced in April, Baiba Sedriks had but one thought: Please, please call my name.

"I just wanted honorable mention, so I could carry on the family tradition," says Sedriks, c'95, g'11, g'13, who won first place in the graduate division of the annual contest sponsored by KU Libraries. Her father, Andre Sedriks, c'66, g'74, won the contest as a graduate student in 1970. An aunt, Ilze Sedriks, c'60, took the undergraduate prize in 1959.

"I grew up knowing my father and aunt had won the contest," says Sedriks, who recalls making a special trip to the library as an undergraduate to see their names on a Snyder display. "I thought, 'Oh my goodness, I want my name to be there too, because I love collecting just like they do.'"

Sedriks credits her father, a director and professor of theatre who died in 2001, with kindling her passion for books and movies. Her collection, "Discovering Hollywood's Mysteries: Juvenile Literature from Cinema's Golden Age," combines her love of glamorous old-time Hollywood, mystery novels and young adult literature.

Winning the contest—started in 1957 by Elizabeth Snyder to encourage student interest in books and book collecting—"was unbelievable and magical and emotional at the same time," Sedriks says.

"It has given so much back to me, because people came out of the woodwork to tell me they knew my dad. That was wonderful. I got to carry on the family tradition and have people remember him."



STEVE PUPPE

(Left to right) Rick Levy, Lou Mulligan, Tom Stacy, Blake Wilson, Grant Harse, Leah Terranova, Allison Reeve, Elizabeth Kronk

Rock and roll fantasy

Stephen Mazza, dean of law, beamed as law grads convened for a June reception in Kansas City. "We expected 50, and we'll have 100 easily," he said. "We try to host quarterly events for all Kansas City alumni. Tonight we really want to welcome members of the Class of 2013. It's just a chance to get together after work, a convenient stop on the way home. There's no agenda."

Except for silly law songs, performed by the law school's own house band, The Moody Bluebooks. After welcoming grads, Mazza proudly introduced the 10 faculty, staff and alumni who were the evening's headliners.

The Moody Bluebooks do not merely cover rock standards; they convert them to Green Hall anthems. So Joe Walsh's "Rocky Mountain Way" is "The KU Law School Way," and the chorus to Carly Rae Jepsen's plea to call her translates to "Look, prof, my hand is waving, 'cause I'm a gunner, call on me maybe?"

Taking license with lyrics is the specialty of Rick Levy, a distinguished professor of constitutional law who wears a black "TMBB" T-shirt, complete with lightning bolt, when he plays keyboards. Levy has rewritten nearly 90 songs—collected in a bluebook, or course—since the founding band members first took the stage in 1985 for a spring talent show during Pub Night, hosted by Women in Law. "We were really terrible, absolutely horrible," Levy recalls. "But we were a hit. The students loved it."

Pub Night has become the band's annual gig in Lawrence. Judging by its June performance, the band clearly relished taking the act on the road for alumni, who all applauded when Mazza hit the dance floor as the band belted a tribute to KU's first dean of law: "Jimmy Green's not my Uncle. He's just a guy who claims that law school is fun."

Perhaps in deference to Michael Jackson, Mazza skipped the moonwalk.

STEVE RUPPE (2)



A home for 'Hawks

New engineering design center by Studio 804 provides high-tech base for KU EcoHawks

Students in the EcoHawks research program transform old cars to get hands-on experience with the latest forward-thinking, eco-friendly automotive technology. Studio 804 students design and construct buildings to get hands-on experience with the latest forward-thinking, eco-friendly architecture.

So it seemed fitting that the two innovative programs—one in the School of Engineering and one in the School of Architecture, Design and Planning—should team up to provide a badly needed campus home for the EcoHawks. “From the very beginning, it was a perfect partnership,” says EcoHawks director Chris Depcik, associate professor of engineering. “It just clicked.”

The Hill Engineering Research and Development Center, which opened on West Campus in June, is the second

campus building completed by Studio 804, the nationally recognized design-and-build studio for graduate architecture students headed by Dan Rockhill, J.L. Constant distinguished professor of architecture. Built to LEED Platinum standards, the center incorporates repurposed materials and technology features that support the engineering program’s research on transportation energy issues.

Materials include an exterior shell of aircraft aluminum recycled from a Wichita airplane manufacturer and a castoff metal conveyor belt that was used in an outdoor workspace. High-tech conservation touches include a wall-sized sunshade made of Aerogel insulating panels that absorb heat and provide shade during the day. Photovoltaic panels on the roof provide enough solar energy most days to

“From the very beginning, it was a perfect partnership. It just clicked.”

—Chris Depcik, EcoHawks director

run the building and fully charge the batteries for vehicles that students design.

Depcik says the building is a big improvement over the program’s prior campus home, a barn without heating or air-conditioning. The lack of climate control took a toll on student projects, destroying the battery pack for a VW Beetle that students in past years had transformed into a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

Not only does the new building protect student projects, but it’s also designed to allow the latest Ecohawks vehicle—a fully electric 1997 GMC Jimmy SUV completed by students during the 2012-’13 academic year—to actually power the building.

“The plug allows two-way flow of energy,” Depcik says. “Part of the research in electric vehicles is understanding the



impact of battery aging, the drivability of the vehicle, how far you can go. So I have students working at night flip the switch and run everything off the vehicle and see how that impacts performance.”

Studio 804 students donated their time and labor on the project, and a gift from engineering alumnus Ronald, e’57, and Sue Hill of Lee’s Summit, Mo., longtime School of Engineering supporters, helped fund the 4,000-square-foot building.

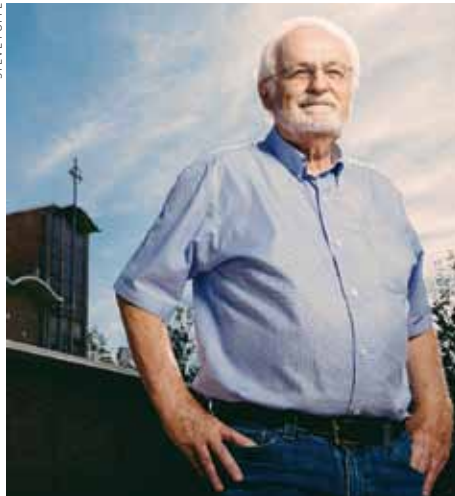
As a mechanical engineering student 60 years ago, Hill built a scuba apparatus and demonstrated it underwater at a KU engineering exhibition. Encouraging that same kind of opportunity for students today was a big reason he and his wife supported the project.

“We see the research and development center as an opportunity for mechanical engineering students to learn by doing with hands-on experience,” Hill says.

Decik says the new building will help encourage another crucial element for prospective engineers—excitement.

“Students need to be excited in engineering. If you work in an outdated facility in some dungeon somewhere, it doesn’t stimulate your excitement for that project. If you can walk into a building like this to work on a project, and have people come by and marvel at the building and the work you’re doing, it can’t help but excite students. You can’t do better than that.”

STEVE PUPPE



Thad Holcombe

In good stead

ECM leader retires after 2 decades

In 22 years as executive director of Ecumenical Christian Ministries, the Oread Avenue hub for students and members of the Lawrence and KU communities, Thad Holcombe heard the question many times: Is ECM part of the University?

Holcombe’s answer: “Well, no—but yes.”

As he prepared to retire on June 30, his 73rd birthday, Holcombe looked back on his two decades leading a ministry that he envisioned as “one possible alternative” to the predominant University culture, a place outside the institution but very much of the campus.

“We really are a university ministry here, not a student ministry, and that makes a world of difference in how one relates with students—not to them, but with them,” Holcombe says. “We tried to understand that students aren’t kids, they’re young adults, old adults, international, all different sexual orientations. We are open and affirming here, so how do we appreciate that, and how do we help create communities—plural—rather than trying to get one uniform community as far as the ministry is concerned.”

Holcombe came to KU in 1993 from

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **A \$1 million grant** from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation will fund efforts by KU Medical Center’s Landon Center on Aging to help medical students, resident physicians and faculty team with professionals in other health disciplines in caring for older patients. KU was one of 10 institutions nationwide to receive the grant.

■ **The School of Pharmacy** ranked No. 2 in the nation for National Institutes of Health funding for the second consecutive year, according to data collected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The school earned more than \$25 million in NIH funding, a primary source of federal funding for pharmacy schools and a key indicator of the productivity and quality of a school’s faculty. KU has been ranked in the top 5 for 12 straight years, and it is the only Big 12 school in the top 10. The school also ranks No. 1 in the nation for the value of awards per funded faculty member.



STEVE PUPPE

■ **The School of Business** bestowed its 2013 distinguished alumni awards on Roger Davis and Chris Lynch. Davis, b’72, of Chicago, is the majority owner and CEO of Paxton/Patterson LLC. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and business administration and served on the dean’s advisory board for 20 years. Lynch, b’79, of San Francisco, also studied accounting and business administration. He spent most of his career at KPMG in Denver, New York City and San Francisco, retiring in 2007 as national managing partner of the financial services division. He serves on the boards of Freddie Mac and AIG.

STEVE PUPPE



The EcoHawks’ new research center gleams inside and out with recycled materials (such as the aircraft-aluminum shell) and high-tech tools (including a vehicle lift and a two-way charging station) that support student projects.

Hilltopics

Tulsa, where he worked as a community organizer and campus minister. He grew up in an Oklahoma ranching family and attended Oklahoma State, where he seemed headed for a career in ornithology before a chance encounter with a campus ministry changed his path. He joined a group that met weekly over dinner to discuss theology and discovered an intellectual component to the faith he was raised in.

“We talked about things in a way that you could disagree, but the important thing was to think about it,” Holcombe says. “That was incredibly liberating to me. I think I got the message that the world is to be explored. It was really exciting to think that, contrary to much of what people think about the Christian faith, it’s not made of these moralisms and dos and don’ts. What it wants people to do is explore the world. Take risks.”

That same spirit of open inquiry characterized Holcombe’s tenure on Mount Oread, according to ECM board president Bob Minor, professor emeritus of religious studies at KU.

“ECM under his leadership is a place where people can ask any question,” Minor says. “Asking the questions and working

on the answers together is what binds people together and helps make their faith their own, and that process is more important than coming up with the right answers.”

Holcombe believes organizations like ECM have an important role to play in helping students find their calling.

“I’ve always felt that higher education needed to be about vocations,” he says. “That’s one of the things that we tried to work on here—what’s your vocation, what’s your calling in life? Not to full-time ministry or being a person of faith, per se, but what’s your passion? What do you want to do?”

Recently he and the ECM board wrapped up a successful campaign to raise \$832,000 to repair and upgrade the Oread Avenue building, which was successfully added to the National Register of Historic Places and recognized by the Kansas State Historical Society. A new director, Dwight Welch, has been hired to succeed Holcombe.

“I always wanted to leave when things were in good stead, and I feel they are,” Holcombe says. “I don’t feel despondent at all. I’ve really just got so much gratitude for what I’ve experienced.”

SOCIAL WELFARE

Recent graduate to lead Jana’s Campaign

ERIC SADER, s’13, f’13, has been named the first executive director of Jana’s Campaign, the nonprofit organization devoted to stopping domestic violence. The group formed after the death of Jana Mackey, c’05, a 25-year-old KU law student found dead in her ex-boyfriend’s Lawrence home in 2008.

Mackey’s mother and stepfather, Christie and Curt Brungardt, professors of leadership studies at Fort Hays State University, founded Jana’s Campaign in 2009 to honor her commitment to social justice issues, especially those concerning domestic violence and sexual assault. While completing her undergraduate degree in women’s studies and in law school, Mackey was a strong advocate, serving as a state capitol lobbyist for the Kansas National Organization for Women, volunteering at the GaDuGi Safe Center, and working as a staff member on state and national campaigns of female political candidates.

Sader, who earned his social welfare graduate degree in the administration and

UPDATE

Yen Vo, g’04, Vietnam’s leading advocate for people with disabilities, was one of four Ford Foundation International Fellows featured at the closing event of the foundation’s 10-year International Fellows Program in New York City in May. After attending KU on the Ford fellowship, Vo founded Disability Resource and Development center in Ho Chi Minh City to help people with disabilities participate more fully in Vietnamese society [“The Way of Yen Vo,”

issue No. 6, 2008].

Since 2008, DRD has expanded services nationwide with help from a \$1 million grant from the U.S.-based Atlantic Philanthropies. The center helped pass a comprehensive national disability law in 2011, a significant development for a country that traditionally has excluded people with disabilities from society. Vo was awarded Japan’s Kazuo Itoga Prize, and a survey by the LIN Center for Community

Development named DRD one of the three most trusted NGOs in Vietnam.

“It’s just small steps, and we have a long way to go,” says Vo.

Visiting KU in May, she announced a new English language website, one4change.org, that will raise money for further expansion of services and construction of a permanent home for DRD.

“The goal is to change the mindset,” she says, “that the disabled are not helpless but can be community leaders.”



Yen Vo

DAN STOREY



Eric Sader

advocacy track, says what drew him to the organization is that it moves domestic violence and sexual assault from a personal issue to a social issue.

“In addition to looking at violence itself, it looks at things such as gender pay equity and some of the root causes,” Sader says. “It’s really about creating a social shift, more than just helping individuals.”

Among the organization’s five main platforms, Sader sees two as demanding greater immediate attention: campus action and engaging men.

A recent \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to fund summits to help university administrators and staff members bolster campus safety addresses the first issue. As for the second, more education is needed to define the role that men—and society as a whole—can play in stopping domestic violence, Sader says.

“Gender-based violence is a women’s issue, but it’s also a men’s issue and a human issue,” he says. “There has been some dangerous talk in the past about men need to protect women. My view in Jana’s Campaign is that men need to partner with women, not just help women who are seen as victims, but to work with women as equal partners.”

FACULTY

Steeple honors 3 professors for service to Kansas

A PROFESSOR known for his tax law and estate planning advice, a sculptor who

STEVE PUPPE

promotes the arts across the state and a plant researcher and noted advocate for prairie ecosystems were recognized in May with the Steeples Service to Kansas Award.

Founded in 1997 by Don Steeples, the McGee distinguished professor of geophysics, and his wife, Tammy, g’00, the award includes a \$1,000 stipend and a \$1,000 increase in base salary.

It’s named for Don’s parents, the late Wally and Marie Steeples, Palco residents who had long careers in the public schools; the award is intended to recognize those whose contributions to the people of Kansas go above and beyond what is expected in their roles as faculty members.

Martin Dickinson, c’60, the Robert A. Schroeder distinguished professor of law, was recognized for his work on state advisory committees relating to property tax, income tax, estate tax and trust administration. The committees have suggested revisions to Kansas tax law that helped protect the elderly and ensure a fair system for generating revenue.

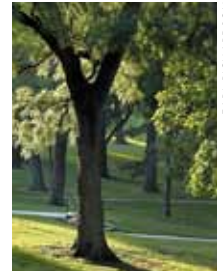
John Hachmeister, f’72, associate professor of sculpture in the School of the Arts, was cited for promoting “arts in the community” efforts statewide. Among his projects are a successful 25-year bid to preserve and restore the Garden of Eden in Lucas and a partnership he helped establish between KU and the Kansas City School for the Blind.

Kelly Kindscher, c’79, PhD’92, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey and co-principal investigator at the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, was recognized for his long history of public education and engagement. With presentations and walking tours that focus on preservation, restoration and ethnobotany of prairie plants, Kindscher has helped raise awareness about the value of the prairie across the state.

Milestones, money and other matters

■ KU has earned Tree Campus USA

status, thanks to the efforts of the Campus Tree Advisory Board, started in 2012 as part of a bid by the Center for Sustainability



EARL RICHARDSON

to enhance campus landscapes and preserve historic green spaces. KU gained the title by meeting five standards set by the Arbor Day Foundation, which sponsors Tree Campus USA: Maintain a tree advisory committee, establish a campus tree-care plan, dedicate annual spending for trees, hold an Arbor Day observance and host student service-learning projects. For this year’s Arbor Day observance, the second-annual Replant Mount Oread event, volunteers planted crabapple trees near Fraser Hall.

■ KU’s Bioscience & Technology

Business Center broke ground in June on an expansion that will add 30,000 square feet to the West Campus facility. The business incubator for life sciences companies opened in 2010 and reached full capacity last year by adding its ninth company. BTBC provides labs, office space and professional business services to its tenants and other clients. Once completed, the expanded BTBC will accommodate 18 to 24 companies.

■ University Scholarly Achievement

Awards recognized four mid-career scholars this spring who’ve made significant research contributions to their fields. The annual awards are presented in four areas. This year’s winners are: Sally Cornelison, arts and humanities; Don Haider-Markel, social science and professional programs; Mikhail Medvedev, science, technology and math; and Thomas Prisinzano, clinical science.

Runners back

Sims, Pierson lead football's deepest group

Charlie Weis, owner of four Super Bowl rings, is the last person who needs to be reminded that his Jayhawks won only one game in his debut season as KU's football coach—a 1-11 embarrassment that followed a two-win season in Turner Gill's final year here. From the helmets (now featuring Jayhawks rather than "KU" on the sides) on down, change is coming, and fast, because nearly every area of the program is cause for concern.

Weis was so displeased with special teams play last season that he eliminated the role of special teams coordinator and instead handed an area of responsibility to every assistant coach except quarterbacks coach Ron Powlus. Junior Jake Heaps, forced to sit out a year after transferring from BYU, takes over at quarterback, and junior wide receiver Justin McCay, forced to sit out after transferring from Oklahoma, hopes to bolster a receiver corps that didn't catch a single touchdown pass in 2012.

The defensive line can't help but be strengthened by Weis signing four junior-college transfers, including 300-pounder Marquel Combs, rated by



James Sims rushed for 176 yards last season against Texas, his fourth-consecutive game over the 100-yard mark. "Coming out of the spring," coach Charlie Weis said afterward, "I said the same thing about Sims that I'm saying now: I don't know if there's a better back in the league. If they exist, I have not seen them yet."



STEVE RUPPE (2)

ESPN as the country's top junior-college prospect.

As he remakes his team while aiming for the Jayhawks' season opener against South Dakota, a 6 p.m. kickoff Sept. 7 in Memorial Stadium, only one piece of the complex puzzle is likely to be left unchanged: running back, a position that returns all four letter-winners.

The Jayhawks feature the Big 12 Conference's leading rusher, senior James Sims, who last season ran for 1,103 yards and nine touchdowns in only nine games. Junior Tony Pierson, considered by some analysts to be the most explosive runner in the conference, rushed for 760 yards and four TDs last season and caught 21 passes for 291 yards and two scores.

Also back are senior Taylor Cox, who

in his first season after transferring from junior college rushed for 464 yards and three TDs, and junior Brandon Bourbon, a prized recruit when he arrived in 2010 who has yet to fully find his stride but remains a threat rushing and receiving as well as returning kicks.

Added to the mix is Colin Spencer, a Dallas freshman who by some reports might be even faster than Pierson, and sophomore Darrian Miller, who rushed for 559 yards and four TDs as a freshman in 2011 but was dismissed from the team before last year and was reinstated in May.

As he awaits his team's first opportunity to begin scrubbing away the nightmares of 2012—including a 51-23 loss to Iowa State in the final home game and a 59-10 drubbing at West Virginia in the closer—

Weis finds pleasure in the Jayhawks' conditioning, led by taskmaster Scott Holsopple, director of strength and conditioning. While typically citing transformations such as senior Aslam Sterling shedding nearly 100 pounds since last August, Weis also notes that Sims is one of the guys who passes the eye test.

"He is in a lot better shape than he was last year at this time," Weis says of Sims. "Basically, it is because of the guys he is around; they are some of the hardest working guys on the team. Tony is like the Energizer Bunny. He is going to go full speed on every play, every day. Taylor is like that; Brandon is like that. I don't think James has ever been in this kind of shape. He feels really good about himself right now.

"The difference between James and Tony is, Tony wants to do it, but James has to do it. There is a difference."

With strong-armed Heaps surely searching for targets, Weis says he plans to deploy a lot of two-back sets—not necessarily because it suits his preferred game plan, but because Sims and Pierson

"We may have depth at a position, or talent at another, but to have depth and talent together, that is the makings of what good teams do."

—coach Charlie Weis

are both too good to be standing next to the coach, and Pierson's versatility makes him a threat even lining up as a wide receiver. That's a lesson Weis says was hammered home while watching West Virginia's Tavon Austin, a first-round pick of the St. Louis Rams who racked up 187 combined rushing and receiving yards against the Jayhawks. Weis recalls telling his coaches, "We have a guy like that but we don't utilize him."

"It's a copycat league," Weis says, "and when you see somebody who is utilizing something that you think you have the personnel to do, then you go ahead and take a look at that. So you'll see a lot of James and Tony on the field at the same time.

"Last year, we thought we knew about [the running backs], but now we know what we have. It gives us an opportunity to try and do some creative things when you have depth at a position with talent. We don't have a lot of positions where we have both depth and talent. We may have depth at a position, or talent at another, but to have depth and talent together, that is the makings of what good teams do."

After the Sept. 7 opener, the Jayhawks play at Rice Sept. 14, host Louisiana Tech Sept. 21 and open conference play with the Homecoming game Oct. 5 against Texas Tech. Other home games are against Oklahoma Oct. 19, Baylor Oct. 26, West Virginia Nov. 16 and Kansas State Nov. 30.

UPDATES

After notching a season sweep against rival Wichita State, the baseball team won three straight games in the Big 12 Championship tournament in Oklahoma City before falling to hometown favorite Oklahoma in the championship game. Kansas (34-25) stormed through its pool with wins over West Virginia, Oklahoma State and TCU before falling to OU in the title game, 7-2. KU players raised \$1,200 among themselves for tornado relief in Moore, where the Jayhawks spent a day helping the Oklahoma City suburb dig out from its devastation. ...

Michael Stigler took silver in the 400-meter hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships with a school-record time of 49.19. ... Softball's final home game of the year was



Alex DeLeon

JEFF JACOBSEN (2)

a 2-0 victory over No. 1 Oklahoma, KU's first win against a top-ranked team. The Jayhawks (34-16) then closed the season with a 12-3 victory at Iowa State and posted a Big 12-record team batting average of .345. ... Thanks to an NCAA rule change moving the start of fall men's basketball practice up two weeks, Late Night in the Phog will be Oct. 4, the night before the Homecoming football game against Texas Tech. The event will feature the Allen Field House debut of super-recruit **Andrew Wiggins**, as well as guard **Wayne Selden**, center **Joel Embiid**, forward **Brannen Greene**, guards **Conner Frankamp** and **Frank Mason**, as well as senior transfer **Tarik Black**, a 6-9 forward who averaged 9.3 points and 4.9 rebounds at Memphis. Black already earned his bachelor's



Stigler

degree, and has one year of eligibility remaining. ... **Todd Chapman**, who guided Texas Tech to Big 12 titles in 2012 and '13, is the new head women's tennis coach. ... **Brian Pritt**, a two-time NCAA qualifier and three-year volunteer coach at Tennessee, is the new diving coach.

GAME DAY



AT THE ADAMS

Join the KU Alumni Association all season long for
Game Day at the Adams tailgates!

Mark your calendars!

- 9/7 vs. South Dakota
- 9/14 @ Rice
- 9/21 vs. Louisiana Tech (Family Weekend)
- 10/5 vs. Texas Tech (Homecoming)
- 10/12 @ TCU
- 10/19 vs. Oklahoma
- 10/26 vs. Baylor
- 11/2 @ Texas
- 11/9 @ Oklahoma State
- 11/16 vs. West Virginia
- 11/23 @ Iowa State
- 11/30 vs. Kansas State

*Please join us for on-site tailgates
at all away games!*

The parties start three hours prior to kickoff and include a buffet from Biggs BBQ or Salty Iguana, soft drinks and two drink coupons for those age 21 or older.

- KU Alumni Association Members - \$12 Members save \$10!
- Nonmembers - \$22
- Children ages 5-12 - \$5
- Children 4 and under - no charge

**Members, be sure to show your membership card
at tailgates to receive a free members-only gift!**



**ALUMNI
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The University of Kansas

To join, or for more information,
visit www.kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Coach Bill Self joined in the May 19 Commencement celebration to greet graduating athletes, including (left) Jeff Withey, Elijah Johnson, Travis Releford and Kevin Young; women's basketball players (bottom right) Carolyn Davis and Monica Engelman and graduate assistant Danielle Campbell; and twin softball stars (bottom left) Maggie and Rosie Hull. Xavier Henry (above and below), who completed his degree after leaving in 2010 for the NBA, and Withey (below left), who finished his coursework in December, were all smiles as they draped themselves in hard-earned caps and gowns.





by Jennifer Lawler

Photographs by
Steve Puppe

I'm in the process of changing my career, leaving a regular job to return to freelance writing. I'm feeling burned out and frustrated, which makes such self-reinvention a bit of a challenge; reinvention requires optimism and energy. I want to sit on a beach and feel sorry for myself for a month, but try as I might, I can't see where that will help me pay the rent, so it's going to have to be something else. Ordinarily, I would go to a writers' conference, but I've just left an executive editor position, and I want absolutely nothing to do with writers. Or books. Or publishing.

FRESHER COURSE

Amid life's challenges, Mini College offers a chance to recharge and reflect. This time, no homework



An ad for KU Mini College crosses my radar. “Mini College offers adults with a thirst for learning the opportunity to rediscover the student experience,” the website says. “Spend a week on campus reconnecting with KU through lectures, tours and special events with top faculty and university leaders.”

The first thing I do is note the lack of a serial comma. That’s enough to make me realize I have focused too long on trivial matters. This program may be the thing that saves me. There will be big ideas, important research, meaningful work! Or there had better be, anyway. Most of all, there will be no work orders to write, no cover copy that needs tweaking, no neurotic authors desperate for reassurance.

Mini College, which the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences launched in 2009, is now a summer staple on campus. The

session starts a week after my job ends, and lasts four days. I sign up because it is not for writers or editors or publishers and with luck there will be no books whatsoever. I’m not looking for a life-changing experience—I have had enough of those for one lifetime, thank you—but I would like to shake things up a little.

I select a slate of classes that have absolutely no bearing on my career and couldn’t possibly be of any help to my work down the road, which, come to think of it, is how I managed my university career as well. “It’s an education!” I exclaimed then. “Not job training!”

That was before all those student loans came due, but no matter. Mini College does not require a student loan, just a modest fee that can come out of my wine budget now that the job won’t be driving me to drink.

The registration packet mentions The

Commons, and I have a moment of freaking out. What is The Commons? I’ve never heard of it! It wasn’t there when I went to school at KU! Suddenly I feel like a freshman again. “I don’t know where anything is!” I would be sobbing to my dorm mate, if only I had one.

My middle-aged self rolls her eyes at adolescent me and suggests I look it up, so I do, and it’s not hard at all, which turns out to be true of most of Mini College. You can even buy a parking pass that will let you park in the Blue or Gold lots, which in the ordinary course of events you’d have to be a professor emeritus with 40 years’ experience to score.

Already I am energized enough to send the *Kansas Alumni* magazine editor a note, and she suggests that I write about my experiences at Mini College, my first assignment since deciding to change careers. Belatedly I realize this means I’m

going to have to pay attention and take notes, so already this is a lot more like college than I was expecting.

“The Wheel,” my editor says over coffee. “You’ll be having lunch at the Wheel! That’ll connect with readers.”

“Oh, yes,” I say and promptly fail to disclose that I have never been to the Wheel. I don’t even know where it is. While they can’t revoke my diploma for this oversight, I’m afraid I won’t be able to convey a scene of nostalgic return to the place as she is clearly hoping I will.

I’ll just wow her with my sterling prose about other elements of Mini College, and she won’t notice, I tell myself, demonstrating just the type of delusional thinking that drives editors mad. The process of developing a freelance mindset is coming along nicely.

On a picture-perfect June morning, I park in the Gold lot next to The Commons, putting my jealousy-inducing parking pass on my dashboard. I get a tote bag filled with swag, and I explore this as I’m waiting for the keynote speaker to begin. I peruse a magazine that updates me with goings-on in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in my absorption I fail to note whether they are using Chicago style or AP.

I introduce myself to two women sitting next to me. This doesn’t lead to a lifelong friendship, but it is only 8:15 on the first day, so I can be patient. Many of the people attend in pairs, and don’t have to worry about who they’ll sit next to at lunch, but this is a solo adventure for me because, well, it never actually occurred to me to invite someone else along.

“When I was here,” we all keep saying the first day. I don’t remember the purple irises, and they seem to have moved the English department. The office I used to have in the basement of Wescoe has disappeared; the rabbit warren that once housed the graduate teaching assistants has been turned into classrooms. I wind down the stairs at Wescoe, the air getting warmer and warmer as I descend. In my head I make a comparison to Dante’s *Inferno*, not for the first time.



Some things never change.

There is a lot more PowerPoint than when I was in college. Also, YouTube. People still fall asleep in afternoon classes. They still doodle in their notebooks. Someone is knitting, which I don’t recall from my years here. I still scan the other students to see if there are any cute boys in my classes.

“Are we all in the right room?” the professors ask, as they have always asked on the first day. The teachers have more of a sense of humor than I remember. I need to wear glasses a lot more than I once did. Also, I have a paparazzo following me around, which is new. “It’s for a piece I’m writing,” I explain to people, who all try to stay out of range. This is not helping me find someone to sit with at lunch.

One of my classes is at Stauffer-Flint, a building I don’t recall but which, according to the map, is right next to Wescoe. I pass the journalism building and only after a few minutes of fruitlessly searching do I realize that “the journalism building” is Stauffer-Flint, and immediately I recall my daughter’s frequent comment: “These things have proper names, you know.” To me, it’s a squisher thing; to her it is a garlic mincer. The button thing is the garage door remote. She despairs of my ever learning this.

My daughter hadn’t been born yet when I was in school. Now she’s hanging out

(From top) Patricia DeDeucca Kackley, '67, Washington, Mo., was among the students who discovered “Why Russians Are Different, Reason #7: Seven Strings Make a Guitar,” a Mini College class taught by Marc Greenberg, professor and chair of Slavic languages and literature (second from top). Dennis Brook, Jennifer Lawler and other class members got the chance to examine the guitar. Beneath umbrellas (p. 18) Kristi Henderson, j'03, communications director for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Jennifer Lawler and Marcia Chesney, Ann Arbor, Mich., strolled the campus between classes.

with her dad while I attend Mini College but I hear her dry commentary on everything I do. Before I left, she reminded me to sit in the front of the classroom, pay attention, and ask good questions.

“You may need coffee,” she frets. “Will they let you have coffee in the classroom?”

“I’m more worried about the assignment. I have no idea how I’m going to write this piece,” I tell her.

“Start with some sentences,” she advises.

Dinner the first night is at the Adams Alumni Center, and I think about skipping it and going home to play mahjong, but then I remember I have an editor, and if she asks, “So how was the welcome dinner?” I don’t want to answer, “I have no idea.” So I go with the intention that I will latch on to some poor fool, like a remora, and sit at his/her table. People at KU are too nice to make you go sit somewhere else.

I stand around in a hallway for a while, and then I spot someone else standing by herself, and I decide she will be the one. She turns out to be Rebecca. A moment later she is joined by Barb and Peggy, and I find out that they’ve only just met, and are all rooming at the scholarship hall. I announce that I have glommed onto them and will be joining them at dinner, and they don’t noticeably object, or if they do, I ignore them, so that works out fine. We talk about the weather and the classes. “This is exactly how I like school,” Barb says. “No tests.”

After dinner, we meet Kathy and Kenn. By the end of Mini College, we will have voted Kathy and Kenn in as King and Queen of Mini College, finding a great deal of hilarity in this vestige of high school. (“You guys like it,” says Jessica Proctor Beeson, director of alumni and community engagement for the College. She’s right.)

That first night, we talk about where we’re from, and how I ended up living in Eudora. Peggy, from Cheyenne, feels no explanation is needed. I mention my daughter, and say that she is a teenager with special needs, the way I always do so that no one makes awkward assumptions about how she’ll be applying to KU when the time comes. My

“I thought I was here to recharge but I realize I am also looking for answers. We all are, in our own ways.”



daughter won’t go to KU or to any college.

Being on campus and remembering how I grew and learned so much here, that fact makes me a little sad. It is something I would like to be able to share with her—for us to be Jayhawks together. But I’m not the only one whose life has deviated from the ideal, and none of us are as bright and shiny as we were all those years ago when we first arrived on campus.

As the days progress, these truths reveal themselves. Someone refers to her second husband, from whom she is divorced. Job losses, unexpected setbacks, debilitating diseases. Someone has lost a child. The years take their toll. I learn that kindness is a quality I appreciate a great deal more than I used to.

The forecast is for rain on Tuesday and Wednesday. I’m not sure I owned an umbrella in the old days. Now, I bring my fuchsia one, which I bought in Naples a couple of years ago. When I was at KU, I had never traveled overseas, only dreamed of doing it. My first trip to a big city—New York—was as a graduate student attending a Modern Language Association conference.

I think of all the things I wanted then, to travel, to be a writer, to have a family, and am pleasantly surprised to realize I got all of them, although not in any way I would have expected. I think 25-year-old me would have been happy with how I turned out, although perhaps somewhat surprised at the road I took to get here. Although maybe not: 25-year-old me never took the easy way anywhere.

“What would you call the theme of your classes?” Peggy asks at lunch on Wednesday.

When I was an undergrad, it was the humanities I connected with but now I’m interested in the sciences, and I say so.

“Is that because of your daughter?” Barb asks.

I look at the list of classes I’m enrolled in: Shrinking Laboratory: From Bench to Bedside; The Role of Protein Stability in Human Disease; The Brain: Function and Fiction; Using Flies to Help Explore and Treat Human Disease.

“Huh,” I say. I thought I was here to recharge but I realize I am also looking for answers. We all are, in our own ways.

One night there is pizza and a movie



Molly Schwartz, c'77, Little Rock, Ark.; her mother, Jackie Robbins, '80, Phoenix; and Teri Loney, Sunrise Beach, Mo., compared various fabrics in "Woven Images and the Patterns of Chance" as classmate Trudie Goldberg, Prairie Village, took a turn at the loom.



made by a pair of film professors (the movie, not the pizza, is made by the professors; the pizza is made by Papa John's); on another night, we go on a tour of historic Lawrence sites connected with Quantrill's Raid. My new friends and I take the elevator to the top of the new Oread hotel and appreciate the view. "Do you remember the Glass Onion?" we ask each other. But we don't mind that some things change.

What hasn't changed are the things that matter most: our curiosity, good teachers. The professors are so engaged that you can't help catching their enthusiasm. The protein stability professor does what I can only call the protein dance, riveting the entire class, and tells us that if proteins don't keep moving, they die. I sense that everyone in the room takes this for a metaphor as well as a fact.

Ideas are everywhere. Ideas, too: I take an ethics class that reminds me that some people still care about the commonwealth, that personal interest doesn't always triumph over social good, and nor should it. I learn a new term, positional goods: the idea that a benefit to one person should not be at the expense of someone else. I remember the beauty of abstractions. Honor and truth and justice. Ideas that get

In the end it turns out I am searching for truth, just as I always have, just as everyone in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences does, whether they recognize the quest as such or not.

worn down in the world of profit-and-loss statements and what's due tomorrow.

The scientific processes I am learning teach me something about my daughter, something important, why her brain works the way it does, and I can feel my compassion for her grow; my understanding of her struggles has a better context. The scientists give me a cautious optimism for the future. But it is the philosophy professor who reminds me that we make ethical decisions about how we will live every day of our lives, that our decisions make a difference to the world, each one making it a tiny bit more just and fair, or a tiny bit less so.

In the end it turns out I am searching

for truth, just as I always have, just as everyone in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences does, whether they recognize the quest as such or not. We want to know why, yes, but mostly we want to know what it all means. That's why we're here.

On Thursday, at graduation, I collect my certificate and toast my new friends. I'm ready for my next stage now. I have seven article ideas, a plan for a novel, the outline for an online class I want to teach, and the eagerness to get started on my new ventures. I have accomplished what I set out to do—recharge—and something a little more. I have managed a return to roots that matter to me. I am different, and what I have learned this week reflects that difference, but I am still the woman who loves Spenser passionately and despises Milton with the same fervor.

Afterward, Peggy writes, "Mini College served as a great rejuvenating adventure for me. Part intellectual, part whimsical, part social, part geographical, part sentimental . . . and all things Jayhawk!"

I couldn't have said it better myself. —

Jennifer Lawler, c'88, g'94, PhD'96, is a Eudora freelance writer who frequents Lawrence as much as possible. Her essay, "For Jessica," appeared in issue No. 1, 2011.



Kenn and Kathy Boelte, Barb McDonald and Rebecca Holloway shared lunch at The Wheel with first-timer Jennifer.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

These unsuspecting individuals attended Mini College without realizing they were going to end up in an essay. My thanks to them for befriending me and making my time at Mini College such a pleasure.

Barbara Davidson McDonald, '69, Shawnee—Barb is the kind of delightful person with whom you can discuss cute guys, the need to foster compassion in daily life, and the life cycle of fruit flies, all in one conversation.

Peggy Tate Lush, c'74, Cheyenne, Wyo.—The moment I met Peggy and she said, "I'm from Cheyenne. There's no need to explain about Eudora," I knew I was going to like her.

Kathy Boelte, Grand Junction, Colo.—Kathy is up for anything and embraces every new experience with the equanimity I hope to someday possess.

Kenn Boelte, c'72—One of my favorite parts of Mini College was when Kathy and Kenn were elected King and Queen, and watching all the former kings and queens come up to Kenn and congratulate him, all somewhat proud and slightly sheepish.

Rebecca Dold Holloway, '83, Benton—Rebecca doesn't have a speaking role in the essay, but Mini College wouldn't have been the experience it was without her, especially her good humor about my paparazzo. Rebecca, who has two degrees from Wichita State, lived in Ellsworth Hall while at KU and now works as a fingerprint tech with the Wichita Police Department. —J.L.



Geubelle, Vollmer, Bartnovskaya, Daniels, Redwine

GOLDEN GIRLS

With emphasis firmly on team, track and field wins first NCAA championship in the history of KU women's athletics

Few KU athletes in recent memory have exhibited more passion for their crimson-and-blue heritage than senior Andrea Geubelle. When sharing her thoughts and emotions about her beloved alma mater, the seven-time first-team All-American triple and long jumper bounds along with the same spirit and enthusiasm she displays when dashing down the runway, a streak of uncoiling energy and unmatched intensity.

"I remember a funny story," Geubelle began. The women's track team on June 9 had only minutes earlier returned to a hero's welcome, carrying high the winner's trophy from the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, KU's

first-ever national team title in women's athletics. A few hundred fans cheered the Jayhawks' entrance onto James Naismith Court in Allen Field House, and after athletes and coaches soaked up the praise and shared with the crowd mutual feelings of appreciation, Geubelle was in the mood to talk about history.

"We were revealing the Big 12 Indoor banner," she continued, referencing her team's first championship banner of 2013, won in February and unfurled in Anschutz Sports Pavilion alongside the array of blue banners representing conference and national championships from the heyday of men's track and field. "And of course it's red, because we're women. Sydney Conley, one of our little freshmen, was like, 'Wow, the red is really

cool. Why don't we have more?'"

Geubelle laughed. Not surprisingly, her sweet story had a payoff.

"That just puts into perspective how amazing this team is," she said. "We said before the Big 12, 'We're going to put a red at the end of the other side,' and then after the Big 12s, we said, 'Let's go all the way and put a red on the national championship side.' And we've done it."

When considered logically, the women's track and field team's NCAA outdoor title should hardly seem a surprise. The Jayhawks entered the meet at legendary Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., as the country's top-ranked team for the fourth week in a row, which followed a four-week No. 1 ranking to start the outdoor season; KU's eight weeks atop

by **Chris Lazzarino**

Photographs by Jeff and Laura Jacobsen

the national coaches' association standings tied Texas A&M's 2008 mark as the most weeks at No. 1 in the poll's history. It also marked the team's 23rd-consecutive top-five ranking, including both indoor and outdoor seasons, which is the country's longest active top-five streak.

Although KU women had never before won a team or individual title at the NCAA Outdoor, Geubelle, junior sprinter Diamond Dixon, junior pole vaulter Natalia Bartnovskaya, senior hammer thrower Alena Krechyk and junior discus thrower Jessica Maroszek had posted marks among the country's top five performances of the season, as had the 4x100-meter relay team.

KU women dominated the Big 12 Outdoor Championships, thumping Texas by 13 points, 158-145, with eight event champions and 18 scorers. Senior Paris Daniels was the Big 12 meet's high scorer, collecting 23 points in two relays and the 200- and 100-meter sprints, all on the meet's final day.

The Jayhawks earlier won the Big 12 Indoor, and at the NCAA Indoor, Geubelle, of University Place, Wash., won both the triple and long jump titles and Bartnovskaya, a Russian in her first season at KU after transferring from Vincennes

University, won the pole vault. The Jayhawks scored 44 points at the national indoor meet, but finished second, 12 points behind Oregon—which was good, but as a measure of this team's confidence and intensity, not nearly good enough, a point emphasized by soft-spoken 13th-year coach Stanley Redwine.

"I believe the key to having a team buy in is its honesty," said Redwine, named national outdoor coach of the year for the first time in his career. "They bought into it because they wanted to achieve it. I can go back to one of the team meetings we had, when we knew that if we got things together this could be the first outdoor championship for the women's team. We knew the indoor was close, and the coaches challenged the team. It was a heartfelt meeting. Coach [Wayne] Pate said, 'We're just *that* close. Make a huge commitment to making it happen.' Everyone bought into it."

Pate, the sixth-year horizontal jumps and multi-events coach who was named both indoor and outdoor national assistant coach of the year for the second consecutive year, emphasized at that meeting following the NCAA Indoor that the athletes were three short months from their ultimate goal. Work hard every day—"Which as Jayhawks," Geubelle said, "that's all we know"—and team victory at the NCAA Outdoor, and another red banner for Anschutz Sports Pavilion, was within their reach.

"The history of KU track is great," Geubelle said. "It's old." The comment drew some laughs, and Geubelle seemed to immediately understand why. "Old" implies any number of qualities, many of which are not particularly flattering, especially to a young person. Yes, history is important, but college athletics is ultimately about youth, the now, the pursuit of what has yet to be achieved.

"And," she concluded, grinning, "it needed to be updated."

No member of the women's track and field team did more to emphasize the triumph of youth than heptathlete Lindsay Vollmer. A sophomore from Hamilton,

Mo., Vollmer won the Big 12 Outdoor and entered the NCAA Outdoor ranked 10th nationally.

She began the first day of the two-day heptathlon competition June 6 at Hayward Field by running a personal-best 13.56 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles, good for seventh among 24 competitors. She tied her career best in the high jump at 5 feet, 8.75 inches, and climbed to third overall after throwing the shot put 39 feet, 3.25 inches. She then maintained third by shaving more than half a second off her personal best in the 200-meter sprint with a time of 24.27 seconds.

On the heptathlon's second day, Friday of the Wednesday-to-Saturday meet, Vollmer blossomed into KU's first woman to win individual gold at the NCAA Outdoor. She posted career bests in each of the day's three events—a long jump of 20 feet, 2.5 inches, topping her personal best by nearly 4 inches; a javelin throw of 151 feet, 6 inches, which crushed the field by nearly 5 feet and moved her into first place overall; and, in her weakest event, an 800-meter run of 2:19.36. She held on to win with 6,086 points, just 36 better than the second-place finisher. Vollmer's final score, the 10th-best in NCAA history, shattered the previous school record of 5,674, set in 1999 by Candace Mason Dunback, d'99, g'02.

Asked whether he foresaw that performance, Pate laughed and said, "You kidding? Not exactly, no."

Redwine pointed out that Vollmer's individual gold was the ultimate example of the Jayhawks' group mentality: As a multi-eventer, Vollmer was tutored by every event coach on a staff that Redwine considers to be the country's best. "We all had a part in it," Redwine said. "It was a team effort to get her to do those things. When she put it all together and won, you're talking about six individual coaches who had a part in her championship."

Said Pate: "She's only a sophomore and she's got a lot ahead of her. The multis are an older group. To have someone that young do so well ... well, I'm still in shock. We all are, really. She may never have those two days again, back-to-back. It's hard to PR [set or tie personal records] in



Pate, Vollmer



Pole vaulter Natalia Bartnovskaya, javelin thrower Heather Bergmann and triple jumper Andrea Geubelle all secured field-event points that pushed KU to what would prove to be a winning score even before the meet's final day.



Lindsay Vollmer set or tied personal records in six of the heptathlon's seven events, including the high jump. Alena Krechyk scored valuable points with a bronze in the hammer throw. The 4x400 relay team of Paris Daniels, Diamond Dixon, Denesha Morris and Taylor Washington (also at left) celebrated the announcement of KU's team championship.

six out of seven events and she did that. It may never happen again.”

On the meet's first day, June 5, Geubelle placed second in the long jump, Krechyk placed third in the hammer throw and senior Heather Bergmann broke her own school record in the javelin on her sixth and final attempt to place sixth. With 17 points, KU led the team standings by seven points. The Jayhawks would never trail.

Junior Jessica Maroszek placed fourth in the discus on Day 2, Thursday, and KU's 22 points led the team standings by two. On Day 3, Friday, Vollmer's victory and second-place finishes by Geubelle in the triple jump and Bartnovskaya in the pole vault gave KU 48 points, 15 ahead of second-place Oregon. On Saturday, the meet's concluding day, Paris Daniels ran fourth in the 200; the 4x100-meter relay team of Daniels, Dixon, freshman Tianna Valentine and senior Denesha Morris ran fifth; and the 4x400-meter relay squad of Daniels, Morris, Dixon and senior Taylor Washington placed sixth, giving KU 60 points. Texas A&M was 16 behind with 44, and home-crowd favorite Oregon was third with 43.

As noted by ninth-year vertical jumps coach Tom Hays, '89, a KU pole vaulter in the mid-1980s, the 48 points KU scored through Friday was four points better than Texas A&M's total after Saturday.

“We won on Friday, OK?” Hays said. “We didn't have to show up on Saturday. That's how special this thing was that these kids did. Those girls went out and did something extra, extra special, and everybody needs to understand that.”

KU's runner-up finish at the NCAA Indoor meet was not the Jayhawks' only inspiration to chase victory in Eugene. They also remember all too well last year's NCAA Outdoor, where two critical disqualifications forced KU to settle for fourth in the team standings.

The 4x400-meter relay team ran third with a school-record time of 3:27.19, but was later disqualified when officials determined that one of the Jayhawks had stepped out of her lane. Even more

shockingly, Geubelle was stripped of victory in the triple jump when a video review, launched long after the event concluded, determined that she had fouled on her fourth attempt, a leap that appeared to be a winning mark of 46 feet, 11.75 feet.

Geubelle was already chatting with reporters about her apparent victory when she was informed that her top mark had been voided and that her next-best mark was good only for third. Had the foul been called at the time, Geubelle would have had two more leaps to seek victory. As it was, she felt certain victory was secure.

It wasn't.

As Geubelle relished the 2013 team title, she fought back tears as she also reminisced about its genesis.

"I couldn't imagine coming to a better university," she said. "I saw a passion in every single one of these coaches when I showed up. There was just this desire to win that was kind of overwhelming. No other school that I visited coming out of high school had that. 'Am I going to be able to go into this school and feel confident enough?'"

Her voice cracked, and, after just a brief pause, Geubelle continued.

"So last year at outdoors we got fourth, but we got a lot taken away in that meet and we knew that it was all there. We had big recruits coming in who we knew were going to make a big impact on the team; Lindsay was just a freshman and she was doing huge things. But then indoors, when we had three national champions and we didn't win, it was kind of like, 'What happened? Why aren't we winning?' You can have national champions, but as coach Redwine says over and over, it's a total team effort."

To illustrate how team scoring can play out in track and field, Redwine pointed to Heather Bergmann's sixth-place finish in the javelin. After failing to improve on her eighth-place standing with her fourth and fifth throws, Bergmann—a chemistry major with a 3.91 GPA who was later named first-team Academic All-American—focused on scoring, not making a desperate attempt at winning the event.

"She just relaxed and said, 'I want to beat the young lady from Oregon,'"



Redwine said, "because at that point we knew they were in the hunt for the team title. That's what it was about when we're talking about everyone doing their part. Heather did an awesome job. It helped the team to know that this is what we're here for. It's not about the individual in an individual event. It's a team effort."

The track and field team returning from Oregon with the NCAA Outdoor championship trophy capped what may have been the best year in the history of KU women's athletics:

The volleyball team posted the best winning percentage in program history, and women's basketball advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 for the second year in a row.

Track and field won both of its Big 12 championships, placed second at the NCAA Indoor and won the NCAA Outdoor. Ground was broken on Rock Chalk Park, which will feature new venues

for track and field, soccer and softball. Geubelle followed up on her second-place finish at the NAAs with triple-jump gold at the USA Track & Field Championships, becoming the first KU athlete since shot-putter Karl Salb, d'72, g'76, in 1971 to win conference, NCAA and U.S. titles in the same season. And senior long jumper Francine Simpson won the Jamaican national championship.

Overall, KU women's athletics placed eighth in the Capitol One Cup, moving up 10 places from last year in the ranking of the country's best athletics programs.

"It's a big moment," said Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger, PhD'96. "There are things you can't choreograph in life. Every once in a while everything comes together for a perfect storm, and that's what we have."

As she considered what might still be in store for her next two years, including a brand new venue that will be among the best track and field stadiums in the world, KU's newest star athlete followed Geubelle's lead and first looked back, to those who came before.

"Having this group of seniors who have taught us underclassmen work ethic, leadership and how to be competitive, those are things that we are going to want to carry on," Lindsay Vollmer said. "We are going to want to keep this newfound tradition going, and I think we can."

Winning never gets old.



The Tater-Mater Man

TOM WAGNER EARNED
HIS STRIPES THE
OLD-FASHIONED WAY—
BY CULTIVATING A LIFELONG
FASCINATION WITH THE ART
AND SCIENCE OF PLANT
BREEDING



Say you're a boy, all of 7, growing up in a northeastern Kansas farmhouse that's hearth and home to 18 hungry souls—brothers, sisters-in-law, cousins, parents, grandparents, a great-aunt and her maid. Gardening means planting a thousand strawberry plugs, an acre of sweet corn. Against the looming winter you put up 500 quarts of tomatoes, fill a cellar coal bin wall to wall with potatoes. You raise dairy cows, sheep, wheat, soybeans, alfalfa. You learn quickly that food is important.

Tom Wagner learned more quickly than many. At an age when most boys were pitching marbles and plotting mischief, he was breeding plants and advising his father how to improve the family's Holstein herd.

"Because I was just a kid, basically I was looking for cuteness, spryness, orneriness," says Wagner, who lives now in Everett, Wash., of his early adventures in animal husbandry. "We ended up with milking cows

that were long-legged and wilder than a goat in the mountains. They didn't give much milk and what they did give was 2 percent. So a lotta good I did."

He would have better luck with his plant crosses. After completing a triple major in botany, geography and anthropology at KU, Wagner, c'69, went on to develop thousands of new tomato and potato varieties, earning a reputation as one of the world's most accomplished plant breeders—and the snappy nickname "Tater-Mater Man."

His creations, the tomatoes especially, are more famous than their creator. They have grown in the *potager du roi* ("the king's kitchen garden") at the Palace of Versailles. They've commanded full-page spreads in national magazines and top billing on the menus of famous chefs. They have spawned homages and imitations and outright piracy, all while being crowned by backyard gardeners and market growers as among the best-tasting, most visually striking varieties around.

by Steven Hill

PORTRAITS BY CHRIS TUMBUSCH



Working on borrowed ground, Wagner raises hundreds of tomato and potato varieties each summer in Washington State, cross-pollinating plants by hand to produce new cultivars with the taste, color and other qualities he's searching for. "Collecting tomatoes is like collecting marbles or toy soldiers to me," he says. "I couldn't find enough varieties, so I had to create my own."

By far his most well-known edible invention, perfected after 15 years of trial and error, is a ripe-when-green tomato with bold stripes and a citrusy tang that he dubbed the Green Zebra.

It's often cited in seed catalogs as "an heirloom variety, origin unknown." By most definitions it's not technically an heirloom (more on that later) and its origins *can* be traced, precisely, to the Wagner family farm south of Lancaster in Atchison County.

Alice Waters, founder and chef of Chez Panisse, the Berkeley, Calif., restaurant that helped launch the local, seasonal food movement, promoted the Green Zebra as one of her favorite tomatoes and featured it on her menu. But perhaps nowhere have Wagner's creations been more warmly embraced than Europe, where the Green Zebra is listed on the French government's list of heirloom tomato breeds—despite the fact that it's not French. In the United States, a May photo spread on gourmet tomatoes in *Better Homes and Gardens* dominated by his breeds failed to mention Wagner's name; in Europe, where he went on a speaking tour with longtime friend Michel Lachaume, a French Canadian



plant breeder and organic crop researcher, he was treated like royalty—literally—welcomed at castles and received in Brussels' Grand Place in a hall usually reserved for kings and heads of state.

"Everywhere we went—palaces, universities, gardens—everywhere were Tom's tomatoes," says Lachaume. "It was unbelievable how he was welcomed. I thought I was traveling with God! In the gardening world, he's a star."

"There's a little bit of sorcery, a little bit of alchemy that goes into it. You almost have to be a magician. What can you pull out of the hat?"

—Tom Wagner

In his 2010 book, *Ripe: The Search for the Perfect Tomato*, journalist Arthur Allen interviews a plant scientist who created a genomics company to use gene-marking technology for breeding crops. "We use computer science to look at breeding as an engineering process and optimize it, for tomatoes and a lot of other species," the scientist says. "The idea is that plant breeding and genetic improvement is a process that isn't that different conceptually from manufacturing a device or scheduling airline flights or optimizing Wall Street strategies. It hasn't been treated like that. It's been treated more as a mixture of art and science."

As Allen documents, transforming the making of a great tomato into a streamlined engineering process—"doing what humans have done for thousands of years, just more efficiently" as the scientist puts it—is easier said than done. Big Ag has failed to come up with the killer app: A hybrid plant that produces a high volume of fruit with a tolerance for long-distance shipping, a long shelf life and the big, mouth-bursting taste of a vine-ripened backyard tomato. Meanwhile, interest in heirloom varieties—old-school tomatoes passed down for generations and grown now in home gardens or small-scale farms and highly sought by foodies at farmers' markets and gourmet restaurants—has surged.

This is the tomato spectrum: At one end corporate seed companies and large agribusinesses cater to the needs of growers, shippers, grocers and fast-food restaurants rather than consumers. At the other, seed savers, organic farmers,

gardeners and chefs view great taste as the holy grail. Somewhere between is Tom Wagner.

“We call him the creator of brand new ancient tomatoes,” says Michel Lachaume. “Tom uses a lot of wild genetics and old heirloom genetics to create new tomatoes. He finds treasures in the gene pool, and he shares those treasures with the rest of us.”

Because he crosses existing tomato cultivars to create new varieties, Wagner is more than a strict preservationist guarding old heirloom lines. (In fact, the Wagners had a family heirloom tomato, brought from Germany in the 1880s. “As usual, I had to cross it with something, so I don’t have it anymore,” he says.) But because he taps the proven advantages of these long-established lines—resistance to drought and disease, for one example, fabulous taste, for another—he is much closer to the heirloom model than to the corporate agriculture model.

“I’m working primarily with heirloom-type tomatoes,” Wagner says. “I’m a little bit of a homespun, home garden type, but I’m also somewhat professional in my approach. So I’m kinda like a bridge between heirloom and commercial. My varieties maybe are not in the true definition heirloom, but I’m in my 60th year of breeding tomatoes, so I’m almost an heirloom by default.”

In fact, the Green Zebra, which Wagner perfected in the 1970s and introduced to the public in his first Tater-Mater seed catalog in 1983, is going on 40 years old. Depending on who you ask, cultivars must be 50 or 100 years old before qualifying as true heirlooms. The Green Zebra is getting close.

Heirloom by descent. Open pollinated. Boutique. Specialty. Novel. Heirloom hybrid. Whatever you want to call Wagner’s tomatoes, they definitely owe more to art than engineering. The term comes up frequently, whether talking to the Tater-Mater Man or the people who know him best.

“It’s a passion; it’s a need,” Lachaume says of Wagner’s urge to create new plant breeds. “Basically, Tom is an artist. A musician needs to play music; an artist needs to paint. He plays with genes and

makes tomatoes that are so beautiful. He has an artistic temperament, too.”

Gary Cass, who grows Wagner’s tomatoes for seed in Hawaii and sells them at tomwagnerseeds.com, sounds a similar note.

“He’s definitely his own guy. In the field of tomatoes he’s more like an avant-garde painter or cutting edge musician than the standard conventional type. He’s one of a kind.”

That artistic temperament hasn’t always served Wagner well as a businessman.

“There’s nobody else I know in the industry today who approaches Tom in terms of knowledge and style of what he does,” says Cass, who points out that Wagner can recite the complicated lineage of a particular tomato or potato cultivar—which can involve many crosses and multiple parents—off the top of his head, but he doesn’t always keep good written records on his genetic lines. “He’s hard to categorize. Over time he has proven to be a little difficult to work with exactly for that reason: People are not used to his way of thinking in a completely different vein and in a broader way than most people who do tomatoes.”

In the Green Zebra, Wagner was trying to produce a green tomato that wouldn’t crack and would deliver tart flavor. “That zing was what I was after,” he says. “The

color and the zing.” Four different varieties and tens of thousands of crosses and recombinations over a decade and a half went into creating it. Repeat that process for the Green Grape, Banana Legs, Skykomish, Helsing Junction Blue and any of the thousands of other cultivars Wagner has created. All that accumulated knowledge, born of years of tinkering, trying, failing, starting again, creates a kind of sixth sense about the best way to a desired result: good taste, stripes, unusual coloration, crack resistance, disease resistance.

“There’s a little bit of sorcery, a little bit of alchemy that goes into it,” Wagner says. “You almost have to be a magician. What can you pull out of the hat?”

Such wizardry is the stuff of experience, not engineering.

“You have to be able to feel for the rabbit ears in the hat,” he says. “Otherwise you’ll pull out a snapping turtle.”

Part of Wagner’s popularity in Europe may result from his stance on seed freedom. In plant-breeding circles, the Tater-Mater Man is what’s known as a “free breeder,” Lachaume says.

“Free breeders think that mankind should own the seed; life should not be copyrighted. It’s basically a farmer- and gardener-owned approach, where the



people who feed the world and themselves have the right to own their seeds. We see ourselves as a conduit for seed freedom, not a blockage of freedom.”

By contrast, small growers and home gardeners in Europe are protesting a new European Union law that restricts the saving and exchange of seeds by small growers and home gardeners. Lachaume says the Plant Reproductive Material Law would make it illegal for neighbors to trade tomato seeds. Wagner says it makes him an outlaw.

Most of Wagner’s tomatoes are open pollinated, stabilized plant lines: Save seeds from a Green Zebra or Clackamas Blueberry and you can plant them next spring in full confidence that you’ll get a tomato in every way identical to the fruit that provided the seed.

Major seed companies, on the other hand, use nonstabilized hybrids, and the parent cultivars—the two tomato varieties that must be cross-pollinated to make the hybrid—remain a closely guarded trade secret. To grow a commercial hybrid, you must buy seed or started plants from the company every year.

Wagner, on the other hand, freely shares information about his plant lines with other breeders.

“Even though he’s developing hybrid varieties he’s still very willing to share information about how he developed them,” says Diane Ott Whealy, vice president of Seed Savers Exchange, a nonprofit organization she co-founded in 1975 with Kent Whealy, j’68, to preserve heirloom seeds. “He’s a very generous

“He’s developed all this knowledge and experience and he wants to share it with young gardeners and breeders. That’s very unique these days, because a lot of plant breeders aren’t as open as Tom has been.”

—Diane Ott Whealy

person, because he’s developed all this knowledge and experience and he wants to share it with young gardeners and breeders. That’s very unique these days, because a lot of plant breeders aren’t as open as Tom has been. That’s really to his credit.”

There is a downside to such openness: Corporations are free to grow out his lines, collect the seeds and sell them for profit. “Right now, we put a new variety on the website and I see who’s buying the seed; I know who these guys are,” Gary Cass says. “They’re going to sell it on their website next year, sometimes cheaper than Tom sells it, and he gets nothing.”

During the school year Wagner works as a substitute teacher. He owns no land, has no garden to call his own. He borrows ground, knocking on doors when he sees a spot that looks promising.

“I’m Johnny Tomato Seed, Johnny Potato Seed. I ask if I can put out plants, and as long as I can get some seed they get to keep the tomatoes. I have to beg seed off my own plants. I’m not making a lot of money. It’s a labor of love for the most part.” Though he says he’d like to own a bit of land someday, maybe keep a few chickens, he’s philosophical about the lack

of material gain in his chosen field.

“Some people have a calling to religion; mine is to plant breeding,” Wagner says. “There’s a lot of charity in sharing seeds with people; there’s faith in what you’re doing. Getting close to the soil, that’s a pretty honest living, and when I die I leave something behind that’s worthwhile. If I leave money, who’s gonna remember that?”

Beyond great-tasting, beautiful-to-look-at tomatoes and potatoes, Wagner’s lasting legacy may be the enthusiasm and know-how for plant breeding that he passes to others.

“He’s a 67-year-old teenager,” says Lachaume. “He loves to laugh, and when he starts talking tomatoes and potatoes he’s so passionate and knowledgeable. People love to hear him talk. He’s an amazing teacher, and he’s creating a whole new generation of breeders.”

Decades ago, when Wagner began fiddling with the idea of developing a green tomato, he showed an early effort to his father. The elder Wagner was skeptical, and said so with the era’s stock phrase for acknowledging outlandishness.

“Nobody’s gonna want a green tomato with green stripes,” Tom recalls his father telling him. “He said, ‘See you in the funny papers.’”

In May, Wagner went to his local Home Depot to buy a Green Zebra seed pack he’d gotten wind of. Targeted to kids, the pack—which sells for a \$1.99—features a cartoon Mickey Mouse under the Burpee label.

“So, yeah, Dad was right,” Wagner says, with a wry laugh at the absurdity of it all: paying retail, for a tomato he invented, sold under the imprint of two worldwide brands, at a big box store. “See you in the funny papers!”



“As famous as he is for his tomato work, his potato work is even more remarkable,” says fellow plant breeder Michel Lachaume. “He has created potatoes of all shapes, sizes and colors, with lots of vitamins and huge disease resistance.”

Wagner Seed Sampler

DIGITAL WATERCOLOR ILLUSTRATIONS; PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY WAGNER SEEDS.



BEAUTIFUL DREAMER



VERDE CLARO



BIG SKY BRANDY



SKYKOMISH



BLACK CASADY



BLUE STREAK



HELSING JUNCTION BLUE



RUSSIAN COSSACK



BLUE PITTS

Association



Adam



Malott

KU events in Kansas City. The Adams are Alumni Association Life Members and have traveled frequently with the Flying Jayhawks.

For his dedicated service to humanity and the Kansas City community, Adam received the Distinguished Service Citation from KU and the Alumni Association in 2005.

Kevin Corbett, c'88, Association president, praises Adam for his many years of leadership. "Jim has generously shared his wisdom and talent with the University at the highest levels," Corbett says. "He has provided vital guidance for capital campaigns, helping to benefit the School of Engineering and all of KU."

For KU Endowment, Adam is a life trustee; he and Barbara are Chancellors Club members. He has assisted the past three capital campaigns for KU, serving currently on the engineering campaign committee for *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*. He helped guide the School of Engineering as a member of its advisory board and was named a Distinguished Engineering Alumnus in 1995, followed by recognition as a Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumnus in 2002. He also served on the KU Edwards Campus Advisory Board. For Kansas Athletics, the Adams are members of the Williams Education Fund.

Malott retired from a long career with FMC Corp. in Chicago, where he began working in 1952 after completing his graduate degree at the Harvard Business School. He was elected FMC's president and CEO in 1972. One year later he became chairman of the board. He retired as chairman and CEO in 1991 but continued to serve as chair of the corporation's executive committee until his retirement in 1997.

For the Alumni Association, Malott served on the Board of Directors from 1963 to '69 and traveled often with the Flying Jayhawks. He is a Life Member and a member of the Veterans Alumni Chapter. For his service to humanity and the nation, he received the 1974 Distinguished Service Citation from the Association and the University.

As a KU Endowment life trustee and Chancellors Club member, he has participated in capital campaigns since the 1960s as a volunteer and donor. His gifts have included the Malott Gateway entrance to the Lawrence main campus and a portrait of his father, Chancellor Deane Malott, c'21, that hangs in the lobby of the Visitor Center. Malott also honored his mother by establishing the Eleanor Malott Memorial Garden and commissioning a portrait of her that hangs in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. He has supported the University Women's Club, which meets regularly in the Malott Room.

"Starting with living his teenage years in the chancellor's residence, to carrying on his mother's contributions to the beauty of the KU campus, Bob Malott has maintained a lifelong affection for the University of Kansas," says Dale Seufferling, j'77, KU Endowment president. "Thanks to Bob, all visitors to KU—prospective students, current students and faculty, alumni and distinguished guests—are welcomed to campus by the Malott Gateway."

New leaders

Board elects national officers, 5 new directors

The national Board of Directors met May 10-11 in Lawrence; the highlights of the meeting included the election of the 2013-'14 national chair and chair-elect, as well as five directors from Kansas, Missouri, Texas and California.

Jeff Kennedy, j'81, Wichita, will lead the

Stalwart volunteers

Ellsworth Medallion honors 2 for longtime service

The 2013 recipients of the Fred Ellsworth Medallion for extraordinary service to KU are P.J. "Jim" Adam, e'56, Tucson, Ariz., and Robert Malott, c'48, Wilmette, Ill. The Alumni Association will honor them Sept. 21 during the fall meeting of the national Board of Directors. Since 1975, the medallions have recognized KU volunteers who have continued the tradition of service established by Ellsworth, c'22, the Association's longest-serving chief executive.

Adam retired in 2005 after a 43-year career with Black & Veatch Corp., headquartered in Kansas City, Mo. He led the firm as chairman and CEO from 1994 to 1998 and remained chairman emeritus until his retirement. He served for four years on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, leading the organization as national chair from 1998 to '99. He also served on the Adams Alumni Center Board of Governors from 1993 to 2002. With his wife, Barbara Mills Adam, '57, he led the Rock Chalk Ball in Kansas City as 1999 honorary chairs; they attended and supported the ball as benefactors for many years while also participating in numerous

Association as national chair. Kennedy is the managing partner of the law firm Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer. He has led the Wichita Chapter as president and chaired the KU School of Medicine's "4-Wichita" board of directors, which guided the transition from a two-year to four-year medical curriculum on the Wichita campus. He has served on the Association's national Board since 2008 and is a Life Member. He and his wife, Patricia Gorham, are donors to the Association's Presidents Club.

Camille Bribiesca Nyberg, c'96, g'98, Wichita, is chair-elect. She has served on the Board since 2009 and helped establish the Hispanic Alumni Chapter. She has volunteered as a chapter leader in both Wichita and Dallas, where she lived for several years before returning to her hometown. She and her husband, Glenn, '79, are annual members and Presidents Club donors.

The new directors will begin five-year terms July 1, succeeding members who retired June 30 after completing their terms. New directors are:

John Ballard, b'73, Overland Park, is principal owner of Property Specialists Inc. in Leawood. With his wife, Cindy, assoc., he chaired the 2011 Rock Chalk Ball in Kansas City; they have hosted and attended numerous KU events through the years. They are members of the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics and, as a former KU football player, Ballard has served as Jayhawk Mentor for student-athletes. He is a Life Member of the Alumni Association. The Ballards are donors to the Presidents Club and benefactors of KU Libraries. In 2000 they donated to Spencer Research Library a 3,000-year-old Egyptian scroll, which they purchased at a charity auction and kept in their home as a curio until it was later verified as authentic by KU faculty. Now known as the "Ballard Papyrus," the 3 1/2-foot-long guide for resurrection and afterlife is brought out each semester for students in introductory Bible and ancient Egyptian religion courses, as well as courses in history and classics.

Aaron Brinkman, j'98, is senior director of sales for Activision Blizzard Inc. in

Dallas. He earned his master's in business administration from Southern Methodist University. He has participated in Dallas Chapter events and helped guide the group as a board member. He is a Life Member of the Association. He and his wife, Kerry, are Presidents Club donors; they have attended the Kansas City Chapter's Rock Chalk Ball.

Debi Dennis Duckworth, d'79, Houston, a former elementary school teacher, has hosted numerous KU events with her husband, Bart, c'77, g'82. As Life Members and Presidents Club donors, they have created an endowment to support KU alumni programs in Texas.

Jill Simpson Miller, d'01, lives in Webb City, Mo., where she is president of the Tri-State Chapter and helped created and host an annual event, Hawkstock, in Mulberry, Kan. She is assistant manager of operations for BBC Electrical Services Inc. in Joplin, Mo. From 2004 to 2008, she worked for the Association as director of chapter development. She now serves on the School of Education advisory board. She and her husband, Reed, c'07, are annual members and Presidents Club donors. As a KU student, she competed

on the women's golf team.

Jerry Skillett, b'81, lives in Altadena, Calif., a Los Angeles suburb, and is CEO of ParkBlue in Pasadena. He has served as a 'Hawk to 'Hawk mentor for KU students, and he is a Life Member. As a student, he led the Married Student Housing Association as president. He and his wife, Lenor, are Presidents Club members.

Ray Evans, b'82, g'84, Leawood, concluded his one-year term as national chair and will remain on the Executive Committee.

Jeff Briley, d'74, Overland Park, retired after serving as national chair from 2011 to '12. Briley began serving on the board in 2005.

Two directors retired after completing their five-year terms: They are Sheri Welter Hauck, b'81, Arroyo Grande, Calif., and Henry Menghini, c'87, Pittsburg. The board meets three times annually in Lawrence. Each year the Association invites nominations for new directors through March 1, and the Nominating Committee meets in April to review all nominees and submit a slate to the entire board for consideration at the May meeting.



Jeff Kennedy, former Wichita Chapter president, leads the Association as 2013-'14 national chair. Camille Bribiesca Nyberg, who recently returned to her hometown of Wichita after volunteering for the Association for many years in Dallas, is chair-elect. Longtime volunteer Ray Evans, Leawood, remains on the Executive Committee as immediate past chair.

Association



The Association will host more than 100 events in 90 days throughout Kansas and the nation during its annual summer sojourn. The June calendar included a wine festival in Paola, a golf tournament in Colorado Springs, a bicycle safety event at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, a festival and parade in Garden City and more golf for Jayhawks in Olathe. July and August include breakfasts, lunches and dinners in several Kansas towns, the Salina Steak Out July 27, plus national stops in 15 states and Washington, D.C. For more information and to make reservations, visit kualumni.org/hawkdays or call 800-584-2957.



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For more information, visit www.kualumni.org or contact Angie Storey, KU Endowment, astorey@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7483.



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Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships May 1 through June 30. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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| Bobby J. Amey | Geoffrey D. Decker & Charles Melody |
| Miriam J. Baer | Charles E. Deeter |
| Chris N. Bartee | Brian S. Dumler |
| Bradley M. Becker | Sue Roach Dyer |
| Elizabeth A. Berland | Kathryn D. Eaton |
| Nancy L. Blackburn | Sparkle T. Ellison |
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| Casey J. Cordts | Alfred A. Hammersmith |
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Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

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Class Notes by Karen Goodell

37 John Sheaks, b'37, g'43, celebrated his 100th birthday July 3 in Wichita, where family and friends gathered to honor him at a reception July 2. He is retired after a long career as a Wichita entrepreneur and business owner, most recently of Northern Finance Co.

50 Guy Mabry, b'50, and his wife, Rosalie, moved from Toledo, Ohio, to Littleton, Colo.

51 Gerald Frieling Jr., e'51, retired in May from the Mendoza School of Business at Notre Dame University, where he was an adjunct professor teaching corporate strategy, leadership and business planning. He and **Joan Bigham Frieling**, c'51, live in Niles, Mich.

53 William, b'53, and **Diane Hornaday Hall**, c'53, were awarded Life Master rank by the American Contract Bridge League for their achievements in duplicate bridge tournaments. They divide their time between homes in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Lake George, N.Y.

55 George Schrader, g'55, was appointed to the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents. He owns Schrader Investment Co. in Dallas, where he's also principal of Schrader and Cline.

56 Chris Divich, d'56, was inducted earlier this year into the South Dakota Basketball Hall of Fame. He is a retired U.S. Air Force major general, and he makes his home in San Antonio with **Sue Miller Divich**, '56.

Harold Finch, e'56, EdD'71, received a KU Distinguished Engineering Service Award. Harold, who lives in Lee's Summit, Mo., had a career with MRIGlobal.

57 James Remsberg, e'57, received a KU Distinguished Engineering Service Award. He is founder, president and CEO of Argent Energy Inc. in Wichita, where he and **Sandra Garver Remsberg**, '59, make their home.

60 Nathan Davis, d'60, received the BNY Mellon Jazz Living Legacy Award from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. He directs the jazz studies program at the University of Pittsburgh and is former faculty director of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts career-development residency program. Nathan lives in Bradfordwoods, Pa.

Martin Dickinson Jr., c'60, received the 2013 Steeples Service to Kansas Award from KU. Martin and his wife, Sallie, make their home in Lawrence, where he is the Robert A. Schroeder distinguished professor in the KU School of Law.

61 Homer Floyd, d'61, received a Distinguished Citizens Award earlier this year from Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio. Homer lives in Harrisburg, Pa.

62 Jannik Lindbaek Jr., '62, recently became a non-executive director of Ithaca Energy, an oil and gas company in Aberdeen, England.

Lynn Mitchelson, c'62, was named Johnson Countian of the Year by the Johnson County Community College Foundation, where he served as director, president and member of the executive committee. Lynn and his wife, Alicia, live in Mission Woods.

William Plested III, m'62, former president of the American Medical Association, spoke earlier this year to the Republican Women's Club of Montezuma County. He and his wife, Carolyn, make their home in Bayfield, Colo.

Richard Weinshilbom, c'62, m'67, was named the 2013 Distinguished Medical Alumnus by the KU Medical Center

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Alumni Associations. He lives in Rochester, Minn., and is the Mary Lou and John H. Dashburg Professor for Cancer Genomics Research at the Mayo Clinic.

64 Mary Luskow Brock, d'64, president of the Aiken Artist Guild, exhibited her work earlier this year at the Aiken Center for the Arts. Mary and her husband, **Roger**, b'63, make their home in Aiken, S.C.

James Moore, c'64, g'66, is a retired senior consultant for the Teradata Corp. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Leawood.

66 Lee Clark Johns, g'66, is president of Strategic Communication Inc. She received the 2013 Saidie Adwon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tulsa chapter of the Association for Women in Communications. She lives in Tulsa, Okla.

67 Thomas Jones, e'67, received the KU Distinguished Engineering

Service Award. He is retired from CHAD Therapeutics and serves on the KU School of Engineering Advisory Board. He and **Kay Powell Jones**, d'66, live in Prairie Village.

Kay Orth Kendall, c'67, wrote *Desolation Row*, published by Stairway Press. She and her husband, Bruce, live in Houston.

Norma Norman, d'67, l'89, is a human-resources consultant for Norman & Associates in Round Rock, Texas.

Carol Crown Ranta, c'67 co-edited *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, published last spring by the University of North Carolina Press. She is an associate professor of art history at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tenn., where she and her husband, Richard, make their home.

68 Karen Frank Palmunen, c'68, was named an associate professor emeritus at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn. She and her husband, Art, live in Kensington.

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

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

Class Notes

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69 David Wiebe, e'69, is chief engineer at Siemens Energy in Orlando, Fla. He recently was inducted into the Garden City High School Hall of Fame.

70 Beth Glass Bohnet, d'70, c'76, g'78, PhD'85, retired after a 27-year private practice in psychology. She lives in Bangor, Maine.

Richard Irwin, c'70, m'75, joined Eye Care Northeast in Putnam, Conn., where he is an ophthalmologist. He and **Sheryl Homeyer Irwin**, m'90, live in Southbridge, Mass.

Richard Juarez, e'70, senior business area manager for Ball Aerospace & Technologies in Fairborn, Ohio, received Ball's 2012 Gave Award for his contributions to the company. He makes his home in Beavercreek.



Sally Fleeson Rimer, '70, works as a flight attendant. She makes her home in Aurora, Colo.

Nancy Knox Todd, d'70, serves as a Colorado state senator. She and her husband, **Terry**, '84, live in Aurora.

71 Susan O'Boyle Farrell, m'71, is a neurodevelopmental disabilities specialist and medical director of Cone Health Developmental and Psychological Center. She lives in Wilmington, N.C.

72 Richard Hale, d'72, is chairman and CEO at Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He and **Debra Horner Hale**, d'72, g'80, live in Ridgeland, Miss.

Zelema Marshall Harris, g'72, EdD'76, serves as interim chancellor at Pima Community College in Tucson, Ariz.

Laurel Klinger-Vartabedian, s'72, wrote the book and lyrics for *Mother Divine: The Musical*, performed in July at the New York Musical Theatre Festival in New York City. She and her husband, Robert, live in St. Joseph, Mo.

Richard Mosher, c'72, moved to Sioux

Falls, S.D., last fall for his job as IT audit director at MetaBank.

Ronald Naugle, g'72, PhD'76, is a professor emeritus of history at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He was featured in a recent documentary *Lost Nation: The Ioway*, a three-part film series about the Ioway tribe. Ron and his wife, Gretchen, live in Lincoln.

Francie Firner Stoner, c'72, c'73, is an executive senior advisor with Cerner Corp. in Kansas City. She and her husband, Bill, live in Weston, Mo.

73 David Healy, j'73, serves as president of National Capital Area Garden Clubs and as a director of National Garden Clubs Inc. He and his partner, William Dean, live in Washington, D.C.

Paul Stevens, g'73, was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. He lives in Lenexa and was former Associated Press bureau chief for Kansas and Missouri.

Louis Sturns, l'73, received the Silver Gavel Award from the Tarrant County Bar

Association. He serves as a district court judge in Fort Worth, Texas, where he and his wife, Marilyn, make their home.

74 Kathleen Tyler Davis, d'74, g'97, PhD'08, is an assistant professor of pediatrics at KU Medical Center in Kansas City. She was named the 2013 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna by the KU Medical Center Alumni Associations.

David U'Prichard, g'74, PhD'75, was appointed founding chairman of Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre in

Glasgow. He had been president of Druid Consulting in Philadelphia.

75 Paul Paustian, g'75, recently became project manager for archival processing at Backstage Library Works in Bethlehem, Pa. He lives in Whitehall.

Nancy Schmidt, l'75, a retired teacher, makes her home in Dodge City.

76 Gregory Ek, b'76, is a branch manager at Morgan Stanley in Wichita.

John Klenda, g'76, was named 9th District Court judge in McPherson, where he practiced and had served as city prosecutor and McPherson County counselor.

Charles Lee, c'76, is general counsel for National Crop Insurance Services in Overland Park, where he and **Diane Weinlood Lee**, '72, make their home.

Rex Niswander, c'76, joined the board of the Global Language Project, where he serves on the Chinese Language Council. He and his wife, Sonoko, live

PROFILE by Steven Hill

Mueller hears calling as old-time music master

As a teenager, Karen Mueller liked to throw the occasional curveball into her classical piano recitals. An older brother had turned her on to the Beatles and the Stones. "Theme from Shaft" punctuated one recital; a song from The Who's rock opera "Tommy" enlivened another.

"I had a wonderful piano teacher," says Mueller. "She was very rigorous, but as long as I had classical pieces memorized I could also choose a pop tune to play."

She drifted away from classical, to her teacher's disappointment. But it wasn't pop or rock that derailed a potential career as a concert pianist: It was old-time music played on a mountain dulcimer.

"I was really drawn to that music," says Mueller, c'84, a Winfield native who first encountered the dulcimer at the Walnut Valley Festival, the landmark folk music event held in her southeastern Kansas hometown. "Not just the music, which is wonderful, but also the whole sense of community that surrounds the music. That people get together in homes and parks to play together. As a solo piano player, that was very attractive to me."

She mastered the dulcimer and the Autoharp, which serious musicians often

dismiss—mistakenly, Mueller contends—as second-rate instruments.

"The nice thing about both is they're easy to play simply right away. But you can take both as far musically as you want to."

Adopting a melodic fingerpicking style, Mueller became a dulcimer and Autoharp virtuoso. In 1986 she was crowned International Autoharp Champion, and in 2006 she entered the Autoharp Hall of Fame. Last year she won a prestigious McKnight Foundation Fellowship, and she has recorded five CDs of Celtic and Appalachian music and published repertoire books for both instruments. In Minnetonka, Minn., where she has lived since 1989, she teaches private lessons on dulcimer, Autoharp, guitar, mandolin and ukulele and presents programs and classroom education in local schools.

She performs worldwide, her formal training and old-time chops allowing her to move easily between concert stages and jam sessions known as "parkin' lot pickin," between classical music and folk.

On St. Patrick's Day, Mueller and the Lirica Chamber Ensemble of Minneapolis performed her "Celtic Suite," three Irish and Scottish traditional tunes arranged for orchestra and Autoharp that she composed as part of her McKnight Fellowship, and the "Blackberry Winter" concerto, a classical orchestral piece that features the



Mueller is one of only two musicians to play the "Blackberry Winter" concerto. "It's the first orchestral work to elevate the dulcimer to the role of soloist, which is just wonderful."

dulcimer as a solo instrument.

"I'm primarily in the folk world, but my classical background gives me the opportunity to play with orchestras," Mueller says. "Either way, it's all about playing with other people, not only doing the best you can on your instrument, but also listening to what everybody else is playing and making that work the best it can." 🐾

Class Notes

in New York City.

Roger Ward, c'76, is deputy director and chief curator at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson.

Sue Gile Whitmer, c'76, d'77, wrote *Collecting Dreams*, a novel set in Kansas about a family struggling to help a hoarder. Sue and her husband, **Scott**, b'75, live in Voorhees, N.J.

77 Lawrence George, c'77, m'80, practices surgery at Mercy Hospital in Berryville, Ark., and at Mercy Hospital in Cassville. He and his wife, Donna, make their home in Berryville.

Scott Jones, c'77, serves as a bishop of the Great Plains Area Conference in Wichita, where he and his wife, **Mary Lou Reece**, c'77, make their home.

Richard Massoth, c'77, PhD'87, is chief medical physicist and CEO of Sunflower Medical Physics. He and his wife, **Susan Masih**, c'79, live in Shawnee.

Terry Riordan, m'77, recently was elected to the Lawrence City Commission. He and **Elaine Maher Riordan**, d'75, s'97,

make their home in Lawrence, where Terry is a pediatrician with Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine.

78 Michael Atwood, c'78, m'82, was promoted to vice president of medical affairs for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas in Topeka, where he and **Jennie Archer Atwood**, h'78, live.

Anne Burke, c'78, l'81, practices law with Manson, Karbank & Burke in Overland Park. She lives in Leawood.

Kirk Calhoun, m'78, received the 2013 W.T. "Doc" Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health from the Northeast Texas Public Health District. He is president of UT Health Northeast and makes his home in Tyler.

L. Douglas Greer III, c'78, g'80, lives in Hays with his wife, Rebecca. He is retired executive director of the Hays Area Children's Center.

Janet Gorman Hoven, j'78, works as a sales associate with Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan in Chester, N.J., where she and her husband, Donald, live.

Thomas Mahoney, b'78, is a senior vice president and senior credit officer for Brotherhood Bank & Trust in Overland Park. He and his wife Taloyre, live in Prairie Village.

Mark Mullinix, c'78, recently became chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va. He had been an executive vice president with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

James Riggert, c'78, g'81, is an associate managing director of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank in Dallas, where he and **Lisa Baber Riggert**, c'79, make their home.

Jeffrey Shadwick, c'78, serves as a judge of the 55th District Court in Houston, where he lives.

Mac Tully, b'78, was named president and CEO of the Denver Post.

79 Ronald Loeppke, m'79, was named president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He and **Robin Henderson Loeppke**, e'77, make their home in Brentwood, Tenn.



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Bequests for the benefit of KU should be written to the Kansas University Endowment Association.

Timothy McCarthy, j'79, was appointed a judge of the Johnson County District Court in Olathe. He lives in Overland Park.

Richard Peavley, '79, is president of Vero Beach Avionics in Vero Beach, Fla.

Monica Scheibmeir, n'79, PhD'99, was named the 2013 Distinguished Nursing Alumna by the KU Medical Center Alumni Associations. She lives in Topeka, where she's dean of nursing at Washburn University.

Caroline Trowbridge, j'79, recently

became planned giving manager for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Endowment Association. She and her husband, **Alan Zimmerman**, '82, live in Lawrence.

80 Carolyn Mingle Barnes, c'80, directs alumni relations for the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Kristie Kohls Blaha, a'80, a'81, works as an architect with Cannon Design in St. Louis, where she and her husband, Robert, make their home.

Roy Jensen, '80, was named the 2013 Honorary Medical Alumnus by the KU Medical Center Alumni Associations. He directs the University of Kansas Cancer Center and the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute.

Jane Robinson Leach, d'80, owns Cottage Blooms in Overland Park, where she and her husband, **Michael**, p'81, live.

81 Keith Maib, b'81, is chief restructuring officer of AgFeed Industries. He and **Elaine Jours Maib**, '82, live in Leawood.

PROFILE by Lydia Benda

Police officer runs marathons with meaning

Lenexa police officer Bob Schluben has his weekends booked this year. The runner-turned-activist runs a marathon every week, and plans to continue until he reaches his goal of 52 by the end of December. Last year he started running a marathon a month. "It's a little addictive, so I started doing more," says Schluben, b'90, c'96, g'96. He ran 27 marathons last year, which invites the question: *Why?*

"People ask, 'Are you running because of or for a cause?'" he says. "That got me thinking I could do something with this." He now funnels his energy into causes to which he, as a police officer, directly relates: the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE), which supports families of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel in the Kansas City metropolitan area; and Sunflower House, a Shawnee child abuse prevention center that he says helps the people he helps. He hopes to raise \$100,000 for each organization. "Me running a marathon is not as bad as what these families are going through. I know that I'm running for a bigger purpose, and that really motivates me to keep going."

Running 26.2 miles each weekend requires the obvious attention to diet,

sleep and exercise (Schluben says he trains for marathons by running marathons), but the real trick is negotiating the travel plans, balancing home life, braving the weather and maintaining a full-time job with minimal vacation time. "Running is the easy part," he says. Schluben races near Lenexa whenever possible, but has already traveled more than 20,000 miles just to reach starting lines. Near misses with canceled races, registration slip-ups and blizzards could deter him, but Schluben just keeps running, to a beat of 700 miles and counting.

Fortunately, his children, Kyle, 10, and Connor, 6, support Dad's mission. Kyle accompanied Schluben this spring to a race at Niagara Falls, and placed second in his age range for a half-marathon. Connor twice has cheered from the sidelines. "I've missed baseball games, I've missed soccer games; it's a huge sacrifice," Schluben says. "But I think I'm teaching them as a role model, saying that if you really, truly believe in something, to stand up for it, and you can actually make a difference."

Schluben also hopes his philanthropic footing can dispel common misperceptions about law enforcers. "Normally when




COURTESY BOB SCHLUBEN

Bob Schluben sometimes travels to marathons with his sons, Connor and Kyle. He writes about each race on his website, bobschluben.com.

people think about police officers, it's because we deal with conflict and it's something negative. I hope what I'm doing puts police officers in a better light, because we're people, too, and we really do care."


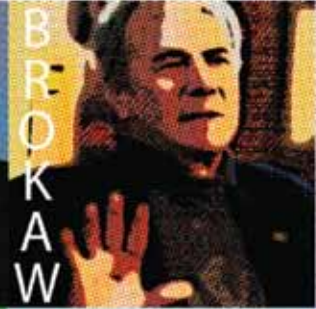

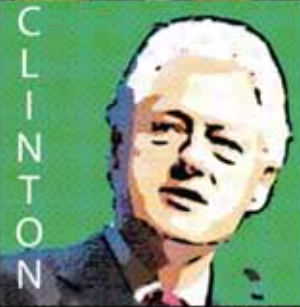
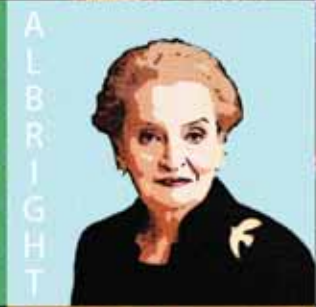
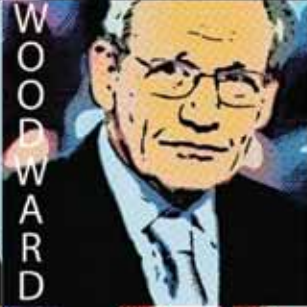


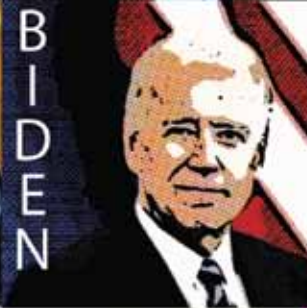
Now more than halfway through his fast-paced year, Schluben has gained perspective. "There's no way now I'm going to give up. I just do it one race at a time. When I see other people cross the finish line, I think, 'OK, I've crossed the finish line, but I've got 31 more finish lines I've got to cross.' It's fun. It's a different way of looking at things."

Class Notes



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82 David Ball, b'82, recently became a principal in the Dobbins Group, a multi-family real-estate investment firm in Birmingham, Ala.

Julie Downs Bettis, d'82, is principal of Harry Street Elementary School in Wichita, where she and her husband, **Walter**, j'82, make their home.

David Magley, c'82, is head coach and general manager of the Brampton A's, a new addition to the National Basketball League of Canada. He and **Evelyn Greer Magley**, d'81, live in Bradenton, Fla.

Renee Markl Gurney, l'82, serves as a municipal court judge for the city of Leawood as well as city prosecutor for Westwood and Mission Hills. She and her husband, **Paul**, l'82, live in Leawood. He is a judge of the Johnson County District Court.

83 John Aunins, e'83, is executive vice president of Seres Health in Cambridge, Mass. He and his wife, Anne, live in Doylestown, Pa.

David Marshall, b'83, recently became chief financial officer of Union State Bank and Docking Bancshares. He and **Brenda Gill-Marshall**, c'84, live in Hutchinson.

Mark Oros, b'83, directs business management for Eastman-Kodak. He and his wife, Jean, live in Aurora, Ill.

Timothy Tays, c'83, works as a clinical psychologist in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he and his wife, Renni, make their home. His memoir, *Wannabe Distance God: The Thirst, Angst, and Passion of Running in the Chase Pack*, was published last year by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

84 Shari Kempin DeNinno, c'84, received a scholarship from the William Backus Hospital Auxiliary to continue her education in health care. She lives in Gales Ferry, Conn., with her husband, Michael.

Scott Luallin, c'84, m'88, is head team physician for Sporting Kansas City and practices at Carondelet Orthopaedic Surgeons in Overland Park. He and **Rita Smith Luallin**, n'87, live in Leawood.

Sagar Meher Pushpala, g'84, is an operations adviser for SinuSys Corp. in

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Palo Alto, Calif. He and his wife, **Shamim Jivani Pushpala**, g'86, make their home in Sunnyvale. She's director of research and development at Acel Rx Pharmaceuticals in Redwood City.

Kirk Williams, c'84, owns Legacy Restaurants in Topeka, where he and **Teri Roe Williams**, '86, make their home.

85 Eric Ammons, h'85, recently became president of Mercy Hospital Jefferson in Crystal City, Mo.

Linda Booth, j'85, directs communications for Community of Christ Church and is the first woman elected president of the church's Council of Twelve Apostles. She lives in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Michael Jones, b'85, is assistant county attorney for Leavenworth County. He and **LeAnn Carver-Jones**, d'86, g'93, make their home in Bonner Springs.

86 Bradford Loveless, g'86, directs biology and conservation for Westar Energy. He and **Melinda Hardman Loveless**, d'74, are residents of Lyndon.

Pamela Swedlund, c'86, recently became a senior human-resource generalist for INVISTA in Wichita.

Mark Weis, c'86, m'91, wrote *Lead Me Into Temptation*, a Christian thriller that was published in June. He lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

87 Tony Arnold, c'87, won the 2013 Trustees Award from the University of Louisville, where he is the Boehl Chair in Property and Land Use.

William Oakes, b'87, wrote *Karma*, an action and adventure novel published by Outskirts Press. He lives in Dacula, Ga.

Drew Pollock, b'87, acted in the film "Jogger," which won Best Feature Narrative at the Los Angeles Indy Film Festival. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Lynn Preheim, l'87, owns Rafter P Ranch in the Flint Hills near Cottonwood Falls. He's managing partner of the Wichita office of Stinson Morrison Hecker.

88 Ralph Bharati, m'88, recently became medical director at Valeo

Behavioral Health Care. He and his wife, Nalini, live in Wichita.

Charles Knapp, c'88, directs operations and public affairs for the Kansas Department of Administration in Topeka.

89 Ted Burns, c'89, m'92, was named Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumnus by the KU Medical Center Alumni Associations. He is vice chair of the neurology department and director of the neurology residency program at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Matthew Hickam, c'89, is president of Hickam Public Affairs in Topeka, where he and **Stacey Cook Hickam**, c'91, live.

Daniel Koehler, c'89, directs market intelligence and strategy for Eaton Corporation's hydraulics group. He and **Elizabeth Mills Koehler**, c'88, n'92, live in Minneapolis, Minn.

90 Laura Woodward Garrison, j'90, is senior director of consumer insights at Home Depot in Atlanta, where

Class Notes

she and her husband, **Troy**, c'88, make their home.

John Ogden, c'90, received the 2013 Colorado Golf Hall of Fame Person of the Year Award. He is the head pro at Cherry Hills Country Club, and he lives in Castle Rock with **Emily Johnston Ogden**, '89.

MARRIED

Scott Robison, p'90, and **Brooke Briley**, d'01, g'04, April 13 in KU's Danforth Chapel. They live in Roeland Park.

91 John Bohan, b'91, was appointed a senior wealth manager in the Denver office of RMB Wealth Management. He and **Carolyn Herlocker Bohan**, b'91, live in Littleton.

Jamie Elmore, b'91, is regional manager of Bank of the West in Oklahoma City.

Eric Levitt, c'91, g'93, recently became city manager of Simi Valley, Calif.

92 Jill Peltzer, n'92, g'00, PhD'12, was named Early Career Achievement in Nursing Alumna by the KU

Medical Center Alumni Associations. She is a clinical instructor of nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

93 Michelle Smith Metcalf, c'93, and Michael, son, Mitchell, Feb. 7 in Leavenworth, where they live. Michelle manages financial aid for Grantham University in Kansas City.

94 Duane Fleck, g'94, teaches history at Lee's Summit High School. He was named Teacher of the Year by the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Duane and **Laura Stranathan Fleck**, g'00, live in Blue Springs, Mo.

Linda Powell Gilmore, l'94, was appointed judge of the 26th Judicial District. She lives in Liberal, where she's a partner in Gilmore and Shellenberger.

Melissa Johnson, l'94, has been appointed to a term on the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. She makes her home in Liberal and is assistant county attorney



for Seward County.

Amanda Soderberg Michaelis, b'94, is executive director of the Salina Area United Way. She and her husband, Todd, make their home in Salina.

Stephanie Emert Morrison, b'94, manages benefits and HRIS at MRIGlobal in Kansas City. She and her husband, **Steven**, '89, live in Overland Park with their daughter, Caroline, 1.

95 Jonathan Duncan, l'95, recently was named NCAA vice president for enforcement. He lives in Liberty, Mo.

Loretta Johnson, g'95, PhD'99, works as a medical physicist at Diagnostic Technology Consultants. She makes her home in Overland Park.

Kenneth Kincaid, g'95, PhD'05, was promoted to associate professor of history

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at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. He lives in Chesterton.

96 David Cook, g'96, PhD'99, has become vice chancellor for the KU Edwards Campus. He had been associate vice chancellor for community engagement at the KU Medical Center. David and **Katherine Tapscott Cook**, g'98, PhD'03, live in Olathe.

Michael Davis, g'96, recently was named manager of StarTran, the city transit system for Lincoln, Neb.

Colin Gotham, c'96, l'00, g'00, practices law with Evans & Mullinix in Shawnee. He recently completed national requirements by the American Board of Certification in business and consumer bankruptcy law.

Tracye Laun, g'96, is chief operating officer and co-founder of the San Francisco Wine School.

Tod Marshall, PhD'96, is a professor at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. He recently gave a reading of his poetry at Washburn University in Topeka.

Erin Starr, n'96, became director of patient care for the Hutchinson and Great Bend operations of Harden Hospice Kansas. Her home is in Hutchinson.

97 Stuart Benkert, g'97, PhD'99, directs bands and is a professor of music at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, where he and **Jacqueline Jepson Benkert**, c'98, make their home. He was named a 2013 fellow of the American Council on Education.

Trevor Calarco, a'97, was named

PROFILE by David Garfield

Donor advocates for others to follow her example

Kelly Allen doesn't consider herself a hero, even though she helped save the life of a 62-year-old man with terminal leukemia by donating peripheral blood stem cells to him last December.

A 30-year-old Overland Park woman with a long history of working with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Allen, c'07, registered at a Be The Match national marrow donor registry drive in 2011.

Nine months later she learned that she was a likely match for blood stem cell donation, which is less invasive than bone marrow donation. Allen underwent blood work and tests before receiving final clearance. She flew to Washington, D.C., with her mother to have the procedure done at Georgetown Hospital Dec. 22.

Allen, a Realtor for Reece & Nichols, was overwhelmed after the call.

"That whole day, I was crying and thinking about him and his family. I emailed my family that sometime today he's getting a phone call and someone's telling him he has a match, and on Dec. 22, he gets a second chance," Allen says.

Peripheral blood stem cell donation is a painless, easy experience similar to dialysis, Allen says. The recipient received the donated cells a day later. One month

after the transplant, Be The Match told Allen the man was out of the hospital and recovering nicely.

Allen urges people to get on the Be The Match registry so more people can be helped. According to the National Marrow Donor program, which operates the registry, more than 12,000 patients annually are diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma.

"This actually has a cure, and it's because people are getting on the list," Allen says. "I can't write millions of dollars of checks, but this is something everybody can do and should do."

Donors and recipients remain anonymous for a year after a transplant, but she could eventually meet the man if both agree. Allen, who organized a marrow donor drive after returning to Kansas City from D.C., and will continue to do more in her fight against blood cancer, hopes that happens.

"I would love more than anything to [tell him], 'I helped get other people registered because of you, so you did that. I would love to honor him that way.'"

Allen's phone beeped frequently during



STEVE PUPPE

Donors like Allen are crucial to the 70 percent of patients who need stem cell transplants to fight leukemia, lymphoma or other diseases but lack a match in their family.

the five-hour procedure with thank you text messages from well-wishers. But she feels the true heroes are the researchers, doctors and Be the Match volunteers like Mary Woody, who organized the 2011 marrow donor drive and many more.

"They saved this man's life," Allen says.

Allen wouldn't trade her experience for anything in the world.

"[It's] just a special thing to be a part of," she says. "You can donate again if you're matched again. If I got a call tomorrow, I would do it in a heartbeat."

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

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vice president of science and technology for Cannon Design. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Eureka, Mo.

Michael Donohue, b'97, l'00, has become a partner in the real-estate division of Stinson Morrison Hecker in Kansas City.

Jennifer Carroll Filla, c'97, practices law with Consumer Attorney Services. She and her husband, **Edwin**, a'95, live in Monument, Colo.

Patrick Sumner, c'97, g'05, makes his home in Kansas City. His documentary, "Civil War on Wheels," was featured last spring at the Free State Film Festival in Lawrence.

98 Amy Beecher, c'98, is a senior technical writer for AIB International in Lecompton. She lives in Manhattan.

Kenda Hultman Caskey, g'98, has been promoted to vice president and engineering director of Burns & McDonnell's process and industrial division. She and her husband, Troy, make their home in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Jeremy Friedman, c'98, works as regional sales manager at Unisyn Medical Technologies in Cary, Ill. He wrote a children's book, *Big Papa*, which was published earlier this year.

Chris Howell, b'98, is community bank president for UMB in Wichita.

Jolene Savolt Miller, c'98, s'00, is a clinical social worker at Sun Life Family Health Center in Casa Grande, Ariz. She and her husband, **Gary**, c'97, make their home in Maricopa.

Ranita Wilks, j'98, has been appointed to the Kansas Rehabilitation Council. She lives in Lawrence, where she's a peer counseling specialist and youth employment program coordinator at Independence Inc.

99 Jessica Reynolds Altfillisch, f'99, owns Cedar Rapids Suzuki Academy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she and her husband, Justin, make their home.

Nicholas Callaghan, c'99, was appointed to the Kansas Geographical Information Systems policy board. He is an applications developer/GIS analyst for the Kansas

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Lung Huang, b'99, is vice president of digital advertising at dunnhumby. He and **Courtney Cotter Huang**, j'00, live in New York City.

Rep. **Kevin Yoder**, c'99, l'02, R-Kan., serves on the U.S. Congress' Appropriations Committee in Washington, D.C. He and **Brooke Robinson Yoder**, l'05, live in Overland Park.

00 Jarrod Isham, d'00, commutes from Brooklyn to Jersey City, N.J., where he works for Dreman Value Management.

Aaron Roberts, c'00, l'03, was appointed as a judge of the Kansas 29th Judicial District. He lives in Kansas City.

Amy Sproston, g'00, is financial compliance officer for Mercy Corps in Portland, Ore., where she lives.

Chad Sublet, s'00, l'06, commutes from Lawrence to Topeka, where he serves as city attorney.

Nicholas Twemlow, c'00, is senior editor of the Iowa Review and co-editor of

Canarium Books. He lives in Iowa City and recently gave a reading of his poetry at Washburn University in Topeka.

01 Heather Brooks, g'01, recently became city manager of Alamosa, Colo. She had been assistant city manager of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Lori O'Toole Buselt, j'01, g'03, directs communications for the Maize School District. She and her husband, **Brian**, b'01, live in Wichita.

David Mitchell, c'01, g'03, is a visiting assistant professor at Indiana University's school of public and environmental affairs. He lives in Carmel.



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Matthew Rehder, c'01, is city administrator of Seneca.

Stacey Sowards, PhD'01, chairs the communication department at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Jonathan White, g'01, PhD'04, principal chemist at MRIGlobal, was named one of Ingram's Magazine's 40 Under Forty honorees. He makes his home in Liberty, Mo.

Allen Xi, g'01, is vice president of Burns & McDonnell in Houston. He and his wife, Younghong Tan, live in Katy.

02 Ryan Jacobsen, c'02, m'06, recently became medical director of Johnson County Emergency Medical Services. He lives in Lenexa.

Joshua Katz, e'02, g'04, works as an engineer with Boeing. He and **Leslie Phillips Katz**, c'03, make their home in Lynnwood, Wash. She's an account executive with CBS.

Scott Russell, d'02, g'09, teaches physical education and coaches football and girls' basketball at Basehor-Linwood

Middle School. He also coaches track and field at Basehor-Linwood High School. Scott lives in Lawrence.

Jamel Sandidge, g'02, PhD'06, is a research entomologist at Rockwell Labs in Kansas City, where he and his wife, Kristina, make their home.

BORN TO:

Kyle, d'02, g'04, and **Natalie Hoogveld Krueger**, d'02, g'04, son, William Brady, March 31 in Lawrence, where Kyle is a group leader at Target and Natalie is an account executive for Fiserv.

Chandler, b'02, and **Reina Rodriguez Poore**, c'05, daughter, Gabriella Louise, April 18 in Stillwell. Chandler works for United Healthcare in Overland Park.

03 Sheree Tinder Hale, l'03, lives in Arlington, Va., and works as a political officer and attorney for the U.S. Department of State.

Mark Kelly, g'03, directs product and services development at se2 in Topeka. He lives in Leawood.

Tracy Elliott Morris, f'03, and her husband, Matthew, own the Vision Center of Edmond. They live in Norman, Okla.

Kara Walters, c'03, is customer-relations manager for Bukaty Companies in Leawood. She lives in Overland Park.

04 Sandra Billinger, g'04, PhD'09, was named the 2013 Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumna by the KU Medical Center Alumni Associations. She's an assistant professor of physical therapy and rehabilitation science at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City. Her home is in Gardner.

Shawn Linenberger, j'04, works as interim news editor at the Shawnee Dispatch and as news editor of the Tonganoxie Mirror. He makes his home in Tonganoxie.

MARRIED

Monica Odgers, d'04, to Jeremy Apt, April 13 in Fairway. They live in Mission, and she is a unit coordinator at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

Heath, d'04, g'09, and **Carrie Robertson Peterson**, c'04, daughter, Claire Blakeley, April 13 in Lawrence, where she joins a sister, Presley, and a brother, Beau. Heath is a vice president at the KU Alumni Association, and Carrie is a dentist at East Topeka Dental Associates.

05 Christopher Cushing, c'05, PhD'13, is an assistant professor of psychology at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Meaghan Deiter, f'05, g'09, performed

with the Chautauqua Opera during its 2013 summer season in Chautauqua, N.Y. She makes her home in Fort Worth, Texas.

Travis Lenkner, l'05, is chief underwriting officer at Gerchen Keller Capital, a Chicago-based investment firm focused on large-scale commercial litigation.

Rex Rowley, g'05, PhD'09, wrote *Everyday Las Vegas: Local Life in a Tourist Town*, published by the University of Nevada Press. He's an assistant professor of geography at Illinois State University in Normal.

Joseph Sopcich, PhD'05, recently was named president of Johnson County Community College. He and his wife, Stacy, live in Overland Park.

James Troha, PhD'05, is president of Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa.

MARRIED

Kathleen Vitale, j'05, to Adam Michel, April 27 in Kansas City. They live in Shanghai, China, where Adam is managing director for the Asia-Pacific region of Evapco, and they have a home in Baltimore.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

After art-to-autos detour, Barr shines in sheet metal

He'd already learned that law school wasn't a good fit, and Ed Barr, assistant professor of technology at McPherson College, was a year into art-school studies at Stephen F. Austin State when an instructor suggested he apply to KU to study under Professor Linda Stone-Ferrier, one of the world's leading scholars in what was then his primary interest, 17th-century Dutch art.

Barr, g'98, discovered at KU passions for teaching and museum work, and detoured from his doctoral studies to join Washburn University's Mulvane Art Museum. His first three years at the Mulvane, as assistant to the director, were a joy; his final three years, as director, were not.

"You get further removed from the objects, and the education, and the fun of sharing it with people," he says, "and it's much more about running the place. It wasn't fun to me anymore."

Noting the thrill her husband found in restoring his grandmother's 1967 Dodge Coronet, Carole Firnhaber Barr, c'84, g'91, clearly among the elite in any ranking of history's most encouraging spouses, suggested he make



cars his career. Barr found his way to the country's only four-year bachelor's program in auto restoration, at McPherson College.

"Once I toured the building and saw the facility, it was an epiphany," he says. "At that point I was 36, I was married and had kids, so I didn't have time to piddle around."

Barr earned his degree in two years, then moved his family east so he could join Vintage Restorations, Ltd., in Union Bridge, Md. Barr loved restoring British cars, but three years into his nascent career he received the job offer he'd privately hoped for but imagined might be a decade in arriving: an invitation to join the McPherson College faculty.

"When students come from New Jersey or California or Florida because this is their passion and they want to learn this, it just makes for the ideal classroom environment," he says. "They're ready to go, and I'm just as excited about helping them along their path, so it's a lot of fun."

Deploying skills acquired from his first foray in higher education, as an English major studying Victorian literature at the University of the South, Barr accepted an offer from Motorbooks, a



COURTESY MOTORBOOKS

Ed Barr says he loved writing *Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication*. "You become a better teacher when you are forced to explain things as clearly as possible."

respected automotive press, and wrote and photographed what must surely be sheet metal's wittiest and most engaging how-to book, *Professional Sheet Metal Fabrication*. ("You can make do with whatever you can find," Barr concedes after extolling the virtues of vintage tools or a top-of-the-line new set. "The metal will not care if you hit it with a nice body hammer or your forehead.")

So that epiphany he felt when he first visited McPherson College ... did it last?

"Yes, it did," he says happily. "Ever since I've gotten into auto restoration, I have never dreaded coming to work."

Class Notes

BORN TO:

Kenneth Albers, b'05, and Jill, son, Dominic Jerome, April 25 in Cheney, where he joins a brother, Damian, 2.

06 Sheryl Gallagher, g'06, has been elected president of the Kansas City chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She's senior project manager at Geotechnology Inc. in Overland Park.

Heather Plante Hawkins, j'06, recently received a master's in educational leadership and management from Fort Hays State University. She is executive assistant to the president of the KU Alumni Association in Lawrence, where she and her husband, Jeff, c'06, live with their children, Mavrick and Sienna.

Julie Maykowski, g'06, directs artistic administration for the Florida Grand Opera in Miami, where she also heads the Young Artist Program.

Nicholas Menefee, e'06, works as a solutions architect for EMC Corp. He lives in Louisville, Ky.

Victoria Wigle, b'06, e'06, is a senior engineer with Thornton Tomasetti in Los Angeles.

Robert Young, g'06, is vice president of administrative services and human development at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas. He lives in Topeka.

Jamie Zarda, j'06, works as a conference specialist for Offshore Technology. She lives in Houston.

BORN TO:

Kurtis, d'06, and **Amanda O'Toole Mason**, j'06, son, Konnor, April 4 in Stillwater, Okla.

07 Michael Palomino, m'07, practices medicine at Atlas MD Concierge Family Practice in Wichita.

08 Amy Boyer Elzea, '08, works as an IT project specialist at the World Company in Lawrence, where she and her husband, **Patrick**, '10, make their home.

Abigail Grantstein, l'08, is deputy prosecutor for Marion County. She lives in Indianapolis.

Grant Humphries, c'08, b'08, works as a mergers and

acquisitions analyst at Spectrum Business Ventures in Kansas City, where he makes his home.

Mark Komosa, e'08, g'12, works as a product development engineer at Smith & Nephew. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Bartlett, Tenn.

BORN TO:

Adam, e'08, and **Beth Newton Rankin**, d'12, daughter, Rebecca Leigh, April 23 in Lawrence, where they make their home. Adam is a design engineer for Engineered Air in De Soto.

09 Mara Ankerholz, c'09, b'09, is a change management and communications specialist at Google Inc. She makes her home in San Francisco.

Kellen Ashford, c'09, works as a media research analyst at Infoit News Service. His home is in Lawrence.

Jefferey Geraci, c'09, a U.S. Army captain, lives in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, with his wife, Lindsey.

Melissa Harmon, c'09, teaches school in Olathe, where she lives.

Sarah Jarvis, e'09, is a research associate at the CORE Institute in Phoenix, Ariz.

Tammi Linnebur Krier, g'09, works for the YMCA in Wichita, where she is director of healthy eating.

Katherine McMillan, d'09, owns Kat Dog in Crystal Bay, Minn.

Scott Perlmutter, b'09, works as a finance analyst at ArjoHuntleigh in Chicago, where he lives.

Bryan Rosner, b'09, is a CPA with Myers & Stauffer in Leawood. He lives in Lenexa.

10 Jessica Wiele Clothier, c'10, works as a geologist at Pioneer Natural Resources in Irving, Texas, where she and her husband, **David**, '13, make their home.

Brenna Hawley, j'10, c'10, coordinates enterprise content for DEG. She lives in Baldwin City.

Cassandra Sokol McDowell, j'10, joined the Agribusiness Association of Iowa in Des Moines, where she's a videographer and editor. She and her husband, Andy, live in Clive.

Brett Stoecklein, p'10, is a

clinical pharmacist at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. He and his wife, Sherri, live in Skokie.

11 Kyle Cross, b'11, is a registered client associate at Wells Fargo Advisors in Lawrence, where he and **Stephanie Mattern Cross**, '12, make their home.

Richard Duey, m'11, recently joined the Orthopaedic and Spine Institute in San Antonio, as an orthopedic surgeon.

Michael Gillaspie, a'11, is a government-relations consultant for ONEOK Inc. He lives in Tulsa, Okla.

Michael Gray, c'11, directs medical services at the Pulmonary Hypertension Association in Silver Spring, Md.

Sara Kelly, j'11, is assistant digital editor of the Iowa City Press-Citizen.

Anna Sendersky Nordling, j'11, is a designer with Walsworth Publishing, and her husband, **Burk**, c'12, is a computer technician for IresQ in Olathe, where they live.

Corinn Rotter, c'11, works as senior manager of brand development at Keep America Beautiful in Stamford, Conn. She lives in Eastchester, N.Y.

MARRIED

Kelly Easley, m'11, to Daniel Sandri, Dec. 21 in Liberty, Mo. She's a resident at Bess Truman Hospital in Lee's Summit, where they live, and he works for a contractor to Bayer Industries in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

Michael Chavez, c'11, and Sara, daughter, Sofia Lucy, April 6 in Lawrence, where they live. Michael is an admissions representative at KU.

12 Rachel Parra, c'12, works as a retirement consultant for JP Morgan in Kansas City.

Liz Sperbeck, j'12, a resident of Eden Prairie, Minn., is an assistant account executive for the Harrington Company in Minneapolis.

John Williams III, c'12, is an agency owner and sales manager at Farmers Insurance in Kansas City. His home is in Lawrence.





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In Memory

30s Dorthea Simons Johnson, c'31, 101, April 9 in Wymore, Neb. She is survived by two sons, Lance, c'60, and Charles, b'62; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Jeanne Youngman Miller, c'39, 94, Nov. 13 in Traverse City, Mich. A son and a daughter survive.

Donna Sutherland Pearson, '38, 96, April 26 in Prairie Village. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Susan Sutherland Wilson, d'71, g'72; two sons; a brother, John, '46; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Herbert Regier, b'39, 95, March 2 in Silver Spring, Md. He had worked for Buhler Flour Mill in Buhler and later lived in Memphis, Tenn. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Tim, '67; and two grandchildren.

40s Thomas Ackerman, e'49, 88, Dec. 24 in Savannah, Ga., where he was retired from the Hercules Corp. and had owned Universal Machine and Fabrication. He is survived by his wife, Sybil; four sons; a daughter; a sister, Barbara Ackerman Fadler, c'50; and three grandchildren.

Gene Atkins, c'49, 84, April 10 in Raytown, Mo., where he was a retired Methodist minister. He is survived by his wife, Sydney Ann Shumate Atkins, assoc.; two sons, David, c'82, l'90, and Daniel, '95; and six grandchildren.

Dorothy Fizzell Boone, c'43, 91, April 3 in Dallas. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Cynthia Boone Irey, n'74; a son; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Dean Brooks, c'40, m'42, 96, May 30 in Salem, where he was longtime superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, where the Oscar-winning movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was filmed. Dean portrayed Dr. Spivey, a psychiatrist, in the movie. He is survived by three daughters; a brother, Bob, p'51; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Edith Fleming Lessenden Chandler, c'46, g'52, 91, June 14 in Topeka, where

she edited *Allegro*, the newsletter of the Topeka Symphony. She is survived by her husband, Anderson Chandler, b'48; three daughters, Sandra Lessenden Ghent, c'68, Marged Lessenden Amend, c'69, m'77, and Eve Lessenden Supica, c'74, s'81; a brother; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Virginia Powell Conard, c'48, 86, April 22 in Lawrence. She had worked with the U.S. Foreign Service, taught in private business colleges in Maryland and was co-owner and operator of the Kiowa County Signal and the Havilland Journal in Greensburg. She is survived by three sons, James, c'77, l'85, g'85, Spencer, e'83, l'86, and John Jr., e'86, g'95; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Dreizler, b'48, 87, April 6 in Sedona, Ariz., where he was retired. He is survived by his wife, Ann, three daughters, three sons, a sister, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Desmond Gibson, p'48, g'50, 90, June 15 in Lincoln, where he was former dean of pharmacy and a professor in the dental college at the University of Nebraska. He is survived by his wife, Lois Marie Jamison Gibson, d'48; a son, Richard, d'73, g'82; two daughters; a sister, Marilyn Gibson Blincoe, '51; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

William Hoefler, e'47, g'48, 89, March 4 in Gwynedd, Pa., where he was retired from General Electric. A son, a daughter and three grandsons survive.

Carrie Arnold Humphreys, c'46, 88, April 25 in Ashland. She is survived by two daughters, Karen, c'70, l'73, and Iras, s'71; two sons, John, c'74, and Thomas, c'77; a sister; a brother; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mou-Hui King, e'44, 89, April 29 in Taiwan, where he was retired chairman of China Steel Corporation. Among survivors are his wife, Yueh-Han Feng; a son, Cheng-Chang, '77; and two daughters.

Kenneth Knuth, c'47, m'50, 90, Feb. 23 in Independence, where he had been a radiologist. He is survived by his wife, Lee

Rice Knuth, '49; a son, Fredric, j'77; three daughters, Lynne Knuth Shanks, '74, Rebecca Knuth Bruening, '75, and Lisa Knuth Kelley, j'80; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mildred Brooks Moody, f'49, 86, April 11 in Roswell, Ga., where she was a retired occupational therapist. A son, two daughters and three grandchildren survive.

Clark Page, c'43, 91, April 5 in Kansas City, where he was retired from Commerce Bank. He is survived by his wife, Georgette Stanley Page, g'82; a son; a daughter, Sallie Page-Goertz, c'72, n'75, g'81; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Jess Stewart, c'48, 87, March 30 in Wamego, where he owned Stewart Funeral Home and had chaired the Kansas Board of Regents. He is survived by his wife, Lauranell Hawkinson Stewart, assoc.; two daughters, Brynn, '82, and Brett Stewart-Platt, '77; a son, Bart, '86; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Charlotte Thayer, c'48, g'49, 85, May 19 in Kansas City, where she was a retired attorney. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Wallace Good, g'50, EdD'70; and a stepdaughter.

Mary Morrow Thompson, c'41, 93, April 17 in Bristol, Va. Two daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

Hugh Woods, c'49, m'52, 86, May 15 in Kansas City. He practiced family medicine and served on the board of education in Smith Center. Surviving are his wife, Joan; three sons, two of whom are Timothy, p'81, and Michael, c'83, m'87; a daughter, Wendy Sue, d'90; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

50s JoAnn Young Ball, '57, 77, May 14 in Olathe. She lived in Kansas City for many years and was active in KVC Behavioral Health Care. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a son, David, '85; two daughters, Debbie Ball Simpson, c'80, and Diane Ball Wilkerson, '83; and seven grandchildren.

Richard Bibler, f'50, 90, May 24 in Westlake Village, Calif. He taught art at Monterey Peninsula College. Two daugh-

ters, a son and two sisters survive.

Donald Botkin, b'58, c'64, 76, April 2 in Lake George, Colo. He had been a dentist in Blue Rapids. He is survived by his wife, Kay Brownell Botkin, '67; three sons; a daughter, Heather Botkin Jorns, n'85, g'89; a brother; six grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; and six stepgreat-grandchildren.

Charles Bowen, b'54, 80, April 12 in Olathe. He had a 40-year career with IBM and is survived by two daughters, Kim Bowen Davis, d'78, and Kay, n'79; a son; a sister; and four grandchildren.

O.W. "Wes" Burton Jr., '54, 81, April 21 in Glendora, Calif., where he was retired from a career with ARCO. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

William Courtright, p'54, 83, April 4 in Baxter Springs, where he owned Milo Chew Drug. He is survived by his wife, Mariam; two sons, William II, e'86, and Joseph, p'89; two sisters; and three grandchildren.

Gerald Dawson, j'57, 78, March 18 in Lutz, Fla., where he was retired from a career in public relations. Surviving are his wife, Judy Sullivan Dawson, assoc.; two sons; a sister; a brother; and a grandson.

Nancy Roofe Dunn, f'58, 76, May 30 in Lawrence. Her husband, James, d'70, survives.

Lynne Gaumer Flanders, d'57, 77, March 13 in Overland Park. She was a special-education teacher in Shawnee Mission and is survived by a son, Steven, '84; two daughters, Lisa Flanders Fowler, j'85, and Jill Flanders Krentz, b'89; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Ormond Gillen, e'51, 83, April 2 in Littleton, Colo., where he was a retired chemical engineer. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Nehlsen Gillen, assoc.; two daughters; and three grandsons.

Marilyn Harter Haase, c'50, 84, March 15 in Belleville, where she taught English at Belleville High School. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Steve, n'77, h'80, h'81, and Mark, p'78; a daughter, Jennifer Haase Morris, b'86; two grandchildren; and six stepgrandchildren.

R.G. Henley, c'50, l'52, g'72, 88, April 27 in Lawrence, where he was a retired

U.S. Army lieutenant colonel. He later worked for the Kansas Supreme Court's Judicial Administration. He is survived by his wife, Joy Wood Henley, '54; four daughters, Katherine Henley Arensdorf, b'78, Elizabeth, '81, Victoria, b'82, and Margaret, b'92; a son, Richard, '84; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Carol Bentrup Herboth, d'58, 77, April 10 in Kansas City. A son and two granddaughters survive.

Virginia McCrea Hyten, '51, 83, Feb. 6 in Coffeyville. She had lived in Wellington and Lawrence. Survivors include three daughters, Martha Hyten Recchia, b'74, Rebecca Hyten Reeves, n'78, and Sarah, b'80; a son, Howard, b'87; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Cletus Kappelmann, p'52, 83, June 3 in Augusta, where he owned Cooper Drug. He is survived by three sons, Brock, j'98, Brett, p'03, and Todd, b'02, g'03; a daughter, Kara Kappelmann Miller, d'05, g'06; and nine grandchildren.

Robert Lawson, c'56, g'61, PhD'66, g'85, 84, May 8 in Topeka, where he was a retired U.S. Air Force major and a professor emeritus of English at Washburn University. He is survived by four sons, one of whom is Lewis, '85; three brothers; and 11 grandchildren.

John Lounsbury, d'57, 77, March 24 in Lawrence, where he was retired from USBank. He is survived by his wife, Susie Madsen Lounsbury, assoc.; two sons, one of whom is Chris, g'04; two stepsons, one of whom is Scott Madsen, g'93; two stepdaughters, Kimberly Madsen Beeler, c'93, j'93, g'99, and Kirsten Madsen Rysko, b'95; a granddaughter; and eight step-grandchildren.

Marie Schumacher McCarthy, d'51, 83, March 29 in Palm Desert, Calif., where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by her husband, Charles, b'50; two sons, one of whom is Kent, b'80, g'81; a daughter, Kellye McCarthy Abernathy, d'77; a sister, Edna Schumacher Morris, '53; and eight grandchildren.

William Meier, b'51, 83, March 4 in Kansas City. He was retired senior vice president and chief financial officer of Stepan Co. in Northfield, Ill. Surviving are

his wife, Barbara, three daughters and three grandchildren.

Donald Pipes, g'55, 84, April 12 in Overland Park, where he had been city manager for many years. He also was a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Survivors include his wife, Marcha Sawyers Pipes, d'65; a son, Donald, c'75; a daughter, Susan Pipes Kerr, c'92, d'92, g'98; and three grandchildren.

Jeanette Morris Sharpe, d'55, 80, June 4 in Wichita, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Charles, '93; a daughter, Anne Sharpe Melia, c'85, g'87; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Darlene Scott Stewart, c'58, 77, March 27 in Medford, Ore. She was retired physical therapy department chair at California State University in Fresno. She is survived by her husband, Keith, c'59; a son; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

Robert Taylor, g'59, 83, May 14 in Lawrence, where he was director of curriculum and instruction and assistant school superintendent. He is survived by his wife, Romaine Douglas Taylor, c'54, EdD'91; a son, Kent, '94; a daughter, Susan Taylor Grier, '78; a stepdaughter; seven grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Edward "Ned" Wilson, c'55, 79, Jan. 1 in Boyd, Texas, where he was a retired U.S. Air Force officer. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters; one of whom is Lisa, g'94; a son, Randall, '84; and five grandchildren.

Mary Lucas Winey, f'50, 84, March 20 in Hingham, Mass. She taught voice at Southwestern College in Winfield and gave piano lessons. A son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Winton Winter, b'52, l'56, 82, May 4 in Olathe. He practiced law, served as a judge and operated ranches in the Flint Hills before joining Peoples Bank in Ottawa. He also served in the Kansas Senate. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Morsbach Winter, '54; three sons, Winton Jr., c'75, l'78, Dan j'80, and Adam, b'86; two daughters, Mary Winter-Stingley, d'77, and Anne, '86; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William Youngman, e'57, 77, Feb. 16 in

In Memory

Muskogee, Okla., where he was retired. Several nieces and nephews survive.

60s Norma Lindgren Bone, g'64, 90, March 27 in Overland Park, where she was a retired English teacher. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Jay Buehler, b'64, e'64, 71, Feb. 18 in Overland Park, where he was retired from Black & Veatch. He is survived by his wife, Mary Gollogly Buehler, assoc.; a son, Marc, b'92, g'97; and two grandchildren.

James Heim, p'69, 69, April 19 in Lawrence, where he was a retired pharmacist. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A son, two sisters and five brothers survive.

Linda Klahr, c'62, 71, Jan. 27 in Ocean View, Del. She is survived by her partner, Dorothy Snyder; a daughter; a son; three brothers; three sisters, one of whom is Connie Klahr Wedemeyer, '61; and two grandchildren.

Douglas Lancaster, b'63, l'66, 73, May 30 in Overland Park. He was a retired attorney and former city prosecutor for Fairway. Surviving are three daughters, two of whom are Monica Lancaster Jenista, '92, and Heather Lancaster Kilby, l'06; a brother; and five grandchildren.

Donald Loudon, l'62, 75, May 14 in Kansas City, where he practiced law. He is survived by his wife, Sue; two sons; a brother, Byron, c'65; and five grandchildren.

James Masarik, g'68, 71, Feb. 23 in Fond du Lac, where he taught mathematics at the University of Wisconsin. A sister and six brothers survive.

Patricia McGuire, d'60, 75, March 7 in Fayetteville, Ark., where she owned the Ozark Collection Bureau. She is survived by two daughters, one of whom is Andrea Grimes Woods, c'93; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Toni Barricklow Reeves, c'62, 72, April 26 in Pelham, Ala., where she had worked for Wells Fargo Bank. Two sons survive.

Gerald Stack Jr., c'60, 74, Jan. 16 in San Jacinto, Calif., where he was retired from the U.S. State Department.

Dale Williams, g'65, 76, Jan. 30 in Blue Springs, Mo. He coached women's basketball for many years and had been

inducted into the Greater Kansas City Basketball Association Hall of Fame. He is survived by a son, Robert, e'85; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Dianne Morris Yergovich, p'68, 71, April 7 in Benicia, Calif., where she was a retired pharmacist. She is survived by a daughter; four sons, one of whom is Marc, '99; a sister, Cynthia Morris Baldrige, s'69, s'71; and two grandchildren.

70s John Bartkoski, b'72, 62, April 5 in Basehor. He is survived by his wife, DeAnn Trowbridge Bartoski, c'71, m'72; three sons, two of whom are Nicholas, j'00, c'01, g'05, and Steven, c'05; three daughters, Katrina, j'02, Elizabeth, b'09, and Amelia, b'12; and a grandson.

Tricia Anne Haggart Bilcik, d'70, 64, Dec. 2 in Yukon, Okla. She taught psychology and was acting dean of social sciences at Oklahoma City Community College. Surviving are her husband, Michael; a stepdaughter; and two brothers, Ted Haggart, c'67, and Stephen Haggart, j'67.

Charles Casebier, d'72, 64, April 2 in McLouth, where he was retired from Hallmark Cards. He is survived by a sister, Elaine Casebier Watson, '81.

William Coughlin, c'70, 74, Nov. 12 in Phoenix. He is survived by a daughter and a sister, Rose Coughlin Greaves, c'46, g'47, PhD'52.

Charlene "Chuck" Welsh Cox, '70, 83, Jan. 21 in Golden, Colo., where she was a jewelry designer. She is survived by her husband, Joseph, b'55, g'70; three daughters, Susan Cox Stevens, c'80, Cheryl Cox Lafon, '81, and Cynthia, '85; a son, David, '83; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Judith Miller Daigle, c'79, 55, Feb. 28 in Boston. She was an account executive for Conference Direct. Surviving are her husband, David; her mother; a sister, Pamela Miller, f'80; and a brother, Brian Miller, c'74.

Gregory Euson, b'74, 61, April 18 in Lake Forest, Ill., where he was a vice president at McGraw-Hill Companies. He is survived by a son and three brothers, one of whom is Richard, c'70.

Donald Fitzgerald, d'70, 66, Jan. 5 in Reno, where he worked for the Nevada Department of Education. He is survived

by his mother, Phyllis, assoc.; and two sisters, one of whom is Catherine Fitzgerald McMahon, s'73, s'75.

John Greene Jr., c'70, 67, March 19 in Oakland, Calif., where he was an insurance agent. A sister and a brother survive.

Howard Hasler, d'72, 65, June 16 in Lawrence, where he was vice president of LRM Industries. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Steele Hasler, c'79; three sons, one of whom is Chad, '05; a brother, Harvey, j'72; and a grandson.

Stanley Helweg, c'78, 59, April 3 in Eudora. He had been an agent with Farmers Insurance Group and is survived by his wife, Michelle Martin Helweg, '84; two daughters, Elizabeth, c'09, and Rebekah, '10; three sons; and two grandchildren.

Richard Hendzlik, a'77, 60, April 24 in St. Louis. Two sons survive.

Gregory Munzer, j'79, 55, March 24 in Independence, Mo. He was a newspaper account executive and a special-services aide at Raytown High School. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Darcy; two brothers, Stephen, c'66, and Kent, c'71, s'75; a sister; and two stepsisters.

Joseph Palermo Jr., e'73, 69, June 8 in Lee's Summit, Mo. He worked for KCP&L and is survived by his wife, Kathy, and two sons.

Patrick Whitacre, c'73, 62, Jan. 21 in Middletown, N.Y. He worked in the mental-health field and later as a certified dog trainer. Surviving are his mother; three brothers, one of whom is Michael, a'72; and three sisters.

80s Elizabeth Ammar, c'88, 49, May 10 in Torrance, Calif. A brother survives.

Thomas Blackburn, b'82, g'84, 53, May 1 in Topeka, where he was an independent contractor for financial-service firms. He is survived by a son; a daughter; his parents, James and Barbara, assoc.; a brother, Brett, e'83; and a sister.

Steven Brack, e'81, 58, March 18 in Seattle, where he worked for Boeing. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; a daughter; two sons; his mother, Marilyn Brack, '84; a brother, Dana, b'77; two

sisters; and two grandchildren.

Joseph Bryer, g'89, 66, April 10 in Topeka, where he worked for the VA Hospital. A son survives.

Ruth Anne Eubanks, g'85, 64, April 26 in Independence, where she was a teacher. She is survived by her husband, Bennie, two daughters, a brother and five grandchildren.

Michael Kozak II, c'85, 54, Feb. 22 in Shawnee. He is survived by his wife, Judith Johnson Kozak, '13; a son; a daughter, Laura, '12; his mother; and a brother, Stephen, c'86.

Sherrera Parker Lee, g'88, 53, April 18 in Suwanee, Ga. She is survived by her husband, David, c'81; and three sons.

Esther Lee Myers, g'86, 84, Oct. 28 in Protom, Mo., where she was active in the League of Women Voters and involved in Blue River water issues. She is survived by her husband, Dick; two sons; two daughters, Susannah Myers Bandish, f'81, and Laura Myers-Wittman, c'83; and six grandchildren.

John Nice, c'87, 52, April 25 in Prairie Village, where he had a career as a computer programmer. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Erik, '12; his father; and a sister.

Daniel Stewart, m'87, 52, May 29 in Kansas City, where he founded the reproductive medicine and infertility department at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, his father, his mother and stepfather and two sisters.

Douglas Wells, e'85, a'85, g'91, 50, March 19 in Kansas City, where he was an architectural engineer. His father and a brother survive.

90s JaNae Allen Burkhart, c'96, 39, June 4 in Wichita, where she had been a pharmaceutical sales representative for Pfizer. She is survived by her husband, John, a son, a daughter, her parents, a sister and a brother.

Mark Frickey, c'93, 44, June 3 in Copake, N.Y., where he was an ordained Lutheran minister. Earlier this year, he received a doctorate of ministry from Fordham University. Among survivors are his wife, Tonya; two sons; a daughter; his

father, Charles Frickey, d'66; his mother, Linda Nemeth Starkey, d'68; a brother; two stepbrothers; and a stepsister.

Debora Grimshaw Harper, g'97, 55, March 27 in Roeland Park, where she was a nurse. She is survived by her husband, Richard, her father and stepmother, a sister and a brother.

Andrea Forbes Illausky, h'98, 40, June 6 in Lenexa. She is survived by her husband, Mark, a son, her parents and a brother.

Arthur Jeffery, g'91, 64, Dec. 19 in Oviedo, Fla., where he was a major in the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife, Frankie, a daughter, a sister and a granddaughter.

00s David McMillan, c'05, 31, May 18 in Decatur, Ga. He played football at KU, where he was a defensive end. During the 2005 NFL draft, he was picked in the fifth round by the Cleveland Browns. He played three seasons with the Browns.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Michael Cherniss, 72, April 1 in Lawrence, where he taught English at KU for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Jane Garrett, '82; and a brother.

Paul Haack, 78, April 24 in Minneapolis, Minn. He was a KU professor of music education and is survived by his wife, Maggie Sauer Haack, '76; four sons, Donald, d'83, g'90, EdD'95, Dennis, m'84, Jim, e'85, b'85, and Peter, c'00, g'03; a daughter, Sarah Haack Kadhim, c'89; and eight grandchildren.

Gerald Kerby, m'58, 80, June 12 in Kansas City, where he was a professor of medicine at KU Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Arlis Bergsten Kerby, n'56; two daughters, one of whom is Gwendolyn, m'91; a son, Patrick, '91; a sister; and seven grandchildren.

Richard Lashley, b'42, l'56, 91, Nov. 19 in San Marino, Calif. He taught accounting at KU and later was a CPA in the Los Angeles area. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Stephenson Lashley, c'45; a son; two daughters; a stepson; a stepdaughter; seven grandchildren; two

stepgrandchildren; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

Ronald Olsen, 85, May 15 in Lawrence, where he was a KU professor of economics for more than 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Jorgenson Olsen, '88; two daughters, Jodde Olsen Lanning, c'76, l'80, and Dana Olsen Forio, c'80; a son, Tod, '78; two brothers; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

William Remmers, g'66, Phd'85, 73, June 16 in Lawrence, where he had taught psychology and computer science at KU. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Heuertz Remmers, j'74, g'80, g'84; and a daughter, Juliet, '13.

Robert Ridgway, g'50, EdD'55, 89, March 11 in Lawrence, where he was a professor emeritus of education at KU. He is survived by his wife, Mary Booth Palmquist Ridgway, c'47; two daughters, Stephanie Ridgway Deere, c'67, and Catherine Ridgway Johnson, d'76; two sons, Stephen, c'69, and David, c'85, g'92; and seven grandchildren.

John Seitz, b'67, 69, March 14 in Long Beach, Calif., where he worked as a business consultant and an actor. Earlier he had been associate director of computing services at the KU Computer Center. He is survived by his wife, Daisy; two sons, one of whom is Justin, '98; a daughter, Audra, c'95; and a brother, George, '64.

T.P. Srinivasan, 80, June 8 in Palo Alto, Calif., where he was retired. He had been a KU professor of mathematics for 32 years until retiring in 2000. Surviving are his wife, Saroja Ramasubban Srinivasan, g'77; a son, Srikanth, '91; two daughters, one of whom is Srija, '91; and three grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Sue Ball Gilkeson, 98, April 14 in Lawrence. She was a longtime resident of Wichita, and had been active in civic affairs. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by three sons, two of whom are Bruce Gilkeson, c'74, and James Gilkeson, c'90; three daughters, one of whom is Molly Mulloy, g'90; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review

Movie magic

Mondo's Ishmael creates posters that are sure-fire Hollywood hits

Justin Ishmael, CEO of the country's hippest purveyor of original movie posters by contemporary graphic artists, comes by his hip-cinema credentials the honest way: via Quentin Tarantino.

After abandoning a two-year football career at Central Missouri State and moving to Lawrence to enroll in film school, Ishmael, '07, read an interview in which Tarantino discussed his habit of sharing with cast and crew the movies that inspired his current project. But Tarantino didn't drop discs into a DVD player; he screened his own 35 mm film prints.

"For some reason, something clicked in my head," Ishmael says from the Austin, Texas, office of Mondo, the art boutique arm of the Alamo Drafthouse cinema chain, which produces original collectibles such as screen-print posters, T-shirts and vinyl soundtracks. "I thought that was the coolest thing. Having the DVD is nice; the Blu-ray, they look great. But there's

something about having the film print. It's like you own a piece of that movie."

Ishmael and his friends began building, and selling, their own collection of 35 mm prints, and an enthusiast in New Zealand asked that his purchase be delivered to Alamo Drafthouse's founder and CEO, Tim League, in Austin. With a connection made, Ishmael and League formed a quick friendship, which eventually led to Ishmael landing the entry-level job possible: pushing brooms, taking out trash, painting walls and tending bar at Alamo events. "I was a handyman," Ishmael recalls, "who wasn't very handy."

Says League: "When we had an opening at Mondo, Justin leapt at the chance to really explore his combined passion for movies and design. Once he took the helm at Mondo, the company just skyrocketed. The driving force behind that growth is Justin's special blend of creativity, enthusiasm and his attention to all the little details of design."

When Mondo first began approaching movie studios for permission to create posters for iconic movies, studio executives didn't get it and rarely said yes. But once they saw Mondo's posters, the suits



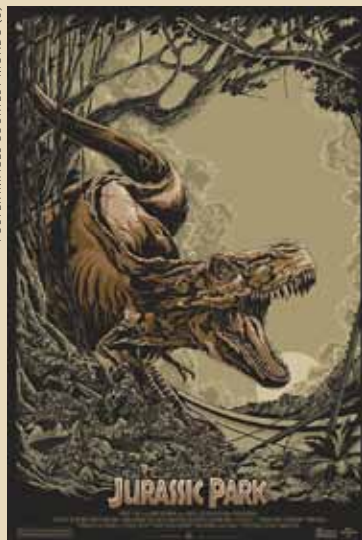
COURTESY MONDO

Ishmael

often had the same reaction as Ishmael did when he read about Tarantino's film collection: Something clicked.

With studios and producers now lining up for their movies to be so honored, Mondo has produced original, limited-edition posters for such legendary movies and franchises as the Lord of the Rings and original Star Wars trilogies, "Jaws," "Bullitt," "North by Northwest" and "The Searchers," and an array of cult classics sure to make any movie nerd's heart race.

POSTER IMAGES COURTESY MONDO (6)



At the 2011 unveiling of Mondo's poster for Universal Studio's 1931 "Frankenstein," for which Ishmael coaxed legendary poster artist Drew Struzan out of retirement, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that it was creating a Mondo poster archive. One print of every poster is now delivered to the home of the Oscars for permanent preservation.

The Academy was smart to call dibs, because Mondo posters for films classic and camp sell out in minutes.

"We're doing stuff for whatever we like, just being really honest and not doing something because it's a fad or it's popular right now," Ishmael says. "It's all about trying to get people excited about movies again."

Mondo's complete archive can be viewed at www.mondoarchive.com.

—Chris Lazzarino

Get back to Dodge

Author explores iconic town's lifelong hold on his imagination

The Dodge City of Robert Rebein's youth was the kind of town where a boy too young for the pool halls and beer joints could buy a six-pack at the Kwik Shop and (fielding a genial "You be careful

now, you hear?") from the cops he passed in the parking lot) jump in his car to cruise the town's main street, Wyatt Earp Boulevard.

"Wyatt Earp, to us, was not a person but a place, a mile-long ribbon of asphalt that stretched from Boot Hill on the east to the Dodge House on the west, containing in that brief space all of our teeming and awkward adolescence, our collective longings and flirtations and our often ridiculous mistakes, few of which we had to pay for in any meaningful way," Rebein writes in the title essay of *Dragging Wyatt Earp: A Personal History of Dodge City*.

The concept of "place" is key for Rebein, c'88, associate professor and chair of the English department at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. His first book, *Hicks, Tribes, and Dirty Realists: American Fiction after Postmodernism*, studies the role of place in contemporary American fiction. *Dragging Wyatt Earp* forges a more personal course, mixing memoir, reportage and a kind of hybrid nonfiction essay that combines researched history and autobiography.

"I think I became interested in the idea of place because I grew up in a place that had a very powerful and profound effect on me, without even really knowing it was happening," Rebein says.

Not until he left Dodge City—a process he describes as "a series of widening



Dragging Wyatt Earp: A Personal History of Dodge City

by Robert Rebein

Swallow Press,
\$19.95

circles" that started with attending KU and later took in graduate study and teaching in England, Tunisia and New York—did Rebein fully appreciate his hometown's role in shaping him. He foresaw for himself a Hemingwayesque writing life chronicling his world travels and adventures. But when he sat down to write in some foreign outpost, it was always the Dodge City of his youth that found its way onto the page.

"I didn't necessarily choose the material, but when I began to write, from the very first, that's what I wrote about," Rebein says. "I told myself, 'Well, I still have to learn to be a writer, so I'll use this material to learn, and when I'm good enough I'll switch over to the real material.' That's how I felt when I was 25."

Now 48, he returns again and again in these 14 pieces to his hometown and home state to plumb the question of what, exactly, is it that keeps drawing him back? Essays portray a somewhat chaotic family life. (The sixth of seven sons of Bill and Patricia Rebein, young Robbie was as high-strung as a bird dog, "a hyperactive motor mouth prone to accidents and mischief of a more or less mindless sort," a handful for his mother and the nuns at Sacred Heart Cathedral School.) His father's salvage yard, where he was given free rein, "was my Harvard and my Yale," Rebein writes, and it was full of colorful characters like Challo, an iconoclastic auto body man who forever set the standard for Rebein of the artist as renegade and rebel.

A middle-aged writer revisiting his own adolescence while exploring his hometown's storied past might be expected to succumb to nostalgia. Rebein avoids the trap entirely. That's a result of growing up,



Jurassic Park
Ken Taylor

Jaws
Laurent Durieux

Game of Thrones
Kilian Eng

Django Unchained
Rich Kelly

Wreck-It Ralph
Tom Whalen


The Empire Strikes Back
Tyler Stout

Rock Chalk Review

he says, in a part of the world that is in many ways a demanding place to live.

“The feeling you have when you’re there, and even after you leave, is a kind of radical ambivalence. It’s a feeling of understanding everything that’s so remarkable and beautiful and intense about the place but also everything that’s so demanding and difficult and far from perfect. It keeps you from falling back into nostalgia.”

Dragging Wyatt Earp is not an academic book; its strength lies in Rebein’s easy way of mixing personal tales and history. His portraits of western icons such as Custer, Coronado and Earp (less a gunfighter than a bouncer, in Rebein’s telling, who was more likely to use his gun for clubbing midnight drunks than for high-noon shootouts) are just as vivid as his portrayal of the colorful characters who prowled the salvage yard.

Neither is this engaging book solely about Dodge City. But Rebein’s essays suggest that not only can you go home again, in some ways you can never leave. Like a compass that stays anchored no matter how big an arc it draws, the Queen of the Cowtowns remains the rock-solid center of every one of those widening circles Robert Rebein has traced in his quest to get out of Dodge. 

—Steven Hill

When food was new

Researcher explores Hines’ influence on more than cake mix

Damon Talbott was living with his girlfriend in Michigan when he began pondering the powerful role critics play in music, film, food and wine, thanks to a friend who owned a wine store and griped endlessly about Robert Parker’s influential ratings.

“So I was thinking about this on an intellectual level,” recalls Talbott, g’08,

COURTESY ROBERT REBEIN



Rebein

PhD’13, “and then one night I got home, turned on the TV, and I was flipping through channels, just trying to turn my brain off, and there’s a program that says, ‘Duncan Hines was the first American restaurant critic.’ I’m sitting there going, ‘What? Who? Huh?’ Light bulbs. Truly a eureka moment.”

Talbott, Sias Graduate Fellow at the Hall Center for the Humanities, this spring defended his dissertation, “Senses of Taste: Duncan Hines and American Gastronomy, 1931-1962.” His research was not so much a biography of the traveling salesman turned critic and food-product nameplate as it was a scrutiny of Hines’ cultural influence during a time of great change, from the Depression to postwar boom.

“People were beginning to think food was no longer what Grandma made. Food could be from a can, which is a new thing. Food could be frozen, which is crazy,” Talbott says. “People were constantly trying to make sense of what’s going on around them.”


Hines toured the country’s two-lane highways at a time when there were no restaurant chains or guides. Stopping for a meal meant taking chances. So he began keeping a list of favored eateries, and after more than a decade of careful note-taking, Hines in the early 1930s began including his restaurant recommendations in his Christmas cards. Sensing an opportunity and eyeing retirement from the road, Hines in 1936 printed his first guidebook, which he sold from his Chicago

home—and continued to do so until 1956.

He first put his name on product lines in 1949, and over the next decade developed more than 200 foods and kitchen supplies based on quality rather than low price. He sold the company in 1956 to Procter & Gamble; not long after his death, in 1959, P&G honed the Hines product line down to only the iconic cake mix.

In researching Hines’ influence, Talbott first turned to biographies, then began digging through the Hines archives at Cornell University and materials held by a private collector in Oakland, Calif., as well as food-history libraries at Cornell and the Culinary Institute of America. What he found went far beyond the story of a self-made man who helped Americans discover new foods and dining habits; more than that, Hines helped Americans understand themselves.

“His biggest legacy,” Talbott says, “was sensitizing people to the foodways of America that were always there but had not been appreciated by the general public. And he encouraged people to be their own critics. One thing he said over and over again was, ‘There’s no accounting for taste. Mine are different than yours, but here are ways to explore food and here are ways to think about food.’

“So who is the food critic now? Everyone. He encouraged that by saying it.” 

—Chris Lazzarino



STEVE PUPPE

Talbott



Library lands pop-up book art


Artist and author Chuck Fischer, f'77, this spring donated to the Spencer Research Library the original artwork for his seven pop-up books—many of which have been featured in *Kansas Alumni*—as well as his interior design work on murals for private homes and original china, crystal, fabric and wallpaper designs.

Librarians have only just begun sorting through the three large boxes that arrived in May from Fischer's New York City studio, but already are confident the collection will be an important addition to holdings that already include limited-edition "artist's books," children's books and even some 19th-century scientific books, all of which include varieties of pop-up features and are regularly studied by KU book arts and design students.

"The level of detail that goes into the conception and design of a book like this

is just amazing," says Special Collections Librarian Elspeth Healey.

Healey also notes particular interest in Fischer's original artwork for the iPad version of his *A Christmas Carol: A Pop-Up Book*. It might well be, Healey estimates, the first such materials—original artwork whose primary manifestation is electronic—in the Spencer holdings.

"KU alumni go out in the world and do amazing, creative things," Healey says, "so we just feel so lucky that they often feel so tied to the University that they come back and want to have their archives and their collections held here." 

—Chris Lazzarino



Chuck Fischer's donation to Spencer Research Library includes the original art for his pop-up books (l) and (above, from top) a drawing for a mural for a private residence, sketches for his Washington, D.C., pop-up book and ideas for a painted floor.

Glorious to View Photograph by Steve Puppe



After the euphoria of walking down the Hill, two new alumni share a leisurely stroll back up the Hill, with Potter Lake their serene backdrop, following the University's 141st Commencement ceremony May 19 at Memorial Stadium.

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